# THE NASA LAND-COVER/LAND-USE CHANGE (LCLUC) PROGRAM: FOCUS ON CENTRAL ASIA

Garik Gutman, LCLUC Program Manager NASA Headquarters Washington, DC LCLUC: Drivers of Disturbance/Stress



- Natural hazards (fires, droughts, floods, hurricanes, landslides)
- Invasive species
- Climate

## Anthropogenic Drivers

- Agricultural changes
- Landscape modification, e.g. urbanization
- Forest clearing, logging & fires
- Grazing by domestic animals

#### Socio-Economic Drivers

- Technological change and macroeconomic transformations
- Political economy and institutional change
- Values, attitudes, beliefs, individual and household behavior
- Human population dynamics

## LCLUC Consequences/Impacts

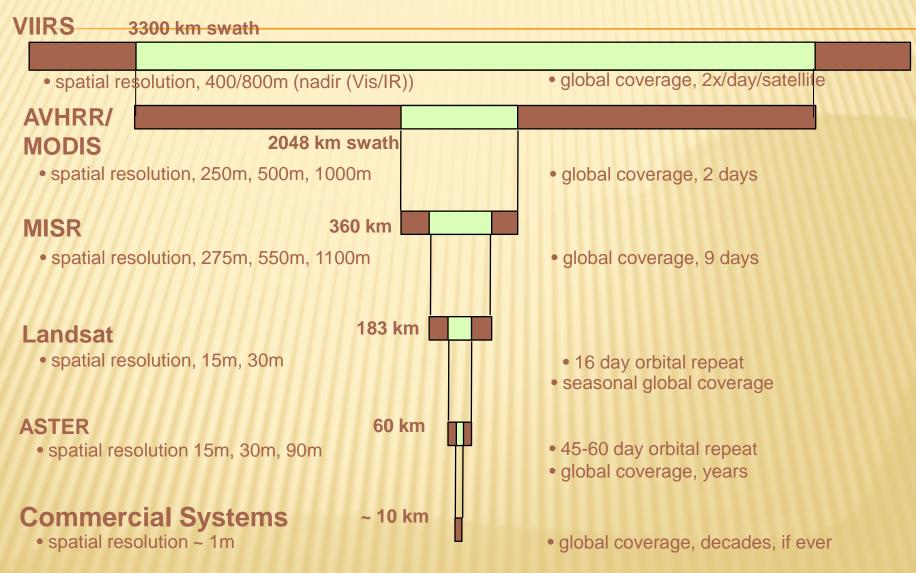


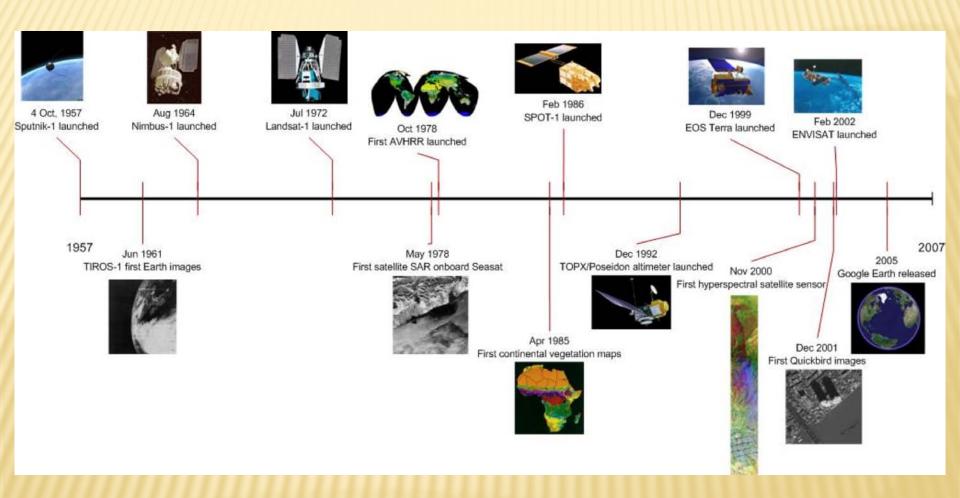
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ Agriculture
- Wetlands and coastal zone
- ♦ High Elevations
- ◆ Water resources and their quality
- ◆ Carbon storage and release
- ◆ Habitat degradation and fragmentation
- ◆ Atmospheric processes

## TOOLS

- Remote sensing observations (satellite and airborne)
  - + Optical
    - × Hyper-spatial resolution multispectral (e.g. IKONOS, Orbview)
    - × High resolution multispectral (e.g. Landsat, SPOT)
    - × Moderate resolution multispectral (e.g. AVHRR, MODIS, MERIS)
    - × Lidars
  - + Microwave
    - × Passive
    - × Radars
- In situ observations and intensive field campaigns
- Modeling and integrative data analysis
- Data and information systems

## Synergistic Use of Optical Remote Sensing





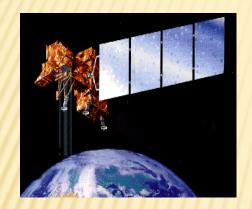
## NASA OPERATING MISSIONS



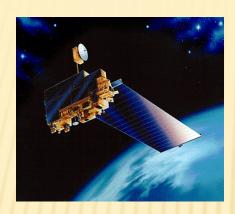


### NASA LCLUC-relevant Missions

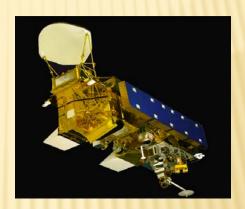
#### Systematic Missions - Observation of Key Earth System Interactions



Landsat 7
4/15/99



Terra 12/18/99

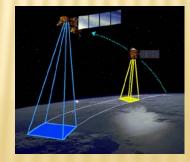


*Aqua* 5/3/02

<u>Exploratory Missions</u> - Exploration of Specific Earth System Processes and Parameters and Demonstration of Technologies

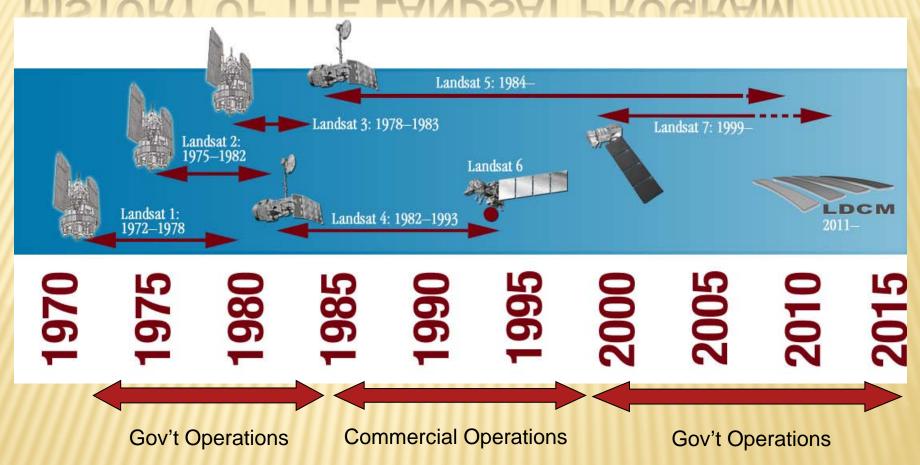


**SRTM** 2/11/00



**EO-1** 11/21/00

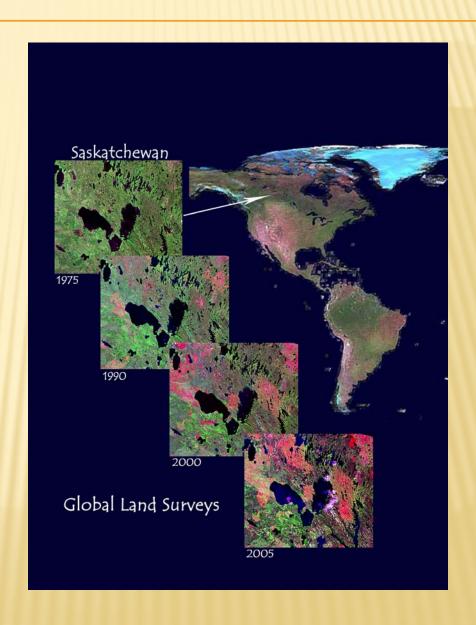
## HISTORY OF THE LANDSAT PROGRAM



## **Global Land Survey Data Sets**

Global cloud-free, 30-m orthorectified Landsat-based data sets centered on 1975, 1990, 2000, 2005, and 2010

- In partnership between USGS and NASA
- Support global assessments of land-cover, land-cover change, and ecosystem dynamics (disturbance, vegetation health, etc.)
- •GLS-2005 completed and freely available
- GLS-2010 being collected



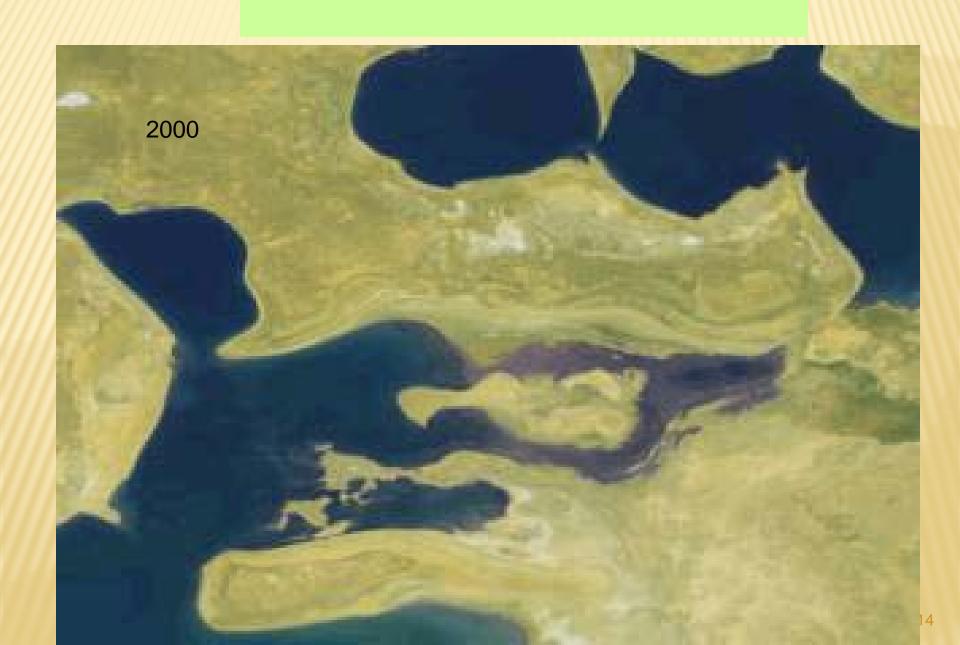
2-Programs Synergy





### ISSUES IN THE CENTRAL ASIA ARID ZONE

- Soil and environmental degradation
  - + accelerated erosion
  - + salinization
  - + depletion of soil organic carbon pool
- Conversion of natural and extensively used systems to agricultural ecosystems
  - Mineralization
  - depletion of the Soil Organic Carbon pool
  - + emission of CO2 from soil to the atmosphere
- Soil degradation => pollution, eutrophication and depletion of water resources of the region
- Shrinkage of the Aral Sea is just one of the examples of the serious problems with the water resources
  - Overuse of two major rivers feeding the Aral Sea for irrigation purposes
  - + Lack of water for sustainability in the region



## **CHANGES FROM 1960 TO 1996**

- + water level dropped by 17 m
- + water volume down by 70 %
- aquatic surface reduced from 67,000 to 30,000 Km<sup>2</sup>
- water inflow dropped from 60 km<sup>3</sup>/yr to 5-10 km<sup>3</sup>/yr
- Earlier number of species:
   500 for birds, 200 for mammals
- Now: only 38 species of wild animals



## **Social Changes**

- Population migration
- Health damage
- Reduction of the length of the human life
- Worsening of the living conditions

## NASA PAST LCLUC NEESPI/MAIRS DRYLAND PROJECTS

Vladimir Aizen, University of Idaho Glacial Area Changes in Central Asia & LCLUC

Charles Vorosmarty, University of New Hampshire Role of LCLUC in Water Budget and Water Use Across Central Asia

Jeff Henebry, South Dakota State University
Assessing the vulnerability of the Eurasian semi-arid grain belt

Roland Geerken, Yale University Ecological Monitoring in Semi-Arid Central Asia.)

Jiquan Chen, University of Toledo, Ohio
Effects of Land-Use Change on the Energy and Water Balance of the Semi-Arid Region of Inner Mongolia (PI:

Marc Imhoff, NASA GSFC
Linking Biophysics and Socio-economics for Addressing Water Vulnerability in Central Asia Regions

Xubin Zeng, University of Arizona
Relationship between Land Cover/Land Use Change and Surface Hydrology over Arid and Semiarid

Irina Sokolik, Georgia Technological Institute LCLUC-atmospheric dust interactions

Dennis Ojima, Colorado State University C-land Use-Climate Interaction in the Semi-Arid Regions

## RECENT NASA LCLUC NEESPI/MAIRS DRYLANDS PROJECTS

#### Vladimir Aizen, University of Idaho

Changes in alpine water storages and land surface degradation in Pamir mountains and Amu Dariya

River basin

#### Alex Shiklomanov, University of New Hampshire

Northern Eurasian Landscapes: Interactions between Humans, Hydrology, Land Cover and Land Use

#### Jiquan Chen, University of Toledo, Ohio

Interactive Changes of Ecosystems and Societies on the <u>Mongolian Plateau</u>: From Coupled Regulations of Land Use and Changing Climate to Adaptation

#### Dan Brown, University of Michigan

Grassland Ecosystems and Societal Adaptations Under Changing Grazing Intensity and Climate on the Mongolian Plateau

#### Kirsten de Beurs, Virginia Polytechnical Institute

Land Abandonment in <u>Russia</u>: Assessing Future Vulnerability and Adaptation to Changing Climate and Population Dynamics

#### Sassan Saatchi, UCLA/JPL

Impacts of Land Cover and Land Use Change on Water and Energy Cycle in Caspian Sea Drainage Basin

#### Peilei Fan, Michigan State University

China's urbanization and its sustainability under future climate change

#### Mutlu Ozdogan, University of Wisconsin

Investigating the Relationship Between Land Use/Land Cover Change, Hydrologic Cycle, and Climate in Semi-Arid Central Asia

















## THE NASA LCLUC PROGRAM

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Studying Land-Cover and Land-Use Change



















## **LCLUC BOOK**

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REMOTE SENSING AND DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING

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#### **Land Change Science**

Observing, Monitoring and Understanding Trajectories of Change on the Earth's Surface

Garik Gutman, Anthony C. Janetos, Christopher O. Justice, Emilio F. Moran, John F. Mustard, Ronald R. Rindfuss, David Skole, Billy Lee Turner II and Mark A. Cochrane

This volume is a synthesis of the NASA funded work under the Land-Cover and Land-Use Change Program. Hundreds of scientists have worked for the past 8 years to understand one of the most important forces that is changing our planet - human impacts on land cover, that is land use. Its contributions span the natural and the social sciences, and apply state-of-the-art techniques for understanding the Earth; satellite remote sensing, scographic information systems, modeling, and advanced computing. It brings together detailed case studies, regional analyses, and globally scaled mapping efforts. This is the most organized effort made to understand the dominant force that has been responsible for changing the Earth's biosphere.

This publication will be of interest to students, scientists, and policy makers.

This volume includes a CD-ROM containing full color images of a selection of illustrations which are printed in black-and-white in the book.

Change Science



#### **Land Change** Science

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Edited by Garik Gutman, Anthony C. Janetos, Christopher O. Justice, Emilio F. Moran, John F. Mustard. Ronald R. Rindfuss, David Skole, Billy Lee Turner II and Mark A. Cochrane







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118H 1-4020-2561-0

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