

Foreword

This book on “Land Use, Climate Change and Biodiversity Modeling: Perspectives and Applications” is a very useful reference material as it attempts to integrate three main topics (land use, climate change and biodiversity) using case studies in different parts of Asia and the world and state-of-the-art modeling approaches to effectively address global problems on the environment and use of natural resources.

Climate change, land degradation and loss of biodiversity are complex in nature and hence integrated solutions are imperative as we cannot deal with these issues independently. Thus, I believe that the UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD are doing their important role to address these concerns. The centre of the many critical issues being discussed in these conventions is the Forest.

Forest is the origin of life and the source of human existence. About 2/3 of the terrestrial species belongs to forest. It is essential as carbon sink and has immense contribution in mitigating climate change. It has a foremost role in the human economic activity.

According to the World Bank, the welfare of about 160 million people is being affected by the rapidly deteriorating global economic environment. Therefore, in this era of environmental dilemma, we should work together towards improving our environment by putting together realistic approaches.

This book serves as a source of sound information for many practitioners like investors, environmental advocacy groups, forestry professionals and educators, policy-makers, and the general public, which can be used to formulate recommendations for future policies and management strategies needed in support of sustainable development.

I would like to congratulate the authors and editors of this book that I know would be a worthwhile contribution to our society at large.

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Don Koo Lee is now the Minister of the Korean Forest Service, Korea. He was a professor of Silviculture and Restoration Ecology at Seoul National University (SNU), Korea. He received BS and MS degrees in forestry and forest genetics, respectively from SNU, and MS and Ph. D. degrees in forest biometry and silviculture, respectively from Iowa State University, USA. He was Dean for College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, SNU (1999-2001), a Board of Trustees member of the Center for International Forestry Research (1999-2004) in Indonesia, President of the Korean Forest Society (2004-2006), and President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations or IUFRO (2006-2010). He was awarded an Honorary Doctoral degree from the Moscow State Forest University (2007) in Russia. He has been Project Leader of the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project since 2000, a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Sweden since 2003, and Co-Representative of Forest for Life, Korea since 2004. His research interests are: restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, eco-friendly management of forest ecosystem and development of silvicultural strategies for natural forests, growth and nitrogen fixation, and biomass production and nutrient cycling of forest ecosystems.