



The Global Land Project Nodal Office on
Integration and Modelling, Aberdeen, UK

**Second Call for Papers
Global Land Project Workshop
19th – 20th March 2010
Jurys Inn, Aberdeen**

**‘Representation of Ecosystem Services in the modelling of Land
Systems’**

Understanding ecosystem services is increasingly important as land planners and policy makers make sustainable land management choices. Clear representation and description of ecosystem services provided by land systems is crucial to decision making and planning and contributes to understanding complex relationships between society and environment.

During the last half of the 20th century the structure of the world’s ecosystems changed more rapidly than at any other time in human history. Approximately a quarter of the Earth’s terrestrial surface has been now been transformed into cultivated land and one third of annual net primary production is estimated to be appropriated by humans (Vitousek et al 1986; Rojstaczer et al 2001). With the global population projected to increase to almost 9 billion by 2050 (United Nations, 2002), demands on the planet’s ecosystems will continue to intensify, with serious consequences for the goods and services that they provide.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005) defines ecosystem services as the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. Many tradeoffs are associated with human responses to, and use of, ecosystem services, with actions that benefit some services potentially having negative consequences for others. Modelling can provide useful tools to explore such tradeoffs, allowing the consequences of varying scenarios to be explored. However, models are only as good as our understanding of the complex system they seek to represent and therefore investment in the understanding and representation of the Earth’s systems is essential.

Models of ecosystem services as an integral part of land systems are needed, both adequately to capture complex dynamics of human-environmental processes, and to explore consequences of land change in provision and management of ecosystem services. This workshop will explore measurement and representation of ecosystem services in land systems and models for application in policy and practice. It will provide an opportunity for leading international researchers in land system science, spatial and process modelling of coupled natural and human systems, and ecosystem services to produce a new research agenda on modelling ecosystem services.

We aim to produce a number of synthesis papers in a peer reviewed journal based on the workshop output. The workshop will also be a networking exercise with the aim of identifying sub-groups of researchers with common interests.

If you are interested in participating, please send a one page abstract describing your interest in the topic and your background before 29th January 2010 to Carol Ann Stannard c.stannard@macaulay.ac.uk. For further details please see <http://glp.macaulay.ac.uk/documents/Workshop19March2010.pdf>

All final participants will be required to provide a short paper (3 pages maximum) before the workshop describing their prior experience in relation to the workshop topic, as well as their aspirations and approach to integrating ecosystem services into land system science. The papers will be circulated to all participants prior to the meeting via the meeting website.