

# North America Land Cover Summit



**Location** National Academy of Sciences  
2100 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC

**Date** September 20-22, 2006

**Hosted by** U.S. Geological Survey  
National Academy of Sciences

**Government Sponsors** U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada  
Natural Resources Canada  
INEGI – Mexico

## **Objective:**

Land cover mapping, characterization, monitoring and forecasting are critical elements of many environmental monitoring and land management programs worldwide, in government, industry, and non-governmental sectors. Land cover data and information provide a direct, objective indication of the effects of land use impacts on natural resource conditions, on environmental and human health, and on the quality and quantity of water. Because these issues are not confined to national boundaries, there is an urgent need for accurate, consistent trans-boundary data on land cover condition and extent.

The objective of the North America Land Cover Summit is to pursue collaboration among institutions and government agencies across the continent, advancing the development and application of comprehensive land cover information. Summit participants will assess critical issues for improving land cover applications, identify institutional needs and gaps in technical capabilities, review innovative uses of land cover information, and recognize opportunities for interagency and international collaboration.

## Day 1 - Land Cover: Context and Challenge

<b>8:00 – 8:30</b>	Check-in and Registration		<b>1:00 – 2:30</b>	Institutional Perspectives on Land Cover – Government Commission on Environmental Cooperation EU/EC Australian Land Cover Change Program GEOSS U.S. Climate Change Program
<b>8:30 – 8:40</b>	Welcome	Anthony De Souza, National Academies		
<b>8:40 – 9:00</b>	Conference Charge	Director, USGS		
<b>9:00 – 10:40</b>	Land Cover Leadership	U.S. Secretary of the Interior Natural Resources Canada INEGI	<b>2:30 – 2:45</b>	Break
<b>10:40 – 11:00</b>	Break		<b>2:45 – 4:30</b>	Institutional Perspectives on Land Cover – Nongovernmental World Resources Institute The Nature Conservancy The Heinz Center NEON
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	Keynote Address	Dr. Lee Schwartz, Chief Geographer, U.S. State Department	<b>4:30 – 5:00</b>	Wrap-up Day 1 Director, USGS
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	Lunch		<b>6:00 – 9:00</b>	Reception and poster session (tentatively – National Geographic Society)

## Day 2 - Land Cover: Finding Common Purpose

<b>8:30 – 8:50</b>	Objective for Day 2	USGS Associate Director, Geography	<b>1:30 – 3:30</b>	Facilitated Discussion: Leveraging knowledge, networks, data, and programs
<b>8:50 – 10:30</b>	National Land Cover Programs – North America Natural Resources Canada Mexico NLCD NOAA C-CAP		<b>1:30 – 2:15</b>	Panel discussion, previous speakers
			<b>2:15 – 3:00</b>	Audience participation
<b>10:30 -10:50</b>	Break		<b>3:00 – 3:30</b>	Break
<b>10:50 – 12:20</b>	Land Cover Programs – global and regional Global Land Cover GITAN Corine Land Cover Program Land Cover Trends		<b>3:30 – 5:00</b>	Utilizing Land Cover: Applications in Human and Environmental Realms
<b>12:20 – 1:30</b>	Lunch		<b>3:30 – 4:15</b>	Fire Risk and Forecasting Invasive Species
			<b>4:15 – 5:00</b>	Assessing Community Vulnerability Biodiversity and Habitat Conservation
			<b>5:00 – 5:15</b>	Wrap-up Day 2 USGS Associate Director, Geography

## Day 3 - Land Cover: Collaborating in Application

<b>8:30 – 8:45</b>	Objective for Day 3	USGS Chief Scientist, Geography	<b>1:00 – 2:30</b>	Break out groups (Each group will discuss and identify avenues to collaborate across organizations. Discussions should focus on recommendations to collaborate in matters of institutional policy as well as coordinating computer systems, models, and data.)
<b>8:45 – 12:00</b>	Utilizing Land Cover II: Applications in Human and Environmental Realms			Comprehensive land cover status and trends program
	<b>8:45 – 9:30</b> Human Population Estimates Air quality, water quality			Modeling and forecasting landscape change
	<b>9:30 – 10:15</b> Urban Sprawl and Planning Forests			Land cover and ecosystem conditions
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	Break			Land cover and hazard identification and forecasting
				Land cover and climate change
	<b>10:45 – 12:00</b> Alternative Futures Analysis Agro-ecosystems		<b>3:00 – 4:00</b>	Reports from breakout groups
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	Lunch		<b>4:00 – 4:30</b>	Closing remarks USGS Chief Scientist, Geography