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Rationale

- The process of policy formulation on environmental problems such as climate change, biodiversity and desertification requires good science and scientific assessments.
- Global Land Project is at the forefront of providing high quality scientific assessments for designing policies for global environmental sustainability.
- Land-use/cover change affects climate, hydrology, biodiversity, ability of biological systems to support human needs, and the vulnerability of people and places to climatic, economic and sociopolitical perturbations.
- June 25 Symposium was organized to improve our understanding of the **critical pathways of change** in the land system and the implications for human vulnerability and the **design of adaptation measures**.

Major Findings

- Path dependencies leading to tipping points are applicable for assessments of the sustainability of coupled human-environment systems
- Initial conditions in both the environmental and human subsystem set land system into initial paths
- Increasing land investments increases path dependency, whereas legacies constrain the range of emergent properties
- It is essential to examine multiple outcomes-scenarios including options not taken before designing adaptation policies.

Paper will be published in a **high profile journal**.



Future outlook

Land System Science Development

- Sustainable Land Architecture
- Biofuel Science
- Ecosystem Services Management
- Contribution to Sustainability Science Education
(www.census.hokudai.ac.jp)

