Land use and Land Cover Accounting a Require for Environmental Management of Bangladesh

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Land use and land cover is one of the key components of the natural resources of Bangladesh. These resources are fundamental to sustainable development as country's large subsistence sectors depends on land. However, this resource is increasingly being subjected to intense pressures brought about by human activities. Natural resources problems have became major concerns of development planners as they attempt to promote rapid economic growth and at the same time preserve and conserve the dwindling natural resources base. Despite measures taken by the Bangladeshi government in recent years, the natural resource base continues to deteriorate. The rapidly growing Bangladesh population has dramatically increased the demands for natural resources and has caused significant changes in quantity and quality of the natural resource. Aquatic and floodplain ecosystems continue to be severely degraded. The wetland ecosystems have lost connections with larger water bodies (rivers and canals) due to siltation and land filling or draining for agriculture and homestead use. More than 50% of seasonal and perennial wetlands have been affected by growing unplanned urban and agricultural land use. True forest habitat, which is less than 6% of total land area is declining rapidly and massive deforestation has resulted in loss of biodiversity and productivity of tropical forest resources.

All these problems need well thought out strategies to address them. Approaches integrating environment considerations and, in particular to take into account cumulative impacts, are therefore essential to face the problems. Now a days Environmental management practices are trending away from simple, local scale assessments toward complex, multiple-stress or regional assessments. Land use and land cover study can help for these assessments through GIS and remote sensing.

Therefore, the present study attempts to suggest the method to study the land use and land cover change of Bangladesh as land use and land cover changes occur at all scales, and changes at local scales can have dramatic, cumulative impacts at broader scales. Another attempt will be to find the cost effective techniques to study the land use and land cove change in Bangladesh through GIS and remote sensing. Very few studies have focused on this issue in Bangladesh. It is believed that this study has the applications in environmental management and policy making for sustainable development of the country.