

Climate Solutions in Land Use



Deborah Lawrence
Professor, Environmental Sciences

CURRENT RESEARCH

Harnessing the land surface for the benefit of all

We have one earth surface -- what will we do with it and how will those decisions affect us? As we face a growing global population with an ever-increasing demand for food and other commodities we can only get from the land, how will land allocation among food, biofuels, and forests alter climate, ecosystem services, and the society that depends on both? The land surface is a powerful driver of global climate as well as sustaining our needs. Dr. Deborah Lawrence, Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, hopes to understand how we might harness the land surface to limit global warming, while continuing to provide essential goods and services. By studying the potential gains and limits of decisions to promote biofuels, forest conservation, or agricultural expansion, Dr. Lawrence assesses their trade-offs including impacts on climate and ecology, politics and economics, morality and our sense of who we are.

Truly sustainable agricultural development depends on wise stewardship of forest resources at a local, national and even global scale. In the decisions we make about the land, including whether to maintain forests, we must think about how what we do to the land affects the atmosphere, the oceans, and the planet as a whole. Dr. Lawrence's research highlights what wise land management looks like from a perspective that spans the farm, the continent and the planet, as well as the corporation. She works to understand the collective impact of land use decisions by government policy makers, corporate agribusiness, and individual farmers in the tropics, and has grown increasingly interested in the effects of tropical deforestation on the global carbon cycle and the global climate system...

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AFFILIATION



University of Virginia

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Botany 1998, Duke University
- B.A. in Biological Anthropology 1989, Harvard University

AWARDS

- Provost's Award for a Global Program of Distinction in Food, Fuel and Forests, 2014
- Superior Honor Award from the US Department of State, 2010
- Guggenheim Fellowship and Fulbright Scholarship, 2009
- Jefferson Science Fellowship, 2009
- Sustainability Science Award, 2009
- and 1 more...

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology, Clean Energy, Natural Disasters / Emergency

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Deborah Lawrence and her team at the University of Virginia on the optimal use of land for managing the climate and ecosystems on which we all depend. Donations will help fund \$500K required to support personnel, technology, and travel, as they actively collaborate with policymakers, social scientists, engineers, and lawyers to facilitate wise land stewardship. Partner with her team to help protect the land and its people!