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Pavel Kabat, Martin Claussen, Paul A. Dirmeyer, John H.C. Gash, Lelys Bravo de Guenni, Michel Meybeck, Roger A. Pielke, Sr., Charles J. Vörösmarty, Ronald W.A. Hutjes, Sabine Lütkemeier (Eds.)

Vegetation, Water, Humans and the Climate

A New Perspective on an Interactive System

Date of publication: April 2003

Approx. 650 pp. 246 figs., 126 in color, 58 tabs., Book. (Global Change - The IGBP Series) Hard cover. EUR 91,- (please note: this price is only valid till 28 February 2003. Afterwards it will be approx. EUR 143,-) ISBN 3-540-42400-8



This book presents a state-of-the-art science overview of the influence of the terrestrial vegetation and soils within the Earth system, especially the interactions between the terrestrial biosphere and atmosphere via the hydrological cycle, and their interactions with anthropogenic activities. Measurements in integrated field experiments in the Sahel, Amazon, Northern America and South- East Asia, confirm the importance of these interactions, but a substantial data consolidation effort needs still to be undertaken. Observations are complemented by modelling studies, including regional models that simulate flows and transport in river catchments, coupled land-cover and climate regional systems, and global Earth system and circulation models. Water and nutrient and sediment fluxes in river basins are also discussed and shown to be highly impacted and regulated by humans through land use, pollution, and river engineering. Finally, the book discusses environmental vulnerability and methodologies of assessing the risks associated with regional and global climate and environmental changes. The authors wish to emphasise that the results reported in this book are based on research work of many individual scientists and teams around the world, associated with the objectives of the IGBP-BAHC and WCRP-GEWEX international research programmes.

From the contents:

Does land surface matter in climate and weather?- How measurable is the Earth system?- The value of land surface data consolidation.- The integrity of river and drainage basin systems: challenges from environmental change.- How to evaluate vulnerability in changing environmental conditions?

Keywords:

Biospheric feedbacks, climate change, water resources, biogeochemical cycling, river catchment, field experiments, data consolidation, vulnerability, Earth system science

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