

# ASSESSMENT OF LAND USE AND LAND COVER CHANGE DETECTION BY USING REMOTE SENSING AND GIS TECHNIQUES IN THE COASTAL DESERTS, SOUTH OF IRAN

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## ABSTRACT

Land use/land cover (LULC) changes have become a central issue in current global change and sustainability research. Due to the large expanse of land change detection by the traditional methods is not sufficient and efficient; therefore, using of new methods such as remote sensing technology is necessary and vital. This study evaluates LULC change in Chabahar and Konarak Coastal deserts, located in south of Sistan and Baluchestan province from 1988 to 2018 using Landsat images. Maximum likelihood classification was used to develop LULC maps. The change detection was executed using post-classification comparison and GIS. Then, taking ground truth data, the classified maps accuracy were assessed by calculating the Kappa coefficient and overall accuracy. The results for the time period of 1988 - 2018 are presented. Based on the results of the 30-year time period, vegetation has been decreased in area while urban areas have been developed. The area of saline and sandy lands has also increased.

## 1. Introduction

Land use/land cover (LULC) changes have become a central issue in current global change and sustainability research (Abdullah et al., 2014). Land cover is defined as a physical and biological cover of the earth's surface that contains water, vegetation and bare soil. Land use and cover changes are among the most important changes on the land surface which have considerable influence on the environment and environmental processes. Thus, LUCC are recognized as the main driving force of the global ecosystem change (Behera et al., 2012). Land use change is rooted in the spatiotemporal interaction between biophysical and human aspects (Dubovyk et al., 2011). Forest destruction, desertification, destruction of fertile agricultural lands and uncontrolled urban development are some of the phenomena that threaten the environmental balance directly and indirectly (Azizi et al., 2016). Limiting factors in arid areas such as water shortage and soil salinity are important factors to study the occurred changes in land cover. Due to the large expanse of land, change detection by the traditional methods is not sufficient and efficient; therefore, using of new methods such as remote sensing technology is necessary and vital (Givii Ashraf, 2013). Remote Sensing means the ability to detect change on the earth's surface through space-borne sensors (Ramachandra & U. Kumar, 2004). Geographic Information System is a useful tool for measuring the change between two or more time periods. It has the ability to incorporate

multi-sources of data into a change detection platform (Ramachandra & Kumar, 2004). Remotely sensed data and GIS are widely used for detecting land use and land cover changes. Many studies have attempted to use remotely sensed data and GIS to address land use change detection (Weng, 2002). Robles and Luna, (2011) investigated land use change dynamics in the Zhujiang Delta south China and the Northern Coastal Region of Nayarit, Mexico respectively using satellite imagery, GIS and stochastic modelling technologies and they concluded that the integration of satellite data and GIS is an effective approach for analysing the direction, rate and spatial pattern of land use change. This paper aims to explore and analyze the characteristics of LULC changes in the coastal desert cities of Chabahar, Konarak and Sistan and Baluchestan Province, using Landsat time-series imagery from 1988 to 2018.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Study Area

Sistan, Baluchestan Province are located in South east Iran. The climate of the study area varies from arid to humid. Most parts of the province are arid and average of precipitation is 200 mm year<sup>-1</sup>, but the main period of precipitation is during the winter. Temperature in most parts reaches above 45 °C during summer.

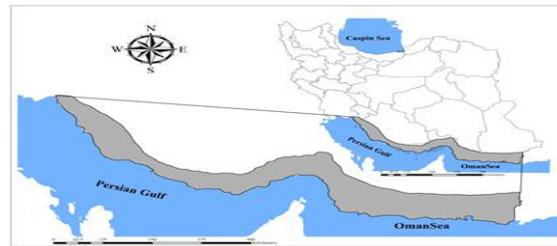


Figure 1. Location of the study area in Iran.

## 2.2. Satellite data

We used images of the study area acquired by Landsat (TM, ETM+ and OLI) sensor at 30 m × 30 m resolution from the Landsat database of U.S. Geological Survey (landsat.usgs.gov). We selected the cloud-free satellite images in the growing seasons of the study area, March to May, for the years 1988, 2018.

## 2.3. Software used

Satellite image processing to software, Idrisi (TerrSet) and ArcGIS 10.4 (Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) product) were used to process, classify, analyses and display the satellite images

## 2.4. Pixel-Based Classification

The most common parametric classifier, maximum likelihood classification, has been used in this study. It is sums normal or near normal spectral distribution for each feature of interest and an equal prior probability among the classes (Li et al., 2011). The classification scheme was used based on the land use and land cover classification system provided, (Anderson et al., 1976) seven classes were identified: vegetation, Salty lands, water, Sandy lands, Lands built, Sand hill and mountain (Table 1). Prior to classification, all satellite data were interrogated using spectral and spatial profiles to ascertain the digital numbers (DNs) of different land cover categories. A combination of six Landsat TM layers (band 1 through 5 and 7) and seven Landsat 8 bands (band 1 through 7) were used to perform the maximum likelihood classification.

## 2. 5. Accuracy Assessment

In general, the accuracy assessment determines the quality level of information extracted from remotely sensed data (Congalton & Green, 2008). Classification accuracy refers to the rate of correspondence between the remotely sensed data and reference information (Congalton, 1991), (Dewan & Yamaguchi, 2009). A common method for accuracy assessment is through the use of an error matrix which provides detailed information of the agreement between the classification results and reference information (Congalton & Green, 2008). Additionally, accuracy assessments such as overall accuracy, producer's accuracy, user's accuracy and

overall kappa coefficient were carried out using the error matrices. Equation (1) was used to compute the kappa coefficient (Jensen, 2005)

(1)

$$K = \frac{N \sum_{i=1}^k x_{ii} - \sum_{i=1}^k (x_{i+} \times x_{+i})}{N^2 - \sum_{i=1}^k (x_{i+} \times x_{+i})}$$

where k is the number of rows in the matrix; x<sub>ii</sub> is the number of observations in row i and column i; x<sub>i+</sub> and x<sub>+i</sub> are the marginal totals of row k and column i respectively; and N is the number of observations

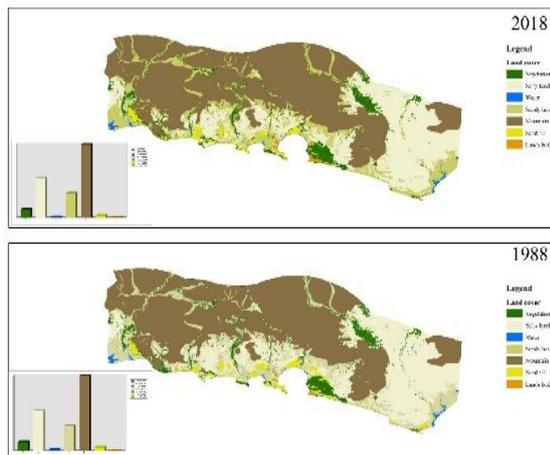
## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Image Classification

The classification technique used to derive the LULC maps for 1988, and 2018 were the traditional maximum likelihood classification. The maximum likelihood classification is based on the probability that a pixel belongs to a particular class. The advantage of maximum likelihood classification is that it is less time consuming, but the disadvantage is that it increases the salt -and-pepper effect. Identifying a suitable segmentation image is extremely time consuming (Grimmond, 2007). In this study, pixel classification provided good LULC maps for chabahar and konarak. Analysis of Landsat images indicated that the most observed land cover changes in our study area are decrease vegetation cover and Lands built growth. The increase in Lands built and urbanization was clearly shown in chabahar and konarak from 1988 to 2018. Increased urbanization is a major concern in developing countries. It is expected that 60% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2030, and most of the urban growth will occur in less developed countries (Girard et al., 2003), (Rahman et al., 2011). Our results show that the expansion of urbanization has increased extensively in the rural areas surrounding chabahar and konarak. These lands have become part of the cities due to population growth and the related increase in industry and associated activities. The rapid growth of urban areas and the lack of planning frameworks have increased the impact on the ecosystem, particularly in the desert environment.

Increasing of urbanization and population at higher rates than the national government’s ability to provide services for sustainable healthy living environments can be a serious threat in the urban environment (Pauchard et al., 2006) (Grimmond, 2007). The results of this research indicate that the rate of urbanization was very fast and uncontrolled in both chabahar and konarak from 1988 to 2018. The major concern in these cities is the uncontrolled urban growth, which leads to environmental abuses and health risks.

Land use change was examined in the region during the 2 periods. In this section, the results for the time of 1988 - 2018 are presented. Based on the results of the 30-year time period, vegetation has been decreased in area while Lands built areas have been developed. The area of Salty lands has also increased This study assessed LULC changes in chabahar and konarak using Landsat images. The results can be summarized as follows: chabahar and konarak were found to have experienced rapid changes in LULC from 1988 to 2018. The Lands built areas increased by approximately 5487.395 ha in chabahar and konarak. The expansion of the urban areas and Lands built in chabahar and konarak exhibited clear spatiotemporal differences. Increasing urbanization, Accompanied with decreased vegetation cover over the study area due. In summary, Landsat images can provide the rate, patterns and trend of changes using the benefit of repetitive satellite coverage on a particular locality. Such information is essential for further planning and development in the future.



#### 4. Conclusions

Figure 2. Land use/land cover in 1988, 2018

Table 1. Land use/land cover pattern during different years (Area in hectare)

Land use/land cover classes	1988	2018
vegetation	90337.047	87974.241
Salty lands	414366.437	418518.663
water	8354.072	7507.506
Sandy lands	254386.241	257153.856
mountain	771605.834	771619.829
Sand hill	33018.089	25676.169
Lands built	1922.488	5487.395

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