

## **Professor Dr. Rik Leemans**



### **Professional background:**

1976 - 1983: Drs. Biology University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

1983 - 1989: PhD Plant Ecology, Uppsala University, Sweden

1988 - 1990: Research Scholar, Biosphere Project, International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Laxenburg, Austria

1990: Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA

1991 - 2003: Senior Researcher, Dutch National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

1996 - 2001: Project leader, IMAGE project, RIVM

2000 - 2003: Professor Integrated Land-use modelling, Chair Group Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University

2001 - 2005: Chair Responses Working Group of The Millenium Ecosystem Assessment

2003 - present: Professor, Chair Group Environmental Systems Analysis, Wageningen University

2005 - present: Director WIMEK Graduate School

2007 - present: Chair Earth Systems Science Partnership

### **Research:**

Prof. Dr. Leemans' early studies at Uppsala University (Sweden) emphasized the successional dynamics and structure of boreal forests. His subsequent research position at the Biosphere Project of the International Institute of Applied System Analyses (IIASA, Austria) focused on boreal forest models. Since then his research has excelled into modeling global land-cover

patterns and land-use change. His main research interests concern biodiversity, vegetation structure and dynamics, land-use and cover change, biogeochemical cycles, biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable development. Prof. Dr. Leemans has published many papers on a wide range of topics. These include forest dynamics, large-scale vegetation and crop distribution, global environmental databases, terrestrial C cycle and the importance of feedback processes, the incorporation of land-use change and other human dimensions into Earth system models, biodiversity, integrated assessment tools and, more recently, potential mitigation and adaptation options and strategies for environmental change.