

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Earth System Science Programme

## Monitoring Our Changing Earth with Digital Cameras: Toward a Global Phenocam Network

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## Abstract

The challenge of monitoring ecological processes, across scales from individual organisms to the entire globe, requires an exponential increase in the quantity, diversity and spatial resolution of field-collected data. Digital repeat photography with consumer-grade cameras can help meet these challenges by providing automated monitoring of essential phenological processes and environmental change over long time-periods. These cameras, often referred to as "phenocams", are ideal for recording changes in phenology, snow cover, and disturbance events. In this talk I will review current phenocam use for ecological research in different ecosystem types and across various spatial scales, discuss hardware options and methodological limitations, and outline opportunities for continental-scale monitoring networks to provide protocols and infrastructure toward a global phenocam network.

