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FINAL DRAFT

CORINE Land Cover Product User Manual

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ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Applicable Document
AEI	Agri-environmental indicators
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy (EC)
CAPI	Computer Assisted Photointerpretation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDR	Central Data Repository
CLC	CORINE Land Cover
CLC-Change	the database of CLC changes
CLC change or CLC changes	the CORINE Land Cover change / changes themselves
CLC+	2 nd generation CORINE Land Cover
CLMS	Copernicus Land Monitoring Service
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (UNECE)
CORINE	Coordination of Information on the Environment
CSI	Core Set of Indicators (EEA)
DBTA	Data Base Technical Acceptance
DG Agri	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (EC)
DG DEFIS	Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space
DG ENTR	Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry (EC)
DLM-DE	Digital Landscape Model for Germany
DOM	Départments d'outre-mer (French Overseas Territories)
EAGLE	EIONET Action Group on Land monitoring in Europe (EEA)

EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEA39	39 members and cooperating countries of EEA (until 2020)
EEA38	38 members and cooperating countries of EEA (after Brexit in 2020)
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network
EO	Earth Observation
EPSG	a public registry of spatial reference systems, created by European Petroleum Survey Group
ESA	European Space Agency
ETC	European Topic Centre
ETRS89	European Terrestrial Reference System 1989
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
FPI	Fire Proneness Index
GE	Google Earth
GHG	greenhouse gas
GI	green infrastructure
GIO	GMES Initial Operations
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (named Copernicus since late 2012)
ha	hectare (=100 m x 100 meter area)
HNV	High Nature Value
HRL	high resolution layer(s)
IRS	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite
JRC	European Commission DG Joint Research Centre
LAEA	Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection
Landsat	Series of US Earth observation satellites
LEAC	Land and Ecosystem Accounting
LC	Land Cover
LCF	Land Cover Flows
LISS	Linear Imaging Self-Scanning Sensor (on board of Indian Resourcesat satellites)
LSI	Land and Soil Indicators
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification Service
LU	Land Use
LUCAS	Land Use/Cover Area Frame Statistical Survey (Eurostat)
LUISA	Land Use based Integrated Sustainability Assessment
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change, and forestry (UN)
MAES	Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (EC)

MMU	Minimum Mapping Unit
MMW	Minimum Mapping Width
MSS	Multispectral Scanner (sensor on board of early US Landsat satellites)
NIR	Near Infrared (spectral band)
NRC	National Reference Centre (of the EIONET)
NUTS	Nomenclature des Unités territoriales statistiques
NT	National Team
OSM	Open Street Map (OpenStreetMap)
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
RapidEye	constellation of German Earth observation satellites
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals (EC, Eurostat)
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (EEA)
SIOSE	Sistema de Información de Ocupación del Suelo en España
SPOT	Series of French Earth Observation satellites
S-2	Sentinel-2, ESA EO satellites within Copernicus Programme (S-2A and S-2B)
SWIR	Short-wave infrared (spectral band)
TM	Thematic Mapper (sensor on board of US Landsat satellites)
TT	(CLC) Technical Team
UMZ	Urban Morphological Zones
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WMS	Web Map Service
WP	Work Package

I. Executive summary

Copernicus is the European Union's Earth Observation Programme. It offers information services based on satellite Earth observation and in situ (non-space) data. These information services are freely and openly accessible to their users through six thematic Copernicus services (atmosphere monitoring, marine environment monitoring, land monitoring, climate change, emergency management and security).

The Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) provides geographical information on land cover and its changes, land use, vegetation state, water cycle and earth surface energy variables to a broad range of users in Europe and across the world in the field of environmental terrestrial applications.

CLMS is jointly implemented by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Commission DG Joint Research Centre (JRC).

CORINE Land Cover (CLC) is the oldest and most sought-after database of CLMS. CLC was specified to standardize data collection related to land in Europe to support environmental policy development. The reference year of the first CLC inventory was 1990 (CLC1990), and the first update was created in 2000. Further inventories followed with an update cycle of 6 years. The project is implemented by national teams under the management, guidance and close quality control of EEA. The number of participating countries has increased over time – currently includes 32 EEA member countries and the UK and six cooperating countries (EEA38 and the UK) with a total area of nearly 6 Mkm². Ortho-corrected high spatial resolution satellite images provide the geometrical and thematic basis for mapping. In-situ data (topographic maps, ortho-photos and ground survey data) are essential ancillary information. The basic technical parameters of CLC have not changed since the beginning: 1) the nomenclature including 44 classes (on level-3) in five main land cover / use groups: Artificial surfaces, Agriculture, Forests and seminatural areas, Wetlands and Water; 2) the geometric detail: 25 hectare minimum mapping unit (MMU) and 100 meter minimum mapping width (MMW). The layer of CORINE Land Cover Changes (CLC-Change) is produced since the second CLC inventory (CLC2000). CLC-Change is created by direct mapping of changes taking place between two consecutive inventories, based on visual image-to-image comparison of satellite images. Change mapping applies a 5 ha MMU to pick up more detail in the CLC-Change layer than in the CLC status layer. Integration of national CLC and CLC-Change data includes some harmonization along national borders. European validation studies have shown that the achieved thematic accuracy is above the specified minimum (85 %). Primary CLC and CLC-Change data are produced in vector format with polygon topology. Derived products in raster format are also available. The seamless European CLC and CLC-Change time series data (CLC1990, CLC2000, CLC2006, CLC2012, CLC2018 and related CLC-Change data) are distributed in the standard European Coordinate Reference System defined by the European Terrestrial Reference System 1989 (ETRS89) datum and Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area (LAEA) projection (EPSG: 3035). Results of the CLC inventories can be downloaded from the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service site free of charge for all

users for any use. CLC data contribute to a wide range of studies and applications with European coverage, e.g.: ecosystem mapping, modelling the impacts of climate change, landscape fragmentation by roads, abandonment of farmland and major structural changes in agriculture, urban sprawl, water management. A harmonization methodology has been developed to allow a statistically solid basis for CLC time series analysis by means of the so-called CLC accounting layers.

The future CLC+ concept is under development, aiming the continuation of the CLC time series, by making benefit of high spatial and temporal resolution satellite imagery (ESA Sentinels), thematic data provided by Member States and advanced information extraction techniques.

II. Guide for the reader

Who is this guide for?

The product User Manual is the primary document that users are recommended to read before using the CLC product. It provides an overview of the product characteristics, product methodology and workflows, user requirements and example/potential use cases, information about the quality assessment checks and their results as well as product technical support.

This guide has been developed primarily for stakeholders and users from the public and private sectors and civil society (on the fields of environment, agriculture, rural development, statistics, mapping, monitoring among others). It also aims to provide information for policy makers and Member State officials involved in the European, national and regional planning and evaluation processes of e.g. land management, environmental management, agriculture. Other readers with potential interests in the contents of this guide are citizens of EEA38 and the UK with interests in environmental policies, such as researchers, journalists, and civil society organizations. However, the guide is intentionally more focused on the needs of technical users of the data.

Content and structure

The document provides information to the user that helps understand which CLC product is suitable for the intended purpose, and how they should be used (Chapter VIII), further illustrating this with many real use case examples (Chapter IV). By explaining the content, methodology and quality of CLC (Chapters V, VI and VII) the guidelines allow the reader to properly interpret the figures and results derived from CLC products. Information on formats, naming conventions and access (Chapters V and IX) help hands-on work with the data.

The document is structured as follows:

- Chapter III recalls the history of CORINE Land Cover (1985-2020) incl. early user requirements and recent user requirement.
- Chapter IV presents potential application areas and/or example use cases covering EU-level applications as well as examples of national applications.
- Chapter V presents technical specifications and product descriptions (product file naming convention and format(s), product content and characteristics).
- Chapter VI provides a description of the product methodology and workflows.
- Chapter VII summarizes the quality assessment and/or validation procedure and the results.
- Chapter VIII is about practical advices to users: how to use CLC?
- Chapter IX provides information about product access and use conditions as well as the technical product support.

- Chapter X lists references to the cited literature.
- Chapter XI provides annexes.

Applicable documents

Reference	Content	Location of document
AD01	CLC nomenclature guidelines (pdf)	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/docs/pdf/CLC2018_Nomenclature_illustrated_guide_20190510.pdf
AD02	CLC nomenclature guidelines (on-line)	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/html/
AD03	CLC2018 Technical Guidelines	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library//clc2018technicalguidelines_final.pdf
AD04	Manual of CLC Changes	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/manual_of_changes_final_draft.pdf
AD05	CLC and CLC-Change release lineage	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library//clc-and-clcc-release-lineage-v20u1.pdf
AD06	Seamless data coverage table (1990-2018)	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library//clc-country-coverage-1990-2018-v20u1.pdf
AD07	CLC2012 validation report	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/clc-2012-validation-report-1
AD08	CLC2018 validation report	https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/clc-2018-and-clc-change-2012-2018-validation-report/view

Applicable documents are referred to in the Manual in the form of AD0x, where x is the serial number of the document in the table above.

III. History of CORINE Land Cover

Early user requirements

CORINE Land Cover has an almost 40-year-long history. The term CORINE stands for 'Coordination of information on the environment' and it was a European Commission program from 1985 dedicated to different environmental issues: “an experimental project for gathering, coordinating and ensuring the consistency of information on the state of the environment and natural resources in the Community” (85/338/EEC, 6.27.1985).

In order to determine the Community's environment policy, assess the effects of this policy correctly and incorporate the environmental dimension into other policies, the Commission needed proper data on the environment and an understanding of the ongoing processes (Heymann et al., 1993).

A further objective of the CORINE programme was to bring together all the many attempts that had been made over the years at various levels (international, Community, national and regional) to obtain more information on the environment and the way it is changing, by devising procedures for collating, standardising and exchanging data on the environment in the Member States.

Early user requirements (as objectives) as included in the first CORINE Land Cover Technical Guidelines (Heymann et al., 1993) are not specific to CORINE Land Cover but related to all the components of the CORINE programme, including CORINE Land Cover, CORINE Air, CORINE Hydro and CORINE Biotopes.

Text box 1: Early user requirements of CORINE (1985)

If our environment and natural heritage are to be properly managed, decision-makers need to be provided with both an overview of existing knowledge, and information which is as complete and up-to-date as possible on changes in certain features of the biosphere.

To this end, the three aims of the CORINE (Coordination of information on the environment) programme of the European Commission are:

- to compile information on the state of the environment with regard to certain topics which have priority for all the Member States of the Community;
- to coordinate the compilation of data and the organization of information within the Member States or at international level;
- to ensure that information is consistent, and that data are compatible.

Obviously, the main technical parameters of CLC (MMU=25 hectares, MMW=100 meters, hierarchical 3-level nomenclature) reflect the needs of the main user, the European Commission. National user needs could be introduced into CLC in three ways:

- Using higher geometric resolution than the standard 25 ha (<25 ha polygons were allowed in CLC1990 inventory, and used by some of the countries, but stopped later because of the difficulty in comparing countries with different mapping resolution).
- Using more thematic detail (i.e. level-4 or level-5 categories) than specified in the standard nomenclature (this option is still used by a few countries).
- In optimizing the process to derive national CLC inventories countries have freedom to decide on some specifics of the methodology, and on the ancillary data used, as far as the results are compatible with the product specifications (see more in Ch. V. *Technical specifications*).

During its long lifetime, CLC has maintained its basic technical specifications (nomenclature, geometric resolution), but the process of technical implementation has significantly changed since the beginning.

The evolution of CORINE Land Cover

The history of CLC is presented below (Table 1) based on documents [AD05](#) and [AD06](#).

Table 1: The evolution of CORINE Land Cover

	CLC1990	CLC2000	CLC2006	CLC2012	CLC2018
Satellite data	Landsat-5 MSS/TM single date	Landsat-7 ETM single date	SPOT-4/5 and IRS P6 LISS III dual date	IRS LISS III and RapidEye dual date	ESA Sentinel-2 dual date Landsat 8
Time consistency	1986-1996	2000 +/- 1 year	2006 +/- 1 year	2011-2012	2017 ¹ (2018)
Geometric accuracy, satellite image	≤ 50 m	≤ 25 m	≤ 25 m	≤ 25 m	≤ 10 m
Min. mapping unit/width	25 ha/ 100m	25 ha/ 100m	25 ha/ 100m	25 ha/ 100m	25 ha/ 100m
Geometric accuracy, CLC	100 m	better than 100 m	better than 100 m	better than 100 m	better than 100 m
Targeted thematic accuracy ≥ 85%	not checked, probably not reached	reached	reached	reached	reached
CLC-Change	not implemented	non-standard change mapping methodology	standard change mapping methodology	standard change mapping methodology	standard change mapping methodology
Production time	10 years	4 years	3 years	2 years	1,5 year

¹ A one-year-long image data acquisition period was planned in 2017 ([AD03](#)). This had to be extended to 2018 because of gap filling.

Documentation	incomplete metadata	standard metadata	standard metadata	standard metadata	standard metadata
Access to the data	unclear dissemination policy	dissemination policy agreed from the start	free access for all users	free access for all users	free access for all users
Number of countries	28	39	39	39	39

CLC1990

The main aim of CLC1990 was to test the methodology decided by the European Commission in 1985 (85/338/EEC, 6.27.1985). According to the official publication of CLC1990 results (December 2000) the first CORINE Land Cover project included 12 of that time EU member countries, and 10 countries of Central and Eastern Europe (preparing for the EU accession). This meant two different financial mechanisms, and a rather long implementation period. Later, six additional countries have created CLC1990, summing up to altogether 28 countries of EEA39² (AD06). The reference periods (acquisition period of applied satellite imagery) of the participating countries were rather heterogeneous, i.e. the time consistency of CLC1990 was poor. For the sake of simplicity 1990 is considered as reference year.

Main features of CLC1990:

- The nomenclature was finalized during the early years of the project implementation period.
- A single date Landsat MSS and later Landsat TM satellite imagery taken in 1985-1996 in 1:100.000 colour print format was used as basis of photointerpretation. Countries were checked regarding their capability to produce hardcopies (colour film and paper print). In case of lack of this capacity imagery was centrally provided.
- Ortho-correction was not routinely applied in producing the image map documents for photo-interpretation.
- Mapping technology entailed photo-interpretation by drawing manually on a plastic overlay covering a 1:100.000 scale printout of a satellite image map.
- In-situ (ancillary) data were mainly topographic maps and black-and-white aerial photographs as hardcopy.
- The 25 ha minimum mapping unit (MMU) was not applied as hard limit, i.e. <25 ha polygons were allowed.

² Until 2020 EEA had 39 member and cooperating countries (EEA39). Since [Brexit](#) in 2020, the UK has not been a member of the EU anymore and therefore not a member state of the EEA. As the UK has participated in most of the CLC inventories so far, the politically correct term would be “EEA38 and the UK” for European coverages. However, for the sake of simplicity in technical context in this Manual we will keep on using the term EEA39. See also: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/countries-and-eionet>

- Drawings on the plastic overlay had to be digitized to create the final database. The lack of ortho-correction and the deformation of the plastic often caused geometric distortion of the resulting land cover data.
- Quality control and assurance were difficult tasks in CLC1990 as the checking of photo-interpretation had to be carried out on the plastic overlay.
- Integrated European vector data was available as ESRI ArcInfo Librarian and derived raster products as ESRI grids in 100 m and 250 m resolution.
- Data dissemination policy was unclear.

CLC2000

The second CLC inventory was implemented within the IMAGE&CLC2000 project managed by the EEA and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). Until the official publication of results (September 2009) 37 countries of EEA39 have participated. Later two additional countries have completed CLC2000, yielding full EEA39 coverage ([AD06](#)). The project had two main aims with similar priorities: (1) produce an updated CLC database based on lessons learnt during the 1st inventory with improved geometry (CLC2000) and (2) derive a database of land cover changes (CLC-Change between 1990 and 2000).

Main features of CLC2000:

- A single-date Landsat-7 ETM satellite imagery taken in 1999-2001 (in digital form) was provided by JRC, i.e. the time consistency has improved compared to CLC1990. The exceptions were Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of North Macedonia, where satellite images taken in late 1990s were used to derive the first CLC covering the country. For pragmatic reasons these too are considered as CLC2000.
- The technology of drawing the interpretation on plastic transparencies was discarded and replaced by CAPI (computer-assisted photo-interpretation).
- Five countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the UK) applied non-standard methodology, including different levels of automatization (country-specific due to differences in availability of national data) by combining image processing, in-situ data integration and cartographic generalisation.
- Prior to mapping changes, CLC1990 data had to be corrected: bulk geometric mistakes were removed by polynomial transformation or rubber-sheeting and residual geometric errors exceeding 100 m and coding mistakes were removed by manual editing.
- The 25 ha minimum mapping unit (MMU) was applied as hard limit, i.e. polygons <25 ha were eliminated (generalized).
- In some countries correcting CLC1990 needed significantly more effort than the subsequent updating.
- The project has provided the first opportunity for mapping CLC changes. Majority of countries first updated CLC1990 to CLC2000, then the two status layers were intersected to derive CLC-

Change. However, due to the different MMUs in CLC and CLC-Change the result included lots of noise and false changes. Isolated changes having size under the 25 ha MMU were naturally omitted by this method (see detail in Ch. VI. *Mapping CLC Changes*). A few countries used the other way of update, where changes were first mapped then the new status layer was produced in a GIS operation. This method was later selected as the preferred method by the EEA. All in all, CLC-Change database production for the CLC2000 inventory was not homogeneous across Europe.

- Computer-assisted verification was introduced providing written, geo-located explanations regarding the mistakes found, thus supporting a harmonized production of the database all over Europe.
- Full harmonization (visual re-interpretation by keeping the 25 ha MMU) inside a 5-km wide strip along national borders was done including 32 countries for CLC2000 and 24 countries for CLC-Change₁₉₉₀₋₂₀₀₀.
- The first consolidated version of European CLC data have been produced as integrated and harmonised seamless layer in ESRI ArcInfo Workstation Librarian map tiles.
- Dual ownership of CLC and CLC-Change data (EEA and the country) was introduced. The dissemination and use of products were defined in an agreement between the EEA, the EC and the participating countries.

CLC2006

The third CLC inventory was the result of EEA's collaboration with the European Commission (EC) and the European Space Agency (ESA) on the implementation of the Fast Track Service on Land Monitoring as part of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme (REGULATION EU No 911/2010). The CLC-Change database was considered as the primary product, and a uniform change mapping methodology was applied (see details in Ch. VI. *Mapping CLC Changes*). At the time of publishing the results (July 2011), all but one EEA39 countries have had participated. The missing country, Greece realised CLC2006 later, during the CLC2012 inventory.

Main features of CLC2006:

- Dual-date satellite imagery (SPOT-4/5 and IRS P6 LISS III) provided enhanced change mapping capabilities.
- CAPI was the prevailing method applied in interpreting of satellite images. Nevertheless, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the UK applied a semi-automated methodology, like during CLC2000.
- CLC-Change was mapped directly in all countries. The so-called 'change mapping first' approach applied consists of three steps: 1) revision of CLC2000 (to remove mistakes and inconsistencies); 2) creation of CLC-Change by image-to-image comparison; 3) creation of CLC2006 by combining revised CLC2000 and CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆ in a GIS operation.

- Scanned topographic maps and national coverages of digital colour aerial photographs (ortho-photos) were commonly available. Thematic maps, such as forestry and agriculture were also frequently accessible.
- Most of the European QC was conducted by visiting the national teams. In some cases, remote verification was applied (without mission to countries). Separate verification of the regions of Italy and Spain was introduced because of geographic diversity and the regional teams involved.
- The coverage of CLC increased with Madeira (Autonomous region of Portugal).
- Data dissemination improved. CLC data got freely accessible from EEA to any person or legal entity.

CLC2012

The fourth CLC inventory (CLC2012) was implemented by EEA as part of the GMES Initial Operations (GIO) initiated by DG ENTR of the European Commission. By the time of publication of results (September 2016) all EEA39 countries have completed the project.

Main features of CLC2012:

- Two high-resolution satellite image coverages (IRS Resourcesat-1/2, SPOT-4/5, RapidEye constellation) taken in 2011-2012 provided multi-temporal information.
- Still CAPI was the prevailing methodology applied in interpreting of satellite images. The number of countries applying semi-automated methodology increased, as Germany, Ireland and Spain were added to the former list including Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Full bottom-up solution based on generalisation of high-resolution national land monitoring data was practised in Germany and Spain. However, UK has turned from semi-automated processing back to CAPI because no national high-resolution dataset was available for 2012.
- 'Change mapping first' approach used (see details in Ch. VI. *Mapping CLC Changes*).
- Digital or scanned topographic maps and ortho-photos were commonly available. Use of thematic data (forestry, LPIS, fires etc.) becomes more frequent.
- Most of the QC was conducted in remote verifications. Italy and Spain were verified by regions.
- In producing the European products, a simplified border-matching was applied.
- The coverage of CLC increased with Azores (Autonomous region of Portugal), Channel Islands (British dependency) and the French Overseas Territories (DOMs³).
- Revised layers (revised CLC2000 and revised CLC2006) were made available for the users for the first time. CLC2000 layer has been replaced by revised CLC2000, and CLC2006 layer has been replaced by revised CLC2006 on land.copernicus.eu portal. See details in Ch.VI. *European products*.

³ Includes French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, La Reunion, and Mayotte (having tropical climate).

CLC2018

The fifth CLC inventory for the reference year 2018 was produced under the Copernicus programme. It has the shortest production time in the history of CLC inventories. All EEA39 countries were mapped. Data were published in February 2020.

Main features of CLC2018:

- Multitemporal Sentinel-2 (and optionally Landsat-8) satellite images were provided to the national teams.
- In majority of countries visual photointerpretation (CAPI) following uniform methodology ([AD03](#)) was applied. The number of countries applying semi-automated or bottom-up methodology increased (eight in total), as Portugal was added to the former list including Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Spain and Sweden.
- ‘Change mapping first’ approach used (see details in Ch. VI. *Mapping CLC Changes*).
- Most of the QC was conducted in remote verifications. Italy and Spain were verified by regions.
- In producing the European products, a simplified border matching was applied.
- The coverage of CLC increased with Faroe Islands (autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark).
- Revised CLC2012 layers were made available for 38 countries (not produced by Finland, see [AD06](#)). CLC2012 layers have been replaced by revised CLC2012 on land.copernicus.eu portal. See details in Ch.VI. *European products*.
- Change in naming convention: an improved file naming convention Annex 2) has been introduced for downloadable files from land.copernicus.eu portal.

Recent user requirements⁴

During the history of CLC inventories, many new requirement and improvement ideas have arisen, some of which becoming reality during subsequent inventories. Such are the nomenclature improvements, application of some level-4 and -5 categories on national level and refinement of change mapping methodology, among others. Also, there have been a number of higher-resolution national CLC initiatives (in e.g. Hungary and Portugal), reflecting the need for more detailed data at national level. However, the basic parameters of European CLC have remained unchanged, the 25 ha / 5 ha MMU, the 3-level nomenclature and the list of classes, and any national enhancements remained sporadic and unsynchronized. Also, the above-mentioned ideas for development and expressions of user needs have not been systematically collected until 2016. At that time, as part of CLC2018 implementation planning, an extensive survey has been conducted among EEA Member and Cooperating countries (ETC-ULS, 2016) focusing on (among others) national requirements towards CLC2018, enhancement ideas and willingness for enhancement (e.g. higher-resolution CLC, attribution

⁴ Novice readers are advised to read Ch. VI. before familiarising with *Recent user requirements*.

of polygons). The study summarizing the results has identified a number of user requirements, ideas for enhancement that can be considered valid and worth to take into account in planning the future of CLC. These requirements are summarized below.

CLC enhancement ideas

Any foreseen enhancement of CLC potentially addresses both geometric resolution (change of Minimum Mapping Unit) of CLC status layers and CLC-Change layers and thematic resolution (level-4/5 classes or attribution of polygons), as well as others (e.g. improvement of nomenclature). The questions in the survey addressing enhancement interest/willingness were formulated in a way that it excluded the budget factor, i.e. “In case of sufficient funding, would you support one or more of the following ideas for enhancement of CLC on the European scale in CLC2018?” Note that question referred to the European database and not to a national CLC.

The summary of answers (Figure 1) showed that most of responding countries find useful and worth to support one or more of the enhancement ideas. 25 out of 32 countries would support finer resolution, showing that there is in general a national demand for high-resolution LC/LU data, as it usually does not exist in the countries. Thematic refinement is also supported by about one third of the respondents.

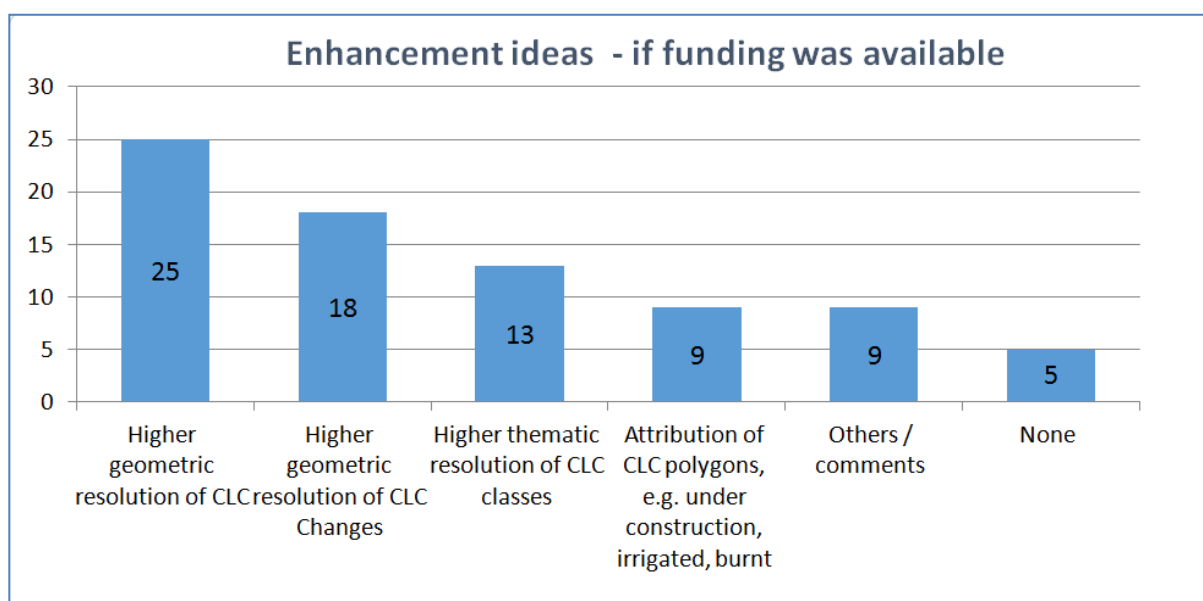


Figure 1: Support of enhancement ideas for CLC

Regarding the ideal level of geometric detail (MMU) responses obtained were as follows (in **bold** the most preferred solution):

- Fine as it is: 11 countries.

- Identical MMU for CLC and CLC change: 10 countries.
 - Proposals: 0.05 ha, 0.4 ha, 0.5 ha (2 countries), 1 ha (2 countries), **5 ha (3 countries)**, see Text box 2), 25 ha.
- Different MMU for CLC and CLC change: 10 countries. The most frequent combinations were: **5 ha / 1 ha** and **1 ha / 0,5 ha**).

Text box 2: Identical CLC and CLC-Change resolutions preferred by 10 countries (2016)

5 ha resolution for both CLC and CLC-Change would have several advantages:

- still feasible with current CLC nomenclature,
- statistical comparability,
- easier for bottom-up solutions,
- centrally organized access to LPIS would support it.

Regarding higher thematic resolution there were three main types of solution favoured by countries:

- Separate land cover from land use (i.e. apply EAGLE data model).
- All classes are to be subdivided if MMU is decreased.
- Subdivide only some of the classes (those proposed by more than two countries are in bold):
 - 112⁵ (discontinuous urban fabric) proposed by 2 countries,
 - 121 (industrial or commercial units), 122 (road and rail network), 132 (dump sites), 133 (construction sites) proposed by 2 countries,
 - 142 (sport and leisure facilities), 231 (pasture) proposed by 2 countries,
 - 242 (complex cultivation patterns), proposed by 2 countries,
 - **243 (land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation)** proposed by **3 countries**,
 - 311 (broad-leaved forest), 321 (natural grassland),
 - **322 (moors and heathland)**, proposed by **3 countries**,
 - **324 (transitional woodland-scrub)**, proposed by **7 countries**,
 - 333 (sparsely vegetated areas), 411 inland marshes),
 - **412 (peat bogs)**, proposed by **4 countries**,
 - 511 (water courses), 512 (water bodies)

Other way of increasing thematic resolution is to add attributes to CLC polygons. Attributes can be

- (selected) attributes of the EAGLE descriptive system (**8 countries proposed**)

⁵ see CLC class definitions in [AD01](#) or [AD02](#)

- other attributes: average parcel size for class 211 (arable land); clearcut; burnt; irrigated; abandoned/unused (3 countries); windmill parks; greenhouses; nature reconstruction, etc.

Besides simply increasing the thematic resolution, other thematic issues should be tackled. These are related to

- inherent problems of nomenclature (e.g. no class for unused areas);
- new phenomena that have arisen in the last decades (e.g. windmills and energy crops).

Mapping these is of interest to the European Community and/or many CLC implementing countries, therefore finding a pan-European solution is of common interest.

CLC continuity (i.e. maintaining the comparability between results of CLC inventories) is the main requirement, thus the introduction of new classes, merging or deleting existing classes is not supported, as this would endanger long-term monitoring and accounting schemes. This way, only two solutions are left for thematic enrichment of CLC data:

- 1) introduction of commonly agreed subclasses on the European level
- 2) attribution of CLC polygons with parameters or descriptors.

Both solutions give the opportunity to add more thematic detail and both keep compatibility with previous CLC inventories. Both can be implemented for the status layer and / or for the layer of CLC-Change. (With view on implementation and economic rationale the outlined proposal below relates to **attributing of polygons in CLC-Change layer**.) From applicability point of view subdivision of classes and attribution are not much different. However, as not all missing features/characteristics can be added as subclasses of existing classes, an advantage of attribution is that new features can be mapped without introducing completely new classes.

There are few attributes that can be applied for not only a single class, but a number of classes, therefore are proposed to have a priority. These are:

- **abandoned / out of use:** can be applied for disused artificial sites / brownfields (121 – industry class), uncompleted construction sites (133), suburban unused ruderal areas (231), salines (422).
- **irrigated:** all agriculture (2xx) classes;
- **burnt:** all permanent crops (22x) and forests and shrubs (31x and 32x) classes;
- presence of **windmills:** all agriculture land (2xx), most forest and seminatural areas (3xx classes) and sea and ocean (523).

On top of that, considering the frequency of classes in CLC-Change and the proposals from MS, the following are the classes recommended as primary target of attributing CLC-Change polygons:

- 324 (transitional woodland-scrub) – growth of forests (succession) and decline of forests (clearcutting);
- 121 (industrial or commercial units) – green energy industry;

- 133 (construction sites) – construction of artificial features and “nature construction”;
- 142 (sport and leisure facilities) – cemeteries and sport/recreation;
- 512 (water bodies) – natural and man-made.

Intention to create a national higher-resolution CLC

A few countries are using the opportunity of CLC mapping to create in parallel a more detailed national dataset for national uses, others might intend to do so, but cannot fill the gap between this wish and the available financial resources. As answers to this question revealed, the majority of countries (21) would be willing to create a national higher-resolution CLC if funding was available. A minority (3 countries) have found the solution to finance this extra exercise. Four countries were not interested.

Outlook to CLC+

With the operational status of Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 satellites there is the potential global coverage of high spatial resolution data at regular intervals. The EEA appreciates this situation and has therefore identified the need for further improvements to the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) product portfolio, which includes development of a 2nd generation CLC or CLC+.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Commission Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) have determined to develop and design a conceptual strategy and associated technical specifications for a new series of products within the CLMS portfolio, which should meet the current and future requirements for European Land Cover Land Use (LC/LU) monitoring and reporting obligations. This process of development is nominally called the “2nd generation CORINE Land Cover (CLC)” and the suite of products resulting are referred to as “CLC+”.



Figure 2: The concept of 2nd generation CORINE Land Cover and the CLC+ product suite

The CLC+ suite of products becomes the new European baseline for LC/LU monitoring for the decade to come, from which tailored products (so-called instances) can be derived for support key EU policy needs through the full policy cycle, as well as to specific needs as expressed by stakeholders in the Member States (Figure 2). From that time perspective, it is of paramount importance that the components of the CLC+ suite are implemented in a “change-proof” approach, i.e. that stable

information over time remains stable over subsequent updates ensuring that changes in the landscape are reflected reliably in subsequent updates.

The new concept and the product suite have been specified through an extensive partnership between the EIONET network, and in particular the EAGLE expert group and stakeholders inside EEA. The process was supported by open on-line user consultations.

EAGLE CLC+ concept

The EAGLE CLC+ approach proposes a conceptual strategy that consists of a number of interlinked elements representing separate CLC+ datasets / products and therefore can be delivered independently in discrete production phases. Each of the datasets / products has its own technical specification and production methodology and can be produced through its own funding / resourcing mechanisms.

1. **CLC+ Backbone** is a spatially detailed, large scale inventory providing EO-based land cover thematic attributes as 10-m-resolution raster data. The additional vector version of CLC+ Backbone provides a spatial structure for landscape features, attributed with the raster data.
2. **CLC+ Core** is a consistent multi-use grid database repository for environmental land monitoring information, populated with a broad range of land cover (including but not limited to CLC+ Backbone), land use and ancillary data from the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS), Member State input and other data sources, forming the information engine to deliver and support tailored thematic information requirements.
3. **CLC+ Instances** are a “nominal” end points or final products in the CLC+ product suite. There may potentially be multiple “instances” with different specifications and for different purposes. Primarily, instances are considered as raster / grid products derived from the CLC-Core and will be a LULC monitoring product with improved spatial and thematic performance, relative to the current CLC. It can be tailored towards different types of application domains. Currently proposed instances are CLC+ LULUCF (1st priority) and CLC+ Legacy (2nd priority).

CLC+ Instances

CLC+ LULUCF Instance

The aim of CLC+ LULUCF instance is to provide a consistent European bottom-up based 100m resolution raster product containing LCLU information relevant for LULUCF accounting required for GHG reporting.

CLC+ Legacy Instance

The aim of CLC+ Legacy instance is to provide a consistent European bottom-up based CLC-compatible product, by:

- Ensuring the continuity of CLC time series (100m raster resolution, 5-ha / 25-ha MMU vector CLC+ Legacy Instance products, dataset of real changes⁶).
- Optimally, providing a true 100m spatial resolution⁷ (1ha MMU) raster CLC product (1ha resolution CLC+ Legacy Instance).

⁶ Real change means a CLC code pair that best describes the process that the given land cover patch has undergone in reality. Code pairs thus reflect real processes instead of differences of two databases, which often provide non-real changes ([AD03](#)).

⁷ True 100 m resolution means that the MMU is decreased to 1 ha. Currently available 100 m raster CLC product has actually 25 ha resolution (MMU), as it is created by transforming the 25 ha MMU vector product to 100 m resolution raster.

IV. Product application areas and/or examples of use cases

As clearly demonstrated by the download statistics from the [Copernicus Land Portal](#), CORINE Land Cover with its nearly 40-year history is still clearly the data set with the highest number of downloads by far. Only in quarters 1 and 2 of 2020 the download number for CLC2018 (ca. 10 800) is almost twice the number of all local component products together. And even CLC1990 has been downloaded during this first half year more than 1400 times (Sousa, 2020).

This demand is also reflected in the wide range of European and national applications built on and around CLC. The use cases in Annex 6 are a selection of the applications of CLC

- in support of a wide range of policies including the Common Agricultural Policy, the Habitat Directive and Biodiversity Strategy, the No Net Loss and Land Degradation Neutrality, the Sustainable Development Goals, the LULUCF Regulation, the EU Strategy on Climate Adaption, Green Infrastructure and many more.
- supporting EEA and European Commission indicators for monitoring the above policies;
- for the mapping of the spatial extent of ecosystem types and their services;
- for urban and landscape level assessment,
- for another range of applications from forest fires to drought and soil
- at different levels of scale from European to sub-national.

Common to most of these applications is the possibility to draw conclusions based on the analysis of land cover / use changes with a globally unprecedented length of time series.

34 use cases are presented in Annex 6 in a uniform structure and grouped into two main groups: European level applications/reports (24 examples) and national / regional applications (10 examples).

European level applications

These use cases are further subdivided into six sub-groups:

- Indicators developed and maintained by the EEA:
 - Land take in Europe.
 - Fragmentation of natural and semi-natural areas.
 - Landscape fragmentation.
 - Vegetation productivity.
- Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and agri-environmental indicators:
 - Land use change (Agri-environmental indicator 9).
 - Utilised Agricultural Areas (UAA) under Natura 2000 (Agri-environmental indicator 2, also CAP context indicator 34).

- High Nature Value Farmland and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP Context indicator 37 and Agri-environmental indicator 23).
- Ecosystems related applications:
 - Ecosystem type mapping.
 - Mapping of ecosystem services.
 - Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services.
 - EUNIS habitat classification.
- Urban related applications:
 - Urban form.
 - Urban Morphological Zones.
- Land cover and landscape change-related reports and applications:
 - Landscapes in transition: an account of 25 years of land cover change in Europe.
 - Land and ecosystem accounts for Europe. Towards geospatial environmental accounting.
 - Changes and flows in European landscapes 1990-2000.
 - Land cover changes and soil functions. An approach for integrated accounting.
 - Land Use - based Integrated Sustainability Assessment (LUISA).
- Other European applications:
 - Spatial analysis of green infrastructure in Europe.
 - Vegetation response to water deficit in Europe.
 - Trend in soil moisture.
 - European map of alien plant invasions.
 - A population density grid of the European Union.
 - Land cover fire proneness in Europe.

National and regional applications

These use cases cover a wide range of applications. More than half of them contribute to fulfilling international reporting obligations.

- Estimation of carbon stored in vegetation for climate change modelling.
- Urban climate modelling.
- Landscape evaluation.
- Assessing landscapes' capacities to provide ecosystem services.
- LULUCF mapping (Land use, land-use change, and forestry mapping; introduced by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat).

- Estimation of ecosystem specific critical loads for CLRTAP reporting (Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, defined by the UNECE).
- Forest mapping for SDG (Sustainable Development Goals, defined by the EC and Eurostat).
- Mapping loss of natural and seminatural habitats (UN Convention on Biological Diversity).
- Catchment modelling of river discharge and phosphorus load.
- Mapping land cover changes between 1990 and 2018 in a National Park.

V. Product description

Standard European CORINE Land Cover products are accessible via the [Copernicus Land Portal](#). The download packages of various CLC status and change products include datasets covering EEA members and cooperating (EEA38) countries⁸ and the UK in ETRS 1989 LAEA projection⁹ (Figure 3) and French DOMs in local UTM projections.

⁸ Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey (with the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU on 31 January 2020, it ceased to be part of the EEA's institutional networks and governance).

⁹ EPSG:3035

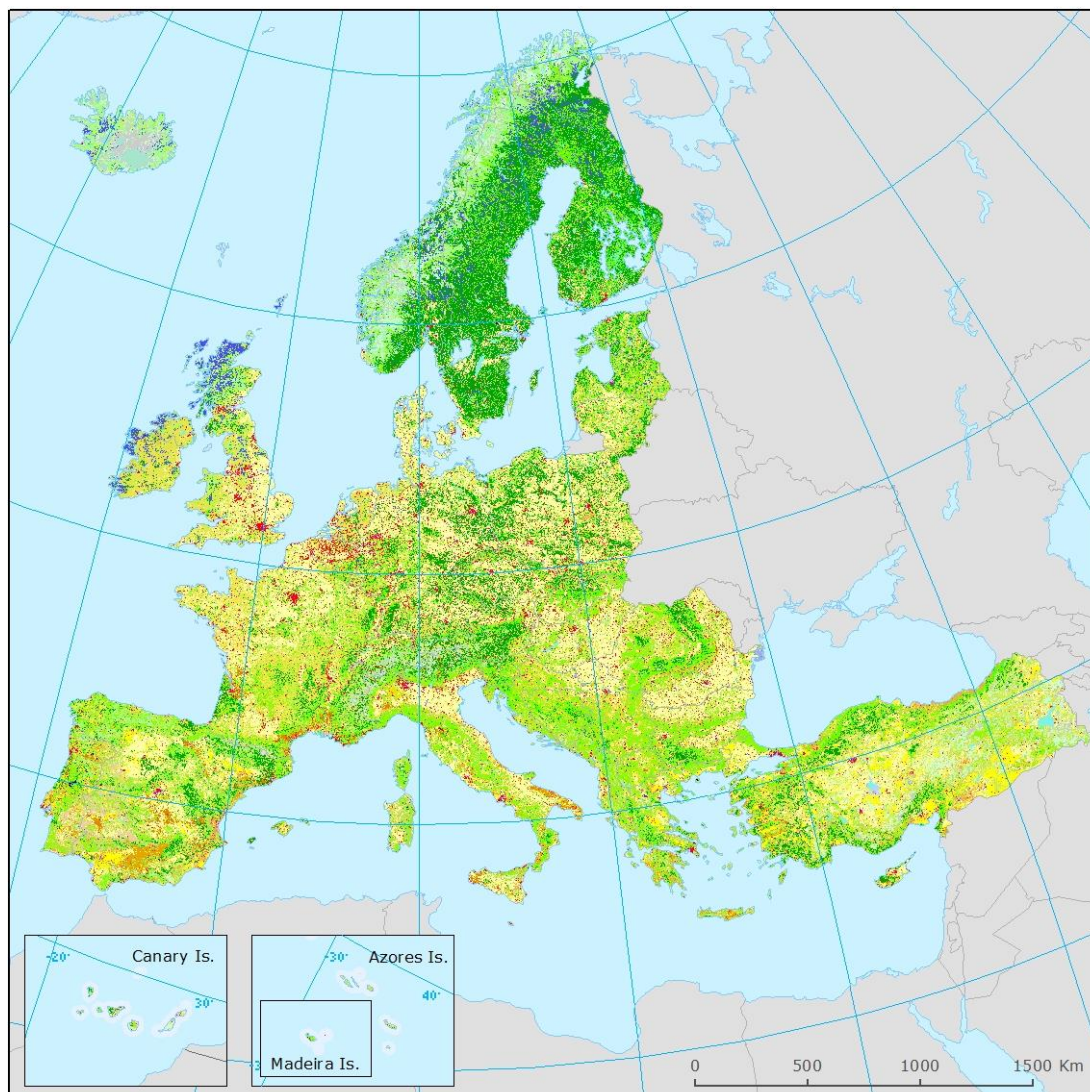


Figure 3: CLC2018 database covering European area of EEA38 countries and the UK.

Standard European CLC products are provided in two different vector formats (ESRI File Geodatabase and SQLite Database) as well as in 100-m resolution GeoTiff raster format.

Technical specifications

The basic parameters of CLC (spatial resolution and nomenclature) have not changed during its lifetime (Table 1), thus maintaining the comparability between consecutive inventories.

Spatial resolution

The minimum mapping unit (MMU) is 25 ha for mapping CLC status layers. This means that objects having less than 25 ha area cannot be present in the database; they are generalized into a neighbouring

feature to result > 25 ha polygons. (This is a hard limit, meaning that <25 ha polygons are not allowed in the database.) The minimum mapping width (MMW) of linear elements is 100 m; this means that objects (most typically highways and rivers) having less than 100 metres width cannot be present in the database. (It must be noted that this is a soft limit, 10% exaggeration of the width of features is allowed, mostly to keep continuity of linear features.) The explanation for the MMU and MMW values is as follows:

- The satellite images available in the 1980s' had coarse resolution (57m x 79m for Landsat MSS) and poor (50-80 m) positional accuracy.
- Producing CLC with photo-interpretation is a labour-intensive process, so a trade-off had to be found between mapping detail and production costs.
- In CLC1990, when interpreters drew and coded CLC polygons on plastic overlay at scale 1:100.000, the 25 ha MMU was considered the smallest object that could be manually delineated (meaning 0,5 x 0,5 cm in case of rectangular object). Similarly, the 100 m MMW was considered as the narrowest linear element that could be drawn (0.1 cm width at a scale of 1:100.000 (Büttner, 2014).

In CLC change mapping, there was a policy demand to reduce the MMU for changes down to 5 ha to produce policy-relevant information at the European scale. This resulted in CLC-Change layers being much more detailed than the CLC status layers (Figure 4).

The use of a 25 ha (CLC status layer) and 5 ha (CLC-Change layer) MMU and the 100 m MMW (for both layers) is obligatory in the European CLC datasets. Often mentioned limitations related to the spatial detail of CLC are:

- The 25 ha MMU of the CLC status layers and 5 ha MMU of the CLC-Change layers are too coarse, and often do not fulfil national requirements.
- Because of the 100 m MMW (of both status and change layers), CLC is hardly suitable to map the road network, as only the super-highways can be included.
- Mapping important changes having narrow and elongated shape, like road construction and withdrawal of glaciers creates difficulties.

To tackle the above issues, a few countries has created more detailed national CLC and CLC-Change databases, which are then generalised to yield the European CLC datasets.

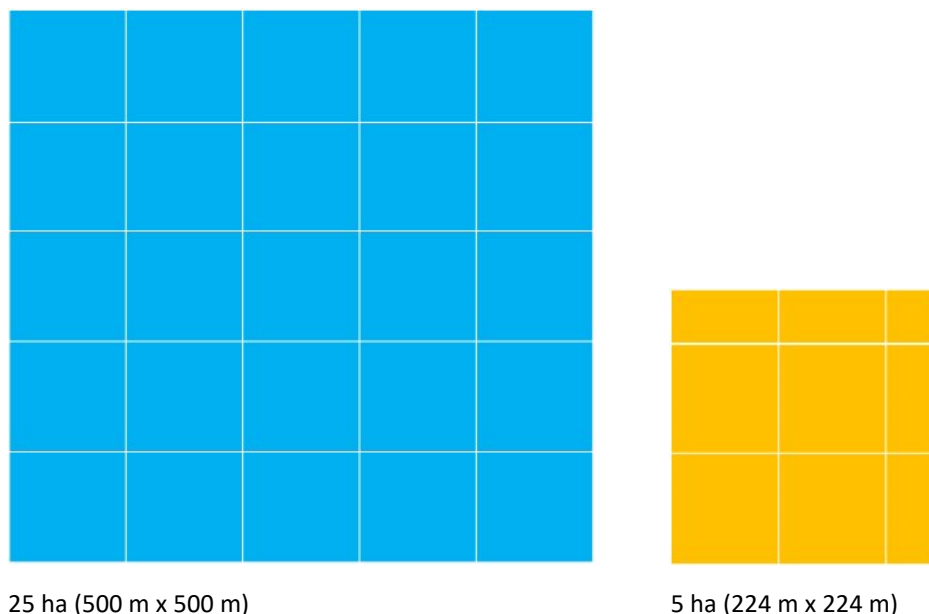


Figure 4: Comparison of minimum mapping units (MMU) of status layer (left) and change layer (right)

Nomenclature

The standard European CLC nomenclature (Annex 1) is hierarchical, including three levels of thematic detail in five major groups (Heymann et al., 1993):

- artificial surfaces
- agricultural areas
- forests and semi-natural areas
- wetlands
- water bodies.

Although CLC's name suggests that it is a land cover database, besides pure land cover-focused (LC) classes, the nomenclature includes land use-focused (LU) classes (especially within the artificial surfaces group) and some classes having mixed LC / LU character, as well.

Altogether there are 44 classes on level 3. Although the 44 classes have not changed since the implementation of the first CLC inventory (i.e. the results of inventories are kept comparable over time), the definition of most of the nomenclature elements was significantly improved and refined ([AD01](#)). The latest version of Nomenclature Guidelines is available also online ([AD02](#)).

The use of level-3 classes is obligatory in the European CLC datasets. However, there are some examples of more detailed national nomenclatures, where one or more of the standard level-3 classes are hierarchically subdivided to level 4. Often mentioned limitations of the nomenclature are:

- It is a mixture of land cover and land use classes.
- Significant areas are covered by mosaic/mixed classes (242, 243), which causes difficulties in some applications.
- Some classes describe special characteristics (status) of the objects (e.g. “irrigated”, “burnt”). It would be better to apply attributes for such cases (e.g. instead of “irrigated arable land” class use “arable land” class, with “irrigated” attribute).
- The classes are designed with view on visual interpretability and their identification often requires the human capacity of abstraction and combination of information. It is therefore not straightforward to describe them in a machine-readable way, thus difficult to derive them by semi-automated methodologies combining existing datasets.

CLC status layer products

CLC status layer products are available for the reference years of 1990 (partial EEA39 coverage), 2000, 2006, 2012 and 2018 as individual download packages. A new database version always includes data covering all previous inventories. Data representing a previous inventory have the same structure, but geographic coverage might be different (see [AD05](#)). The content of a download package is explained below by means of the example of CLC2018 status.

Base folder (example names listed for various supported formats)¹⁰:

- u2018_clc2018_v2020_20u1_fgdb (ESRI File Geodatabase vector format)
- u2018_clc2018_v2020_20u1_geoPackage (SQLite Geopackage vector format)
- u2018_clc2018_v2020_20u1_raster100m (100-m resolution raster format)

A download package has the following structure and contains the following information:

\DATA folder (contains raster or vector CLC data layers):

- U2018_CLC2018_V2020_20u1.gdb (European seamless mosaic in ESRI File Geodatabase)
- U2018_CLC2018_V2020_20u1.gpkg (European seamless mosaic SQLite Geopackage)
- U2018_CLC2018_V2020_20u1.tif (European seamless mosaic in raster Geotiff format)

\DATA\French_DOMs folder (vector or raster files for CLC Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion).

\Documents folder (readme files, ancillary documentation of detailed history (lineage) of dataset, country coverage, file naming convention).

\Legend folder (CLC nomenclature and colour styles for ArcGIS and QGIS).

¹⁰ Directory names and file names below follow the file naming conventions described in Annex 2.

\French_DOMs folder (Legends for CLC French DOMs - appears only in case of CLC raster data)

\Metadata folder (ISO XML metadata files).

CLC vector status data layers

Vector databases were provided by National Teams (NT) within CLC1990, CLC2000, CLC2006, CLC2012 and CLC2018 projects (see Ch. III. *The evolution of CORINE Land Cover*). All polygon features in the original vector database were classified and digitised based on satellite images with 100 m or better positional accuracy (according to CLC specifications) and 25 ha minimum mapping unit into the standard CLC nomenclature (Annex 1).

Harmonization of polygon outlines and codes on country borders was done only for CLC2000 layer. For other inventories only small sliver polygons along borders (<0,1 ha) have been dissolved (see Ch.III. *The evolution of CORINE Land Cover*). European CLC seamless vector database represents the final vector product of European CLC data integration, created in ESRI Geodatabase format and provided in SQLite Geopackage format as well.

Some redundant lines between neighbouring polygons with the same code are still present in database, but only as result of persisting 'adaptive tiling' procedure limitation of ArcGIS¹¹. Polygons under MMU (25 ha) may be present along national borders and along tile boundaries. Polygons (slivers) under 0,1 ha may be present only along tile boundaries.

Feature attributes provided for CLC vector status data:

The actual content of the Feature Attribute Table is slightly different for the two vector formats provided (ESRI Geodatabase/SQLite Geopackage). Attribute names are presented showing the example of CLC2018 status in Table 2:

File name: U2018_CLC2018_V2020_20u1.gdb / U2018_CLC2018_V2020_20u1.gpkg

Table 2: Attributes for CLC vector status data

Attribute names	Explanation
FID (ESRI Geodatabase) / OBJECTID (SQLite Geopackage)	Built-in numeric unique ID of CLC polygon features
Shape	Built-in attribute showing the feature type (polygon)
CODE_18	Level-3 CLC code as text
Remark	Remarks provided for individual CLC polygons (usually empty)

¹¹ <https://desktop.arcgis.com/en/arcmap/latest/tools/supplement/tiled-processing-of-large-datasets.htm>

Area_Ha	Area of individual CLC polygons in hectares
ID	Unique ID of CLC polygon features as text (e.g. "EU_1")
Shape_length (ESRI Geodatabase only)	Built-in numeric attribute showing the perimeter of individual CLC polygons in meters
Shape_Area (ESRI Geodatabase only)	Built-in numeric attribute showing the area of individual CLC polygons in square meters

CLC raster status data layers

100-m resolution raster CLC data were created by the rasterization of seamless European CLC vector data using CELL_CENTER method¹². Data are provided in compressed GeoTiff format (integer values, pixel depth: 8 bit).

Attributes provided for CLC raster status data

Attributes of the Raster Attribute Table are presented showing the example of CLC2018 status product in Table 3:

File name: U2018_CLC2018_V2020_20u1.tif

Table 3: Attributes for CLC raster status data

Attribute names	Explanation
OID	Built-in numeric unique ID of the records showing individual raster values
Value	Integer raster value showing indications of the CLC code in the range of 1,...44, corresponding to CLC codes 111,...523, plus code 48 corresponding to 999: NODATA (representing only the area of Andorra, which is not covered by CLC)
COUNT	Built-in numeric attributes showing the number of raster cells with the same raster value ¹³
LABEL3	Level-3 CLC class names as text
Red	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB red CLC colour code
Green	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB green CLC colour code
Blue	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB blue CLC colour code
CODE_18	Three-digit level-3 CLC code as text

¹² <https://desktop.arcgis.com/en/arcmap/latest/tools/conversion-toolbox/how-polygon-to-raster-works.htm>

¹³ In present case with 100m raster resolution the number is equivalent with the area expressed in hectares.

CLC-Change products

CLC-Change layer products are available for the reference years of 2000 (partial EEA39 coverage), 2006, 2012 and 2018 as individual download packages. A new database version always include data covering the previous inventories. Data representing a previous inventory have the same structure, but geographic coverage might be different (see [AD05](#)). The content of a download package is explained by means of the example of CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ layer.

Base folder (example names listed for various formats)¹⁴:

- u2018_cha1218_v2020_20u1_fgdb (ESRI File Geodatabase vector format)
- u2018_cha1218_v2020_20u1_geopackage (SQLite Geopackage vector format)
- u2018_cha1218_v2020_20u1_raster100m (100m resolution raster)

\DATA folder (contains raster or vector CLC-Change data layers):

- U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1.gdb (European seamless mosaic in ESRI File Geodatabase)
- U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1.gpkg (European seamless mosaic SQLite Geopackage)
- U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1.tif (European seamless mosaic in raster Geotiff format)

Additional folders have the same content as described under the CLC status layer products.

Description of CLC-Change vector data layers

Harmonization on country border was done only for CLC-Change₁₉₉₀₋₂₀₀₀ layer. For other layers only small sliver polygons along borders (<0,1 ha) have been dissolved. European CLC-Change seamless vector database represents the final vector product of European CLC-Change data integration, created in ESRI GeoDatabase format, and provided in SQLite Geopackage format as well.

Some redundant lines between neighbouring polygons with the same code are still present in database, but only as result of persisting 'adaptive tiling' procedure limitation of ArcGIS¹⁵. Polygons under MMU (5 ha) may be present along national borders and along tile boundaries. Polygons (slivers) under 0,1 ha may be present only along tile boundaries.

Feature attributes provided for CLC-Change vector data

The actual content of the Feature Attribute Table is slightly different for the two vector formats provided (ESRI Geodatabase/SQLite Geopackage). Attribute names are presented showing the example of CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ in Table 4:

File name: U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1.gdb / U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1.gpkg

¹⁴ Directory names and file names below follow the file naming conventions described in Annex 2.

¹⁵ <https://desktop.arcgis.com/en/arcmap/latest/tools/supplement/tiled-processing-of-large-datasets.htm>

Table 4: Attributes for CLC-Change vector data

Attribute names	Explanation
OBJECTID (or FID)	Built-in numeric unique ID of CLC polygon features
Shape	Built-in attribute showing the feature type (polygon)
Change	CLC change types as text (e.g. "211-112")
ID	Unique ID of CLC change polygon features as text (e.g. "EU_1")
CODE_12	Three-digit level-3 CLC code for the 2012 reference year as text
CODE_18	Three-digit level-3 CLC code for the 2018 reference year as text
Chtype	Text attribute with possible values "R" for real and "T" for technical changes
Remark	Remarks provided for individual CLC polygons (usually empty)
Area_Ha	Area of individual CLC polygons in hectares
Shape_length (ESRI Geodatabase only)	Built-in numeric attribute showing the perimeter of individual CLC polygons in meters
Shape_Area (ESRI Geodatabase only)	Built-in numeric attribute showing the area of individual CLC polygons in square meters

Description of CLC-Change raster data layers

100-m resolution raster CLC-Change data were created by the rasterization of seamless CLC-Change vector data using CELL_CENTER method. In order to keep 8-bit resolution for change layers, they are divided into two files, representing consumption (from) and formation (to) part of change. Data are provided in compressed GeoTiff format (integer values, pixel depth: 8 bit).

Attributes provided for CLC-Change raster data

Attribute names are presented showing the example of CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ in Tables 5 and 6.

File name: U2018_CHA1218_12_V2020_20u1 - contains consumption part of change ('from' code).

Table 5: Attributes for CLC-Change raster data (consumption part)

Attribute names	Explanation
OID	Built-in numeric unique ID of the records showing individual raster values
Value	Integer raster value showing indications of the CLC code in the range of 1,..44, corresponding to CLC codes 111,..523, plus code 48 corresponding to 999: NODATA (representing only the area of Andorra, which is not covered by CLC)
COUNT	Built-in numeric attributes showing the number of raster cells with the same raster value
LABEL3	Three-digit level-3 CLC class names as text
CODE_12	Three-digit level-3 CLC code for the 2012 reference year as text

Red	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB red CLC colour code
Green	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB green CLC colour code
Blue	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB blue CLC colour code

File name: U2018_CHA1218_18_V2020_20u1 - contains formation part of change ('to' code).

Table 6: Attributes for CLC-Change raster data (formation part)

Attribute names	Explanation
OID	Built-in numeric unique ID of the records showing individual raster values
Value	Integer raster value showing indications of the CLC code in the range of 1,..44, corresponding to CLC codes 111,..523, plus code 48 corresponding to 999: NODATA (representing only the area of Andorra, which is not covered by CLC)
COUNT	Built-in numeric attributes showing the number of raster cells with the same raster value
LABEL3	Three-digit level-3 CLC class names as text
CODE_18	Three-digit level-3 CLC code for the 2012 reference year as text
Red	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB red CLC colour code
Green	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB green CLC colour code
Blue	Stored as real number in range 0..1; RGB blue CLC colour code

CLC accounting layers

Due to the technical characteristics of CLC and CLC-Change data, the evolution of the CLC update methodology and the quality of input data, time-series statistics derived directly from historical CLC data include several inconsistencies (see more in Ch. VIII. *How to use CLC?*). A harmonization methodology has been developed to create a statistically solid basis for CLC time series analysis by means of the so-called CLC accounting layers (more detail on account methodology is provided in Annex 5.) CLC accounting layers are “expert products” and are available following the link: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/corine-land-cover-accounting-layers>

VI. Product methodology and workflow

Workflow of CORINE Land Cover inventories

CLC production is a good and well-functioning example of cooperation between European institutions (EEA and ESA), the Member States and industry. The workflow of the five, consecutive CLC inventories is rather similar, including nearly the same work packages. Table 7 provides an overview of the role of contributing partners involved in the execution of each work package in CLC2018.

Table 7: Work packages of a CORINE Land Cover inventory (case: CLC2018)

WP	Tasks	NRC / NT	EEA / ETC	ESA	Service Provider
1.1	Satellite image data acquisition (Sentinel-2 and Landsat-8)			X	
1.2	Ortho-correction			X	
1.3	Technical preparation of IMAGE2018	o			X
2	In-situ and ancillary data collection	X	X		
3.1	Mapping CLC Changes layer(2012-2018)	X	o		
3.2	Creation of CLC2018 status layer	X	o		
4	Verification by CLC Technical Team	o	X		
5	Final quality control and producing European products	o	X		
6	Validation				X
7	Data dissemination	X	X		

X = leading partner

o = partner involved

WP1 (satellite image provision) is dominantly centrally organised (ESA being responsible for image acquisition, Service Provider for technical preparation). WP2 (in-situ data) is shared by the EIONET National Reference Centres Land Cover (NRC) / National Teams (NT) and the EEA. WP3 (CLC production) is implemented by NT (National Teams in CLC2018 are listed in Annex 3) with support from EEA/ETC. WP4 (verification) is performed by the CLC Technical Team of EEA/ETC. WP5 (Final products)

is implemented by the EEA/ETC. WP6 (validation) is performed by a Service Provider. WP7 (dissemination) is shared between the EEA and the NRC.

Satellite image acquisition and orthorectification

To fulfil the technical specifications of CLC, Earth observation data (satellites images) with the following characteristics are needed:

- resolution (pixel size): 10-30 metres
- spectral bands (optimal for landscape mapping): red, NIR, SWIR (supporting photointerpretation)
- coverage-1 (date of imagery optimal for CLC mapping): image acquisition window determined by the national team
- coverage-2 (date of imagery to provide optimal complimentary information, from CLC2006): 2nd image acquisition window determined by national team
- pre-processing level: orthorectified, national projection.

Satellite images to support CLC mapping are provided by ESA¹⁶. These image data sets are often referred to as IMAGE[year], where [year] refers to the CLC reference year (e.g. IMAGE2018 was mostly taken in 2017 with gap-filling in 2018, see Table 1). These satellite images are also usually used for purposes other than the CLC inventory (e.g. High-Resolution Layers). At the time of the first four CLC inventories, ESA did not have its dedicated satellite(s) suitable for continental land monitoring, therefore ESA established agreements (since 2009 in the frame of the GMES Space Component) with appropriate satellite image (typically Landsat, IRS, SPOT) providers for image acquisition. As the Sentinel-2 satellites have been placed on orbit in 2015 and 2017, they provided the primary data support for the fifth (CLC2018) and further inventories. In CLC2018, image acquisition (including thousands of images) and ortho-correction of satellite imagery (level-1C images in UTM/WGS84 projection) was provided by ESA through the Sentinel Hub.

It is usually a difficult task to cover the whole EEA39 area (6 Mkm²) with cloud-free imagery¹⁷. Therefore, for “gap-filling”, images of other satellite(s) having comparable characteristics are collected. In CLC2018 the image acquisition campaign was especially short, as the dedicated Sentinel-2 image acquisition campaign IMAGE2018 was confined to the year of 2017 (covering a single year, instead of 3 years of previous campaigns). Landsat-8 imagery was used as gap-filling to cover areas where no Sentinel-2 imagery was available in 2018 (Table 1).

¹⁶ Some national land monitoring programmes are using different imagery, having higher-resolution. E.g. in Spain SPOT-5 (2,5 m pixel size), and in Germany RapidEye (5 m pixel size)

¹⁷ Cloud free means in practice no more than 5% cloud cover

Technical preparation of image products

In most of the CLC inventories, image enhancement techniques were applied in pre-processing of satellite imagery to support visual photointerpretation. The most common methodology applied is high-pass filtering in order to enhance geometric (structural) detail of the imagery, i.e. to improve interpretability (Chavez et al., 1991). The image product types available in CLC2018 ([AD03](#)) were as follows:

- The main – so-called “visual” - product, Sentinel-2 data (or Landsat-8 for gap filling) re-projected into national projection, was centrally produced by a Service Provider. This product included selected bands (red, NIR, SWIR) enhanced using the gradient image of the synthetic panchromatic band (in case of Sentinel-2) or the panchromatic band (Landsat-8).
- Additionally, the full, not-enhanced image products were provided by ESA, without modifications, for those countries that wanted to go beyond visual interpretation.

In-situ data

In-situ data (ancillary or reference data) in Copernicus programme, by definition, comprise all non-space-born data with a geographic dimension. Major use of in situ data in CLC project is to complement the satellite data in the course of production and to verify or validate results provided from space-born data. In-situ data is often used for provision of land use, crop type and habitat information, among others. Most frequently used and most needed in-situ data include:

- Up-to date topographic maps (preferably at scale 1:25.000 / 1:50.000) to be used during interpretation, mapping and validation process.
- Orthophotos, taken optimally in the years when the satellite images were taken (2012 and 2017 in case of the CLC2018 project (especially if topographic maps are out of date).
- Thematic maps (built-up, vegetation type/habitats, forestry, hydrology, etc.).
- LPIS/IACS data, which have an utmost importance in precise mapping of agriculture classes and their changes.
- Other ancillary data (e.g. urban planning, nature conservation, forest fire) for identification/interpretation and verification of CLC classes and their changes.
- LUCAS field survey data coordinated by Eurostat, including landscape photographs from visited points, covering EU member states. The latest LUCAS survey was conducted in 2018 (Eurostat, 2019). LUCAS data are occasionally used in mapping, but more frequently in validation.
- High-Resolution Layers (HRL) of CLMS (especially degree of imperviousness and tree cover density / forest type). These data were available to support CLC2012 and CLC2018 (and produced by using IMAGE2012 and IMAGE2018 data).
- Ancillary data complementing the above and being useful in CLC change mapping are Google Earth (GE) imagery (or equivalent): it provides VHR image data, supporting the interpretation where no ortho-photos are available. Often multi-year time series are provided (time slider function), which are especially useful in understanding the evolution of an area. Crowd-

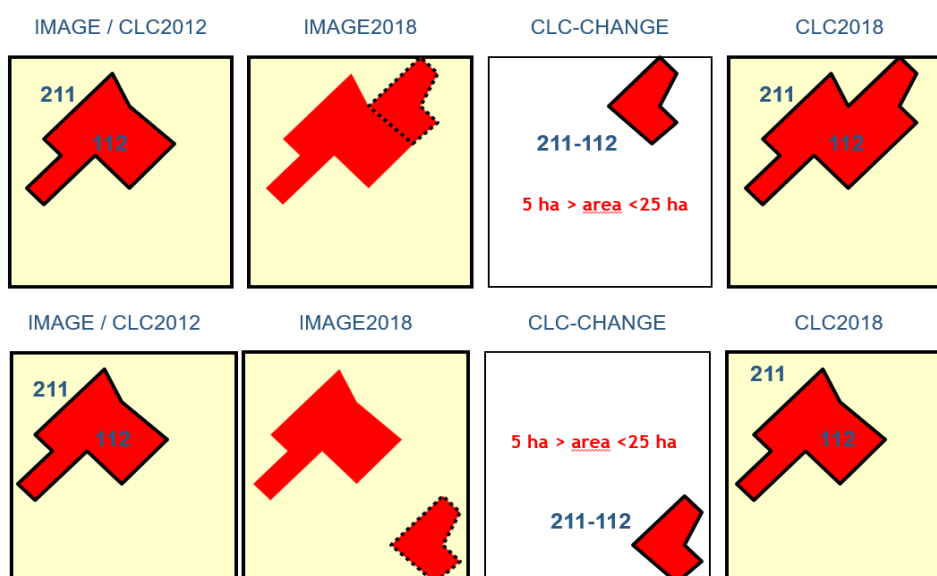
sourced field photos, labels of different layers and StreetView function of GE can be useful, too in providing in-situ evidence or information on function of land/buildings or on natural vegetation.

- For the verification done by the CLC Technical Team often the only ancillary data are provided by GE.

Mapping CLC Changes

The term ‘change layer’ is used for CLC maps reflecting the change of land cover between two reference dates. Since the CLC2006 inventory, CLC-Change(year_{old}-year_{new}) is the primary product of the updating. It is produced directly (i.e. **not** derived by intersecting CLC[year_{old}] and CLC[year_{new}]) and has a MMU of 5 ha, which means significantly more detail than the 25 ha the MMU of the status layers (Figure 4).

The aim of creating CLC-Change is to produce a map of real land cover changes describing an evolution process taking place in the environment (e.g. urban sprawl, forest clearcut). Changes should be interpreted regardless of their position (i.e. connected to an existing polygon or being “island”-like, see Figure 5)¹⁸.



Upper row: growth of an existing settlement. Lower row: birth of a new (isolated) settlement

- First boxes in both rows show the land cover status visible on IMAGE2012 and the polygon outlines in CLC2012 database.
- Second boxes show the land cover status visible on IMAGE2018 without polygon boundaries. Dashed outline marks patches that have changed.

¹⁸ In CLC2000 island-like changes having size between 5 and 25 ha were not interpreted.

- Third boxes show polygons to be drawn in the CLC-Change database.
- Fourth boxes show the polygons as present in CLC2018 database (as the results of GIS addition of CLC2012 and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈).

Figure 5: Consistent mapping of CLC Change (AD03)

Change polygons should

- have size at least 5 ha,
- have width at least 100 m,
- describe a real evolution process that occurred between year_{old} and year_{new}, and
- be detectable on satellite images (with support of dedicated in-situ data, if needed).

There are two basic approaches of creating a change layer, 'CLC updated first' and 'change mapping first', summarized on Figure 6.

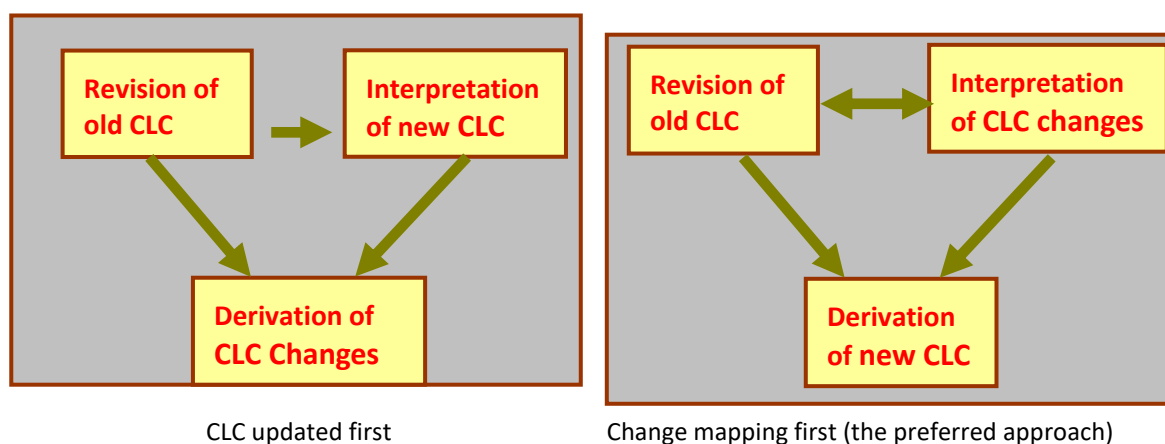


Figure 6: Approaches for CLC update (AD03)

The 'change mapping first' methodology supports better the above goals than the 'update first' approach (Figure 6) as (1) changes are interpreted directly (the interpreter has to think about what the real process was); and (2) all changes larger than 5 ha can be easily delineated regardless of their geometric position (whether attached to an existing polygon or not). Isolated changes (island-like polygons) having size between 5 and 25 ha cannot be mapped using the 'update first' method (Büttner, 2014).

Understanding CLC Changes

CLC changes can include those changes of the Earth surface that have longer than yearly/seasonal periodicity. Urban sprawl, plantation of olive trees to replace arable land, melting of glaciers or creation of a new water reservoir are such long-term land cover changes to be mapped as CLC change. On the other hand, transient changes and short-term periodical changes are phenomena not to be mapped as CLC change.

Transient changes (lasting only for short time), not to be mapped as CLC change are e.g.:

- Changes along rivers due to floods (temporary inundations).
- Changes inland due to heavy rains (temporary water-logging).

What to do with periodical changes, where LC status alternates between two different land covers? Several such processes have periodicity shorter than 1 year, therefore are not to be considered as CLC change:

- Water level changes in coastal areas due to tidal phenomena (high tide, low tide).
- Changes in lake / wetland area due to seasonal water level differences.
- Intermittent water cover of glacial rivers during the spring snow-melt period.
- Regular changes of water cover of fishponds due to maintenance.
- Seasonal phenological changes in forests (status of leaves).
- Seasonal phenological changes of natural grassland and sparse vegetation (green in spring, yellow in summer).
- Seasonal difference in crop development (bare soil → green crop → mature crop → harvested crop).
- Seasonal changes in annual snow cover (esp. high mountains and Northern Europe).

Such changes do not need to be mapped as CLC change, but the most typical status should be selected as basis of coding the area (e.g. in case of a glacial river the gravel bed should be mapped, because river water occurs only for a few weeks during spring melting period).

There are some changes that are periodic, but the periodicity is longer than 1 year or even longer than the CLC mapping repetition period. These processes have to be mapped. E.g.:

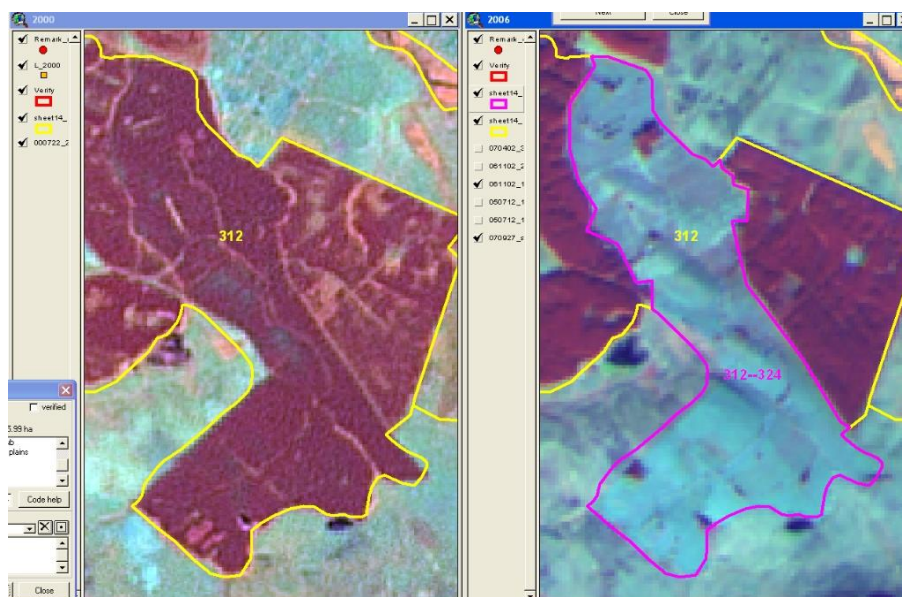
- Alternation of arable land and set-aside/pasture land (211-231, 231-211). Periodicity is usually several years, however being country / region dependent. (In countries where grass is planted as one-year (fodder) crop, being part of crop rotation, these changes are NOT considered to be CLC change.)
- Forest clearcut (31x-324) and new plantation growth (324-31x). After clearcutting minimum 5-10 years are needed for a new forest to develop.

Additionally, CLC changes should reflect not only land cover changes, but also a switch from one CLC class to another. For example, the formation of low-growing cover of young trees on a formerly unvegetated clearcut area is a long-term land cover change, but not a CLC change, because both statuses belong to CLC class 324 – transitional woodland and shrub.

Experts interpret CLC changes directly on screen, by visually comparing IMAGE[year_{old}] and IMAGE[year_{new}] data in geo-linked, dual-window environment. The delineation of changes must be

based on CLC[year_{old}] polygons in order to avoid creating sliver polygons and false changes when producing a CLC[year_{new}] database (Figure 7).

The photointerpreter must give two CLC codes to each change polygon: code[year_{old}] and code[year_{new}]. These codes must represent the land cover status of the given polygon in the two years, respectively. A change code pair thus shows the process that occurred in reality (Figure 7) and may be different from the codes occurring on the CLC[year_{old}] map and / or in the final CLC[year_{new}] map, due to generalization applied in producing CLC.



Change mapping example (Ireland). Coniferous forest (code=312) in 2000 (left) is clearcut by 2006 (left). The loss of forest cover is characterized by the light colour of the ground due to the disappearance of crown cover. Forestry regulation protects forest cover by prescribing reforestation after harvesting. The loss of forest cover is therefore temporary. The transitional woodland area (code=324) will sooner or later be replaced by forest. 312-324 is the most widespread CLC change type in Europe.

Figure 7: Change mapping example from the Manual of CORINE Land Cover changes ([AD04](#))

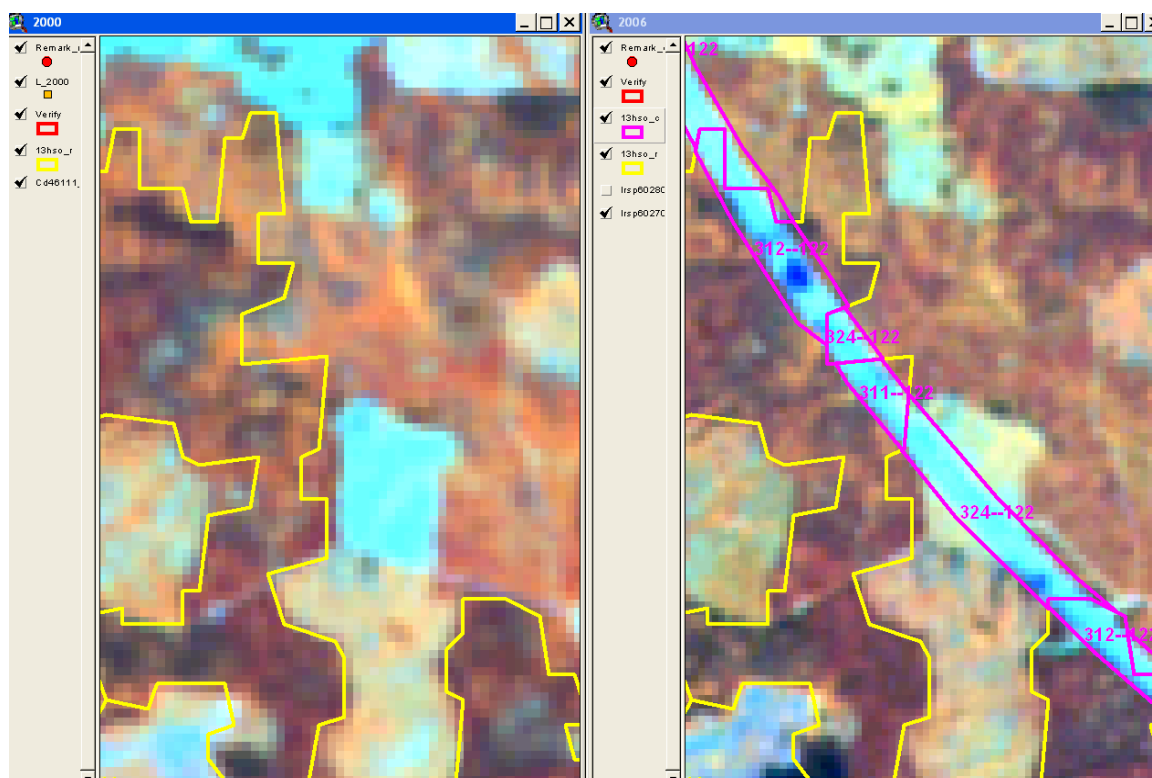
Left: IMAGE2000 and CLC2000 in yellow outlines, right: IMAGE2006 and CLC Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆ in magenta outlines

Both the delineation and the coding of changes require some level of abstraction capability and often a good knowledge of characteristics and typical processes of the area mapped (local knowledge). This is also the reason why semi-automated methods are less frequent in change mapping than in status mapping, and why semi-automated results require visual control.

In order to improve harmonisation of mapping CLC changes in Europe, a 'Manual of CORINE Land Cover changes' has been written including examples of most frequent changes and typical mistakes ([AD04](#)). The document has been extensively used in training of teams creating CLC-Change data, and it gives a good basis for understanding the meaning of 'CLC change' for the users of CLC, too.

Complex changes

Although the MMU for change mapping is 5 ha, in some cases change polygons < 5 ha are also allowed to be mapped. Complex change means a connected set of different changes, having either of the two CLC code attributes identical. Any of the elementary changes of the complex change can have area below the MMU (5 ha) as long as the total area of elementary changes reaches the 5 ha size (Figure 8).



New highway was constructed in Sweden. On IMAGE2000 (left) patches of forest and transitional woodland (clearcut and young forest) are visible. In CLC2006 (right) we have a complex change forming a linear feature, with all elementary change polygons having 122 code (road and rail network) as second attribute. In complex change it is allowed to have elementary change polygons below the 5 ha limit, in order to keep the continuity of the feature. The width of the new linear feature exceeds 100 m, as probably it includes “associated areas” as well (service roads, residual construction areas, etc).

Figure 8: Mapping linear features using complex changes (AD04)

Revision

Occurrence of interpretation mistakes is an inherent characteristic of photointerpretation of remote sensing data, coming not necessarily from negligence, but from insufficient information. During the update procedure, examining newly available satellite images or ancillary data often leads to the discovery of thematic mistakes in the database to be updated. In order to avoid error propagation into the next CLC (CLC[year_{new}]), mistakes discovered in the previous CLC (CLC[year_{old}]) are much recommended – in locations of changes absolutely necessary – to be corrected. These mistakes are:

- Systematic mistakes known from the previous inventory but not corrected yet and those discovered during the recent change mapping (or verification, see Ch. VII. *Quality assessment*). Systematic improvement of geometry can also be included here.
- Random mistakes. These are usually ad-hoc discovered during change mapping (or verification) or can be systematically searched for by visually browsing the CLC map to be updated in scale 1:30.000-40.000.

Mistakes are revealed during the revision process because of the following factors:

- Availability of higher-resolution satellite imagery.
- A new satellite image or time series of satellite imagery provides additional key to correctly recognise a feature.
- Improved availability and better quality of in-situ data.
- Improved skills of experts, i.e. better understanding and application of CLC nomenclature.

In some cases, the revision is done independent of the update, upon decision of the NT to improve the product (between two inventories).

The 'change mapping first' approach allows revising CLC[year_{new}], in parallel with mapping CLC changes. However, on polygon level, revision should always precede delineation of changes. The revised CLC[year_{new}] layer is a 'by-product' of the update by 'change mapping first' approach. Since the CLC2006 inventory, the old status layer is replaced by the revised old status layer as soon as the new status layer has been completed (see in Chapter VI. *European products*).

Tools of the traditional CLC methodology

In order to assist NT work and ensure good-quality results, EEA provided a dedicated software package to the NT for the CLC2006, CLC2012 and CLC2018 inventories. The software - named 'CLC2018 Support Package' (Taracsák, 2018) in case of the CLC2018 inventory - includes a module for interpreting changes and implementing revision ('InterChange') and one for internal quality control and verification ('InterCheck'). In CLC2018, 31 users from 27 countries used one or more modules of the package in their work, mostly those teams applying the traditional mapping method, but also some others working with semi-automated approaches, described in the next section.

Commonly, GIS software are designed primarily for viewing GIS databases with tools for creating maps, menus for handling databases and graphical editing tools. If a software has editing possibilities too, these are general tools, not specialized for individual tasks. On the contrary, CLC2018 Support Package is a specialized, task-oriented software that significantly facilitates updating, change detection and mapping, quality control and correction of CORINE land cover databases by means of computer-assisted visual photointerpretation. The software has a number of error-prevention functions, helping to create databases compliant to the specifications.

Creation of CLC status layer

The term 'status layer' is used for CLC maps reflecting the status of land cover at a certain reference date. Only the early CLC status layers (CLC1990 and in part CLC2000) can be considered as primary products, i.e. having been produced directly by photointerpreting satellite images starting from scratch. (Later status layers are created by updating previous ones by adding change areas – see below.) The main guiding rules for producing the status layers are:

- Geometric detail (MMU and MMW, see Chapter V. *Spatial resolution*)
- Nomenclature (thematic classes, see Chapter V. *Nomenclature*)

The creation of status layers consists of manually drawing polygons on the basis of satellite imagery and coding them with a 3-digit CLC code. In-situ (ancillary) data are used for interpretation or control, if needed. Both the delineation and the coding require high level of abstraction capability and a good knowledge of the biogeographical, economic, cultural characteristics of the area mapped. The entire area (e.g. working unit, region, country) has to be interpreted, i.e. no unclassified area is allowed.

Land cover objects having size (area, width, or both) below the specified geometric limits (MMU, MMW, see above) are generalized by the photointerpreter. The generalization is based on the 'similarity' between the small object (size < MMU) and the valid (size > MMU) objects in the neighbourhood. Rules of generalisation are summarised in the generalisation table (Bossard et al., 2000), updated in 2006 and 2018 (see Annex 4). E.g. a small wetland is joined to a neighbouring water body rather than to an arable land. Generalization is usually straightforward for an experienced photo-interpreter, but it is not so evident for automation.

Since the CLC2006 inventory, the recommended updating methodology of CLC has been the 'change mapping first' approach¹⁹ (Figure 6), since then the updated status layer has not been the primary product anymore, but a derivative created as described below.

The updated new status layer (CLC[year_{new}]) is generated through an automated process by using the revised old status layer (CLC[year_{old}]) and the interpreted CLC-Change(year_{old}-year_{new}) layer:

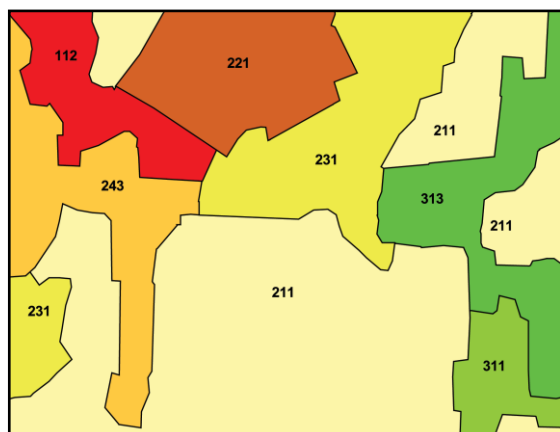
$$\text{CLC}[\text{year}_{\text{new}}] = \text{revised CLC}[\text{year}_{\text{old}}] (+) \text{CLC-Change}(\text{year}_{\text{old}}-\text{year}_{\text{new}}) (+) \text{Generalization}$$

in case of CLC2018 update the above equation means:

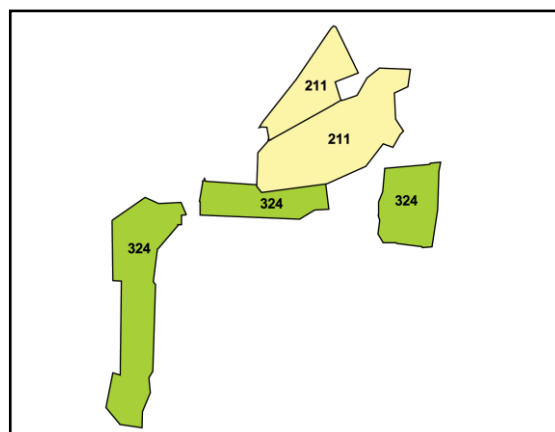
$$\text{CLC2018} = \text{revised CLC2012} (+) \text{CLC-Change}_{2012-2018} (+) \text{Generalization}$$

Where (+) means the following operation: the revised CLC2012 and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ databases are intersected, and where change polygons exist, code 2012 of CLC2012 is replaced by code 2018 of the CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈, and finally neighbours with identical code are unified. Small (<25 ha MMU) polygons are generalized in a stepwise aggregation process, using a priority table (Annex 4). The process is illustrated in Figure 9.

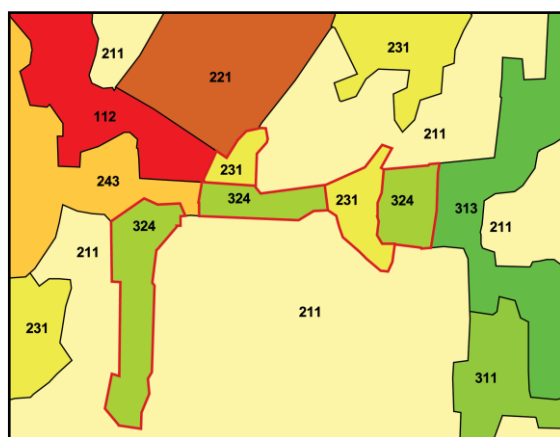
¹⁹ Other methodology can also be applied if it provides comparable results.



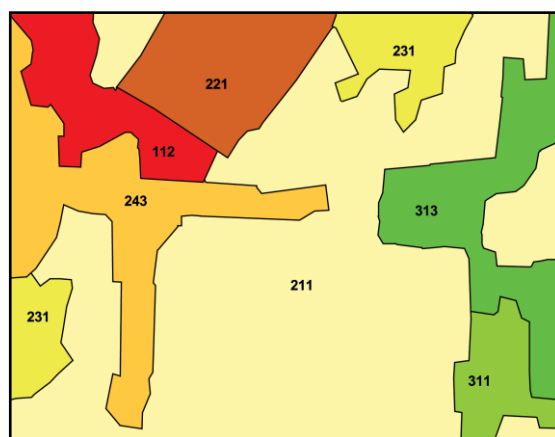
CLC2012 Revision



CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ with CLC2018 codes



CLC2018 created by simple GIS intersection with MMU mistakes appearing (red outline)



CLC2018 after stepwise generalization (created with help of the ArcGIS toolbox; Pataki, 2018)

Figure 9: Steps of creating CLC2018 by combining revised CLC2012 with CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈

Semi-automated and bottom-up approaches applied in CLC

Some countries have applied operationally and regularly (fully or partly) semi-automated solutions to map CLC and CLC changes. The main aims of these solutions are to replace labour-intensive photo-interpretation, increase accuracy and reproducibility and provide better compatibility with national databases. These solutions combine national GIS datasets, satellite image processing technology, on-screen digitization (visual photo-interpretation) and GIS-based generalisation. Some level of visual input or control is however always applied in such methods, too, as the human abstraction capacity cannot be fully replaced by automated rules, especially in case of change mapping.

The implementation of a semi-automated approach heavily depends on the type of LU/LC data available in the country. The availability of LU data is crucial, because information on function of the land cannot be derived automatically from satellite data. Brief overviews of the so-far used methodologies are presented below, by country.

- In **Finland**, sophisticated pre-processing of satellite images (based on physical models e.g. atmospheric correction), classification of stratified imagery, regression estimation for forestry parameters, visual interpretation, integration of national land use data, and generalization of high-resolution national data to European CLC are applied. Level-4 CLC nomenclature is used for national purposes with pixel resolution (25 m). Particularly, forests and semi-natural areas and wetlands have more thematic detail (Finnish Environment Institute, 2005).
- In **Germany**, a Digital Land Cover Model (DLM-DE) has been developed with 1 ha MMU. The concept of DLM-DE embodies the integration of national topographic reference data (ATKIS-DLM) with thematic remote sensing data, and it covers national needs. Since the CLC2012 inventory, DLM-DE supports the European land monitoring process by deriving high resolution CORINE Land Cover (CLC) data with 1 ha MMU and generalizing it to the MMU of CLC (25 ha). CLC-Change is created by means of comparing DLM-DE_{new} and DLM-DE_{old} and generalisation to 5 ha. Both Status layers and change layer creation includes manual editing and visual control steps (Federal Environment Agency Germany, 2012).
- In **Iceland**, thematic data are provided by relevant national authorities and institutions. Several classes however are derived from remotely sensed data. Applied tools are GIS harmonization and generalization (National Land Survey of Iceland, 2009).
- In **Ireland**, as part of CLC2012, firstly an extensive revision of the CLC2006 was undertaken. A combination of ancillary vector data and interpretation of satellite imagery was used to both revise the existing 2006 dataset and to identify changes within the 2006-2012 reference period. LPIS was used as a direct source of land use information for agricultural areas, vector data from the Forest Service was used to aid the mapping of forested areas, whilst national scale data on water bodies was used to improve the mapping of water feature boundaries and the coastline. The ancillary data was generalised into a 5-ha intermediate dataset, which was coded to the CLC classes. This intermediate dataset was then intersected with the existing CLC2006 dataset with areas of this disagreement being sorted into change or revision via spectral interpretation of the satellite imagery in an object-oriented remote sensing platform. Areas of the existing dataset not covered by ancillary data were assessed by spectral means to find areas of mis-classification. Manual photo-interpretation was used to find and map CLC change areas not covered by automated processes or imagery and for verification of the outputs from the automated process (Lydon and Smith, 2014).
- **Norway** applies generalization and the merging of data from land resource maps and national registers (Aune-Lundberg and Strand, 2010).

- **Portugal** has used a method based on higher-resolution national LC/LU data starting from CLC2018. As preparation, NT has performed an extensive thematic correction of CLC2012 based on National Land Use and Land Cover Map (COS2010) data. National Land Cover Land Use Map (COS) of Portugal is created every 5 years, with a nomenclature fully compatible with CLC on level-3, while having more thematic detail on level-4 and -5, with altogether 225 classes. Geometric resolution is also significantly higher, 1 ha / 20 m. When COS2010 was completed, a cross-comparison with CLC2012 was implemented, followed by manual correction of non-compliant objects larger than 25 ha. Correction has affected altogether 10% of CLC2012 and 3% of COS2010. The corrected CLC2012 formed the basis of traditional photointerpretation-based CLC change mapping in the CLC2018 exercise. However, this was not the only use of COS data in CLC2018 project: > 5 ha changes were derived from COS 2010-2015 change dataset and were provided to photointerpreters as ancillary information for potential changes. COS change data are also produced directly, applying the 'change mapping first' approach known from CLC. However, in creating CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ interpreters always had to be aware of the 2-years date difference between CLC and COS surveys (ETC-ULS, 2018).
- In **Sweden**, theme-wise classification of satellite imagery (interactive thresholding or automatic classification), visual interpretation, forest classification calibrated by National Forest Inventory data, and generalization of high-resolution national data to European CLC are applied. Sweden has produced 58 level-6 classes for national purposes with pixel resolution (25 m) and MMU = 1, 2, 5 or 25 ha) (Engberg, 2005).
- **Spain** has also been using a bottom-up solution for updating European CLC since the CLC2012 inventory (Figure 10). The National Information System on Land Cover & Use (SIOSE) is a geographic information system at equivalent cartographic scale 1:25,000 including polygons, whose minimum area varies from 2 ha to 0.5 ha depending on the LC class. SIOSE polygons describe individually each piece of land by allocating a set of real landscape objects with percentages. The SIOSE data model defines 45 classes of landscape objects (e.g. buildings, bridges etc.), 40 LC classes and more than 20 attributes for further description of LC characteristics. The object-oriented design in SIOSE allows an easy and complete semantic generalization to provide CLC status layer and CLC-Change layer from national scale to the European one (Hazeu et al., 2016).

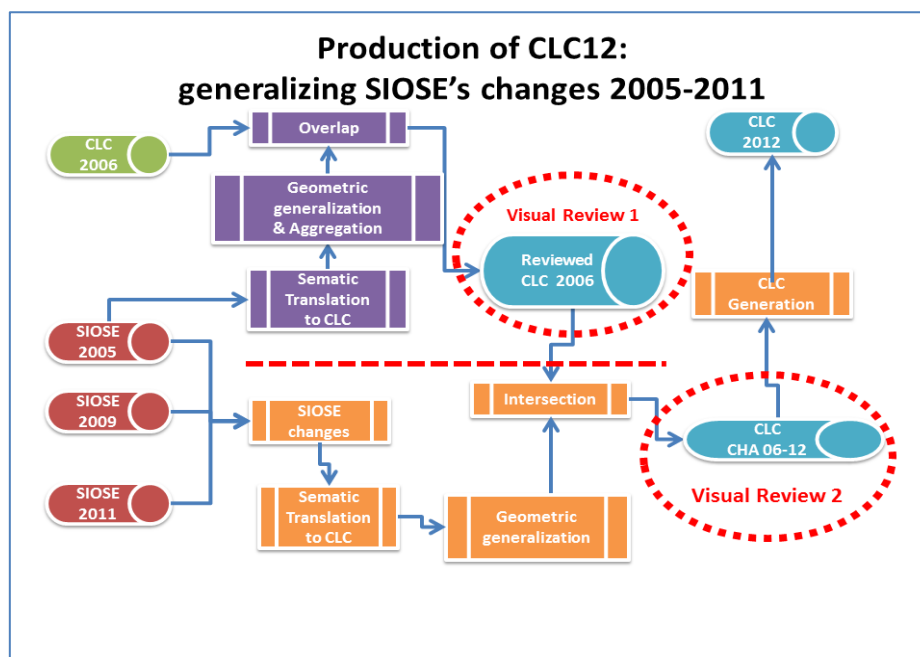


Figure 10: Production of CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂ and CLC2012 by using high-resolution national data in Spain

European products

The method of producing integrated European products from national deliverables has significantly improved during the lifetime of CLC. The procedure applied during CLC2018 ([AD03](#)) is shortly presented below.

National data can be considered as 'ready for delivery' after the following steps are fulfilled:

- A last (usually 2nd) verification of CLC Technical Team took place and the verification report has been issued with an evaluation Accepted or Conditionally Accepted.
- Recommendations specified in the verification reports have been integrated into the data by the NT.
- Technical quality of deliverables has been checked internally by NT and screened using an online quality screening tool²⁰ to conform to all specifications (regarding format, technical, and topological specification) as defined in [AD03](#).

Table 8 includes standard deliveries, expected from the countries (xx stands for the two-character-long ISO code of the country). ESRI Geodatabase format introduced during CLC2006 is considered as primary delivery format.

²⁰ Designed and operated by ETC-ULS partner GISAT

Table 8: Standard CLC deliveries produced by CORINE Land Cover National Teams

Layer	[Standard delivery file name]
CLC-Change ₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈	[CHA18_xx]
CLC2018	[CLC18_xx]
revised CLC2012	[CLC12_xx]
Metadata	

When online-checked national deliveries are uploaded into the Central Data Repository (CDR) of the EEA, the database technical acceptance (DBTA) procedure is performed, and the DBTA report is issued. DBTA report contains summary of data and metadata conformity checks, and a judgement about acceptance. National CLC can be either 'accepted' or can get a 'request for improvement' valuation (with supporting information) if further improvement is needed. Accepted data are considered final deliveries and uploaded onto a dedicated location of the CDR ([AD03](#)).

After the technical quality control of national deliveries (Table 8) of all participating countries, the European products (CLC and CLC-Change) are produced in the standard European Coordinate Reference System defined by the European Terrestrial Reference System 1989 (ETRS89) datum and Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area (LAEA) projection (EPSG: 3035). National products are slightly (0,5 km buffer) overinterpreted through the national borders, in order not to leave any area without interpretation. National products must be matched (mosaicked) together. Extensive border matching (with manual editing) has only been done during the CLC2000 project. Since then, only a simplified border matching has been applied: code differences along the two sides of borders are not changed, only polygons with area $\leq 0,1$ ha (sliver polygons) are eliminated. Polygons with size $< \text{MMU}$ can remain along the borders, which causes (a known and tolerated) non-compliance to specifications as part of the trade-off between data quality and processing costs.

Another non-compliance to the technical specification is that some < 25 ha polygons might occur in European CLC vector datasets because of optimization of ArcGIS geodatabase. This means artificial borders (dissolve errors) typically (but not exclusively) related to the sea and ocean buffer (class 523), which is highly complex in terms of the number of vertices.

Having the revised CLC[_{year_{old}}] since the CLC2006 inventory (as by-product of the updating by 'change mapping first' approach), the old status layer is replaced by the revised old status layer by the majority of participating countries, as soon as the new status layer has been completed.

The seamless data coverage table (see [AD06](#)) updated for all new versions of European seamless data coverages includes important information for the users regarding what is available for download. See Text box 3. See file naming convention in Annex 2.

Text box 3: Content of the seamless data coverage table ([AD06](#))

Seamless data coverage table, V2020_v20u1 includes the most recent version (at the time of writing):

- Availability (marked with Y) or non-availability (marked with N) of CLC and CLC-Change country coverage in any of the five inventories (e.g. Finland is not covered by CLC1990).
- Version of CLC2000: whether revised CLC2000 (Y¹) or CLC2000 (Y²) is available (e.g. revised CLC2000 exists for Hungary, while CLC2000 without revision is available for Spain).
- Version of CLC2006: whether revised CLC2006 (Y³) or CLC2006 (Y⁴) is available (e.g. revised CLC2006 exists for Norway, while CLC2006 without revision is available for Germany).
- Version of CLC2012: whether revised CLC2012 (Y⁵) or CLC2012 without revision (Y⁶) is available (revised CLC exists for all but one countries, Finland).

Important:

Having the revised CLC[year_{old}] (by-product of the updating by ‘change mapping first’ approach) since the CLC2006 inventory, the old status layer is replaced by the revised old status layer, as soon as the new status layer has been completed and published on the [Copernicus Land Portal](#):

CLC2006 inventory: CLC2000 replaced by revised CLC2000.

CLC2012 inventory: CLC2006 replaced by revised CLC2006.

CLC2018 inventory: CLC2012 replaced by revised CLC2012.

VII. Quality assessment

Quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) are key elements of the European CLC projects since the early days of CLC inventories (Heymann et al., 1993, Bossard et al., 2000). We distinguish two different QA/QC activities (Büttner et al., 2016a):

- **Verification** has a corrective purpose and is implemented as part of the production process. Verification results are created to inform the producer of data about quality issues. Through the feedback loops, verification is a tool for geometric standardization and thematic harmonization of CLC all over Europe.
- **Validation** aims to assess the accuracy of the final database and is implemented after completion of the production. Validation should be fully independent from production and rely on data with higher spatial resolution than those used in production. Validation results are created with an aim of informing the users about data quality.

The objective of this chapter is to describe the practice of the European **verification** of CLC data, focusing on current practice in CLC2018 project ([AD03](#)) and to summarise the results of European **validation** studies ([AD07](#), [AD08](#)).

Verification of CLC data

An important element of CLC project management on behalf of EEA²¹ is quality assurance and quality control of the work done by NT (see Table 7). Quality assurance includes the standardized production of input satellite imagery, the provision of implementation guidelines and helpdesk, as well as technical acceptance procedures, while quality control is ensured via the verification activity of the so-called CLC Technical Team (TT). Usually two verifications by EEA and / or European Topic Centre²² experts making up the CLC TT are organised for each country during a CLC inventory. In the early inventories, two on-site verification visits were organized to each participating country. However, due to improved availability of in-situ data in digital form, the European-wide improvement of Internet to transfer large amount of data and the reduction of project implementation time, the majority of these visits have been replaced by remote verification actions. This means that data are sent by countries for remote checking, and CLC TT checks them on their own premises. In countries working with regional teams (e.g. Italy and Spain) all regions are verified separately.

- 1st verification is done when 10-20% of the country area is interpreted. The main purpose is to reveal problems and give feedback in the early phase of implementation, in order to influence further production. Working units for checking are selected by the national team.

²¹ This chapter discussed only the European QA/QC activities. Besides that, national teams apply their own internal QA/QC steps, not discussed here.

²² The name of the European Topic Centre dealing with land issues (including CLC) changes from time to time. At the time of writing this Manual the acting ETC is the European Topic Centre on Urban, Land and Soil System (ETC-ULS).

- 2nd verification is due when around 75% of the country area is interpreted. The main purpose is to check the database close to completion and suggest overall improvements if still needed. Working units for checking are selected by the EEA/ETC.

Looking at the equation shown in Ch.VI. *Creation of CLC status layer* regarding the production of the updated CLC,

$$\text{CLC}[\text{year}_{\text{new}}] = \text{revised CLC}[\text{year}_{\text{old}}] (+) \text{CLC-Change}(\text{year}_{\text{old}}\text{-}\text{year}_{\text{new}}) (+) \text{Generalization}$$

it is obvious that the targets of verification should be the revised CLC[year_{old}] and CLC Change (year_{old}, year_{new}), i.e. those layers that are produced directly (printed in bold in the equation above). It means that CLC[year_{new}] is not verified²³.

Verification of CLC and CLC-Change in CLC2018 project meant checking the coverage of revised CLC2012 and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ databases by visual photointerpretation, based on the following data:

- Satellite images (IMAGE2012, IMAGE2018) used to derive CLC and CLC-Change by the national team.
- Optionally ancillary data as topographic maps or links to orthophotos on Web Map Service (WMS).

During remote verification frequently Google Earth (GE) imagery was the only ancillary / in-situ data available. GE coverage and timeline has improved recently in most parts of Europe and it supports verification of CLC and the CLC-Change in an efficient way.

Since CLC2000, a custom-made software tool, InterCheck (Büttner et al., 2003; Taracsák, 2018) serves as software platform to carry out the verification. (InterCheck as part of CLC2018 Support Package was made available for all national teams, to support their own internal QC activities.) InterCheck allows the parallel checking of the two deliveries (revised CLC[year_{old}] and CLC-Change(year_{old}-year_{new}), in a synchronized dual-window environment. Quality remarks based on visual control are provided in point coverages linking the thematic comment to a specific location. Remarks related to the revised CLC and CLC-Change datasets are provided in separate files. A verification report is written too, describing and explaining the main issues and suggestions to improve them, illustrated by screenshot examples²⁴. The result of the verification of a working unit is expressed in qualitative terms (i.e. no accuracy figures are provided):

- **A** (accepted) means: only minor problems were found.

²³ In CLC2018 the only exception was Finland. Due to the specific methodology revised CLC2012 was not produced. Therefore, CLC2018 was verified instead.

²⁴ In verification missions a presentation illustrating the problems is also provided.

- **CA** (conditionally accepted) means: there are more problems but relatively easy to correct; following corrections the working unit is accepted.
- **R** (rejected) means: there are many mistakes in the database (incorrect application of the nomenclature, omitted changes, false changes etc.), which requires considerable work to correct.

Usually, altogether about 5-25% of the area of countries is checked during the two verification actions, depending on the area of the country, number of photointerpreters and the quality of work.

Verification is carried out by sporadic (but usually systematic) visual checking of CLC[year_{old}] layer and detailed checking of CLC-Change(year_{old}-year_{new}) layer. In CLC2018 this meant checking revised CLC2012 and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈. Verification does not provide any quantitative accuracy figures, just a qualitative evaluation in order to influence the further production process.

- Checking of revised CLC[year_{old}] focuses on thematic and geometric properties of the revised CLC[year_{old}] layer, i.e. if nomenclature is applied properly ([AD01](#), [AD02](#)) and if delineation is precise enough. Basically, revised CLC[year_{old}] will determine the quality of updated CLC, because the CLC-Change layer covers usually only a few percent of the area.
- Checking CLC-Change(year_{old}-year_{new}) focuses on two issues: (1) do the mapped changes represent real change processes in the environment? (2) are there any omitted changes?

Main technical steps of verification are as follows:

- Automated technical conformity checking of both layers to reveal technical mistakes (e.g. polygons smaller than MMU, invalid codes) and topological mistakes (e.g. a hole in the revised CLC[year_{old}] database, overlapping and multipart polygons).
- Visual checking of revised CLC[year_{old}] layer, including: (1) checking CLC code statistics (to reveal invalid and non-relevant codes) and (2) visual evaluation of “critical” classes (sampled according to CLC code, polygon size range, etc.).
- Visual checking of CLC-Change(year_{old}-year_{new}) means:
 - Checking CLC-Change statistics (to reveal invalid and non-relevant changes).
 - Depending on the number of changes visual checking of (1) all changes, or (2) just a subset of changes. Change types with the largest total area are always checked. For each verified change polygon both the delineation and the coding are checked. Coding should reflect real change processes as visible on images.
 - Looking for changes omitted by the national team.

As the two checked datasets are interdependent, the last two steps above also influence each other. This means that systematic problems discovered in one database will affect the focus of checks in the other.

Validation of CLC data

The objective of the validation of CLC data is to derive thematic accuracy figures, to assess if dataset accuracy has reached the 85% target accuracy (Table 1). Its main goal is to inform users of the databases about quality in quantitative terms. Validation must be based on independent, very-high-resolution in-situ data as reference. The date of in-situ data should coincide as much as possible with the acquisition date of satellite images used to derive CLC. In-situ data used in validation should be independent, i.e. must not have been used in compilation of the CLC databases. Experts working on validation also should be independent, not having participated in the mapping exercise.

Validation is carried out either on national or European level. Some countries performed a national validation of their CLC datasets using country-specific approaches. In most cases spatially and thematically more detailed national data were used for that purpose (Hazeu, 2003; Caetano et al., 2006; Aune-Lundberg and Strand, 2010).

Validation in the CLC context means thematic validation. The aim of validating European CLC is to assess its thematic accuracy by means of a statistical method. Major challenges related to validation of European CLC are: (1) to gain access to appropriate in-situ (reference) data with European coverage to support the validation; and 2) to validate CLC classes covering only small area in Europe. Below, four European validation exercises are presented:

- Validation of CLC2000 by means of Eurostat LUCAS data ([Büttner and Maucha, 2006](#); Maucha and Büttner, 2006).
- Validation of CLC-Change2000-2006 data by means of Google Earth imagery ([Büttner et al., 2010](#)).
- European validation of CLC2012 ([AD07](#))
- European validation of CLC2018 ([AD08](#))

Validation of CLC2000 by means of Eurostat LUCAS data

LUCAS data (Eurostat, 2003) provided by Eurostat were used to validate CLC2000 ([Büttner and Maucha, 2006](#); Maucha and Büttner, 2006). Because LUCAS data were available for 18 EU member states, only part of the EEA39 area has been validated. Two approaches were followed:

- Independent reinterpretation of IMAGE2000 around LUCAS sampling points based on LUCAS LU/LC codes and field photographs (Figure 11). Reinterpretation applied the 'enhanced plausibility' approach, when first an independent coding of the sample point was done blindly (i.e. not knowing what is the code in the database), followed by judging if the actual code in the dataset is acceptable.
- Automatic comparison of CLC2000 codes with LUCAS LU and LC codes.

The main findings of the reinterpretation approach were as follows:

- The overall accuracy of CLC2000 was 87.0 ± 0.7 %, i.e. the 85 % specified accuracy (see Table 1) requirement was fulfilled.
- The highest class-level accuracy (> 95 %) was obtained for the following classes: rivers (511), lakes (512), industrial and commercial units (121) and discontinuous urban fabric (112).
- The two largest CLC classes – non-irrigated arable land (211) and coniferous forest (312) were estimated with high accuracy (between 90 and 95%). Similar accuracies were found for agro-forestry (244) and permanently irrigated arable land (212).
- The lowest accuracies were obtained for sparse vegetation (333), fruit trees and berry plantations (222) and “land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation” (class 243) highlighting the difficulties in interpreting these classes.
- For about half of the 44 CLC classes accuracy figures could not be derived because of low representativity²⁵, or could not be validated because they were not part of LUCAS inventory (e.g. glaciers and coastal water areas).

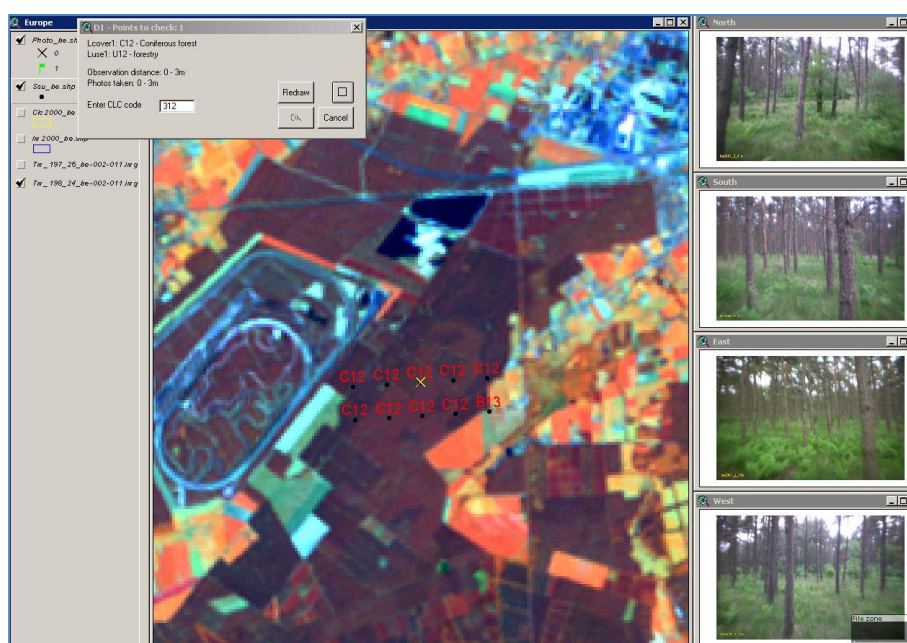


Figure 11: Validation of CLC data by means of LUCAS LU/LC point survey and field photographs

The result of the automatic comparison showed that agreement between CLC2000 and LUCAS LU/LC was 75.6 ± 0.2 %. This lower agreement was attributed to the resolution difference between the two datasets (point survey in case of LUCAS and 25 ha MMU in case of CLC).

²⁵ Small CLC classes (many of the classes in the artificial surfaces group) having occurrences around 0.1%.

Validation of CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆ by means of Google Earth imagery

Stratified random sampling was used for validating the CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆ database. This was the first effort to validate CLC-Change dataset in the history of CLC ([Büttner et al., 2010](#)). The exercise proved to be difficult because the total amount of CLC changes was rather low: just 1,24 % of the total area of EEA39 has changed. Therefore, a special sampling strategy was applied: 100 sample points were selected from inside each of the 25 level-1 change types, thus representing the whole change polygon population.

The large number of participating countries made it unrealistic to collect very high spatial resolution orthophotos or satellite imagery for the purposes of validation. Therefore, validation was executed through the independent re-interpretation (using also the 'enhanced plausibility' approach) of IMAGE2000 and IMAGE2006, supported by the use of Google Earth imagery (including image time series).

The obtained 87.8 ± 3.3 % overall accuracy (calculated using commission errors only) based on 2405 samples is satisfactory. The omission error was not possible to measure due to the very large sample size that would have been required.

17 of the 25 change type groups showed accuracy higher than 85 %, 13 types of which had accuracy higher than 90 %. This group included the largest level-1 change class, namely the internal changes in forest and semi-natural vegetation. Significant change types with accuracies below 85 % were: (1) forest and semi-natural area changed to agriculture; and (2) artificial area changed to forest and semi-natural cover (e.g. reclamation of mineral extraction sites).

European validation of CLC2012

This was the first time when the European validation was an integral part of the CLC inventory ([AD07](#)) and not an ad-hoc exercise. A stratified systematic sampling approach based on LUCAS was used to select more than 25.000 sampling locations. These were evaluated by independent experts, not taking part in the CLC2012 mapping exercise. VHR satellite imagery (not used in production of CLC) and Google Earth or Bing imagery have been used to interpret the surrounding of control points. The analysis was performed covering all the EEA39 countries and the French DOMs. The thematic accuracy assessment was conducted in a two-stage process (enhanced plausibility approach):

1. An initial blind interpretation in which the validation team did not have knowledge of the product's thematic classes. However, the polygon outline was provided to the validation team to consider boundary effects and geometric differences between the validation and production image data.
2. A plausibility analysis was performed on all sample units in disagreement with the production data to consider the following cases:
 - 1: Uncertain code, both producer and operator (validator) codes are plausible. Final validation code used is the producer code.
 - 2: Error from first validation interpretation. Final validation used is the producer code.

- 3: Error from producer. Final validation code used is from first validation interpretation.
- 4: Producer and operator are both wrong. Final validation code used is a new code from this second interpretation.

Validation results were reported at 3 levels: pan-European, country (or group of countries) and by biogeographical regions. Countries larger than 90.000 km² (15 countries) were separately evaluated, while countries smaller than 90.000 km² were grouped together (7 groups). Both the CLC2012 status layer and the CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂ layer have been validated. As could be expected, the plausibility analysis showed better results than the blind analysis for each level of reporting.

Results show that the 85% target accuracy for Europe has been met for the plausibility analysis. Overall accuracies obtained for CLC2012 are 83.6 % for the blind analysis and 89.7 % for the plausibility analysis. The overall accuracy for the CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂ data layer at CLC level-3 is 81.8% for the blind analysis and 88.6 % for the plausibility analysis. Lower accuracies were obtained for the Anatolian and Black Sea regions as well as in the Mediterranean area. The most consistent results were found within the Eastern temperate zones.

European validation of CLC2018

The validation of CLC2018 ([AD08](#)) was similar to the validation of CLC2012, discussed above. The procedure was part of the CLC2018 project and applied the same methodology as in CLC2012, including two stages: blind interpretation and plausibility analysis ([AD07](#)). The target was to validate CLC2018 and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈. 25695 sample points covering 100% of the EEA39 were selected. High resolution (pixel size between 5 m and 20 m) and very high-resolution (pixel size <2 m and 2,5 m) satellite images were used for control, accompanied by Google Earth imagery.

The results show that the CLC2018 products meet the thematic quality requirement, i.e. 85 % in both stages (blind and plausibility) of analysis. The overall accuracies obtained for CLC2018 are 92.43 % for the blind analysis and 92.67 % for the plausibility analysis. The overall accuracy for the CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ data layer at CLC level-3 is 87.12 % for the blind analysis and 87.83 % for the plausibility analysis. These particularly good results are related to the fact that the 2018 dataset was the fifth update of CORINE Land Cover data, and that each time the database has undergone corrections performed by the national teams (SIRS, 2020).

Regarding biogeographic regions, lower than 85% accuracy was obtained for Black Sea region (84 %). The other regions have results above the recommended accuracy threshold (see Table 9 and Figure 12).

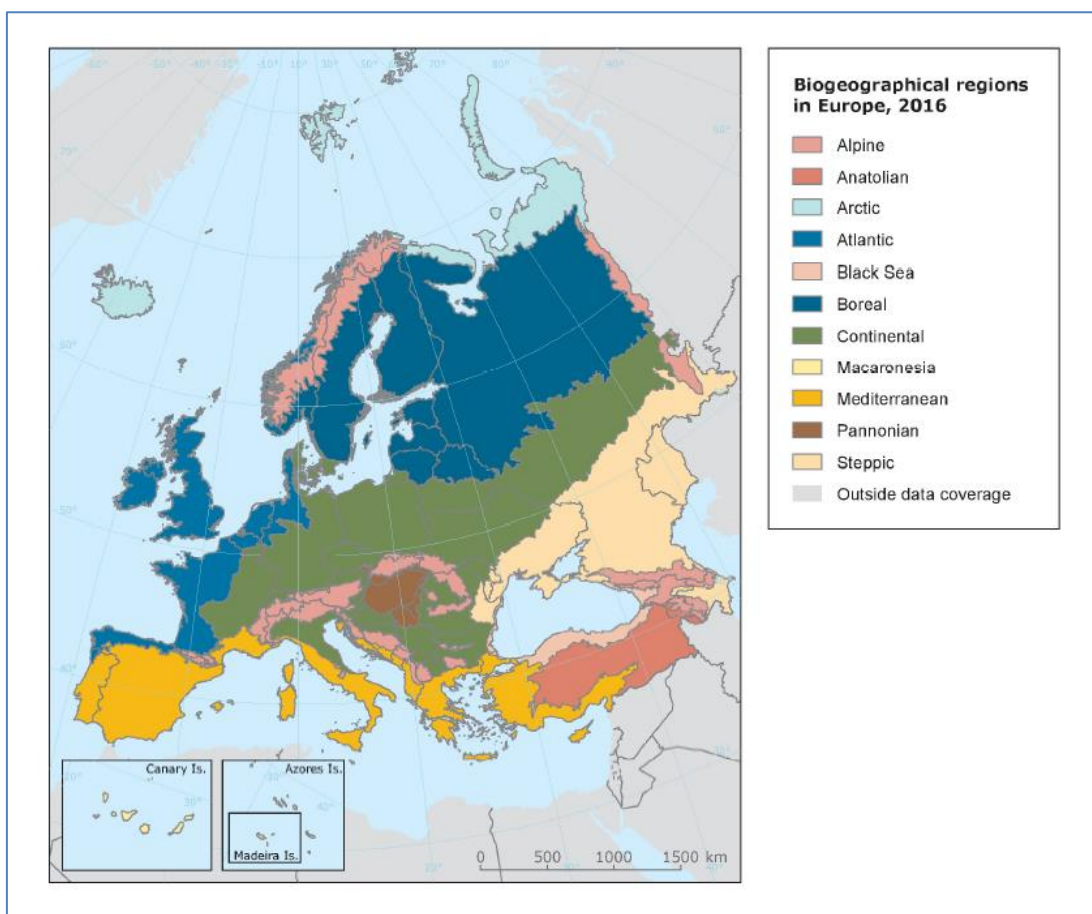


Figure 12: Biogeographic regions of Europe used for stratification of CLC for validation (EEA, 2016)

Table 9 compares the overall accuracies of validation for the biogeographic regions obtained for CLC2012 and CLC2018, while Table 10 compares accuracies obtained for CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂ and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ ([AD08](#)). Regarding accuracies of countries (or group of countries) see the European Validation Reports ([AD07](#) and [AD08](#)).

Table 9: Comparison of accuracies of validation obtained for CLC2012 and CLC2018 (AD08)

	Overall accuracy CLC 2012		Overall accuracy CLC 2018	
	Blind analysis	Plausibility analysis	Blind analysis	Plausibility analysis
Alpine	84,29%	92,49%	93,80%	93,89%
Anatolian	77,15%	86,44%	86,49%	86,55%
Arctic	85,29%	93,75%	98,94%	98,94%
Atlantic	87,75%	91,30%	93,15%	94,00%
BlackSea	81,70%	84,45%	84,57%	84,03%
Boreal	84,35%	89,12%	95,34%	95,30%
Continental	83,91%	90,74%	93,21%	93,65%
Macaronesia	80,32%	90,33%	93,97%	96,84%
Mediterranean	80,69%	86,54%	89,46%	89,63%
Pannonian	86,87%	93,48%	96,71%	96,75%
Steppic	87,03%	96,40%	96,52%	99,13%
Oversea departments	96,41%	97,61%	92,23%	92,35%

	Accuracy better than 85%
	Accuracy between 80% and 85%
	Accuracy less than 80%

Table 10: Comparison of accuracies of validation obtained for CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂ and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ (AD08)

	Overall accuracy CLCCH2006-2012 level 3		Overall accuracy CLCCH2012-2018 level 3	
	Blind analysis	Plausibility analysis	Blind analysis	Plausibility analysis
Alpine	83,47%	91,94%	89,86%	90,61%
Anatolian	75,62%	85,93%	80,43%	81,34%
Arctic	83,12%	93,38%	98,14%	98,19%
Atlantic	85,89%	89,81%	89,94%	90,82%
BlackSea	81,54%	84,31%	77,99%	78,53%
Boreal	80,21%	86,69%	91,14%	91,56%
Continental	82,98%	90,25%	87,59%	88,25%
Macaronesia	79,95%	89,95%	72,64%	89,97%
Mediterranean	79,06%	85,54%	81,37%	82,00%
Pannonian	85,29%	92,25%	91,37%	91,80%
Steppic	86,99%	96,38%	94,23%	97,02%
Oversea departments	96,38%	97,58%	86,41%	86,52%

	Accuracy better than 85%
	Accuracy between 80% and 85%
	Accuracy less than 80%

Comparing Tables 9 and 10 show that for each biogeographical region, the overall accuracy for the CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ layer is systematically lower than the CLC2018 overall accuracy. In most regions, overall accuracy for CLC2018 is higher than for CLC2012 (the exceptions are: Black Sea and Overseas departments). Comparing accuracies obtained for CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂ and CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ the picture is more varied: there are regions with increased accuracy and others with decreased accuracy.

Regions permanently below the 85% threshold are (according to the plausibility analysis): Anatolian, Black Sea and Mediterranean.

VIII. How to use CLC?

In this chapter some examples are provided concerning the recommended use of CORINE Land cover data, based on users' questions arrived at the [Copernicus Land Help Desk](#) and published in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Through Help Desk activities it became obvious that land cover change monitoring and time series analysis is far from being trivial for most of the users. This chapter discusses two basic cases of change analysis, i.e. between consecutive inventories and between non-consecutive inventories,

CLC Changes between consecutive inventories

Question: A user wants to use land cover changes derived from CORINE Land Cover data between 2006 and 2012. Should he/she use the difference between the two status layers or the CLC-Change dataset instead?

Users interested in CLC changes between consecutive CLC inventories should always rely on the corresponding CLC-Change product and never on the difference (intersection) of the two consecutive status layers. The CLC-Change product includes the real land cover changes mapped directly, with visual control, at a higher-resolution of 5 ha (see Ch. VI. *Mapping CLC Changes*), while the difference (intersect) product includes the difference of two generalized, lower resolution (25 ha MMU) datasets. The consequence of the “change mapping first” methodology — and eventually that of the different MMUs — is that the difference between two consecutive status layers (here: CLC2006 and CLC2012) will differ from the corresponding CLC-Change layer (here: CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆, see Figure 13). The magnitude of difference depends on the size distribution of change polygons. The more changes between 5 and 25 ha, the larger the difference between CLC-Change and the intersect of CLC2000 and CLC2006. If all changes were larger than 25 ha, there would be no difference.

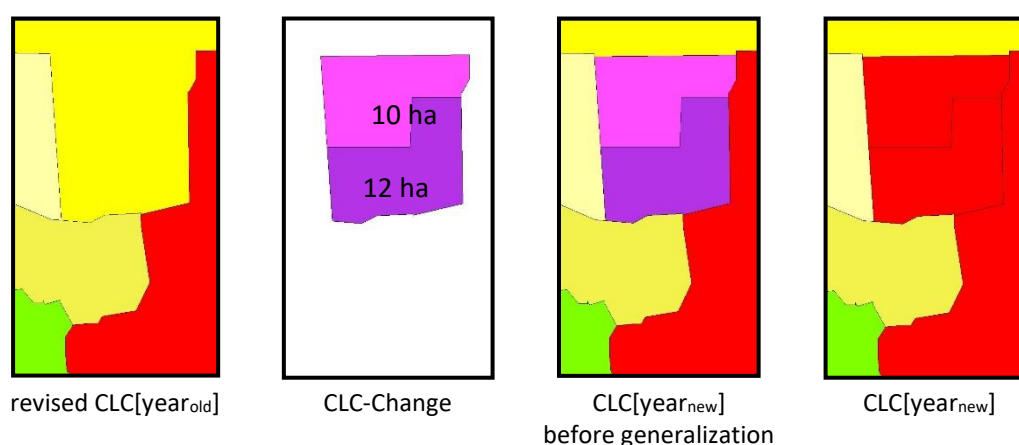


Figure 13: The effect of generalization of <25 ha changes on the new status layer

Explanation of Figure 13: The 1st imagerette corresponds to revised CLC[year_{old}], representing a suburban environment including arable land (yellow) and settlement (red). Attached to the settlement a new construction site (pink) and industry (lilac) are emerging on former arable land (2nd imagerette, CLC-Change). The 3rd imagerette shows the CLC[year_{new}], if we would not have the 25-ha MMU. However, the new construction site and industry polygons being below MMU (25 ha) are generalized into the settlement (4th imagerette) yielding CLC[year_{new}]. The difference between CLC[year_{old}] and CLC[year_{new}] is a 22 ha arable-residential change (compare the 1st and 4th imagerettes), which is obviously false, because the real changes are different (10 ha arable-construction site change, 15 ha arable-industry change), as indicated by CLC-Change (2nd imagerette).

Additionally, the revisions (correction) of the old status layer cannot be distinguished from real land cover changes when intersecting the old and new status layers. (Remember however, that since the CLC2006 inventory the old status layer is replaced by the revised old status layer upon publication of the new status layer (see Ch. VI. *Revision*). This helps distinguishing revisions, but does not solve the MMU-related issues.) When CLC[year_{old}] is needed, the user has to be careful to download the revised version of CLC[year_{old}] (revised versions CLC[year_{old}] are found in packages of CLC[year_{new}]). See: Ch. VI. *European products*.

Example 1: A user is interested in mapping sprawl of residential areas between 2012 and 2018 in the administrative units of Benelux countries.

Download CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈ and CLC2012 from the most recent version of [Copernicus Land website](#). Compile the required change statistics and aggregate it according the administrative units of the study. Checking the Seamless data coverage table ([AD06](#)) one can see that revised CLC2012 has been produced for Belgium, Luxemburg and Netherlands. As we learnt in Ch. VI., CLC2012 has been replaced by revised CLC2012 parallel with publication of CLC2018. Therefore, the downloaded CLC2012 (meaning the revised CLC2012) should be used to normalize change statistics to derive percent change values over the administrative units. If CLC2012 was downloaded from a version before the publication of CLC2018 this will not include the revisions and might provide misleading results.

Example 2: A user is interested in mapping forest fires between 2000 and 2006 over the administrative units of Spain.

Download CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆ and CLC2006 from the most recent version of CLC from [Copernicus Land website](#). Compile the required change statistics and aggregate it according the administrative units of the study. Checking the Seamless data coverage table ([AD06](#)) one can see that revised CLC2000 has not been produced by Spain. Therefore, if you want to normalise results (by using total forest area in 2000) you should be aware of the fact, that your results might be less precise.

CLC Changes between non-consecutive inventories

A user intends to study the variation of the extent of wetlands in Europe between 2000 and 2018. For this purpose, he/she used time series of CLC raster data: CLC2000, CLC2006, CLC2012 and 2018, and has found inconsistent results.

Due to methodological reasons, the difference of any non-consecutive CLC inventories (e.g. CLC2018 and CLC2000) would provide an approximation of real changes only²⁶ if no revisions in any of the three involved CLC status layers (CLC2000, CLC2006, CLC2012) had taken place. However, this situation can hardly happen in the practice.

The code of a CLC[year_{new}] polygon can be different from code of CLC[year_{old}] polygon because of the following reasons:

- A real CLC change occurred between the two inventories.
- A revision of CLC[year_{old}] was done during the change mapping process (see Ch. VI. *Revision*).
- Independent of the actual inventory, the national team enhanced (revised) one or more of the classes of their CLC (Banko, 2020; Thulin, 2019).
- Methodological changes occurred in CLC production (typically replacing photointerpretation with a semi-automated methodology), which can influence significantly (sometimes dramatically) the geometry as well as the thematic content of CLC (Álvarez and Camacho Olmedo, 2017). This happened so far in Germany, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain (Figure 14). See details at Ch. VI. *Semi-automated approaches applied in CLC*.

²⁶ Exact change layer cannot be obtained because of change areas with size between 5 and 25 ha. See above: *CLC Changes between consecutive inventories*.

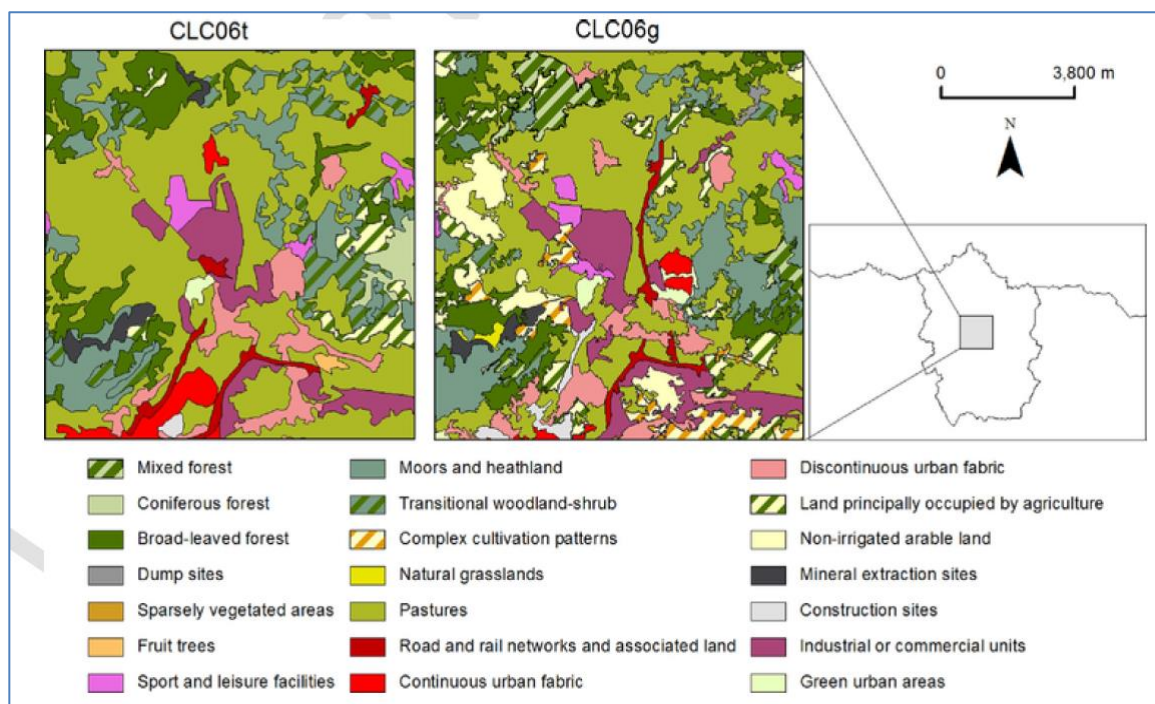


Figure 14: Comparison of CLC2006 produced by photointerpretation (left) and by generalisation from SIOSE (right)

If one compares CLC inventories more distant in time (e.g. CLC2000 and CLC2018) the difference will always include real changes mixed with modifications of the status databases. Methodological changes in a few countries mentioned above further complicate the situation.

The solution is using the so-called accounting layers (see Ch. V. *CLC accounting layers* and Annex 5) made available by EEA to help comparing “distant” status layers, like CLC2000 and CLC2018. [Accounting layers](#) (synthesized CLCs) were derived backwards by deducting CLC-Change layers consecutively from the latest (best available) status layer (currently: CLC2018).

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XI. Annexes

Annex 1: The standard CORINE Land Cover nomenclature (class names only)

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
1. ARTIFICIAL SURFACES	1.1. Urban fabric	1.1.1. Continuous urban fabric 1.1.2. Discontinuous urban fabric
	1.2. Industrial, commercial and transport units	1.2.1. Industrial or commercial units 1.2.2. Road and rail networks and associated land 1.2.3. Port areas 1.2.4. Airports
	1.3. Mine, dump and construction sites	1.3.1. Mineral extraction sites 1.3.2. Dump sites 1.3.3. Construction sites
	1.4. Artificial, non-agricultural vegetated areas	1.4.1. Green urban areas 1.4.2. Sport and leisure facilities
2. AGRICULTURAL AREAS	2.1. Arable land	2.1.1. Non-irrigated arable land 2.1.2. Permanently irrigated land 2.1.3. Rice fields
	2.2. Permanent crops	2.2.1. Vineyards 2.2.2. Fruit trees and berry plantations 2.2.3. Olive groves
	2.3. Pastures	2.3.1. Pastures
	2.4. Heterogeneous agricultural areas	2.4.1. Annual crops associated with permanent crops 2.4.2. Complex cultivation patterns 2.4.3. Land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation 2.4.4. Agro-forestry areas
3. FOREST AND SEMI-NATURAL AREAS	3.1. Forests	3.1.1. Broad-leaved forest 3.1.2. Coniferous forest 3.1.3. Mixed forest
	3.2. Scrub and/or herbaceous associations	3.2.1. Natural grassland 3.2.2. Moors and heathland 3.2.3. Sclerophyllous vegetation 3.2.4. Transitional woodland-scrub
	3.3. Open spaces with little or no vegetation	3.3.1. Beaches, dunes, sands 3.3.2. Bare rocks 3.3.3. Sparsely vegetated areas 3.3.4. Burnt areas 3.3.5. Glaciers and perpetual snow
4. WETLANDS	4.1. Inland wetlands	4.1.1. Inland marshes 4.1.2. Peat bogs
	4.2. Marine wetlands	4.2.1. Salt marshes 4.2.2. Salines 4.2.3. Intertidal flats
5. WATER BODIES	5.1. Inland waters	5.1.1. Water courses 5.1.2. Water bodies

	5.2. Marine waters	5.2.1. Coastal lagoons 5.2.2. Estuaries 5.2.3. Sea and ocean
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Annex 2: Naming convention of CLC products

CORINE LAND COVER - EUROPEAN SEAMLESS DATABASE (VERSION 2020_20u1)²⁷

FILE NAMING CONVENTION

New file naming convention has been introduced based on user feedback on version 20. Filename is composed of combination of information about update campaign, data theme and reference year and version specification (including release year and release number).

UPDATE CAMPAIGN | THEME | REFERENCE YEAR | RELEASE YEAR | RELEASE NUMBER

UPDATE CAMPAIGN:

- update campaign refers to the year of the CLC campaign, when the file content was last modified or updated

THEME:

- theme refers to specific CLC layer type: clc - refers to status layer, cha - refers to change layer

REFERENCE YEAR:

- reference year refers to the year for which CLC information included in the file were mapped

RELEASE YEAR:

- release year refers to the year of CLC data release

RELEASE NUMBER:

- release number refers to a sequential numbering of CLC data releases. Initially it is named as a beta version (e.g. 20b2) until the new complete final version is ready covering the full territory (e.g. 20). Any subsequent minor update is recorded as incremental number in suffix (e.g. 20u1).

Examples:

U<update campaign>_<theme><reference year>_V<release year>_<release number>

file name: 'U2006_CLC2000_V2020_20b2' means:

U2006 - last modification / update of the file is from the 2006 mapping campaign

²⁷ See also: <https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library//clc-file-naming-conventions-guide-v20u1.pdf>

CLC2000 - file contains CLC status data for reference year 2000

V2020_20b2 - file was released in 2020 as second beta (incomplete/partial) version of version 20

file name 'U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1' means:

U2018 - last modification / update of the file is from the 2018 mapping campaign

CHA1218 - file contains CLC change data between reference years 2012 and 2018

V2020_20u1 - file was released in 2020 as a first update of final version 20

Special cases:

Change layers in raster

In order to keep 8bit resolution for raster version, change layers are divided into two files.

Vector file name:

U2018_CHA1218_V2020_20u1

Raster files name:

U2018_CHA1218_12_V2020_20u1 - file contains consumption part of change ('from' code)

U2018_CHA1218_18_V2020_20u1 - file contains formation part of change ('to' code)

Overseas countries and territories -Overseas departments (DOMs)

Overseas countries and territories are delivered as separate package to keep consistency between vector and raster delivery. Structure of the delivery and file naming conventions are the same except DOM specification (country code and DOM code) suffix.

UPDATE CAMPAIGN | THEME | REFERENCE YEAR | RELEASE YEAR | RELEASE NUMBER | COUNTRY CODE | DOM CODE

Example:

U<update campaign>_<theme><reference year>_V<release year>_<release number>_<country code>_<DOM code>

file name: 'U2006_CLC2000_V2018_20b2_FR_GLP' means

U2006 - last modification / update of the file is from the 2006 mapping campaign

CLC2000 - file contains CLC status data for reference year 2000

V2018_20b2 - file was released in 2018 as second beta version (incomplete) of version 20

FR - file is for French territory

GLP - DOM name is Guadeloupe

Prepared by GISAT 02/2020

Remark:

File naming convention might change. In case of any doubt see the valid document:

<https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/clc-file-naming-conventions-guide-v20u1.pdf>

Annex 3: Responsible national organisations producing CLC2018

Albania	National Environment Agency
Austria	Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
Belgium	Institut Géographique National / Nationaal Geografisch Instituut
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (PAM)
Bulgaria	Executive Environment Agency
Croatia	Oikon doo
Cyprus	Cyprus University of Technology
Czech Republic	Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA)
Denmark	GILAB doo
Estonia	Estonian Map Center
Finland	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
France	Systèmes d'Information à Référence Spatiale (SIRS)
Germany	Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG)
Greece	Hellenic Cadastre
Hungary	BFKH (former FÖMI)
Iceland	National Land Survey of Iceland (NLSI)
Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Italy	Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)
Kosovo	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
Latvia	GIS-Centras – National Center for Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics
Liechtenstein	Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
Lithuania	GIS-Centras – National Center for Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics
Luxembourg	space4environment sàrl
Macedonia	GOVE doo
Malta	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL)
Montenegro	Geological Survey of Montenegro
Netherlands	Wageningen Environmental Research (Alterra)
Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
Poland	Institute of Geodesy and Cartography (IGiK)
Portugal	Direção-Geral do Território (DGT)
Romania	Danube Delta Institute (DDNI)
Serbia	GILAB doo
Slovakia	Slovak Environment Agency (SEA)
Slovenia	Geodetic Institute of Slovenia
Spain	Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica, D.G. Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN-CNIG)
Sweden	Lantmäteriet (Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority)
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL)

Turkey	Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs
United Kingdom	University of Leicester

Annex 4: CLC generalisation table



Annex 5: CORINE Land Cover accounting layers

CORINE Land Cover (CLC) data are produced from 1986 for European (EEA member or cooperating) countries. Altogether five mapping inventories were implemented in this period, producing five status layers (CLC1990, CLC2000, CLC2006, CLC2012, CLC2018) and four CLC-Change layers for the corresponding periods (1990-2000, 2000-2006, 2006-2012, 2012-2018). Pan-European CLC and CLC-Change data are available as vector and raster products.

Due to the technical characteristics of CLC and CLC-Change data, the evolution in CLC update methodology and in quality of input data, time-series statistics derived directly from historical CLC data include several inconsistencies. A harmonization methodology has been developed to allow a statistically solid basis for CLC time series analysis by means of the so-called CLC accounting layers.

The solution applied for the harmonization of CLC time-series is based on the idea to combine CLC status and change information in order to create a homogenous quality time series of CLC / CLC-Change layers for land cover accounting purposes fulfilling the relation:

$$\text{CLC-Change} = \text{Accounting CLC}_{\text{new status}} - \text{Accounting CLC}_{\text{old status}}$$

As a consequence of this criteria, CLC changes for longer period (e.g. between 2000 and 2018) may be derived from the differences of the corresponding CLC accounting status layers.

The CLC accounting methodology is characterized by two major steps:

- I. Add more detail to the latest CLC status layer (CLC2018) from previous CLC-Change information and use this modified layer (CLC2018 accounting layer) as a reference,
- II. Create previous CLC (accounting) status layers by "backdating" of the reference, realized by subtracting CLC-Change-based information from CLC2018 accounting layer.

Based on the above principles, the working steps of the creation of CLC accounting layers are as follows:

- 1) Include formation information (i.e. code[_{year_{new}}]) from the CLC-Change layers into the CLC2018 status layer, thereby creating the CLC2018 accounting layer, as follows:
 - a. Overwrite CLC2018 with formation code (i.e. code2006) from CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆.
Intermediate result: A1_CLC2018
 - b. Overwrite A1_CLC2018 with formation code (i.e. code2012) from CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂.
Intermediate result: A2_CLC2018

- c. Overwrite A2_CLC2018 with formation code (i.e. code2018) from CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈. Result: Final accounting layer for the reference year 2018 (file name: CLC2018ACC_V2018_20.tif²⁸)
- 2) Create CLC2012 accounting layer by including consumption information (i.e. code2012) into CLC2018ACC_V2018_20.tif from CLC-Change₂₀₁₂₋₂₀₁₈. Result: Final accounting layer for the reference year 2012 (file name: CLC2012ACC_V2018_20).
- 3) Create CLC2006 accounting layer by including consumption information (i.e. code2006) into CLC2012ACC_V2018_20.tif from CLC-Change₂₀₀₆₋₂₀₁₂. Result: Final accounting layer for the reference year 2006 (file name: CLC2006ACC_V2018_20).
- 4) Create CLC2000 accounting layer by including consumption information (i.e. code2000) into CLC2006ACC_V2018_20.tif from CLC-Change₂₀₀₀₋₂₀₀₆. Result: Final accounting layer for the reference year 2000 (file name: CLC2000ACC_V2018_20).

Notes:

The actual set of CLC accounting layers was created on the basis of version V2018_20 of CORINE Land Cover European database (RELEASE V2018_20; dated 06/2019).

The simple solution applied for the combination of CLC and CLC-Change layers causes some known issues, such as:

- Due to the accounting methodology (i.e. combining a 25 ha MMU status layer with 5 ha MMU change layers) many smaller than 25ha MMU features will appear locally.
- “Fake features” may appear in the backdated CLC status layers due to inconsistencies between CLC-Change datasets and due to omitted (not interpreted) changes.

In the frame of ETC-ULS activity a raster generalization methodology was developed to eliminate fake features and attenuate effects of mixed MMU²⁹. This methodology has not been approved yet, so has not been applied to actual CLC accounting layers.

²⁸ This is the name of the raster file, which is published at EEA website: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/corine-land-cover-accounting-layers/clc-accounting-layers/clc2018-accounting-layer>. The filename is based on the naming convention of CLC products (Annex 2), where „V2018” refers to the year of the CLC update and „20” refers to the sequential numbering of published CLC raster status data.

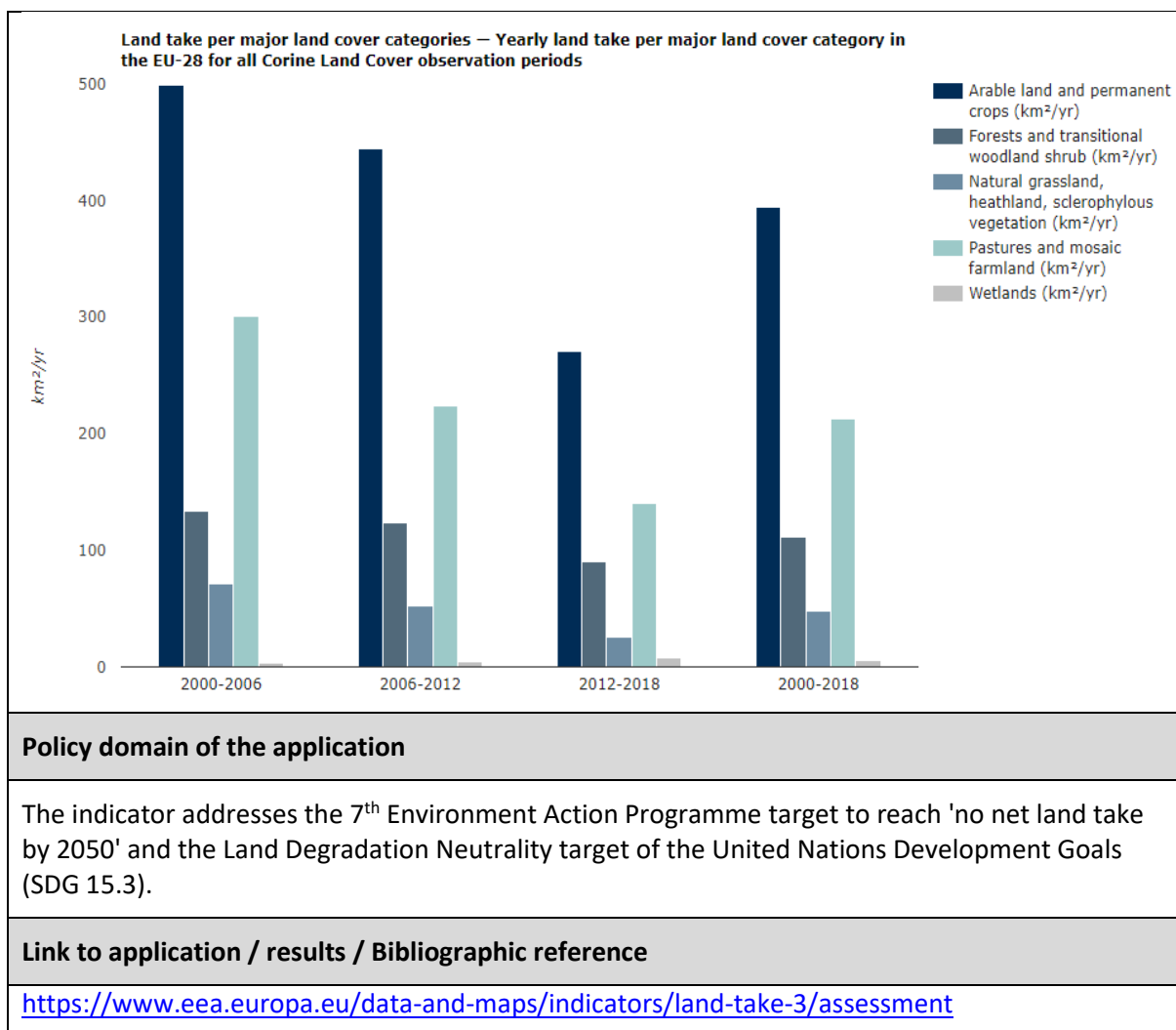
²⁹ https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/etc-urban-land-and-soil-systems/library/5.-copernicus-rfs16_006-sc-56586/7-task-7-clc-adjusted-layers-clc-cube-be-revised

Annex 6: Selected use cases of CORINE Land Cover

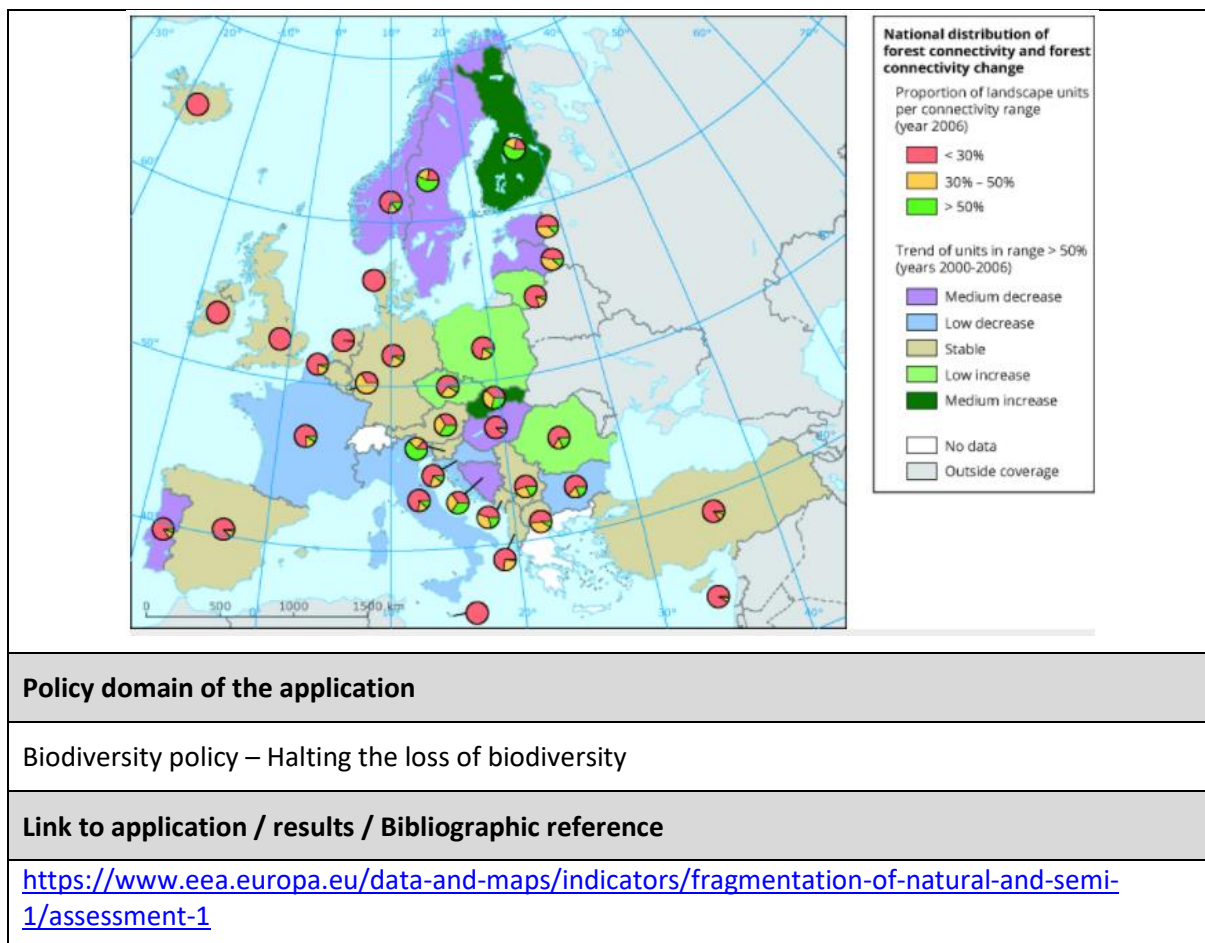
European level applications

EEA indicators

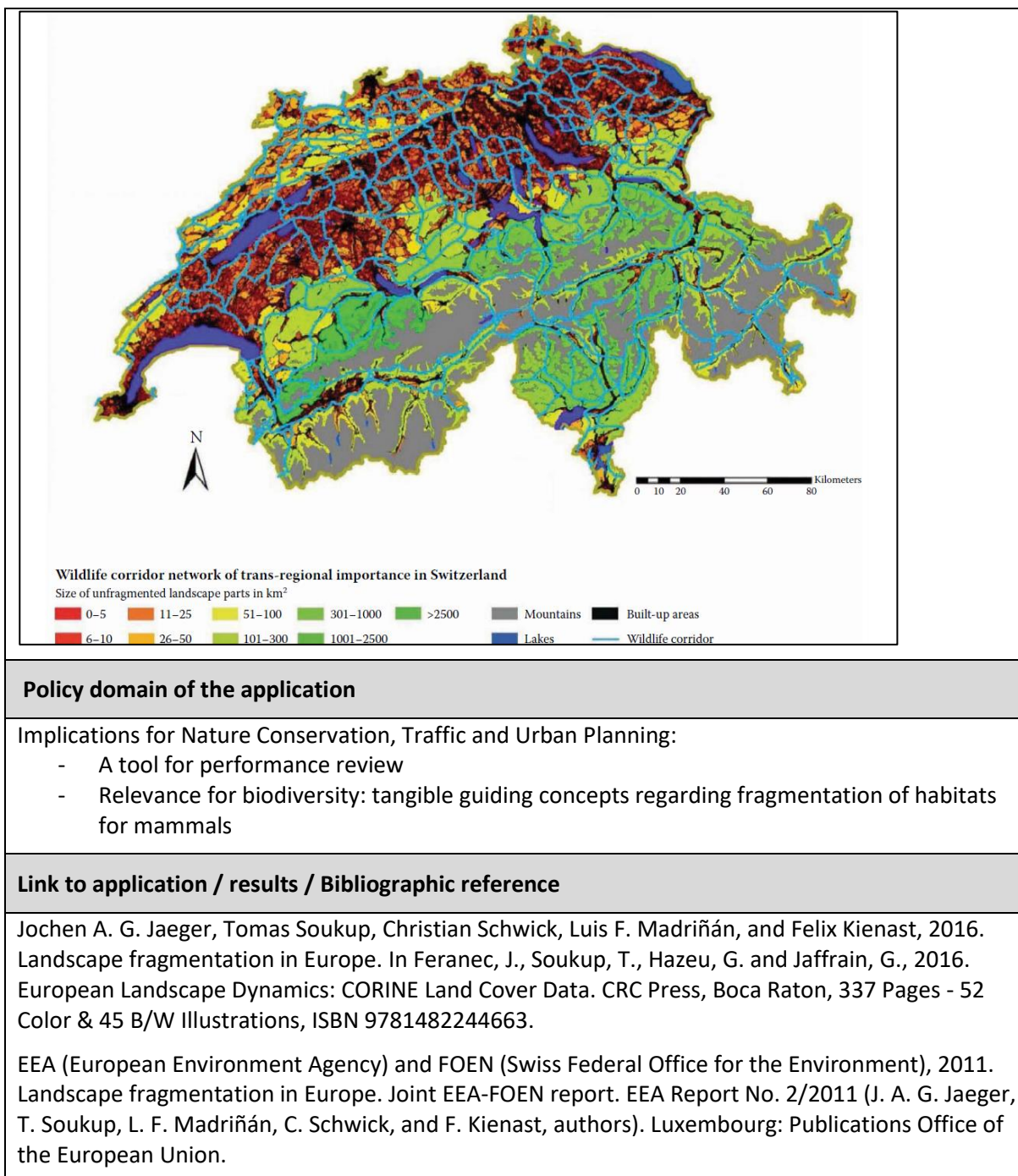
Application name	
LAND TAKE IN EUROPE (EEA CSI 014)	
Application domain	
EU / international	Urban Environmental accounting / impact assessment Spatial planning
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2019
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The land take indicator addresses the change in the area of agricultural, forest and other semi-natural land taken for urban and other artificial land development. Land take includes areas sealed by construction and urban infrastructure, as well as urban green areas, and sport and leisure facilities. The data are derived from the CORINE Land Cover accounting layers.	
Illustration of application	



Application name	
FRAGMENTATION OF NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL AREAS (EEA SEBI 013)	
Application domain	
EU / international	Urban, Agriculture, Forest Biodiversity / nature conservation
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2017
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The landscape mosaic pattern in Europe is changing due to two opposing landscape processes that are driven by either anthropogenic or natural factors. Such changes have an impact on the supply of ecosystem functions and services such as habitat provision, species dispersal, pollination, pest control or climate mitigation. The indicator illustrates the increasing fragmentation of natural and semi-natural lands by anthropogenic factors, such as the expansion of agricultural areas, transport infrastructures, settlements and the occurrence of fires. The indicator has 2 sub-indicators: ➤ Fragmentation of natural and semi-natural areas ➤ Forest connectivity The indicator is based on CLC2000 and CLC2006.	
Illustration of application	
National distribution of forest connectivity for year 2006 and forest connectivity change in the period 2000-2006	



Application name	
LANDSCAPE FRAGMENTATION IN EUROPE	
Application domain	
EU / international	Biodiversity/nature conservation Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA and FOEN (Swiss Federal Office for the Environment)	2016
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Landscape fragmentation is the result of transforming large habitat patches into smaller, more isolated fragments of habitat. The aim of the study “Landscape fragmentation in Europe” was to quantify landscape fragmentation of land areas in all countries in Europe for which the necessary data were available. The study considered fragmentation caused by transportation infrastructure and built-up areas. Effective mesh size and effective mesh density are applied to measure landscape fragmentation. Some classes (mainly built-up areas) from CLC were used as fragmenting elements.	
Illustration of application	
Wildlife corridor network of trans-regional importance in Switzerland. Size of unfragmented landscape parts in km ² .	



Policy domain of the application

Implications for Nature Conservation, Traffic and Urban Planning:

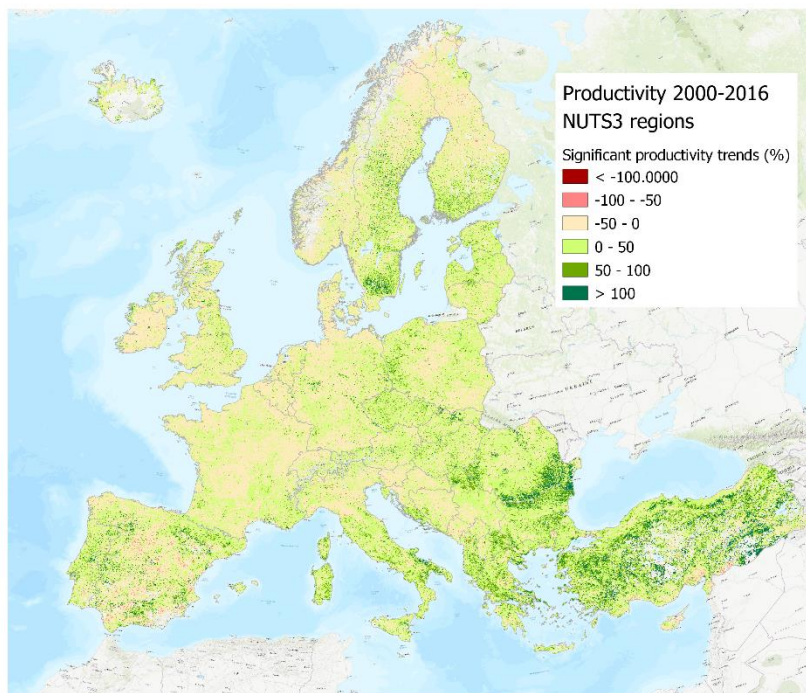
- A tool for performance review
- Relevance for biodiversity: tangible guiding concepts regarding fragmentation of habitats for mammals

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Jochen A. G. Jaeger, Tomas Soukup, Christian Schwick, Luis F. Madriñán, and Felix Kienast, 2016. Landscape fragmentation in Europe. In Feranec, J., Soukup, T., Hazeu, G. and Jaffrain, G., 2016. European Landscape Dynamics: CORINE Land Cover Data. CRC Press, Boca Raton, 337 Pages - 52 Color & 45 B/W Illustrations, ISBN 9781482244663.

EEA (European Environment Agency) and FOEN (Swiss Federal Office for the Environment), 2011. Landscape fragmentation in Europe. Joint EEA-FOEN report. EEA Report No. 2/2011 (J. A. G. Jaeger, T. Soukup, L. F. Madriñán, C. Schwick, and F. Kienast, authors). Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Application name	
VEGETATION PRODUCTIVITY (LSI 009)	
Application domain	
EU / international	Biodiversity / Nature conservation Environmental monitoring / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2020
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The indicator addresses trends in land surface productivity derived from remote sensing observed time series of vegetation indices. The vegetation index used in the indicator is the Plant Phenology Index. Vegetation productivity indicates the spatial distribution and change of the vegetation cover – a key characteristic of ecosystem condition. Monitoring vegetation productivity of lands is essential for understanding the interactions between the biosphere, the climate and biogeochemical cycles. Vegetation productivity was correlated to climatic drivers, such as the number of frost days, precipitation and temperature, in a multivariate linear regression. Using the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) 2000-2018 series, only those grid cells were considered in this analysis where the CLC layers indicated no land use change between 2000-2018.	
Illustration of application	



Policy domain of the application

Biodiversity Strategy, Green Infrastructure, LULUCF, CAP

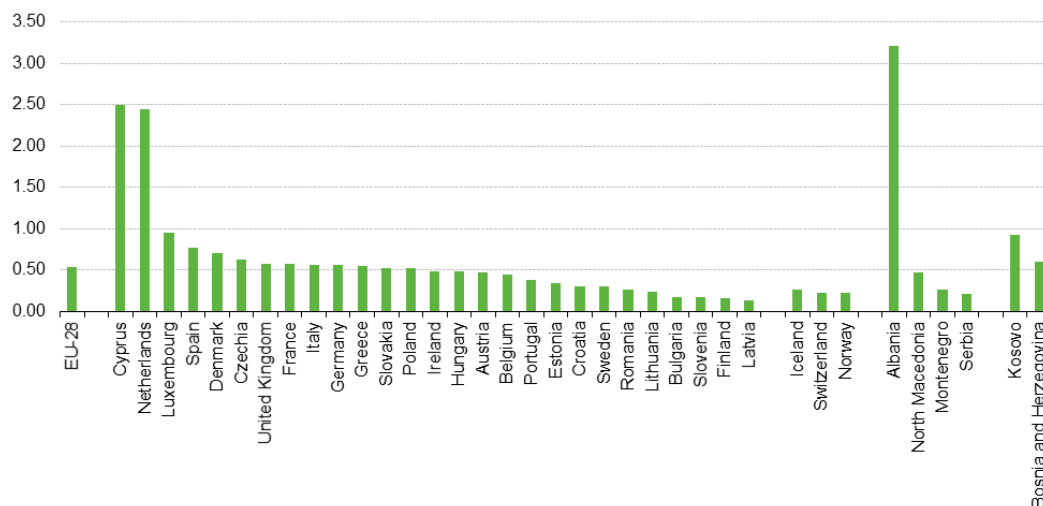
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/land-productivity-dynamics/assessment>

CAP and agri-environmental indicators

Application name	
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR 9 – LAND USE CHANGE	
Application domain	
EU / international	Urban Agriculture Forest Water / marine / coastal Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA / Eurostat / DG AGRI	2000-2018
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The indicator represents land use change from agriculture to artificial surfaces between 2000 and 2018 in absolute terms (hectares) and as a percentage of the agricultural area in 2000 (100 m grid, NUTS 3 regions or country level). Land use change is defined as the exits from agricultural land use broken down by non – agricultural sectors. It represents the conversion of agricultural area to non-agricultural use. CORINE Land Cover accounting layer 2000 and 2018 has been used as input data.	
Illustration of application	

**Change in land use from agriculture to artificial surfaces, 2000-2018,
EU-28, EFTA, candidate and potential candidate countries**
(% of agricultural land in 2000)



Note: Data for Malta and Liechtenstein not existing or not significant. Data for Turkey not available.
Source: EEA (European Environmental Agency)

eurostat

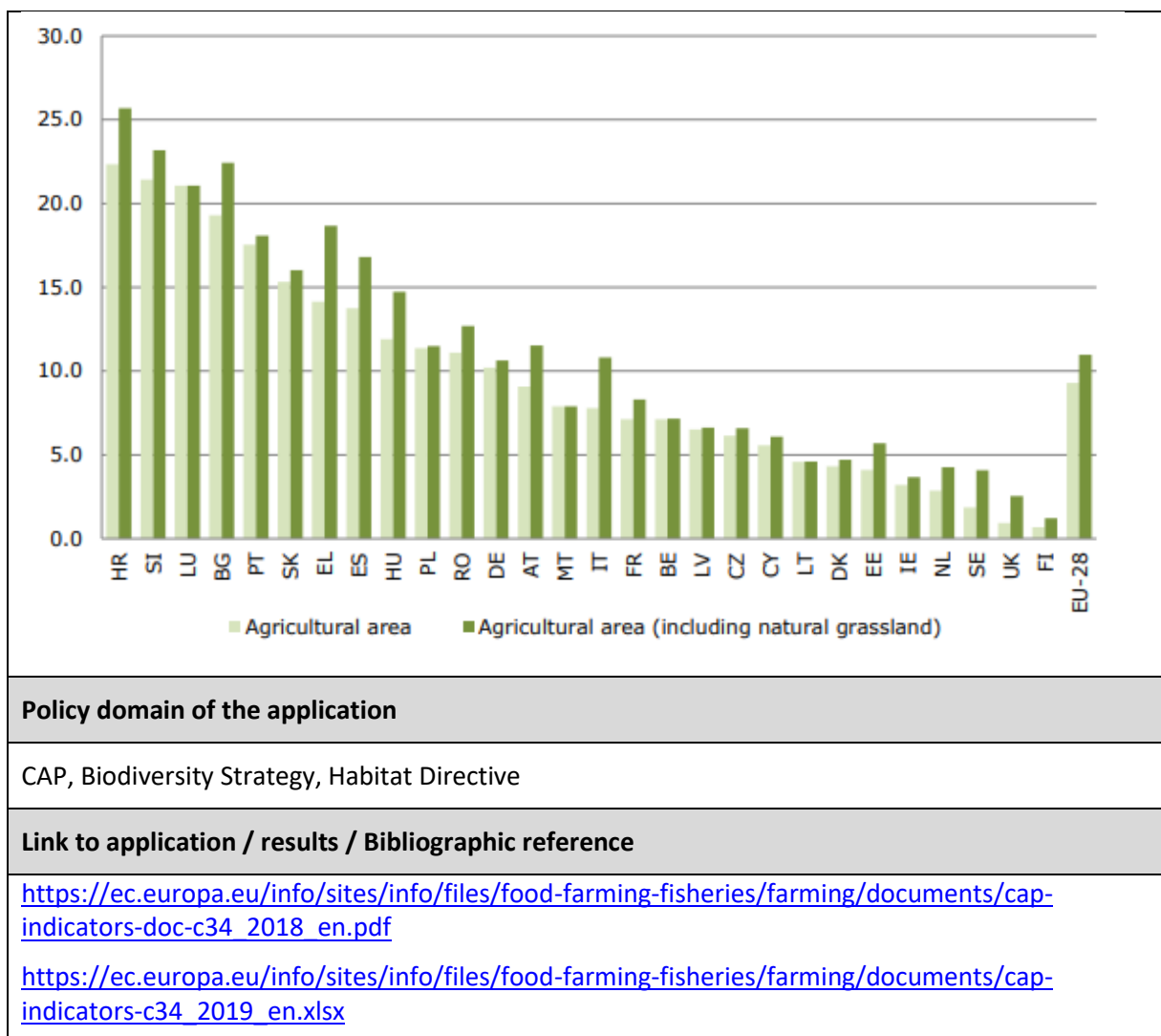
Policy domain of the application

European Spatial Development Perspective, Territorial Agenda of the EU, European Soil Thematic Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, CAP

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/
images/9/96/Figure1_Change_in_land_use_from_agriculture_to_artificial_surfaces_2000-2018_EU-
28_EFTA_CC_PCC.png](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/9/96/Figure1_Change_in_land_use_from_agriculture_to_artificial_surfaces_2000-2018_EU-28_EFTA_CC_PCC.png)

Application name	
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR 2 – UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREAS (UAA) UNDER NATURA 2000 also CAP CONTEXT INDICATOR 34 – N2000 AREAS	
Application domain	
EU / international	Agriculture Forest Biodiversity / nature conservation
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA / Eurostat / DG AGRI	2016
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The indicator describes the share of agricultural area as well as forest area under designation by the Natura 2000 regulation. The Natura 2000 network is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. CLC data are used to define the extent of agricultural as well as forest areas.	
Illustration of application	
Utilised Agricultural Areas under Natura 2000 in 2016	



Policy domain of the application

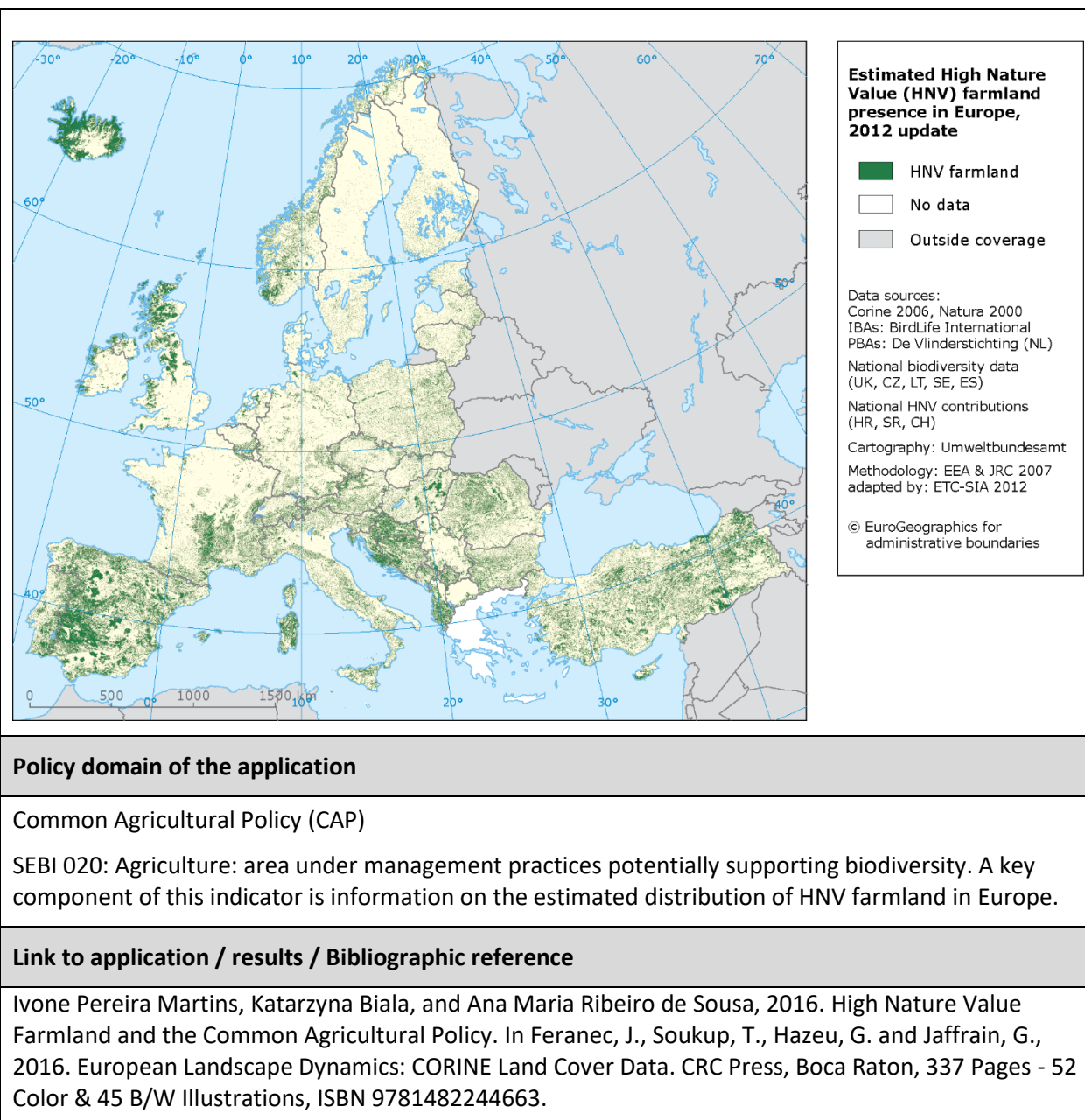
CAP, Biodiversity Strategy, Habitat Directive

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/cap-indicators-doc-c34_2018_en.pdf

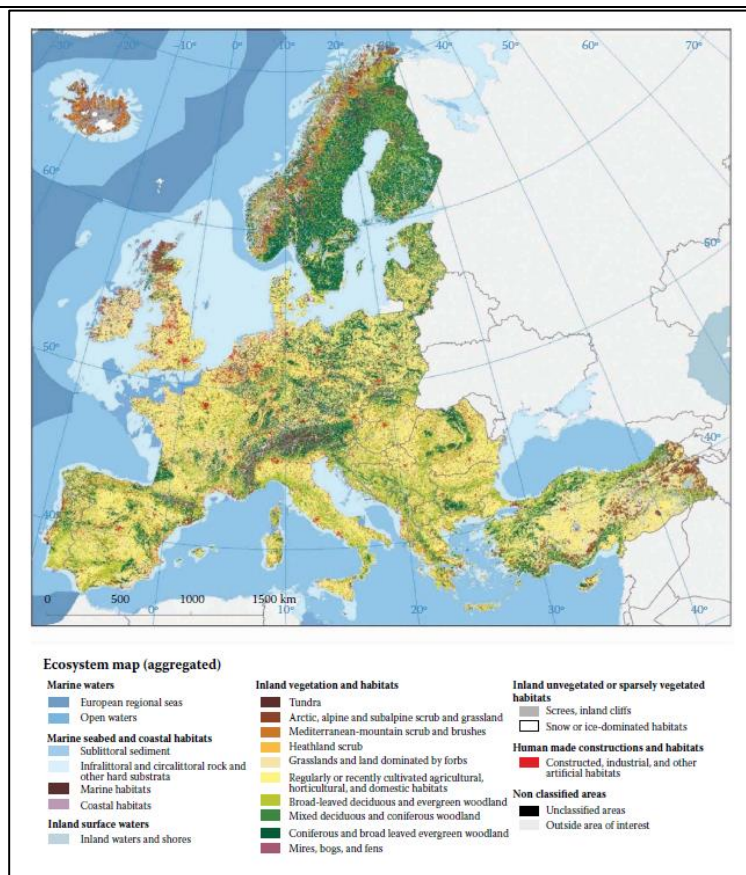
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/cap-indicators-c34_2019_en.xlsx

Application name	
HIGH NATURE VALUE FARMLAND AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP CONTEXT INDICATOR 37 AND AEI 23)	
Application domain	
EU / international	Agriculture Biodiversity / nature conservation
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2012
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The objective of EEA was to estimate the likelihood of presence of HNV farmland within Europe using existing European-wide datasets. The CLC European dataset was used as it was available consistently across the great majority of European countries. It was, though, noted that these data have several drawbacks related to geometric limitations (minimum mapping unit [MMU] of 25 ha), thematic resolution (particular class assessment) and updates dynamic (10 and 6 years), which had an impact in the quality/ reliability of the results, which can be seen only as approximate.	
Illustration of application	
Estimated HNV presence in Europe	



Ecosystems related applications

Application name	
ECOSYSTEM TYPE MAPPING	
Application domain	
EU / international	Biodiversity / nature conservation Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2016
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The map provides a first overview about the potential spatial distribution of major habitats across Europe. As such, it can build the reference for numerous applications for assessing ecosystem condition that triggers their habitat quality, structure, extension, biodiversity, and capacity to provide services. CLC is used as one of the input datasets to construct the Ecosystem Map.	
Illustration of application	
Ecosystem map version 2.1.	



Policy domain of the application

Communication for the Implementation of a Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the European Union (EU) by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

Action 5 of Target 2 “Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services” (MAES)

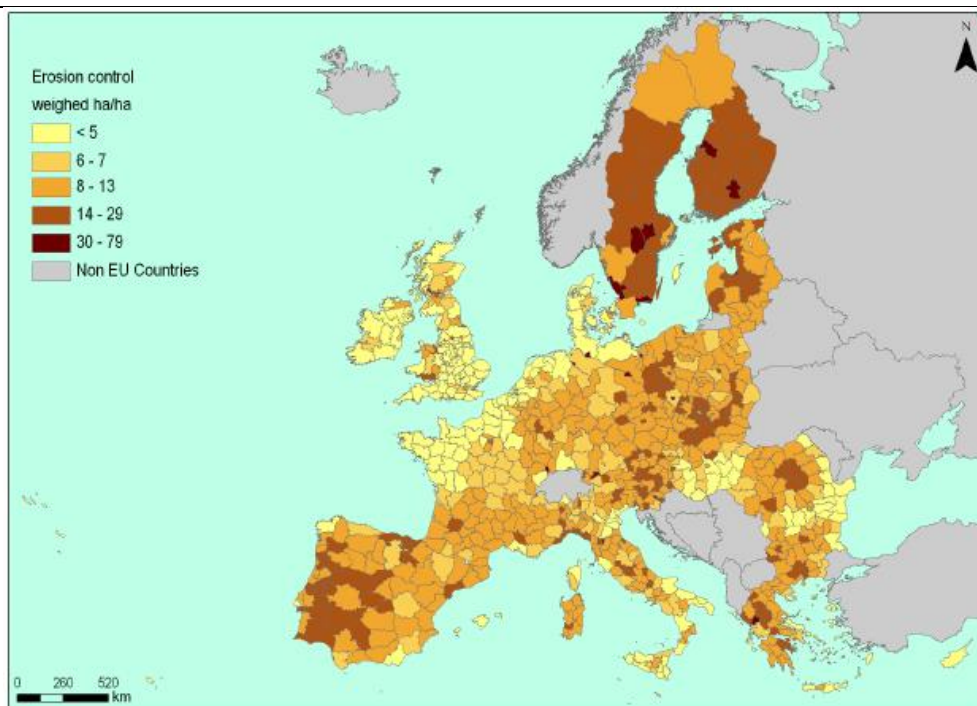
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Markus Erhard, Branislav Olah, Gebhard Banko, Stefan Kleeschulte, and Dania Abdul-Malak, 2016. Ecosystem Mapping and Assessment. In Feranec, J., Soukup, T., Hazeu, G. and Jaffrain, G., 2016. European Landscape Dynamics: CORINE Land Cover Data. CRC Press, Boca Raton, 337 Pages - 52 Color & 45 B/W Illustrations, ISBN 9781482244663.

Mapping Europe's ecosystems — European Environment Agency

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/mapping-europe-s-ecosystems>

Application name	
MAPPING OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	
Application domain	
EU / international	Biodiversity / nature conservation Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
JRC	2011
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The mapping of the spatial extent of ecosystems and their services is a major prerequisite for the assessment and modelling of the state and trends of biodiversity. The objective of this first attempt to map ecosystem services was to identify the spatial differences in ecosystem services supplied by all ecosystems situated in the European Union, including also semi natural and agricultural systems which fall outside the Natura2000 network and which contribute to the green infrastructure. The following maps / data sets were produced: - Provisioning services - o Timber services - o Crop services - o Livestock services - o Freshwater provision - Regulating services - o Water regulation services - o Water purifying services - o Climate regulation services - o Natural hazard protection services - o Air quality regulation - o Erosion control - o Pollution services - o Soil quality regulation control - Cultural services - o Recreation services CLC provided the basis for the geographical distribution for many of the services.	
Illustration of application	
Indicator representing the capacity of forests and natural ecosystems to help prevent soil erosion. <i>continued on next page</i>	



Policy domain of the application

Biodiversity Strategy

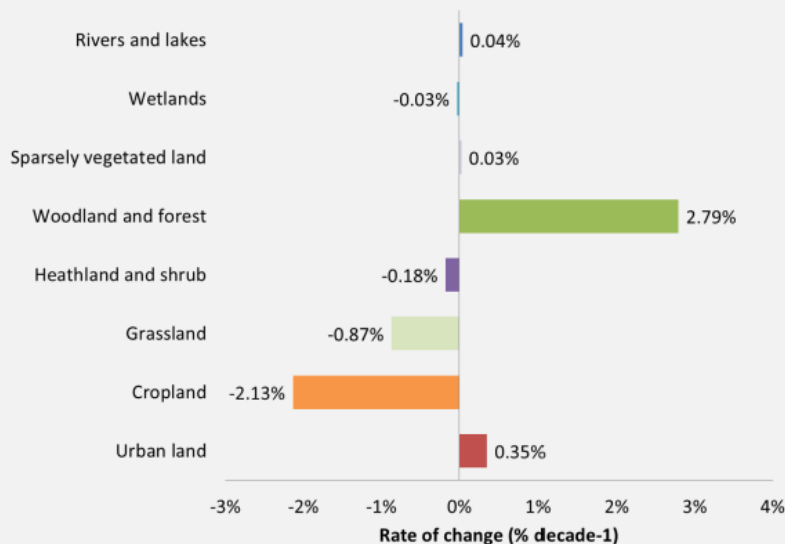
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

MAES, J.; PARACCHINI, M.; ZULIAN, G. (2011): A European assessment of the provision of ecosystem services - Towards an atlas of ecosystem services

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC63505/j.maes.pdf>

Application name	
MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR SERVICES	
Application domain	
EU / international	Biodiversity / nature conservation Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
JRC	2015 / 2020
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) is one of the keystone actions of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The publication presents a first analysis of ecosystems and their services at the European scale. In particular, changes observed between 2000 and 2010 in (1) the extent of ecosystems, as derived from land cover and land use data, and in (2) the supply or use of ecosystem services are reported. In addition, this report acts as a reference for a set of ecosystem services maps at the EU scale which can be used for further studies which require spatial data. The full assessment (MAES 2020) constitutes an updated knowledge base of all ecosystems which can support the evaluation of the 2020 biodiversity targets. CLC provided the basis for the geographical distribution for many of the services.	
Illustration of application	

Change in the extent in the surface area of ecosystems based on land cover data



Policy domain of the application

Biodiversity Strategy, MAES

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

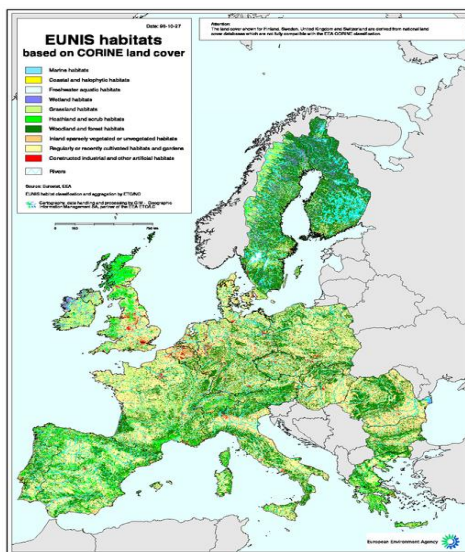
MAES, J. et al (2015): Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services - Trends in ecosystems and ecosystem services in the European Union between 2000 and 2010

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC94889/lbna27143enn.pdf>

<https://data.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset/7e3f0681-5967-41f7-ae9b-87f1c3cfac4f>

MAES, J. et al (2020): Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services: An EU ecosystem assessment.

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/mapping-and-assessment-ecosystems-and-their-services-eu-ecosystem-assessment>

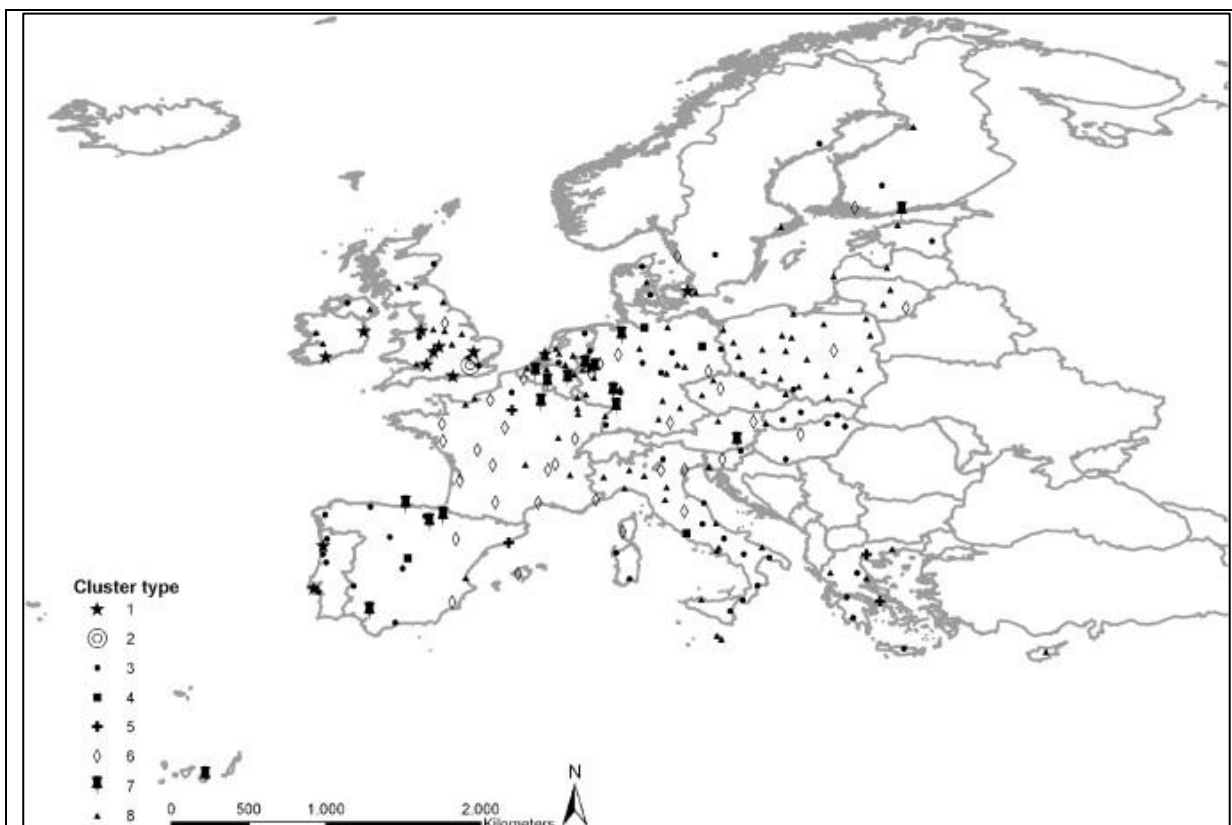
Application name	
EUNIS HABITAT CLASSIFICATION	
Application domain	
EU / international	Nature
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2007/2019
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The EUNIS habitat classification is a comprehensive pan-European system for habitat identification. The classification is hierarchical and covers all types of habitats from natural to artificial, from terrestrial to freshwater and marine. The habitat types are identified by specific codes, names and descriptions. The terrestrial and freshwater classification builds upon previous initiatives, notably the biotopes classification, the Palaearctic habitats classification, Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, the CORINE Land Cover nomenclature and the Nordic habitat classification.	
Illustration of application	
	
Policy domain of the application	
EU and global biodiversity strategies and the 7th Environmental Action Programme	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	

Moss, D. (1998): EUNIS habitat classification - Cross references between the EUNIS habitat classification and (i) Annex I of the EU Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) and (ii) the CORINE land cover nomenclature. Draft version, European Environment Agency

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/eunis-habitat-classification>

Urban related applications

Application name	
URBAN FORM	
Application domain	
EU / international	Urban
Responsible organisation / client	
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, Germany	2010
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Study analyses urban form with respect to landscape metrics and population-related indicators for 231 European cities. Correlations and factor analysis identify the most relevant urban form indicators. Furthermore, a cluster analysis groups European cities according to their urban form. The methodological aim of this study is to empirically reduce the number of indicators for urban form in Europe by analysing the relationships among urban form indicators. CORINE land cover dataset was used for the assessment of “sealed urban patches” spatial distribution.	
Illustration of application	

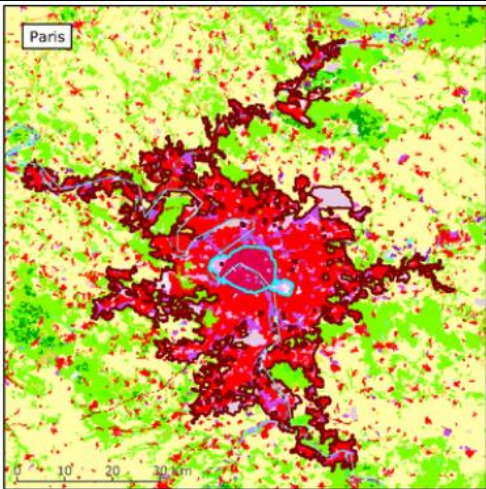
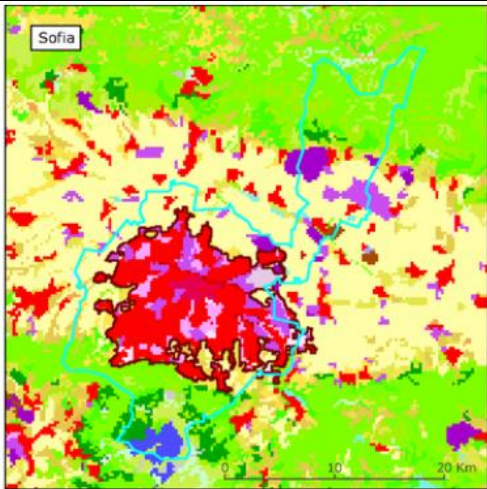


Policy domain of the application

Aalborg Charter of European Cities and Towns Towards Sustainability in 1994 (European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, ESCTC, 1994),
 European Spatial Development Perspective was adopted in 1999 (EC, 1999),
 Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (EC, 2006a)
 Cohesion policy with the explicit aim of managing urban sprawl (EC, 2006b).
 Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities and the Territorial Agenda (European Union, EU, 2007a, EU, 2007b)

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Nina Schwarz, Urban form revisited — Selecting indicators for characterising European cities, Landscape and Urban Planning, Volume 96, Issue 1, 2010, Pages 29-47, ISSN 0169-2046,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2010.01.007>

Application name											
URBAN MORPHOLOGICAL ZONES											
Application domain											
EU / international	Urban										
Responsible organisation / client											
EEA	2014										
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC											
An Urban Morphological Zone can be defined as “A set of built-up areas laying less than 200 m apart”. The data set is used to overcome the heterogeneity when trying to define the outline of an urban area based on administrative or legal criteria. Instead, it uses the concept of connected built-up areas. Urban morphological zones (UMZ) are defined by CORINE land cover classes considered to contribute to the urban tissue and function.											
Illustration of application											
  Different delineations: the administrative city and the Urban Morphological Zone (UMZ) <table> <tr> <td> Administrative city</td> <td> UMZ — Urban Morphological Zones</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Artificial surfaces</td> <td>Forest and seminatural areas</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agricultural areas</td> <td>Water bodies</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Administrative city	UMZ — Urban Morphological Zones	Artificial surfaces	Forest and seminatural areas			Agricultural areas	Water bodies		
Administrative city	UMZ — Urban Morphological Zones										
Artificial surfaces	Forest and seminatural areas										
Agricultural areas	Water bodies										
Policy domain of the application											
Urban sprawl											

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/urban-morphological-zones-2006-1>

Land cover and landscape changes

Application name

LANDSCAPES IN TRANSITION: AN ACCOUNT OF 25 YEARS OF LAND COVER CHANGE IN EUROPE

Application domain

EU / international

Environmental accounting / impact assessment

Responsible organisation / client

EEA

2019

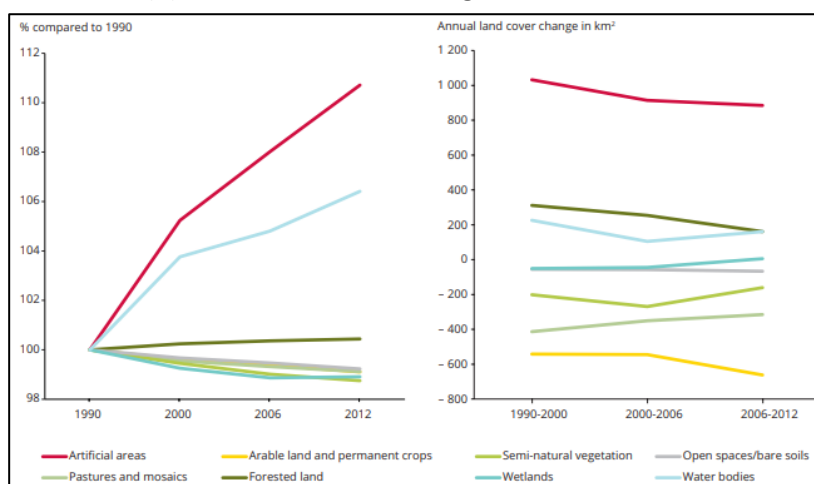
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC

The EEA report 'Landscapes in transition: an account of 25 years of land cover change in Europe,' takes a closer look at the emerging trends over the last two and a half decades in land use and their environmental impacts. The dominant trend is the continued and accelerating shift from rural to urban use, influenced mostly by economic activities and urban lifestyle demands — such as high mobility and consumption patterns. The land use change statistics are based on CLC data from 1990 to 2012.

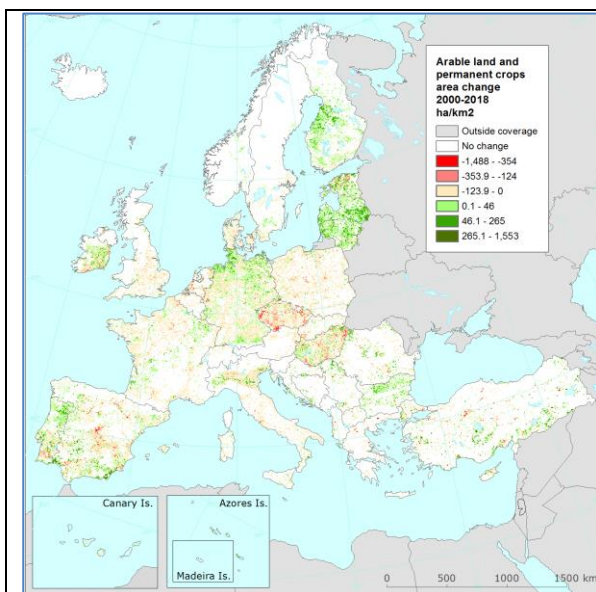
Illustration of application

Main trends in selected land cover categories over 22 years (based on 27 countries):

(a) % compared with 1990; (b) annual land cover change in km²



Policy domain of the application	
Sustainable development	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	
https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/landscapes-in-transition/at_download/file https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/unsustainable-land-use-threatens-european-landscapes	
Application name	
LAND AND ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS FOR EUROPE. TOWARDS GEOSPATIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING	
Application domain	
EU / international	Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2020
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Land and Ecosystem Accounting (LEAC) is an EEA initiative which is part of EEA's geospatial environmental accounting system. The EEA LEAC approach also supports the calculation of ecosystem accounts as proposed by the guidance issued by the United Nations Statistics Department on 'Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA). LEAC uses the CORINE Land Cover datasets as the basic layer for the long-term land accounting.	
Illustration of application	



Arable land and permanent crops gains and losses during the period 2000 – 2018, EEA39.

Policy domain of the application

Sustainable development

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Ivits et al. (2020): Land and ecosystem accounts for Europe Towards geospatial environmental accounting. ETC/ULS Report 02/2020.
<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-uls/products/etc-uls-report-02-2020-land-and-ecosystem-accounts-for-europe-towards-geospatial-environmental-accounting-1>

Application name

CHANGES AND FLOWS IN EUROPEAN LANDSCAPES 1990-2000

Application domain

EU / international

Land cover

Responsible organisation / client

Slovak Academy of Sciences

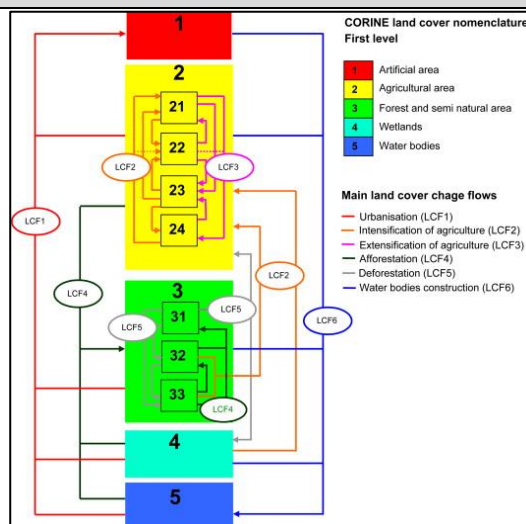
2010

Short description of the application, describing role of CLC

The study contains information about frequency and areas of CLC and their changes in the period 1990-2000, but above all in the processes - flows (LCF) that take place in the European landscape. Results of statistical analysis and maps demonstrate the frequency and rate (by two values: one above and another below the mean LCF rates) of the following processes: urbanisation (LCF1), intensification

of agriculture (LCF2), extensification of agriculture (LCF3), afforestation (LCF4), deforestation (LCF5) and construction of water bodies (LCF6).

Illustration of application



Policy domain of the application

Sustainable development

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Jan Feranec, Gabriel Jaffrain, Tomas Soukup, Gerard Hazeu. Determining changes and flows in European landscapes 1990–2000 using CORINE land cover data, Applied Geography, Volume 30, Issue 1, 2010, Pages 19-35, ISSN 0143-6228

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2009.07.003>

Application name

LAND COVER CHANGES AND SOIL FUNCTIONS. AN APPROACH FOR INTEGRATED ACCOUNTING

Application domain

EU / international

Urban
Agriculture
Forest
Soil
Environmental accounting / impact assessment

Responsible organisation / client

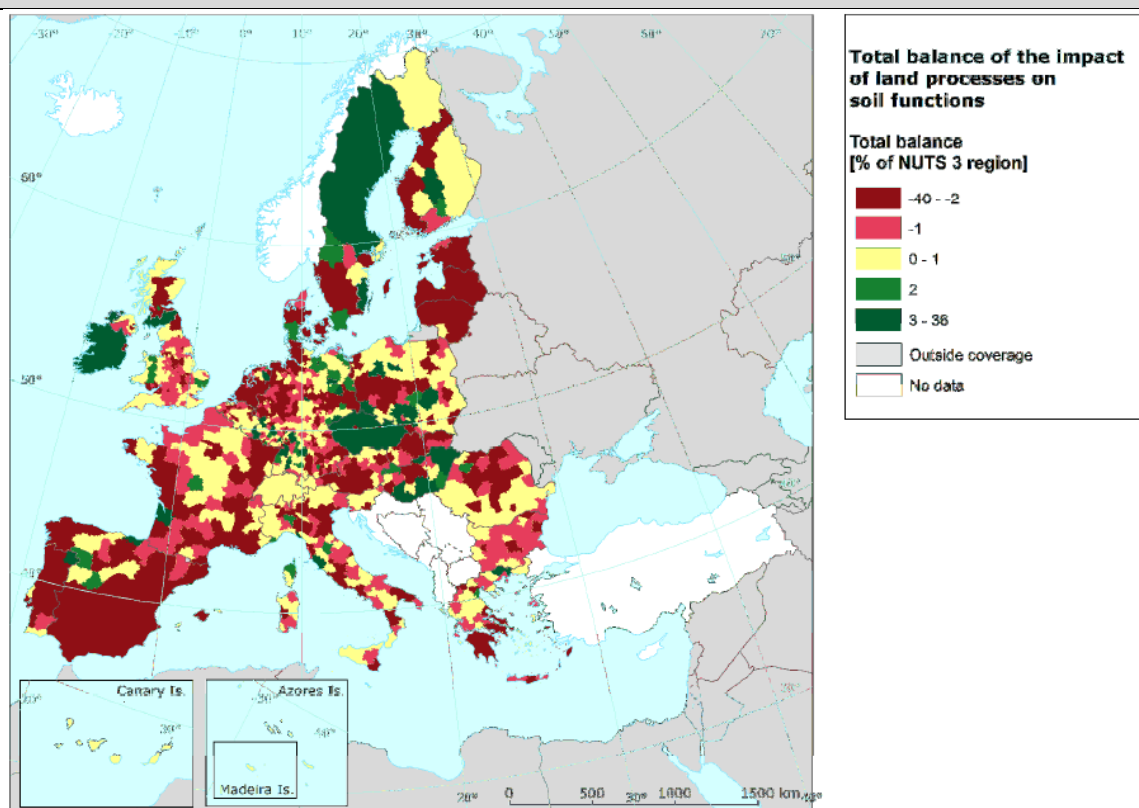
EEA

2018

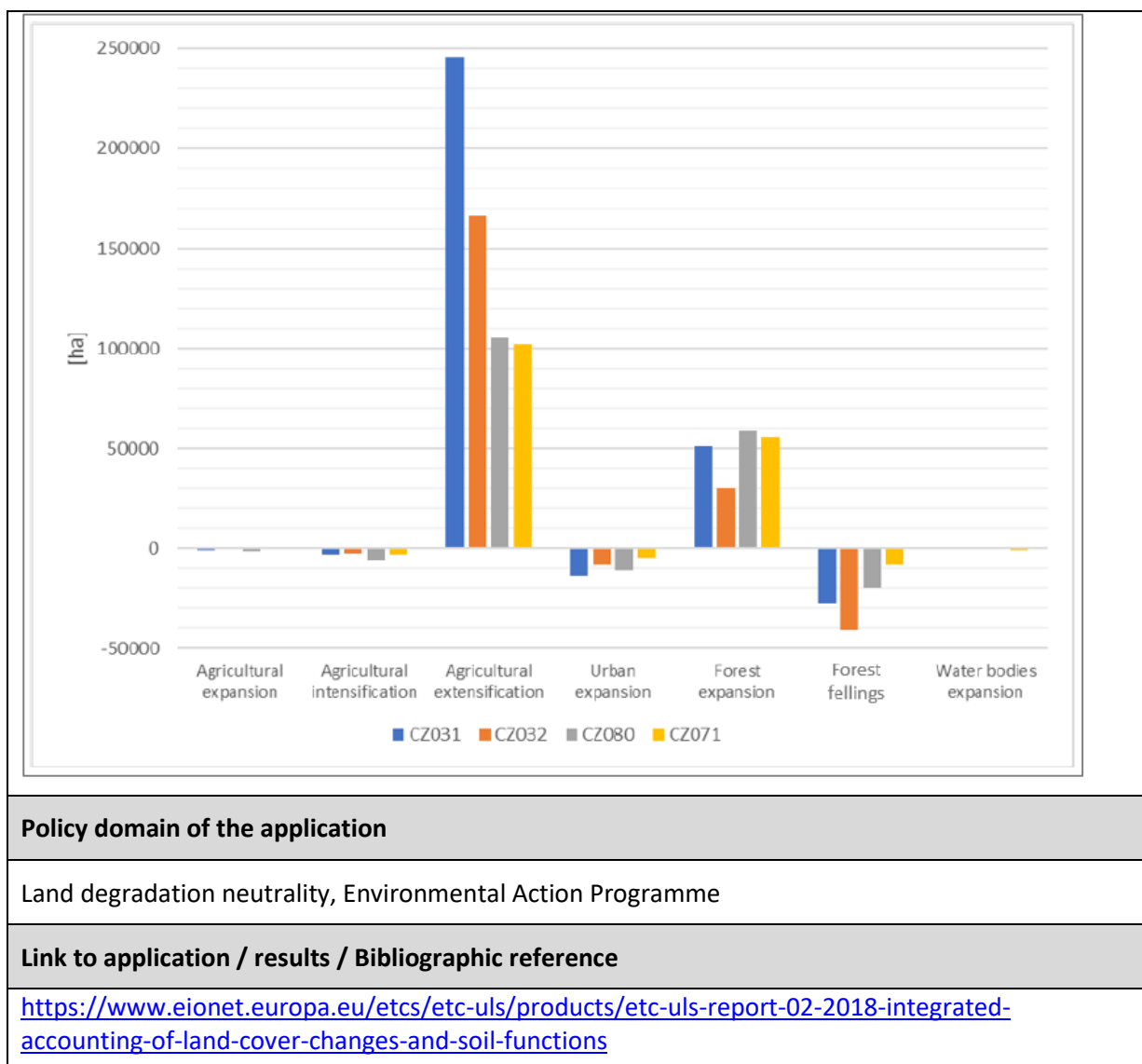
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC

The analysis represents the first attempt to assess land use efficiency at a European scale. Several new data sets relating specifically to soil functions, were published only recently, and this made assessment possible. A key aim of this work was to study land cover changes based on CLC and their positive or negative impacts on soil functions, and to obtain a disaggregated hotspot analysis and an overall balance of those impacts on soil functions.

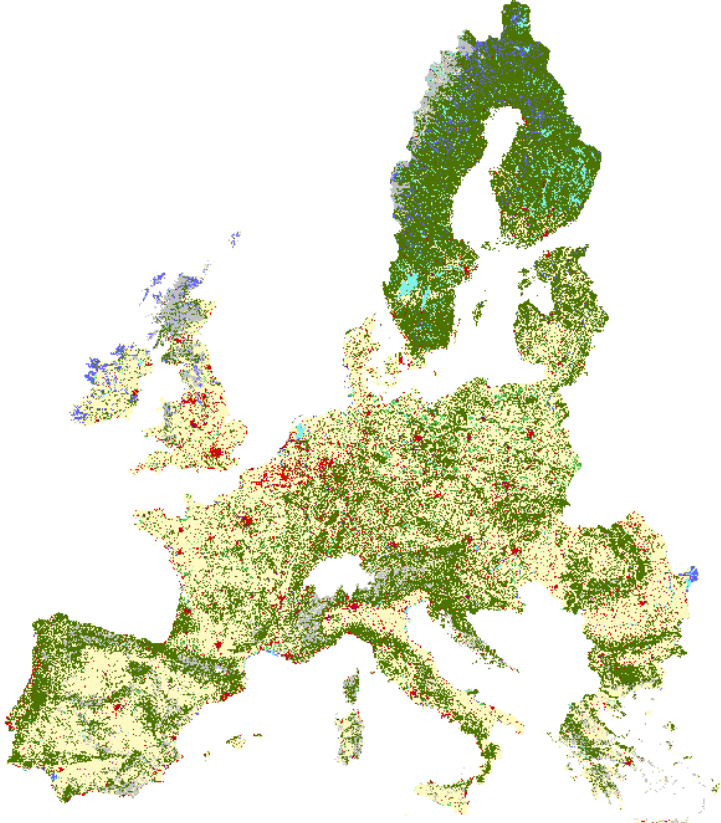
Illustration of application



Total impact of the various land processes on the aggregated soil functions (hectares) in four Czech NUTS 3 regions

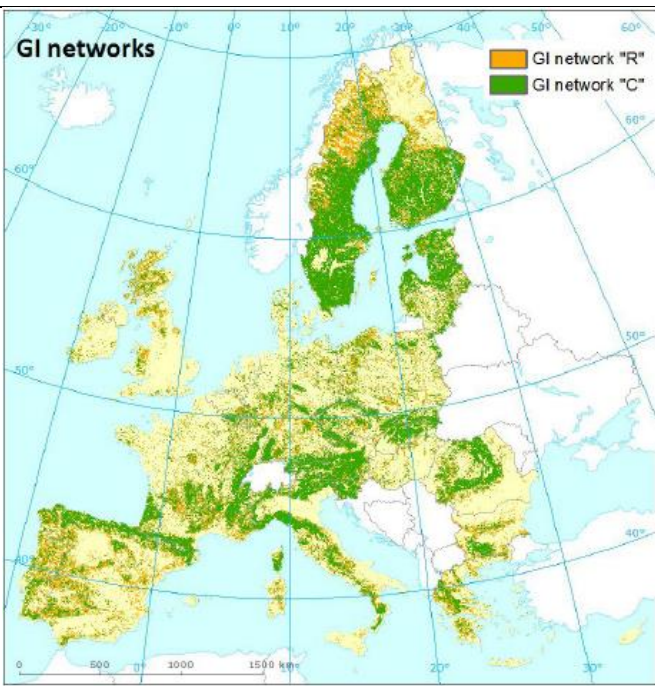


Application name	
LAND USE - BASED INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT (LUISA)	
Application domain	
EU / international	Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
JRC	2016
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
LUISA is best described as a platform with a LU model at its core, linked to other upstream and downstream models. LUISA was designed to yield, ultimately, a comprehensive, consistent, and harmonized analysis of the impacts of environmental, socioeconomic, and policy changes in Europe. As with many modelling tools, LUISA is not a forecasting model. The most meaningful and useful way to use it is by simulating two or more comparable scenarios. CLC data are the backbone of the LUISA platform. First and foremost, they describe the reference situation, based on which all model results are computed. Besides providing the base map for the LU projections, the CLC data are used for calibration and validation.	
Illustration of application	

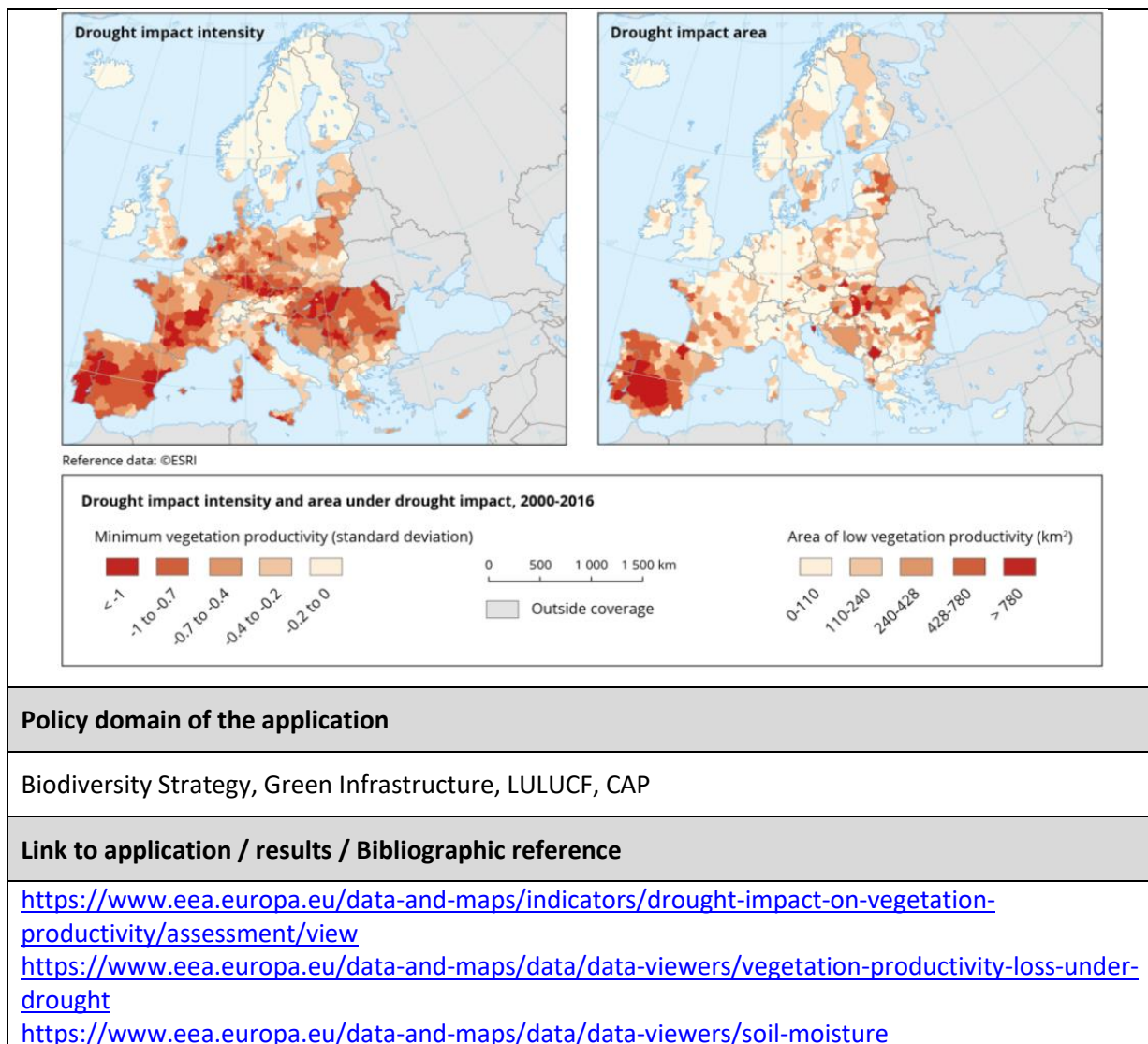
	LUISA output LU 2030
Policy domain of the application	
LUISA has been used for impact assessments related to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Lavalle et al., 2011c), Common Agricultural Policy (Lavalle et al., 2011b), Energy (shale gas and energy package) (Lavalle et al., 2013c), EU Water Blueprint (Burek et al., 2012; De Roo et al., 2012), Regional Policy (Batista e Silva et al., 2013a), and the Resource Efficiency Roadmap (Lavalle et al., 2013b).	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	
Carlo Lavalle, Filipe Batista e Silva, Claudia Baranzelli, Chris Jacobs-Crisioni, Ine Vandecasteele, Ana Luisa Barbosa, Joachim Maes, Grazia Zulian, Carolina Perpiña Castillo, Ricardo Barranco, and Sara Vallecillo, 2016. Land Use and Scenario Modeling for Integrated Sustainability assessment. In Feranec, J., Soukup, T., Hazeu, G. and Jaffrain, G., 2016. European Landscape Dynamics: CORINE Land Cover Data. CRC Press, Boca Raton, 337 Pages - 52 Color & 45 B/W Illustrations, ISBN 9781482244663.	

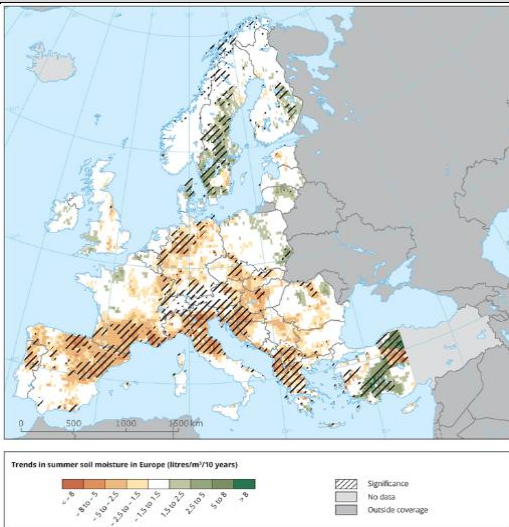
Other European applications

Application name	
SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN EUROPE	
Application domain	
EU / international	Biodiversity / nature conservation Environmental accounting / impact assessment Spatial planning
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2014
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Green infrastructure is a tool for providing ecological, economic and social benefits through natural solutions, helping to understand the advantages nature offers human society and to mobilise investments that sustain and enhance these benefits. The objective of the publication is to propose a feasible and replicable methodology for use by different entities and at varying scales, when identifying GI elements. The selected ecosystem services and the core habitat definition is to a large extent based on CLC data.	
Illustration of application	
Mapping of potential GI networks (R = potential restoration areas, C = potential conservation areas)	


Policy domain of the application
Biodiversity Strategy, Green Infrastructure
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference
EEA Technical Report No 2/2014 https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/spatial-analysis-of-green-infrastructure

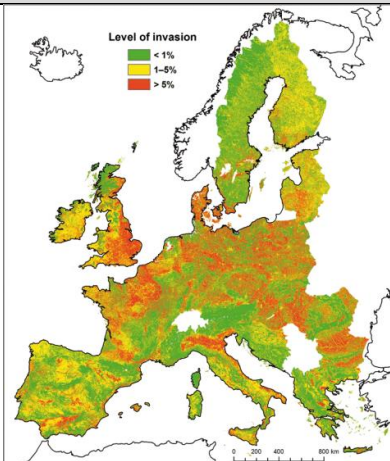
Application name	
VEGETATION RESPONSE TO WATER DEFICIT IN EUROPE	
Application domain	
EU / international	Water / marine / coastal Climate Biodiversity / nature conservation Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
EEA	2020
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Monitoring vegetation response to water deficit due to droughts is necessary to be able to introduce effective measures to increase the resilience of ecosystems in line with the EU's nature restoration plan — a key element of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030. The indicator addresses anomalies and long-term trends of vegetation productivity derived from remote sensing observed time series of vegetation indices in areas that are pressured by drought. CLC data has been used to identify areas where land cover / use change could have been the reason for vegetation response and not drought. In addition, the ecosystem types characterization of the impacts is also based on CLC accounting layers.	
Illustration of application	



Application name	
TREND IN SOIL MOISTURE	
Application domain	
Pan-European	Climate Agriculture
Responsible organisation / client	
European Environment Agency	2016
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Soil moisture is one of the Land and Soil indicators (LSI) developed by the European Environment agency to assess soil moisture content as a proxy for agricultural droughts. The indicator covers past trends and projections of soil moistures that are modelled at Pan-European scale. Land cover information from CORINE Land Cover 2006 was used to identify the type of land cover and to calculate the crop coefficient for three phenological stages (start, middle and end of season).	
Illustration of application	
	Soil moisture content was modelled using a soil moisture balance model in the upper soil horizons (up to 1 m).
Policy domain of the application	
• EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (COM/2013/216 final) • 7th Environment Action Programme • EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform - basic regulations	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	

Indicator assessment page: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/water-retention-4/assessment>

Indicator specifications: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/water-retention-4>

Application name	
EUROPEAN MAP OF ALIEN PLANT INVASIONS	
Application domain	
EU / international	Vegetation
Responsible organisation / client	
Masaryk University, Czech Republic	2009
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
In this study is combined the quantitative data on the proportion of alien species in different habitats of three regions with a land-cover map to construct the first map of the level of alien plant invasion for Europe. The highest levels of invasion were predicted for agricultural, urban and industrial land-cover classes, low levels for natural and semi-natural grasslands and most woodlands, and the lowest levels for sclerophyllous vegetation, heathlands and peatlands. The proportion of 33 habitat types were estimated in each CORINE land-cover class and calculated the level of invasion for each class. We projected the levels of invasion on the CORINE land cover map of Europe, extrapolating Catalanian data to the Mediterranean bioregion, Czech data to the Continental bioregion, British data to the British Isles and combined Czech-British data to the Atlantic and Boreal bioregions. The resulting map of the level of invasion reflected the distribution of these land cover classes across Europe.	
Illustration of application	
	

Policy domain of the application

EU policy on invasive alien species: the European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN)
<https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/easin>

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Chytrý, M., Pyšek, P., Wild, J., Pino, J., Maskell, L.C. and Vilà, M. (2009), European map of alien plant invasions based on the quantitative assessment across habitats. Diversity and Distributions, 15: 98-107. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.library.wur.nl/10.1111/j.1472-4642.2008.00515.x>

Application name

A POPULATION DENSITY GRID OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Application domain

EU / international

Population

Responsible organisation / client

JRC

2010

Short description of the application, describing role of CLC

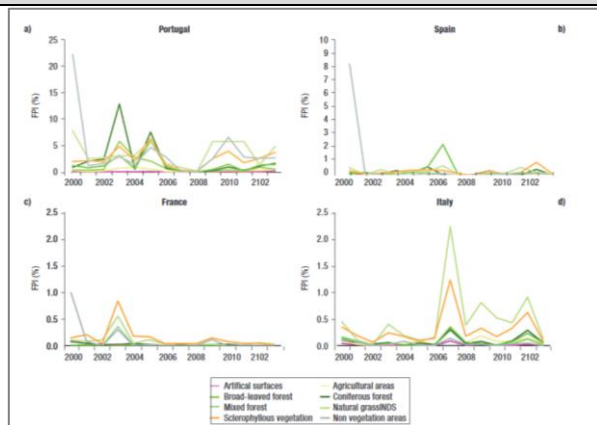
This study describes four methods used to produce dasymetric population density grids combining population data per commune with CORINE Land Cover. An accuracy assessment has been carried out for five countries for which a very reliable 1-km population density grid exists; the improvement, compared with the choropleth map per commune, ranges between 20% for the weakest result in Finland and 62% for the best result in the Netherlands. The best results are obtained with a method using logit regression to integrate information from the point survey LUCAS (Land Use/Cover Area frame Survey); however, performance differences between methods are moderate. The dasymetric grid is distributed free of charge by the European Environment Agency, for non-commercial use.

Illustration of application

Policy domain of the application	
European regional development policy	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	
Gallego, F.J. A population density grid of the European Union. Popul Environ 31, 460–473 (2010). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11111-010-0108-y	
Application name	
LAND COVER FIRE PRONENESS IN EUROPE	
Application domain	
Southern Europe / international	Nature
Responsible organisation / client	
Centre for the Research and Technology of Agro-Environmental and Biological Sciences (CITAB), Portugal	2014
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
This study aims to identify and characterize the spatial and temporal evolution of the fire incidence and of the vegetation types that are most affected by forest fires in Europe, with emphasis on the mixed forests. CORINE Land Cover maps for 2000 and 2006 (CLC2000, CLC2006) and burned area (BA) perimeters, from 2000 to 2013 in Europe are combined to access the spatial and temporal evolution of the types of vegetation that are most affected by fires. The spatial and temporal distribution of BA perimeters, vegetation and burnt vegetation by fires was performed and different statistics were obtained for Mediterranean and northern Europe, confirming the usefulness of the used land cover	

classification. A fire proneness index (FPI) is proposed to assess the fire selectivity of landcover classes, to quantify and compare the propensity of vegetation classes and countries to fire.

Illustration of application



Temporal evolution of FPI of some land cover classes for (a) Portugal, (b) Spain, (c) France, and (d) Italy.

Policy domain of the application

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92 of 23 July 1992 on protection of the Community's forests against fire.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992R2158>

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

PEREIRA, Mario Gonzalez; ARANHA, Jose; AMRAOUI, Malik. Land cover fire proneness in Europe. Forest Systems, [S.l.], v. 23, n. 3, p. 598-610, dec. 2014. ISSN 2171-9845.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5424/fs/2014233-06115>

National and regional applications

Application name

CORINE LAND-COVER MAPPING TO ESTIMATE CARBON STORED IN THE VEGETATION OF IRELAND

Application domain

National

Climate

Responsible organisation / client

School of Geography, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland

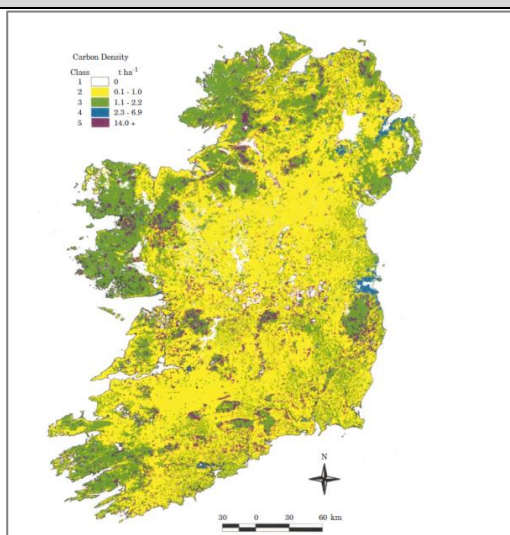
2000

Short description of the application, describing role of CLC

The CORINE land cover database for Ireland is used to estimate the amount of carbon stored (tonnes) by each land-cover (vegetation) type. Carbon store is the area of each CORINE land-cover type

multiplied by its carbon density (t C ha). Derivations of these carbon densities are described, and limitations of data and other empirical evidence discussed. The total vegetation-carbon stores are calculated for Northern Ireland (3.81 Mt), the Republic of Ireland (19.27 Mt) and Ireland (23.08 Mt).

Illustration of application



Policy domain of the application

LULUCF, climate

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

M.M. Cruickshank, R.W. Tomlinson and S. Trew, 2000. Application of CORINE land-cover mapping to estimate carbon stored in the vegetation of Ireland, Journal of Environmental Management Volume 58, Issue 4, April 2000, Pages 269-287. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jema.2000.0330>

Application name

A DIAGNOSTIC FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATING LANDSCAPES

Application domain

Sub-National

Landscape

Responsible organisation / client

Laboratory for Forest, Nature and Landscape Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Vital Decosterstraat 102, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

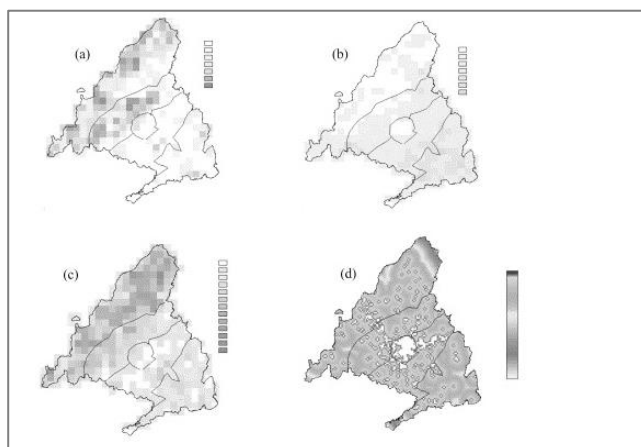
2001

Short description of the application, describing role of CLC

Land cover data are especially targeted as input source, since they are relatively unbiased in terms of landscape values and since they generally cover whole areas, not just target objects or conditions. The general evaluation model is based on quantifiable land cover and landscape structure characteristics. The process of landscape evaluation is an iterative improvement and refinement of indicators and reference data. Criteria and indicators have to be selected with reference to regional or local specificity and priorities. These indicators are translated into landscape metrics, which yield cartographic outputs of evaluation hypotheses of landscapes. The next step is to refine these hypotheses by adding information from complementary data sources. The importance of this study lies in a possible stimulation of the discussion of landscape values across areas, in the comparison of value perceptions between different regions, and in adding value to existing land cover data. Illustrations are given for the Madrid autonomous area. CORINE land cover data and a vegetation map have been as information source.

Illustration of application

Four examples of application of landscape indices for landscape evaluation. (a) Percentage of permanent vegetation cover per km² defined in a moving window of 25 km² (b) Heterogeneity of agricultural activity estimated as number of different agricultural land uses per km² defined in a moving window of 25 km², based on the CORINE land cover data. (c) Ecological diversity, estimated as number of natural and semi-natural vegetation communities, based on 1:50.000 vegetation map. (d) Degree of urbanisation, expressed as mean distance to built-up elements, based on the vegetation map.



Policy domain of the application

Landscape / Landscape Convention

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Hubert Gulinck, Marta Múgica, José Vicente de Lucio and José Antonio Atauric, 2001. A framework for comparative landscape analysis and evaluation based on land cover data, with an application in

the Madrid region (Spain). Landscape and Urban Planning, Volume 55, Issue 4, 10 August 2001, Pages 257-270. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-2046\(01\)00159-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-2046(01)00159-1)

Application name	
LANDSCAPE'S CAPACITIES TO PROVIDE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES – A CONCEPT FOR LAND-COVER BASED ASSESSMENTS	
Application domain	
Sub-national	Landscape, ecosystem services
Responsible organisation / client	
University of Kiel, Ecology Centre, Olshausenstr. 40; 24098 Kiel	2009
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
A concept for the assessment of multiple ecosystem services is proposed as a basis for discussion and further development of a respective evaluation instrument. Using quantitative and qualitative assessment data in combination with land cover and land use information originated from remote sensing and GIS, impacts of human activities can be evaluated. An exemplary application of the approach dealing with food provision in the Halle-Leipzig region in Germany is presented. CORINE LC is used as input data.	
Illustration of application	
Matrix for the assessment of the different land cover types capacities to provide selected ecosystem goods and services.	

	Ecological integrity	Σ	Abiotic heterogeneity	Biodiversity	Ecological efficiency	Energy Capture (Radiation)	Reduction of Nutrient loss	Storage capacity (SCM)	Provisioning services	Σ	Crops	Livestock	Fodder	Capture Fisheries	Aquaculture	Wild Foods	Timber	Wood Fuel	Energy (Biomass)	Biochemicals / Medicine	Freshwater	Regulating services	Σ	Local climate regulation	Global climate regulation	Flood protection	Biochemical regulation	Air Quality Regulation	Erosion Regulation	Nutrient Regulation	Water purification	Pollination	Cultural services	Σ	Recreation & Aesthetic values	Intrinsic Value of Biodiversity	
Continuous urban fabric	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Discontinuous urban fabric	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Industrial or commercial units	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Road and rail networks	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Port areas	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Airports	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Mineral extraction sites	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dump sites	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Construction sites	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Green urban areas	18	3	3	2	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sport and leisure facilities	16	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Non-irrigated arable land	22	3	2	3	4	5	1	4	21	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Permanently irrigated land	21	3	2	5	2	5	1	3	18	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ricefields	20	3	2	5	1	5	1	3	7	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vineyards	14	3	2	3	1	3	0	2	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fruit trees and berries	21	4	3	4	2	3	2	3	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	19	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	5	5	5	0	0	0		
Olive groves	17	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	7	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	5	5	0	0	0		
Pastures	24	2	2	4	5	5	2	4	10	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	1	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	
Annual and permanent crops	18	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	20	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	7	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Complex cultivation patterns	20	4	3	3	2	4	1	3	9	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Agriculture & natural vegetation	19	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	21	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	0	13	3	2	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	5	2	3	0	
Agro-forestry areas	27	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	14	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	0	0	0	
Broad-leaved forest	31	3	4	5	4	5	6	5	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	0	39	5	4	3	2	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	5	0	0	
Coniferous forest	30	3	4	4	4	5	6	5	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	0	39	5	4	3	2	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	5	0	0	
Mixed forest	32	3	5	5	4	5	6	5	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	0	39	5	4	3	2	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	5	0	0	
Natural grassland	30	3	5	4	4	4	5	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	22	3	1	1	0	5	5	5	0	6	3	3	0	0	0	
Moors and heathland	30	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	20	4	3	2	0	0	3	4	3	10	5	5	0	0	0	
Sclerophyllous vegetation	21	3	4	2	3	3	4	2	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	7	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	6	7	4	0	
Transitional woodland shrub	21	3	4	2	3	3	4	2	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	2	0	
Beaches, dunes and sand plains	10	3	3	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	2	0	0	
Bare rock	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	
Sparsely vegetated areas	9	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Burnt areas	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Glaciers and perpetual snow	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	3	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	
Inland marshes	25	3	2	4	4	4	3	5	7	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	2	4	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Peatbogs	29	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	24	4	5	3	3	0	0	3	4	2	8	4	4	0	0	
Salt marshes	23	2	3	4	3	3	3	5	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	0
Salines	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Intertidal flats	13	2	3	0	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	
Water courses	18	4	4	0	3	3	3	1	12	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	3	0	10	5	5	0	0
Water bodies	23	4	4	0	4	4	3	4	12	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	9	5	4	0	0
Coastal lagoons	25	4	4	0	5	5	3	4	16	0	0	0	4	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	4	0	0
Estuaries	21	3	3	0	5	5	3	2	17	0	0	0	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	7	4	3	0	0
Sea and ocean	15	2	2	0	3	3	4	1	11	0	0	1	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	6	4	2	0	0	0

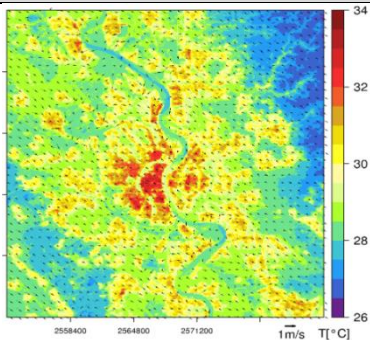
Policy domain of the application
Biodiversity Strategy
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference
B. Burkhard, F. Kroll, F. Müller & W. Windhorst, 2009. Landscapes' Capacities to Provide Ecosystem Services - a Concept for Land-Cover Based Assessments. Landscape Online 15, 1-22. DOI:10.3097/LO.200915

Policy domain of the application

Biodiversity Strategy

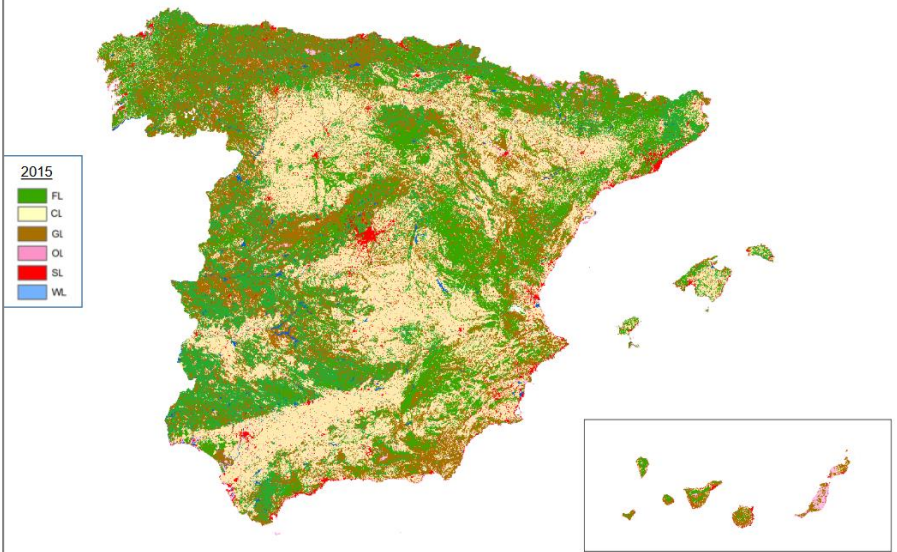
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

B. Burkhard, F. Kroll, F. Müller & W. Windhorst, 2009. Landscapes' Capacities to Provide Ecosystem Services - a Concept for Land-Cover Based Assessments. Landscape Online 15, 1-22. DOI:10.3097/LO.200915

Application name	
URBAN CLIMATE MODELLING	
Application domain	
National Sub-national	Urban Climate
Responsible organisation / client	
German Meteorological Service (DWD)	2018
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The German Meteorological Service (DWD) uses the urban climate model MUKLIMO_3 to do urban climate modelling and simulations that is based on high resolution geo-data that describe the morphology and structure of the urban areas. In their most recent update of the model, they have substituted urban land cover maps with land use data from CLMS, including HRLs (forest, imperviousness), Urban Atlas and CORINE Land Cover. DWD has created a seamless vector land cover data set by blending CORINE Land Cover and Urban Atlas data, adding the physical parameters degree of soil sealing and degree of forest cover from the HRLs and extracting elevation data from EU-DEM. The homogeneous data input allows for comparability of the results across Germany.	
Illustration of application	
 Urban climate simulation based on CLMS data (City of Cologne)	
Policy domain of the application	
Climate adaptation policies at local and national level, in line with the European Green Deal and EU Climate Action	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	
Heene, V.; Koßmann, M.; Fuchs, P., 2018: Copernicus-Daten für Stadtklimasimulationen. In I. Ehlert und C. Schweitzer (Hrsg.): Copernicus für das Umweltmonitoring - Eine Einführung. S. 38-42.	

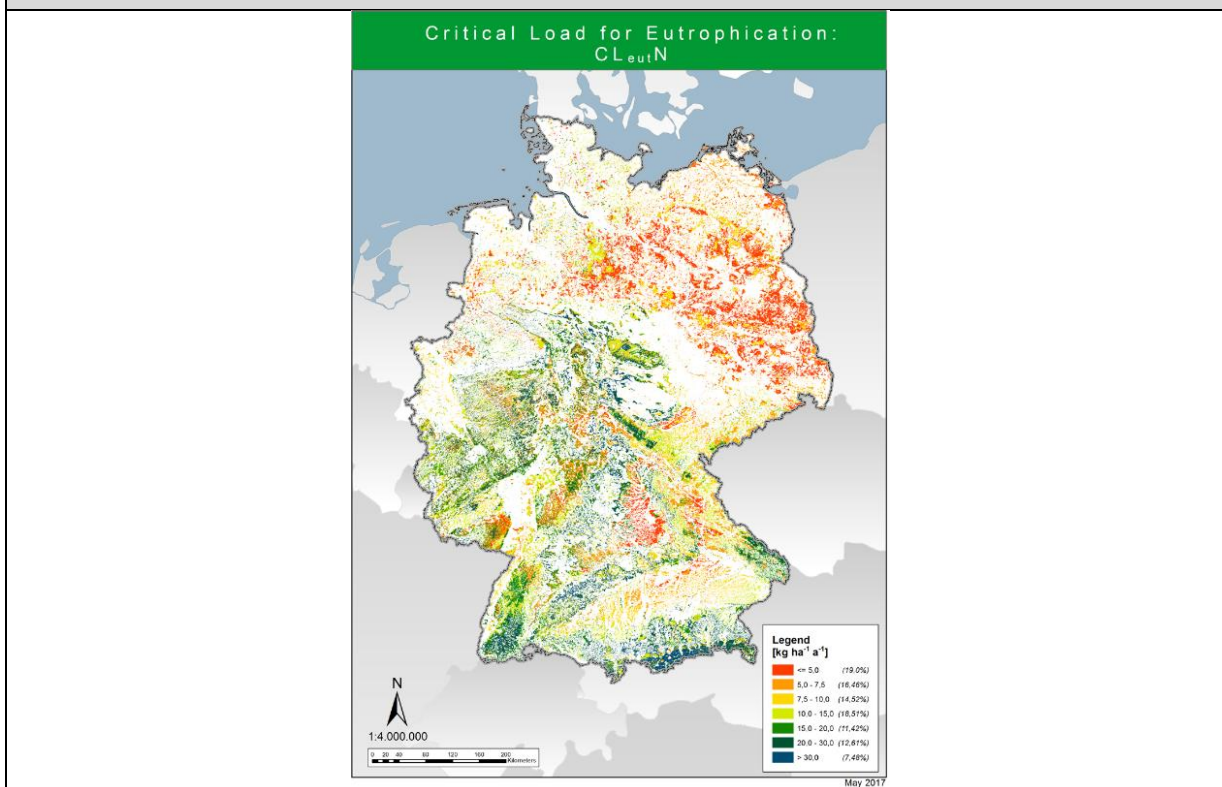
Schau-Noppel, H., Kossman, M., Buchholz, S. (2020): Meteorological information for climate-proof urban planning - The example of KLIMPRAX. Urban Climate 32. 100614. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.uclim.2020.100614>
MUKLIMO_3:
https://www.dwd.de/EN/ourservices/muklimo_thermodynamic/muklimo_thermodynamic.html

Application name	
LULUCF MAPPING	
Application domain	
National	Climate
Responsible organisation / client	
Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition (Miteco)	2019 (ongoing)
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition is preparing its national emission inventory to integrate spatially explicit data for LULUCF mapping over the coming years. Input data for the mapping is being collected from different national data repositories and inventories. CLC data is used to expand the time series and, in the future, CLC+ will be integrated to substitute national data sources.	
Illustration of application	
First LULUCF cartography for Spain	

LULUCF Cartography (1.0) 	
Policy domain of the application	
LULUCF regulation in 2018 (Regulation (EU) 2018/841)	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	
n/a	
Application name	
ECOSYSTEM-SPECIFIC CRITICAL LOADS FOR CLRTAP REPORTING	
Application domain	
EU / international / National	Climate Environmental accounting / impact assessment
Responsible organisation / client	
Umweltbundesamt Germany	2015
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
Within the framework of Germany's reporting obligations for the Convention on Long-range, Trans-boundary Air Pollution, a new German dataset for ecosystem-specific critical loads was made available to the European Co-ordination Center. For the first time the land use information was taken from the high-resolution CORINE Land Cover 2012 data set, that was merged with detailed soil and climate cartography for Germany, and deposition data. From the spatial intersection of the digital CORINE	

land use map, the differentiated soil survey map of Germany (BÜK1000N) and the climatic regions of BMBVS (2013), 1026 different combination types emerged for the German critical load dataset of 2017.

Illustration of application



Policy domain of the application

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Report (in German): <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/critical-load-daten-fuer-die-berichterstattung-2015>

Application name	
SDG MONITORING: SDG 15 “LIFE ON LAND”	
Application domain	
National	Urban Forest
Responsible organisation / client	
1. Government of Ireland 2. Institut national de la statistique e des etudes economiques	1. 2018 2. 2012
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The Sustainable Development Goal 15 “Life on Land” focusses on state and trends of terrestrial ecosystems. Spatially explicit data is highly relevant for different Goal 15 targets and their indicators. Several countries are adopting CORINE Land Cover as data source for their indicators, e.g.: - Ireland: SDG 15.1.1, Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area CORINE Land cover data from 2018 were used to calculate the percentage forest cover at Electoral Division level over Ireland. It uses the CLC classes for forests (31x). - France: SDG 15.3: Low impacted ecosystems Indicator 15.3 "Low impacted ecosystems" measures the share of the territory occupied by low impacted ecosystems. It thus makes it possible to know the relative part of the non-impacted territory and provides information on our ability to preserve and restore ecosystems and their functioning, especially if the indicator is monitored over a long period (several decades). This indicator corresponds to the sum of the areas of CORINE Land Cover classes 3xx, 4xx and 231, 243, 244, in other words forests and semi-natural environments (3xx), wetlands (4xx), meadows (231), cultural systems and parcels, complexes (243) and agroforestry areas (244).	
Illustration of application	



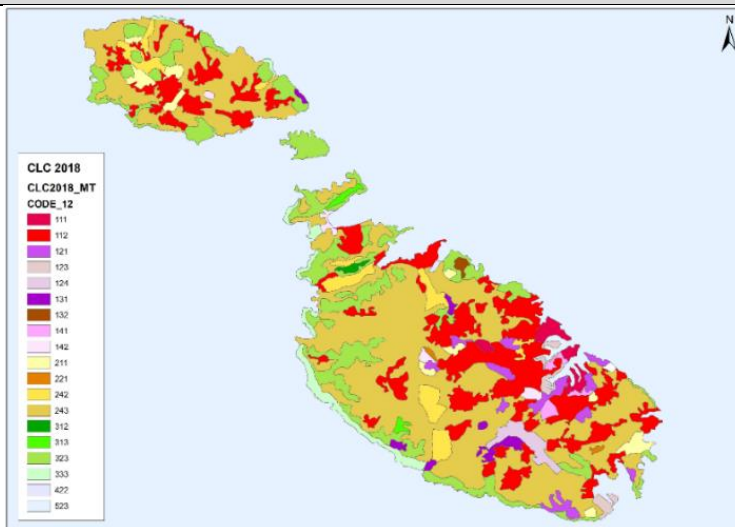
Percentage forest cover at Electoral Division level over Ireland by using CLC2018 (proxi to represent SDG 15.1.1)

Policy domain of the application

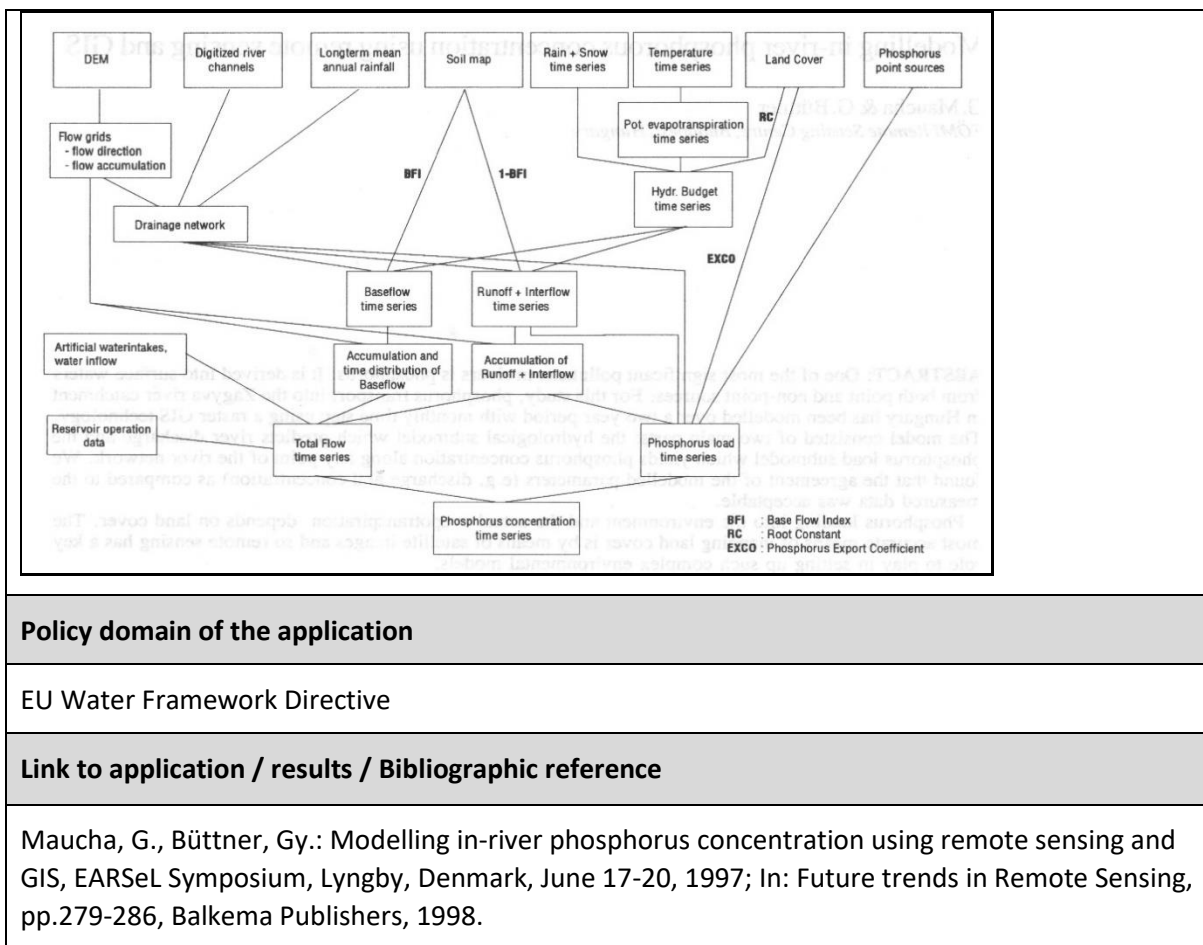
Sustainable Development Goals

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

- 1.Ireland: <https://irelandsdg.geohive.ie/datasets/sdg-15-1-1-forest-area-as-a-proportion-of-total-land-area-electoral-division-2018-ireland-epa-osi>
- 2.France: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/series/112963796?INDICATEUR-ODD=113764165> / file:///C:/Users/C_SCHR~1/AppData/Local/Temp/metadonnees-15.i3.pdf

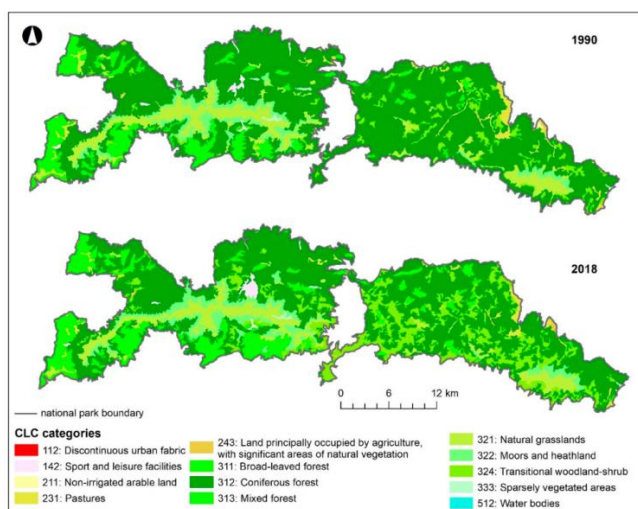
Application name	
PROGRESS ASSESSMENT FOR CBD TARGET 5	
Application domain	
National	Biodiversity
Responsible organisation / client	
ERA Malta	2018
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
CORINE Land Cover (CLC) information assists with understanding changes in land cover and monitoring large scale changes over long-time frames in the context of international reporting mechanism. The Environment Agency of Malta (ERA) uses CLC to assess the rate of loss of natural and semi-natural habitats of conservation value, using the percentage cover of “forests and semi-natural areas” and its changes between 2006 and 2018.	
Illustration of application	
	
Policy domain of the application	
UN Convention on Biological Diversity	
Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference	
https://chm.cbd.int/database/record?documentID=252721	

Application name	
MODELLING RIVER DISCHARGE AND PHOSPHORUS LOAD USING REMOTE SENSING AND GIS IN A RIVER CATCHMENT	
Application domain	
National / Central and Eastern European	hydrology, catchment modelling environment, phosphorus load
Responsible organisation / client	
EC Phare Programme Ministry of Environment, Hungary	1993-1996
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
One of the most significant pollutants in rivers is phosphorus. It is derived into surface waters from both point and non-point sources. Phosphorus transport into the Zagyva river catchment in Hungary has been modelled over a two-year period with monthly time steps using a raster GIS technology. The model consisted of two main parts: the hydrological sub-model, which predicts river discharge and the phosphorus load sub-model, which yields phosphorus concentration along any point of the river network. The agreement of the modelled parameters (e.g. discharge and concentration) as compared to the measured data was found to be acceptable. CLC has provided an input layer to complex GIS modelling: phosphorus load into the environment and the evapotranspiration depend on land cover.	
Illustration of application	
Functional flowchart of the model	



Application name	
MAPPING LAND COVER CHANGES IN THE LOW TATRAS NATIONAL PARK, SLOVAKIA	
Application domain	
national sub-national	environment, forestry nature protection
Responsible organisation / client	
Slovak Research and Development Agency Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic	1990-2018
Short description of the application, describing role of CLC	
The protection of nature and landscape in the high mountains of the Western Carpathians is at the forefront of society's interests in connection with the development of economy and mass tourism. The research was focused on analysing the extent and character of land cover changes in the Low Tatras National Park (Slovakia) over the last 30 years (1990–2018) using CORINE Land Cover (CLC) data. It was possible to evaluate the landscape changes in the protected area and to identify barriers and possibilities of their long-term sustainable development. Based on computer modelling, the main areas of land cover change were identified, and based on historical-geographical and field research, land cover flows were determined and justified in the studied landscape. Land cover changes occurred on up to 20% of the national park area in the given period. The most significant change was observed in the CLC class coniferous forests, with almost a 12% decrease. Conversely, there was an increase of more than 11% in the CLC class transitional woodland-shrub. Wind calamities were the main reason of these forestry changes between 1990 and 2018. Their destructive power stems from improper forest management combined with anthropogenic climate change.	
Illustration of application	

Land cover of Low Tatras National Park in 1990 and 2018



Policy domain of the application

nature protection, forestry

Link to application / results / Bibliographic reference

Žoncová, M., Hronček, P. and Gregorová, B.: Mapping of the Land Cover Changes in High Mountains of Western Carpathians between 1990–2018: Case Study of the Low Tatras National Park (Slovakia)
Land 2020, 9(12), 483; <https://doi.org/10.3390/land9120483>