

Terrestrial

CSI 014 Land take

Indicator definition:

Increase in the amount of agriculture, forest and other semi-natural and natural land taken by urban and other artificial land development. It includes areas where soil is sealed by construction and urban infrastructure as well as urban green areas and sport and leisure facilities.

Key policy question:

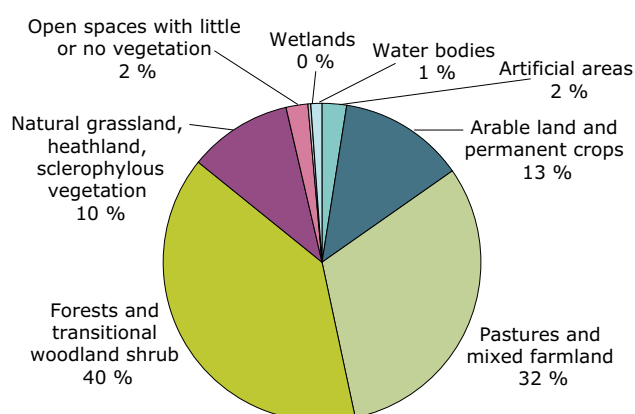
How much and in what proportions is agricultural, forest and other semi-natural and natural land being taken for urban and other artificial land development?

Past and present trends

Key message:

The Western Balkans regional data indicates that in 2000, according to the Corine Land Cover (CLC) methodology, 39 % of the land was covered by forests and transitional woodland shrub, while 31 % was covered by mixed farmland. Arable land and permanent crops accounted for 13 % in the same year, while artificial areas covered 2 %.

Land cover by category in the Western Balkans, 2000



Note: The figures presented do not show the change in land taken by urban and other artificial areas, but the proportion of land-cover categories as a result of a single series of satellite images by the Corine Land Cover (CLC) studies in 2000. The information for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina has been estimated by performing a rudimentary colour pixel count over the 2000 pre-processed CLC images of the countries in order to be able to include them in the land cover study along with Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Assessment:

In the last 15 years, a major human migration was observed in Western Balkans countries, caused by war and economic restructuring. The countries have experienced a shift from the countryside to urban and coastal areas, thus creating pressure on public services and infrastructure.

Across the Western Balkans, the figures indicate that 39 % of the land was covered by forests and transitional woodland shrub, while 31 % was covered by mixed farmland in 2000 according to the CLC 2000. Arable land and permanent crops accounted for 13 % of land that year, while artificial areas covered 2 %.

New legislation for physical planning and construction has been put in place in Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, however enforcement is often poor. Physical planning needs to gain importance on political agendas and should include attention to key elements such as biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources.

Source: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina: CLC 2000, CLC changes 1990–2000; the Croatian Environment Agency (CEA). Year 2000 pre-processed CLC images, along with a color code list: <http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/atlas/viewdata/viewpub.asp?id=3211>. Croatia: CLC 2000, the Croatian Environment Agency (CEA). The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: CLC 2000; the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. Serbia: CLC 2000, CLC90-00 ETC/TE; 'Corine Land Cover mapping - Serbian experience' study, 2007, Ivan Nestorov, Ph.D., M.Sc., Geod. Eng. Dragutin Protić, Geod. Eng.

Temporal coverage: 2000.

Spatial coverage: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia.

