

DEFINITIONS FOR TABLE 1

AGRICULTURAL AREAS (UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREAS)

1. Arable land (Areas under arable crops)

Cultivated areas regularly ploughed and generally under a rotation system, including fallow land. It includes cereals, legumes, industrial plants, root crops, potatoes, nodules, sugar-beets, vegetables (melons, strawberries, asparagus and artichokes), greenhouses, aromatic, medicinal and culinary plants, annual or vivacious fodder crops. It also includes flower and tree (nurseries) cultivation, decorative plants and seedlings.

2. Permanent crops (Areas under permanent crops)

Crops under a rotation system, which provide repeated harvests and occupy the land for a long period before it is ploughed and replanted, mainly plantations of woody crops. Including olives groves, fruit trees and berry plantations, chestnut and walnut groves, vineyards. Excluding pastures, grazing lands and forests.

3. Pastures (Areas under meadow or pasture)

Dense, predominantly graminoid grass cover, or floral composition, not under a rotation system. Mainly used for grazing, but the fodder may be harvested mechanically. Including areas with hedged (bocage).

These areas also include natural grassland, i.e., low productivity grassland often situated in areas of rough uneven ground, used for grazing.

4. Heterogeneous agricultural areas (Areas with mixed uses-mixed farmland)

Annual crops associated with permanent crops, complex cultivation patterns, agricultural areas with significant portion of natural vegetation and agro-forestry areas. Therefore they include:

- Temporary crops (arable land or pasture) associated with permanent crops on the same parcel.
- Juxtaposition of small parcels of diverse annual crops, pasture and/or permanent crops.
- Farmland interrupted by natural or forest vegetation.

FORESTS AND SEMI-NATURAL AREAS

5. Forests (Forested areas)

Vegetation formation composed principally of trees (broad-leaved or coniferous), including shrub and bush understories. Including also plantations of poplar trees, acacias, chestnut trees and walnut trees for wood production, i.e., forests of broad-leaved trees, forests of coniferous trees, broad-leaved or coniferous kinds of trees with bushy vegetation.

6. Transitional woodland/shrub

Bushy or herbaceous vegetation with scattered trees, which can represent either woodland degradation or forest regeneration/colonization.

7. Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation associations. (Areas with mixed shrub/grassy vegetation)

Moors and heathland, i.e., vegetation with low and closed cover, dominated by bushes, shrubs and herbaceous plants (health, briars, broom, gorse, laburnum, etc.). Including sclerophyllous vegetation, as well as maquis and garrigue (see note). This category also includes transitional woodland/shrub areas, i.e., bushy or herbaceous vegetation with scattered trees, which can represent either woodland degradation or forest regeneration/colonization.

8. Open spaces with little or no vegetation (Areas with little or no vegetation)

Sparsely vegetated areas. Including areas affected by recent fires, still mainly black. Also including beaches, dunes and expanses of sand or pebbles in coastal or continental locations, bare rock.

SURFACES UNDER WATER

9. Inland waters

Natural or artificial water-courses serving as water drainage channels, including canals (minimum width 100m). Natural or artificial stretches of water. Under convention, banks (e.g. sandy or rocky) are considered as boundaries even in absence of water during the data collection.

10. Inland wetland

Non-wooded areas either partially, seasonally or permanently waterlogged. The water may be stagnant or circulating. Including inland marshes, areas covered by a thick layer of stagnant water with typical hydrophilic vegetation.

11. Coastal wetlands

Non-wooded areas either tidally, seasonally or permanently waterlogged with brackish or saline water. Including salt marshes and saltpans, active or in process of abandonment. This category also includes coastal lagoons (unvegetated stretches of salt or brackish waters separated from the sea by a tongue of land or other similar topography and can be connected with the sea at limited points, either permanently or for parts of the year only), as well as estuaries and intertidal flats.

ARTIFICIAL SURFACES (MAN-MADE AREAS)

12. Urban fabric (Built-up areas - urban agglomerations)

Most of the land is covered by structures. Buildings, roads and artificially surfaced areas, either cover almost all the ground (continuous urban fabric) or are associated with vegetated areas and bare soil, which occupy discontinuous, but significant surfaces (discontinuous, urban fabric). Small villages or isolated built up areas are also included.

13. Industrial and commercial units (Industrial or commercial zones)

Artificially surfaced areas (with concrete, asphalt, tarmacadam, or stabilized, e.g., Breton earth) devoid of vegetation, industrial, commercial, stockbreeding installations, for example schools, public services, hospitals, military grounds, campuses, malls, fisheries.

14. Transport units (Communication networks)

Motorways, railways and all the associated installations, such as stations, platforms, embankments (minimum width 100m). Infrastructure for port areas, including quays, dockyards and marinas. Airport installations, such as runways, buildings and associated land.

15. Mine, dump and construction sites (Mines, waste disposal sites and construction sites)

Mineral extraction sites, i.e., areas with open-pit extraction of industrial minerals (sandpits, quarries) or other minerals (opencast mines). Including flooded gravel pits, except for river-bed extraction. Landfill or mine dump sites, industrial or public. Spaces under construction development, soil or bedrock excavations, earthworks.

16. Artificial, non-agricultural vegetated areas, sport and cultural activity sites (Artificial or non-agricultural green areas)

Areas with vegetation within urban fabric but distinguished from it, such as parks and cemeteries with vegetation. Sport and leisure facilities, such as camping grounds, sports grounds, leisure parks, golf courses, racecourses, etc. Formal parks not surrounded by urban zones. Archaeological sites, as well as cultural activity sites are included in this category.

Note :

Maquis = a dense vegetation association composed of numerous shrubs associated with siliceous soils in the Mediterranean environment.

Garrigue = discontinuous bushy associations of Mediterranean calcareous plateaus. Generally composed of kermes oak, arbutus, lavender, thyme, cistus, etc. Possibly including a few isolated trees.