

Indicator Factsheet: Proportion of land use classes

Indicator: Land use composition

Sub-indicator: Proportion of land use classes

Description	The indicator describes the composition of land use based on the proportion of land area occupied by individual agricultural land use classes. The calculation is carried out at different levels of aggregation for selected land use classes whose relevance to biodiversity is known and recognised. The proportion of land is calculated, depending on the data source and land use class, in relation to the total agricultural (pTAL _i), utilised agricultural area (pUAA _i), or open landscape (pOL _i).
Data basis	Remote sensing: Mapping (nationwide) of open land use (Blickensdörfer et al. 2022), field boundaries derived from image segmentation (Tetteh et al. 2021). For the classification catalogue, see Appendix II (Level 2). Agricultural data: Crop type and other land use, including geometries (field blocks or parcels) from IACS (nationwide) and the Thünen Agricultural Atlas at the municipal level.
Calculation	$pTAL_i = \frac{a_i}{A_{TAL}} \{[0,1]\}$ $pUAA_i = \frac{a_i}{A_{UAA}} \{[0,1]\}$ $pOL_i = \frac{a_i}{A_{OL}} \{[0,1]\}$ a = Area of class i; A_{TAL} = Area of total agricultural land; A_{LF} = Area of utilised agricultural area (LF); A_{OL} = Area of open landscape
Report level	Coverage: National; Resolution: Hexagons (100 ha, proportion of open landscape > 25%); Reference area: Respective land category (TAL, UAA, OL)
Reporting period/interval	from 1999 (agricultural statistics), 2010 (IACS), and 2017 (remote sensing), respectively / annually
Interpretation	For certain land use classes (e.g., flower strips, fallow land), a higher proportion within the currently observed range of values is associated with higher ecological value. For other classes (e.g., maize, winter cereals), the correlation between area proportion and ecological value is negative for the majority of the observed range of values. The different data sources allow the indicator to be considered for different or complementary reference areas (TAL, UAA, OL).
Limitations	The selection of classes is limited to the dominant crop types in Germany (winter wheat or winter cereals, maize, winter rapeseed) as well as to land use classes with a generally high ecological value (fallow land, flowering areas) and permanent grassland. The indicator is only presented for reference units whose share of the open landscape is at least 25%.
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