

EUNIS Habitat types based on CORINE land cover data

Background

A land cover map, such as the CORINE land cover map, is not designed explicitly to explain the spatial distribution of biodiversity.

However CORINE land cover data can be interpreted to give an approximation of major habitat types and their connectivity in space in Europe. This interpretation was done by the ETC Nature Conservation in 1998, creating a correspondence between CORINE land cover and the EUNIS Habitats classification.

Methodology

Scientific references

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

Concept

The purpose of the EUNIS habitat type maps, the overview map of 10 habitat classes and the separate broad habitat type maps is to use CORINE land cover (CLC) to explain the spatial distribution of EUNIS habitat types in Europe.

For the overview map CORINE land cover classes are transformed into habitat types with a conversion table and the distribution of the 10 EUNIS habitat types is drawn.

Data input

The base for the creation of the EUNIS habitat map is the extended CORINE land cover database (LCALL250).

A lookup table with the correspondence between EUNIS and extended CORINE land cover classes were made, containing the following information:

CORINE land cover class	EUNIS Habitat types
4.2.3, 5.2.3	A Marine habitats (1)
3.3.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.1, 4.2.1	B Coastal and halophytic habitats (2)
5.1.2, 5.1.1	C Freshwater aquatic habitats (3)
4.1.1, 4.1.2	D Wetland habitats (4)
1.4.2, 3.2.1, 3.3.3, 2.3.1	E Grassland habitats (5)
2.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3	F Heathland and scrub habitats (6)
2.2.2, 2.2.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.4	G Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded lands (7)
3.3.2, 3.3.4, 3.3.5	H Inland sparsely vegetated or unvegetated habitats (8)
1.4.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4	I Regularly or recently cultivated habitats and gardens (9)
1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 4.2.2	J Constructed industrial and other artificial habitats (10)

Table : CORINE land cover classes aggregated into EUNIS habitat types

Actions

Step 1:

Creation of an ARC/INFO look-up-table according to Table 6.

Step 2:

The EUNIS habitat types are drawn according to its corresponding land cover classes. Regions which are not covered by CORINE land cover data are indicated in light grey.