Country fact sheet

Land cover 2012

Albania

September 2017

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European Environment Agency

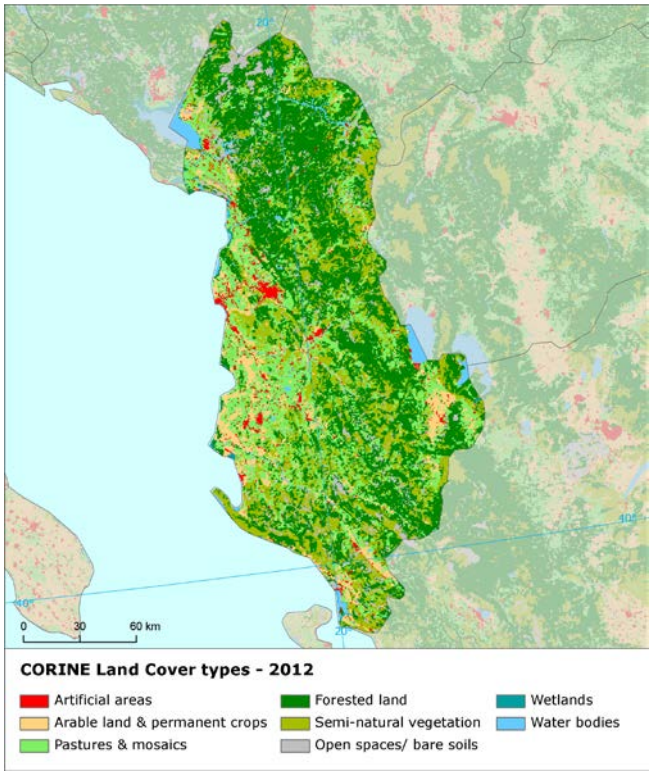
Albania

Land cover 2012

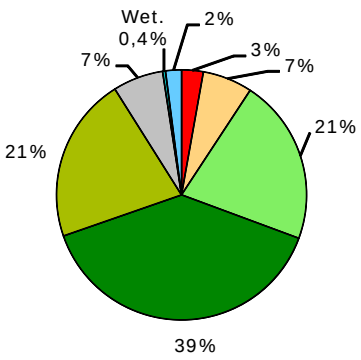
Overview of land cover & change 2006-2012

With an annual land cover change rate of 0.11%, the overall pace of landscape development in Albania is much slower, compared to the previous period 2000-2006. This rate also means, that the intensity of land cover development in Albania is about half of the European average.
The development is driven mostly by changes due to natural and multiple causes, represented in particular by forest and shrub fires, and forest creation and management, mostly recent felling and transition. On the other hand, the intensity of urban residential sprawl, which was the main driver of land cover change in previous period, decreased rapidly and the artificial development is driven only by sprawl of economic sites and infrastructures in the period 2006-2012. This means also rapid decrease of overall sprawl intensity, compared to the previous period. The value of annual land take rate fell from 4.69% in 2000-2006 to 0.47% in 2006-2012, which, however, is still slightly above the European average.

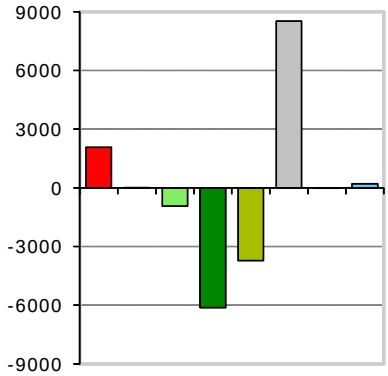
Note: The results presented here are based on a change analysis of 44 land cover types mapped consistently on a 1:100.000 scale across Europe over more than a decade, between 2000-2006-2012 - see Corine land cover (CLC) programme for details.
Number of years between CLC2006-CLC2012 data for Albania: 6



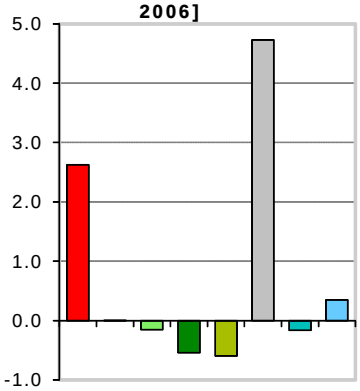
1.1. Land cover 2012 [% of total]



1.2. Net change in land cover 2006-2012 [ha]



1.3. Net change in land cover [% of initial year 2006]



Artificial areas | Arable land & permanent crops | Pastures & mosaics | Forested land
Semi-natural vegetation | Open spaces / bare soils | Wetlands | Water bodies

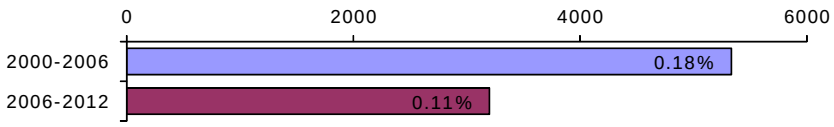
Summary balance table 2006-2012

	Artificial areas	Arable land & permanent crops	Pastures & mosaics	Forested land	Semi-natural vegetation	Open spaces / bare soils	Wetlands	Water bodies	TOTAL [hundreds ha]
Land cover 2006	**792**	**1864**	**6204**	**11360**	**6227**	**1801**	**109**	**592**	**28948**
Consumption of initial LC	3.6	5.0	11.1	128.5	37.9	5.3	0.2	0.5	192
Formation of new LC	24.4	5.0	1.7	67.2	0.6	90.5	0.0	2.6	192
Net Formation of LC	**20.8**	**0.0**	**-9.4**	**-61.3**	**-37.2**	**85.2**	**-0.2**	**2.1**	**0**
Net formation as % of initial year	*2.6*	*0.0*	*-0.2*	*-0.5*	*-0.6*	*4.7*	*-0.2*	*0.3*	
Total turnover of LC	**28.0**	**10.0**	**12.8**	**195.7**	**38.5**	**95.8**	**0.2**	**3.1**	**384**
Total turnover as % of initial year	*3.5*	*0.5*	*0.2*	*1.7*	*0.6*	*5.3*	*0.2*	*0.5*	*1.3*
Land cover 2012	**813**	**1864**	**6194**	**11298**	**6190**	**1886**	**109**	**594**	**28948**

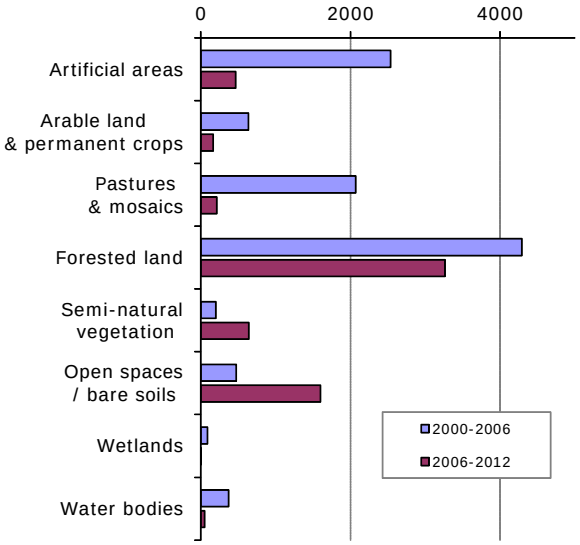
Albania

Land cover trends comparison 2000-2006 vs. 2006-2012

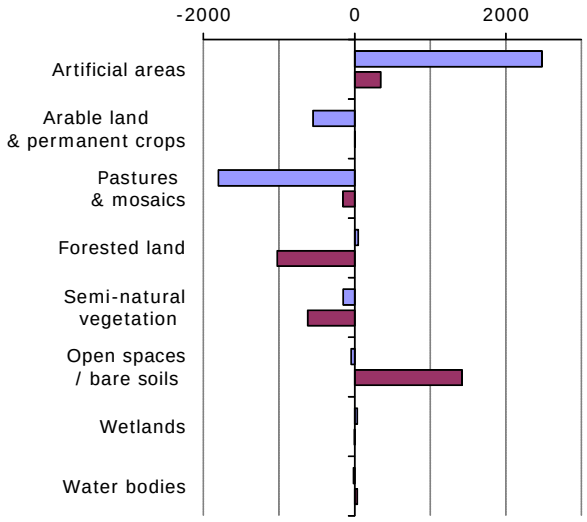
2.4. Annual land cover change [ha/year, % of total area]



2.5. Annual turnover of LC types [ha/year]

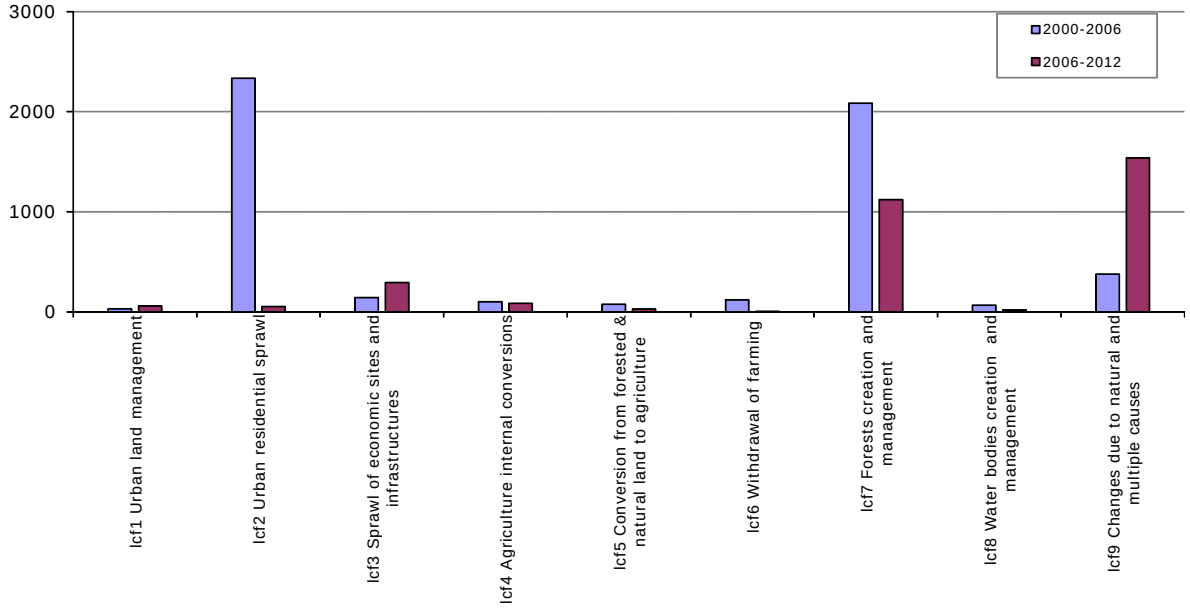


2.6. Net annual change of LC types [ha/year]



Summary trend figures	2000-2006	2006-2012
Annual land cover change [ha/year]	**5335**	**3201**
Annual land cover change as % of initial year	**0.18%**	**0.11%**
Land uptake by artificial development as mean annual change [ha/year]	2480	349
Agricultural land uptake by urban and infrastructures development as mean annual change [ha/year]	2280	176
Net uptake of forests and semi-natural land by agriculture as mean annual change [ha/year]	-44	23
Net conversion from pasture to arable land and permanent crops as mean annual change [ha/year]	-26	38
Forest & other woodland net formation as mean annual change [ha/year]	48	-1022
Dry semi-natural land cover net formation as mean annual change [ha/year]	-173	799
Wetlands & water bodies net formation as mean annual change [ha/year]	17	32

2.7. Intensity of main change drivers (LC FLOWS) [ha/year]



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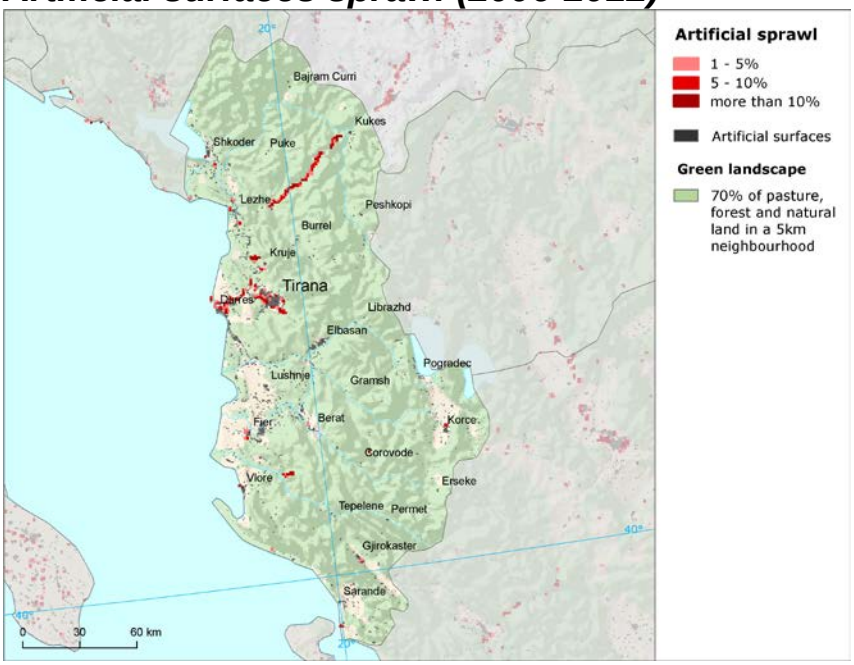
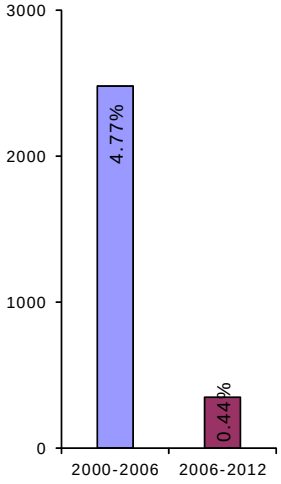
Artificial surfaces sprawl (2006-2012)



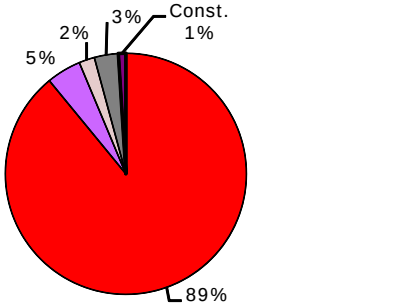
3.8. Artificial land take [ha/year, % of initial year]



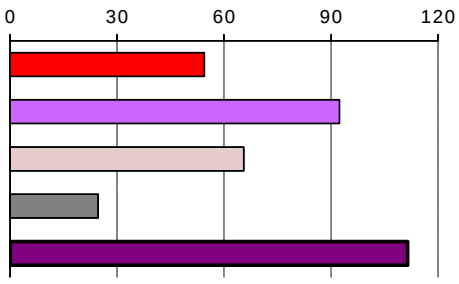
Huge slowdown of residential development

The artificial development in Albania encountered a huge slowdown, compared to the previous period. This is caused by slowdown of residential sprawl, which was the main driver of urban land take as well as of overall land cover development in the country during the previous period. The residential sprawl was concentrated in the western part of the country, with smaller concentrations on the east and south. In the period 2006-2012, the sprawl was driven mostly by construction of highways in the northern part of the country and also by extension of industrial and commercial units in the surroundings of the capital city of Tirana and also around the Durres city, located on the Adriatic seashore near Tirana.

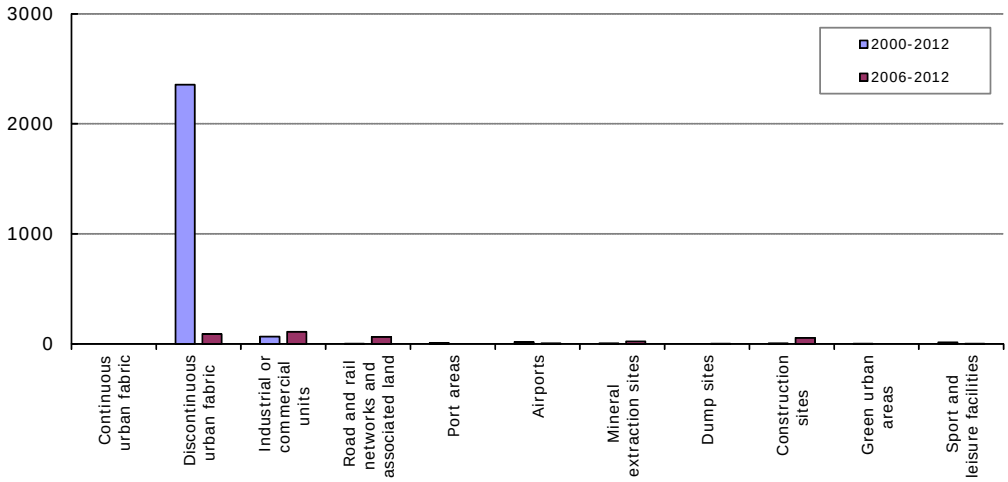
3.9. Artificial surfaces 2012 [% of total area]



3.10. Artificial land take 2006-2012 [ha/year]

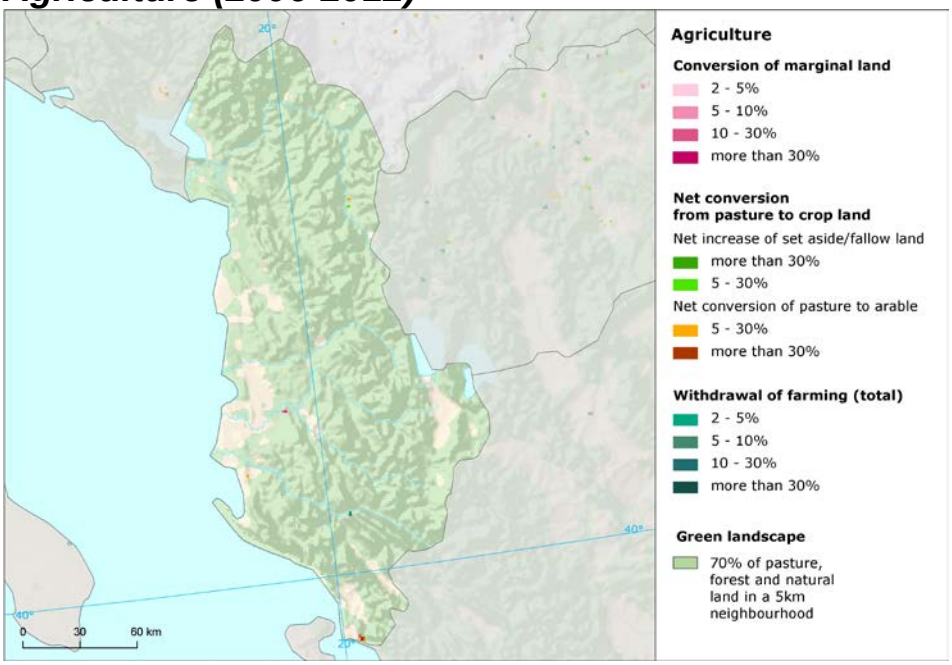


3.11. Mean annual artificial change by class [ha/year]



Albania

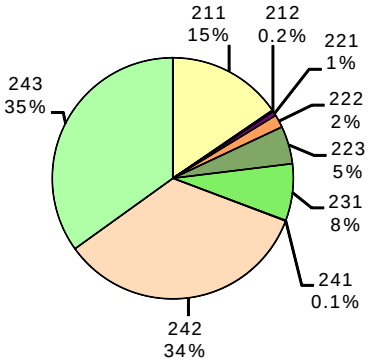
Agriculture (2006-2012)

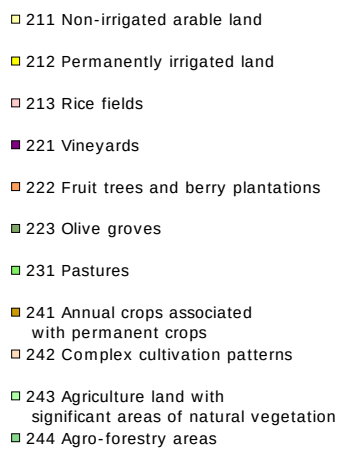


Slowdown of consumption of agricultural land

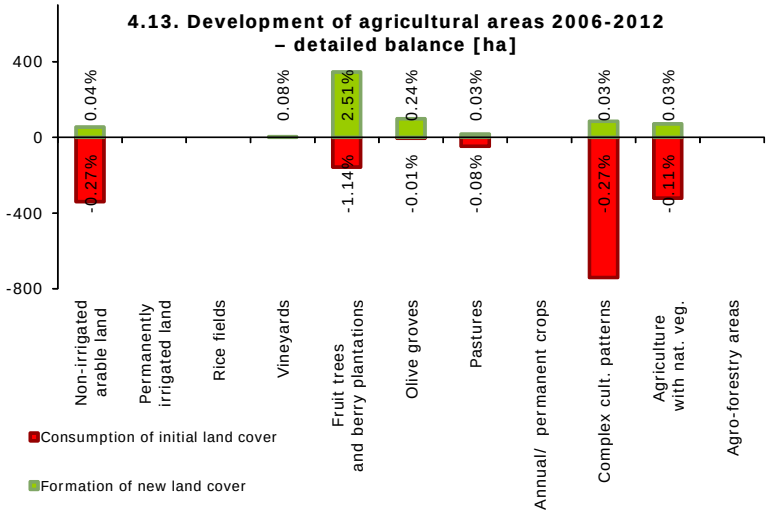
The overall intensity of agricultural land exchange in Albania is rather low, with prevailing internal flows. Extension of pasture, set aside and fallow land lost most of its intensity, compared to the previous period, and diffuse conversion from pasture to arable and permanent crop land became the major driver of agricultural internal exchange in 2006-2012. Because of the slowdown of residential sprawl, also the intensity of consumption of agricultural land (mainly pastures) is much lower recently, comparing with the period 2000-2006. The internal structure of agricultural land consumed remains similar, prevailing share of complex cultivation patterns (45%), agriculture with natural vegetation (30%) and non-irrigated arable (21%) – which pretty well mirrors the structure of agricultural land in the country.

4.12. Agricultural areas 2012 [% of total area]

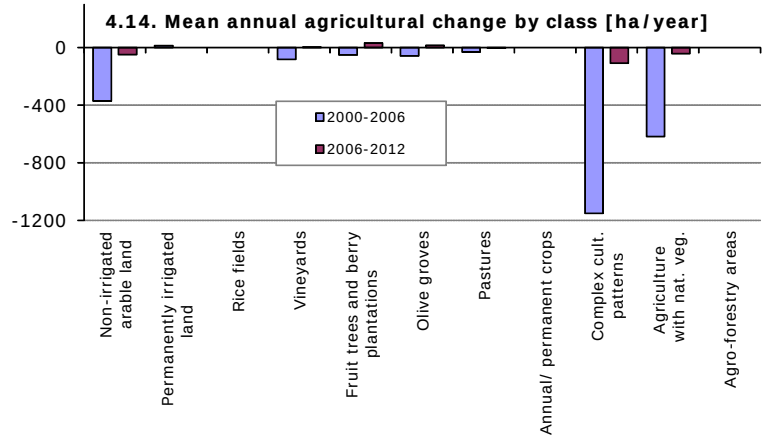




4.13. Development of agricultural areas 2006-2012 – detailed balance [ha]

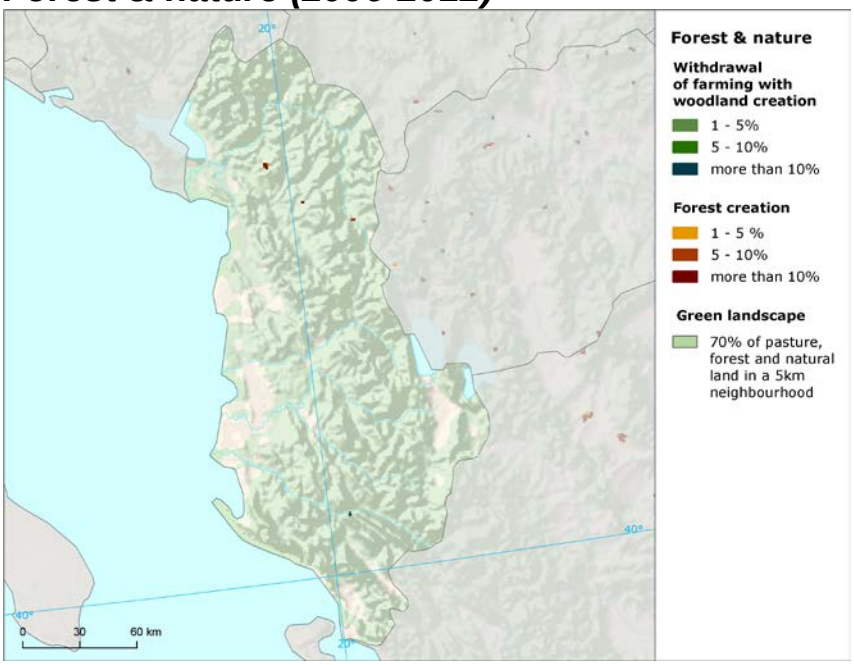


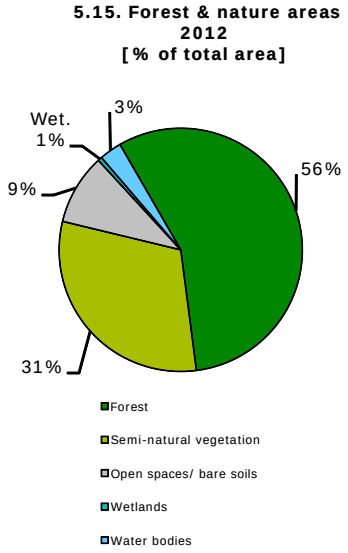
4.14. Mean annual agricultural change by class [ha/year]



Albania

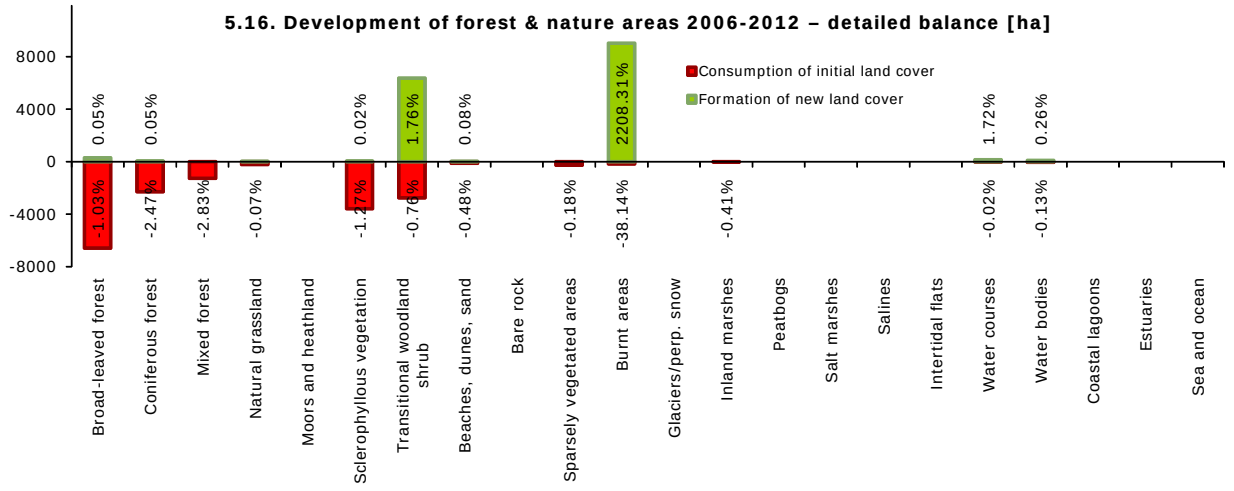
Forest & nature (2006-2012)

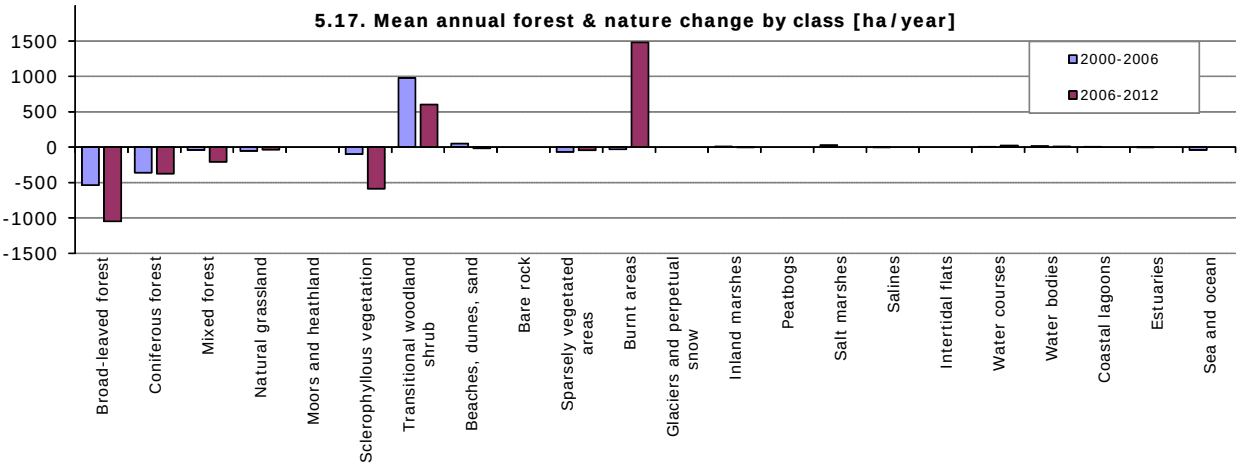




Massive forest and shrub fires

Flows in natural land are the most extensive from all land cover conversions in Albania. The most extensive drivers of landscape change in the country are forest and shrub fires. They consumed mostly sclerophyllous vegetation, broad-leaved forest and transitional woodland and shrubs. The total area destroyed by these fires in the period 2006-2012 was about 9000 hectares, located mostly in the south-western part of the country. In the previous period 2000-2006, these fires were not observed in Albania. The second most significant flow in both natural and overall land cover development is recent felling and transition. However, the intensity of this flow is significantly lower than in the period 2000-2006 and the opposite internal forest exchange – conversion of transitional woodland to forest – almost disappeared from the country. From other natural flows, extension of water courses and water bodies' creation was also present in Albania in the recent period.

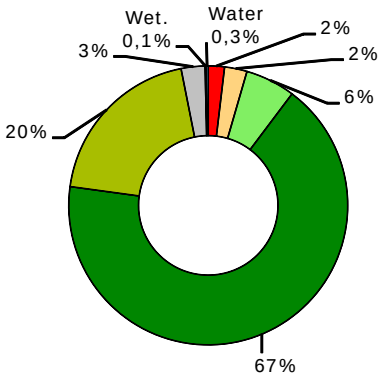




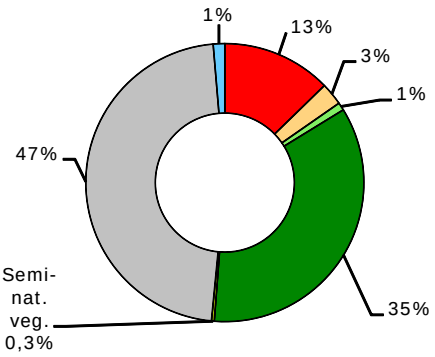
Annex: Land cover flows and trends

Land cover flows 2006-2012

6.18. Consumption of land cover 2006-2012 [% of total change area]

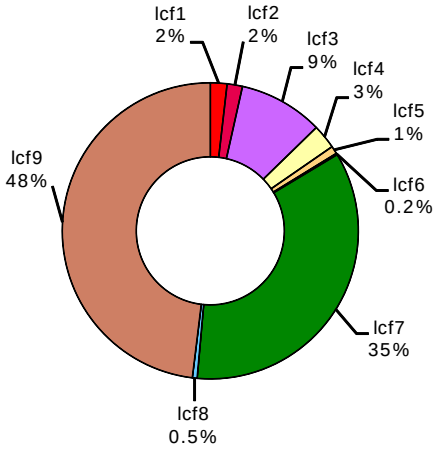


6.19. Formation of land cover 2006-2012 [% of total change area]



Artificial areas | Arable land & permanent crops | Pastures & mosaics | Forested land
Semi-natural vegetation | Open spaces/ bare soils | Wetlands | Water bodies

6.20. Drivers of change (LC FLOWS) 2006-2012 [% of total change area]

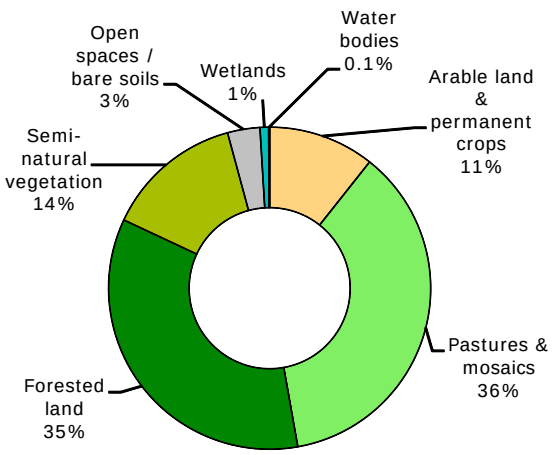


- lcf1 Urban land management
- lcf2 Urban residential sprawl
- lcf3 Sprawl of economic sites and infrastructures
- lcf4 Agriculture internal conversions
- lcf5 Conversion from forested & natural land to agriculture
- lcf6 Withdrawal of farming
- lcf7 Forests creation and management
- lcf8 Water bodies creation and management
- lcf9 Changes due to natural and multiple causes

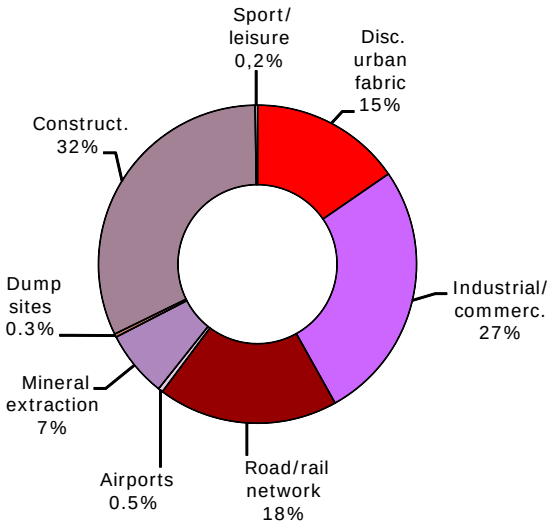
Albania

Artificial areas

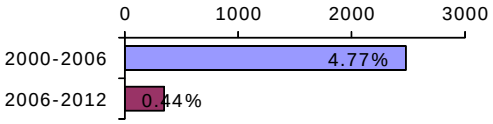
7.21. Consumption by artificial land take 2006-2012 [% of total]



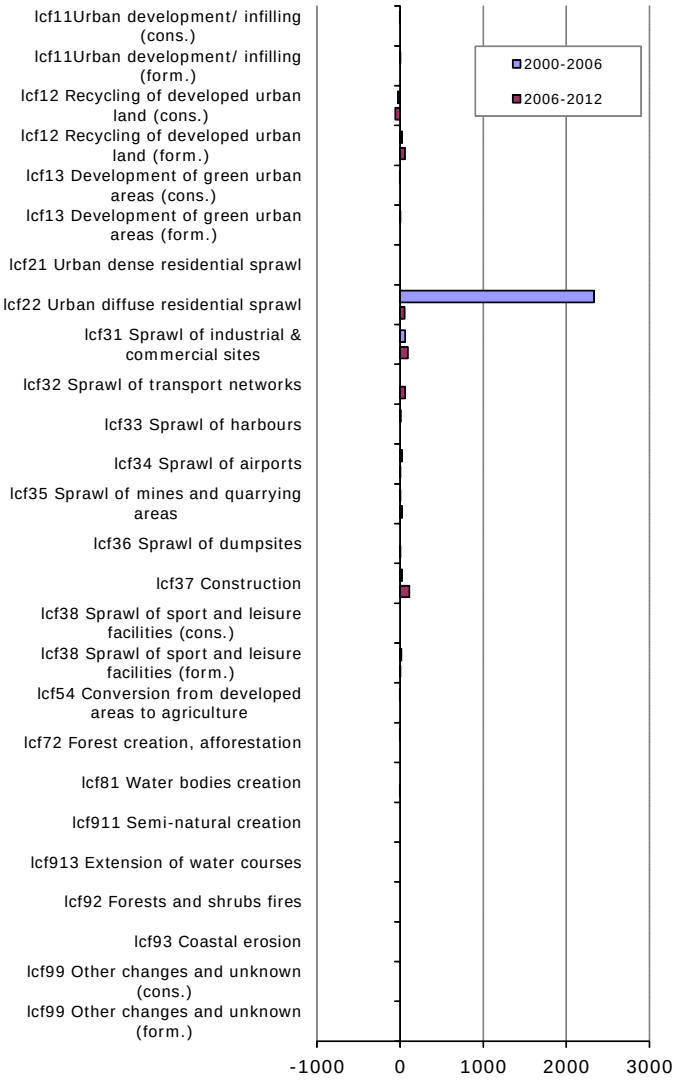
7.22. Formation by artificial land take 2006-2012 [% of total]



7.23. Net formation of artificial area [ha/year, % of initial year]



7.24. Artificial development by change drivers (LC FLOWS) [ha/year]



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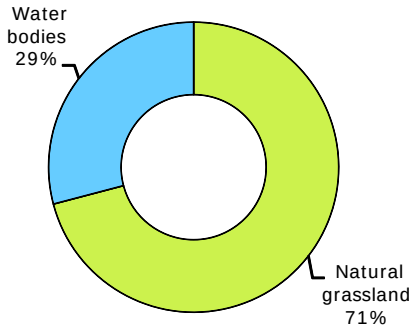
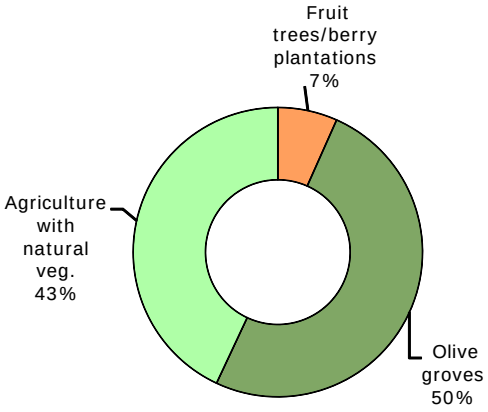
Agriculture

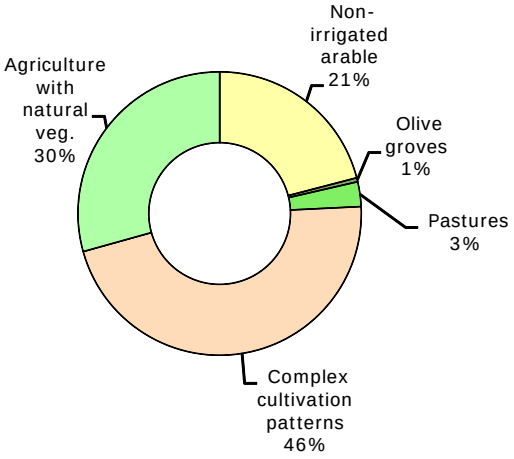
8.25. LC consumed by agriculture 2006-2012 [% of total]



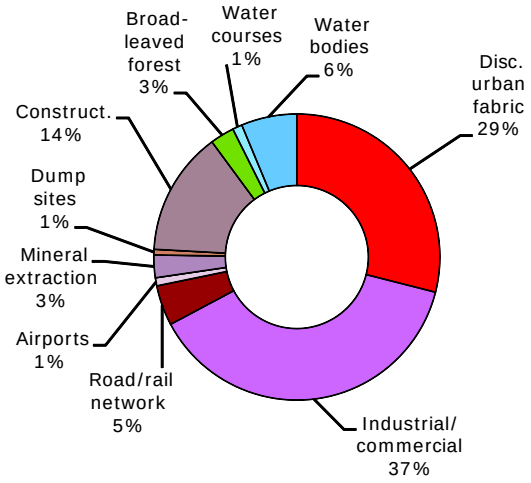
8.26. Formation of agricultural land from non-agriculture 2006-2012 [% of total]



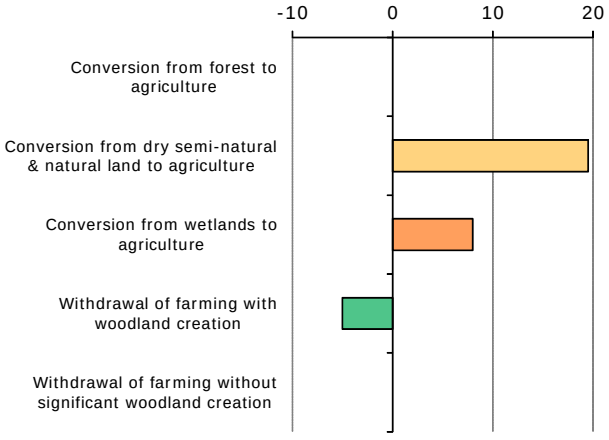
8.27. Consumption of agricultural land by non-agriculture 2006-2012 [% of total]



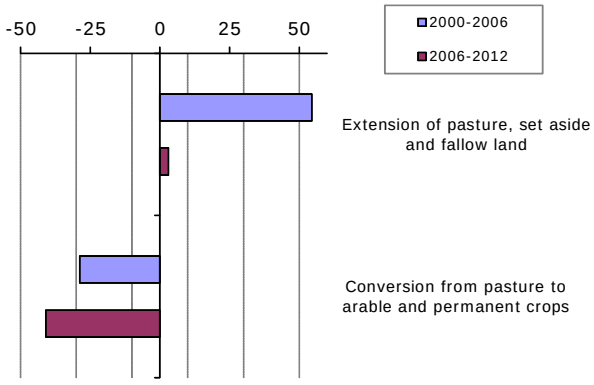
8.28. Formation of non-agricultural land from agriculture 2006-2012 [% of total]



8.29. Main annual conversions between agriculture and forests & semi-natural land 2006-2012 [ha/year]



8.30. Mean annual conversion between arable land and pasture [ha/year]



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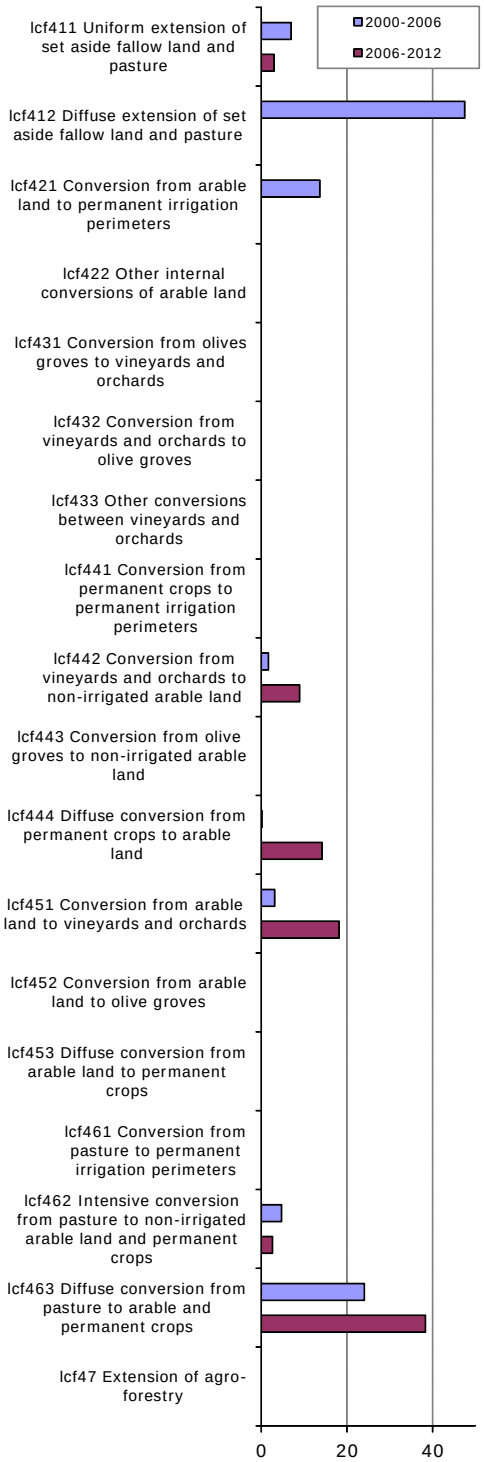
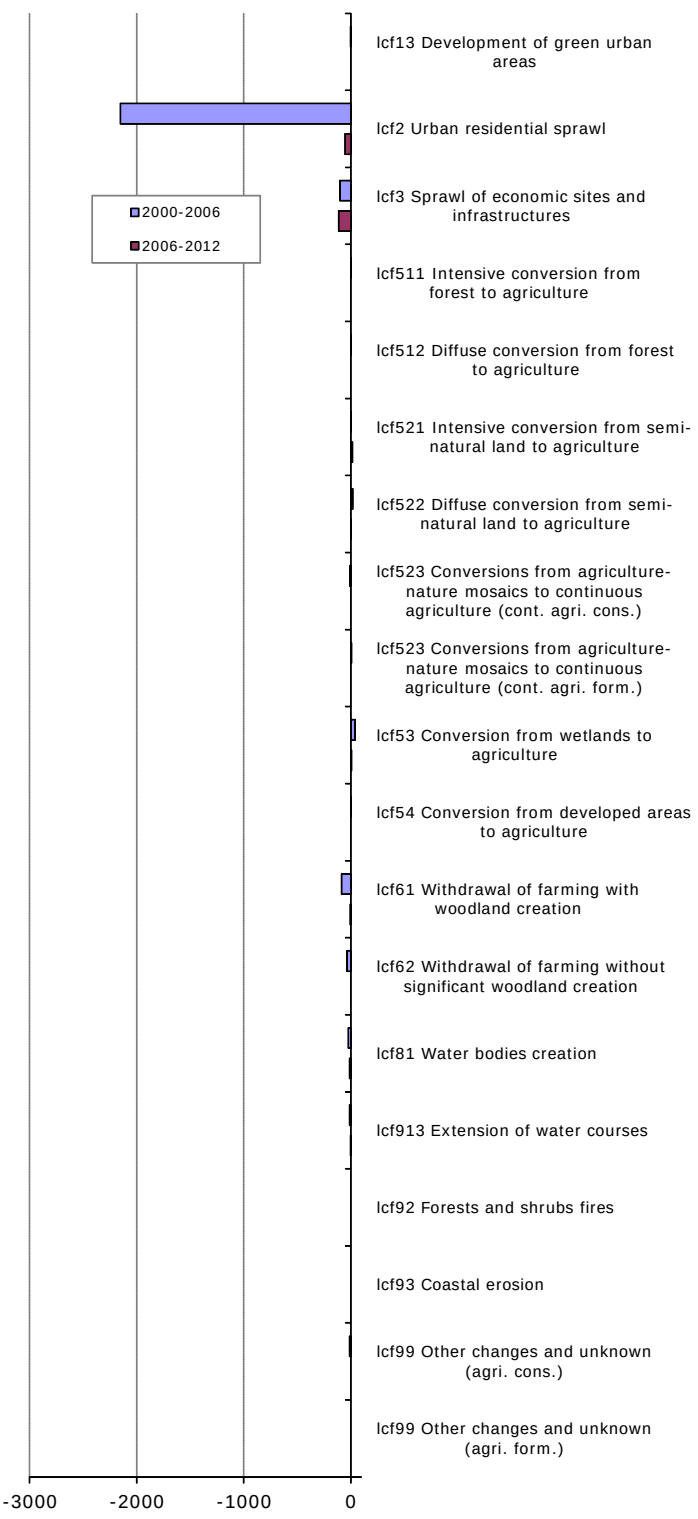
9.31. Mean annual agriculture internal conversions [ha/year]



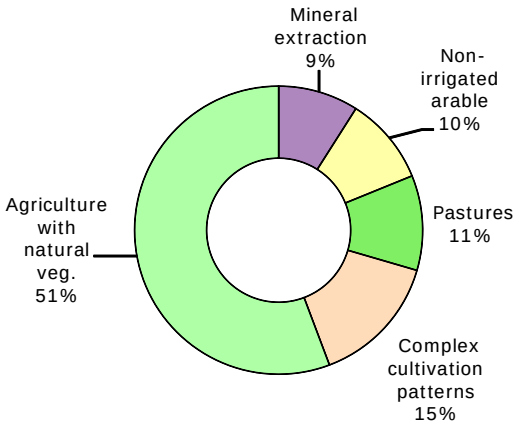
9.32. Mean annual conversions between agriculture and other LC types [ha/year]



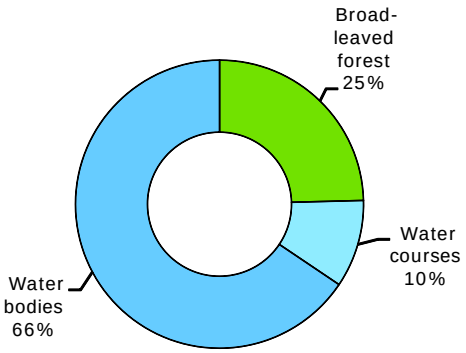
Albania

Forest & nature

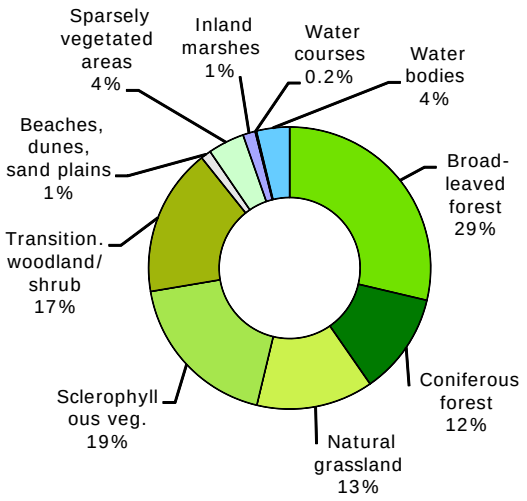
10.33. LC consumed by forest & nature 2006-2012 [% of total]



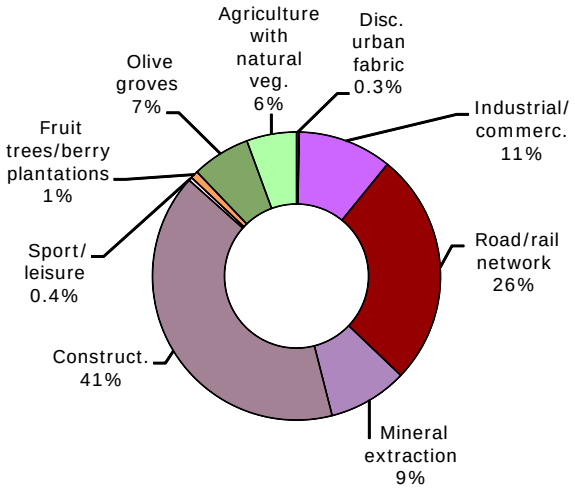
10.34. Formation of forest & nature land from non-forest /nature 2006-2012 [% of total]



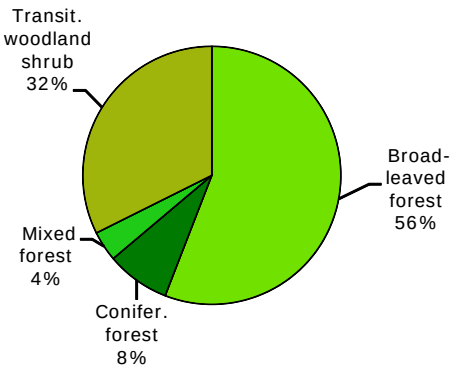
10.35. Consumption of forest & nature land by non-forest/nature 2006-2012 [% of total]



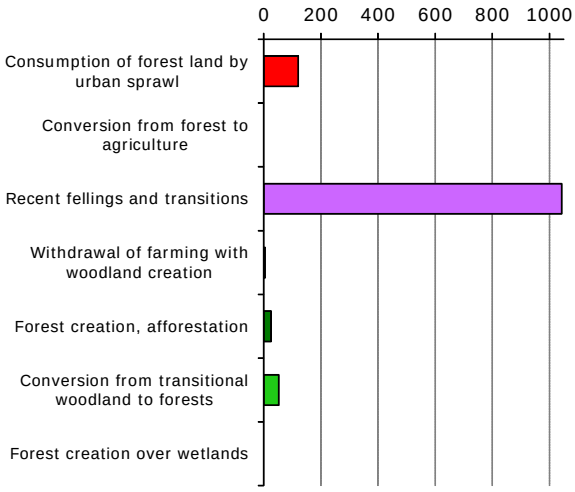
10.36. Formation of non-forest/nature land from forest & nature 2006-2012 [% of total]



10.37. Forested land 2012 [% of total area]



10.38. Main trends in woodland & forests consumption/formation 2006-2012 [ha/year]



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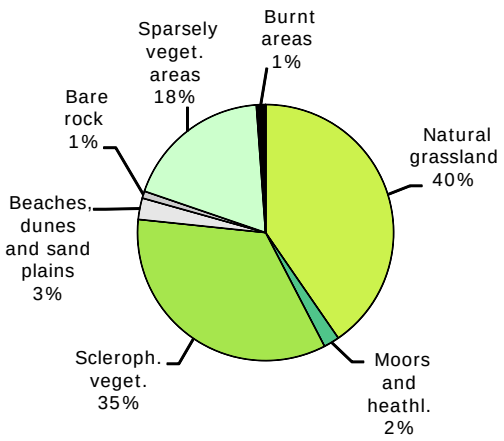
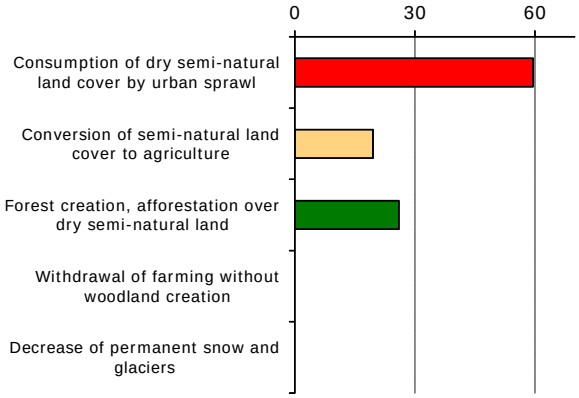
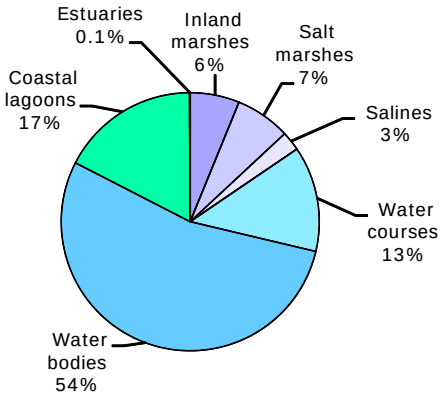
11.39. Dry semi-natural areas 2012 [% of total area]



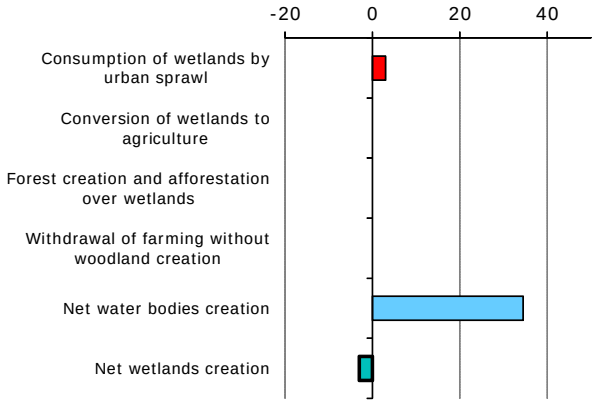
11.40. Main trends in dry semi-natural land consumption/formation 2006-2012 [ha/year]



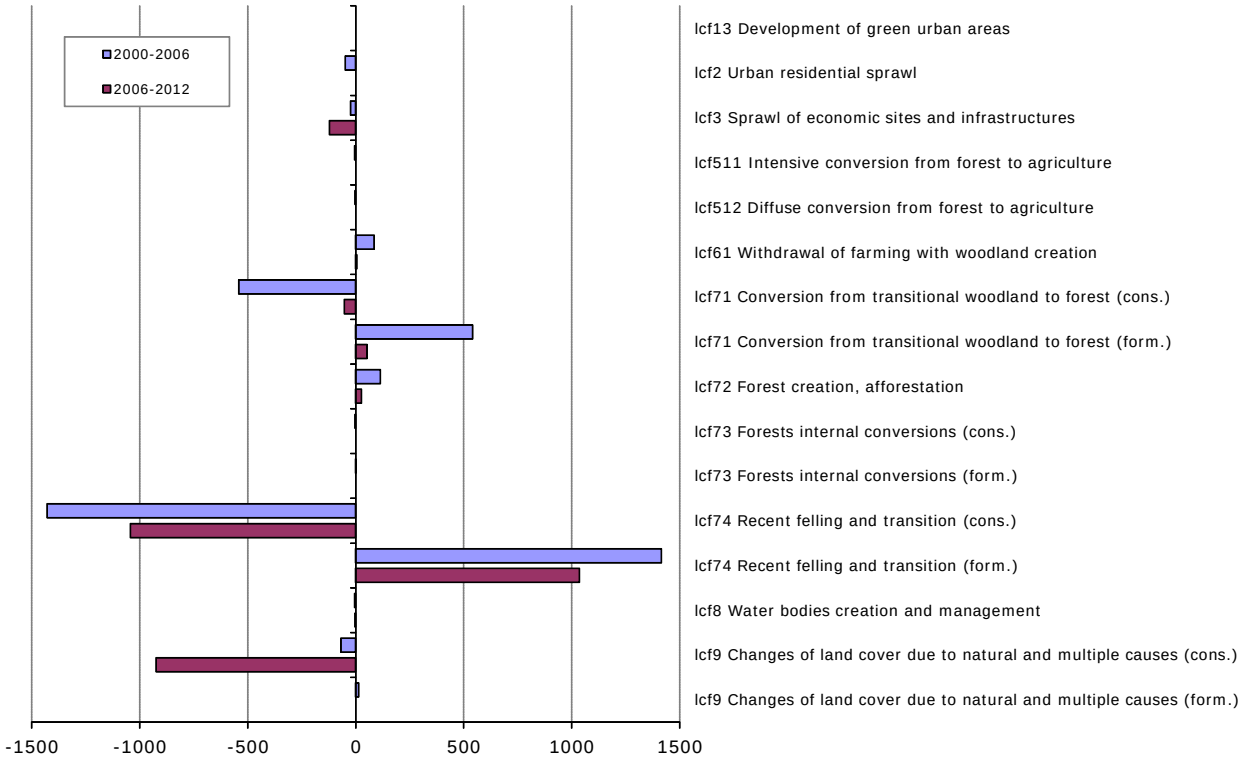
11.41. Wetlands & water 2012 [% of total area]



11.42. Main trends in wetlands & water consumption/formation 2006-2012 [ha/year]



11.43. Mean annual conversions of forest & other woodland [ha/year]



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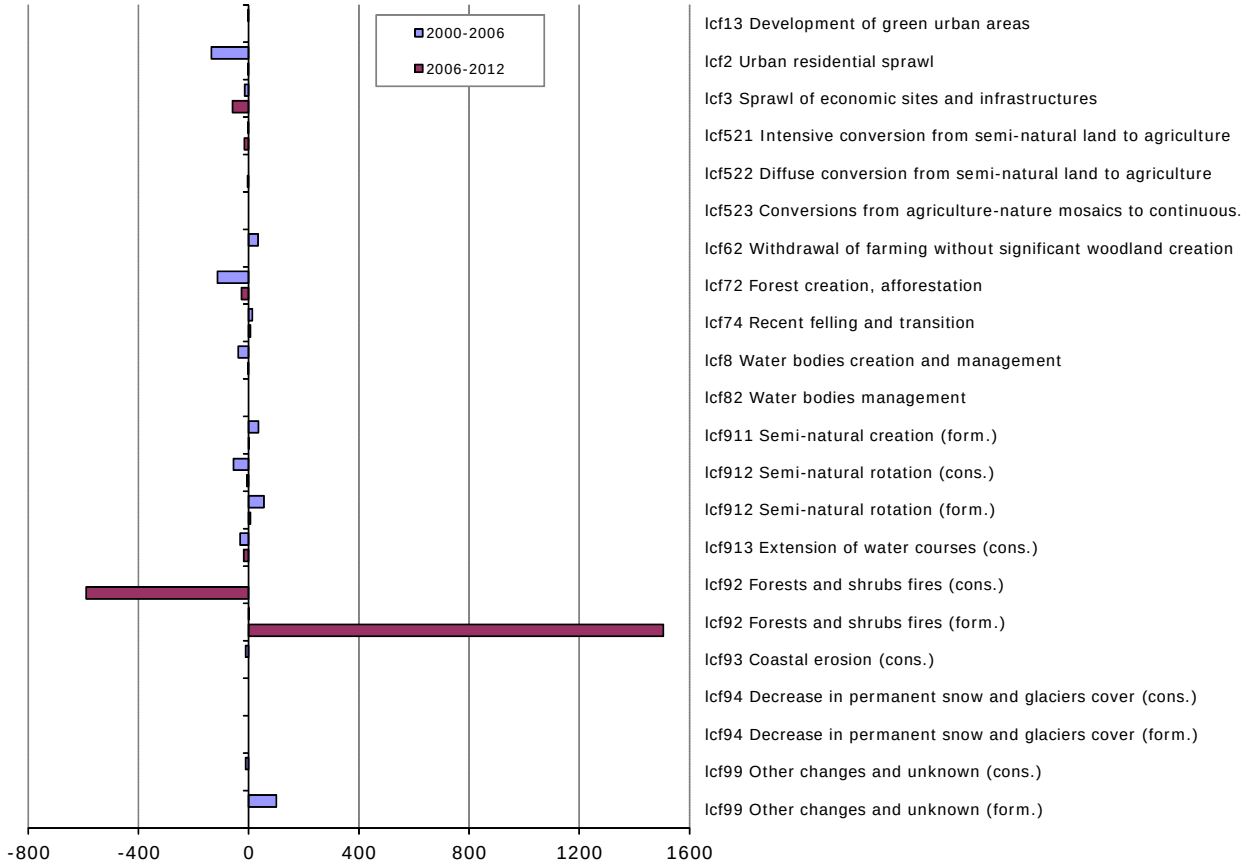
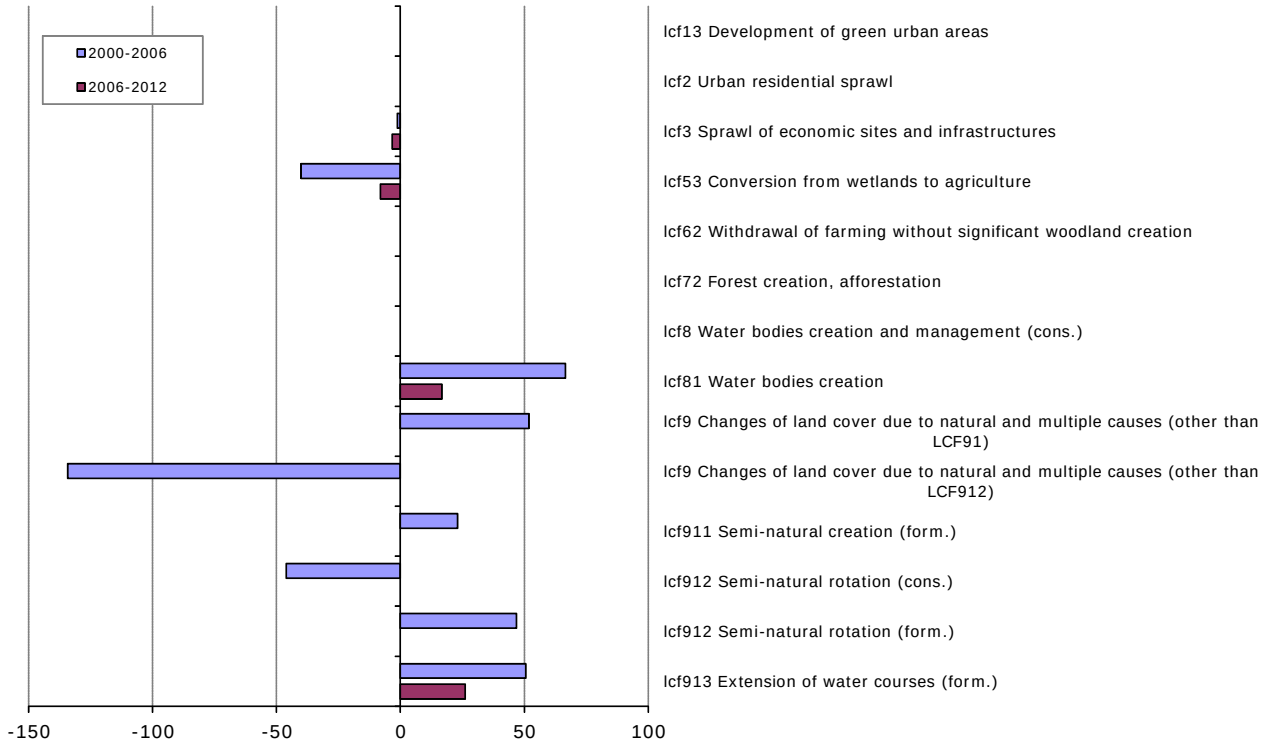
12.44. Mean annual conversions of dry semi-natural LC [ha/year]



12.45. Mean annual conversions of wetlands and water LC [ha/year]



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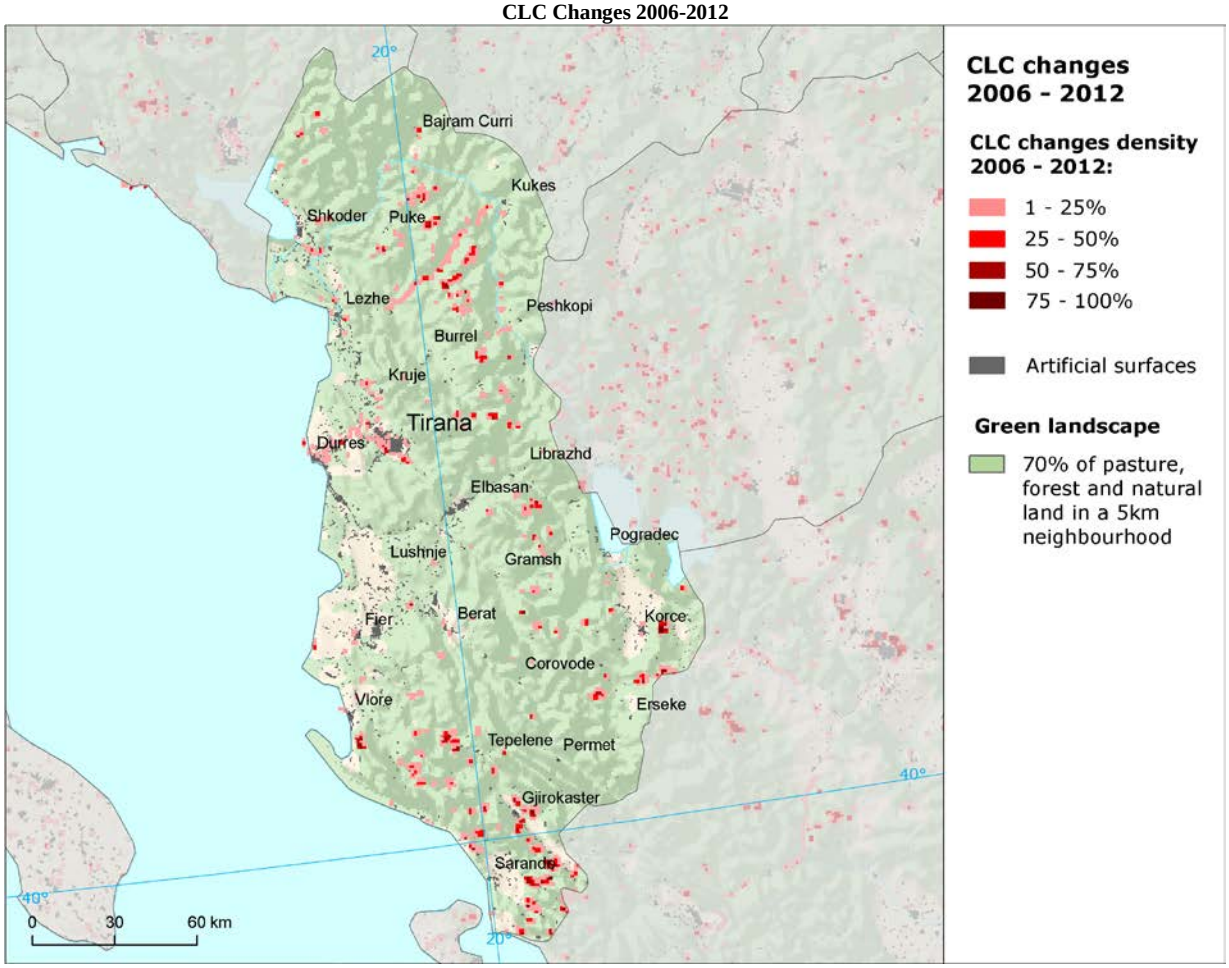
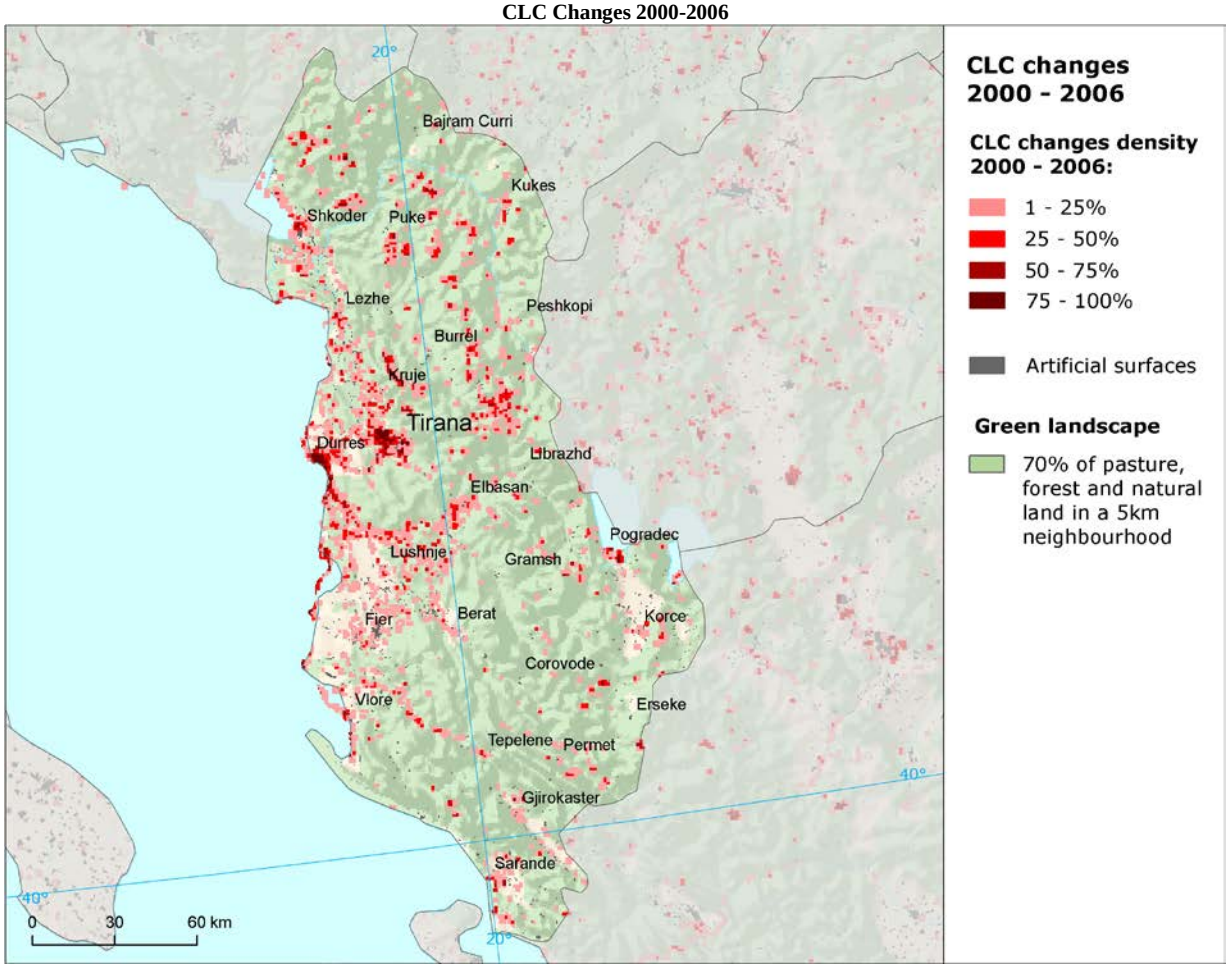
CLC Changes 2006-2012



CLC Changes 2000-2006



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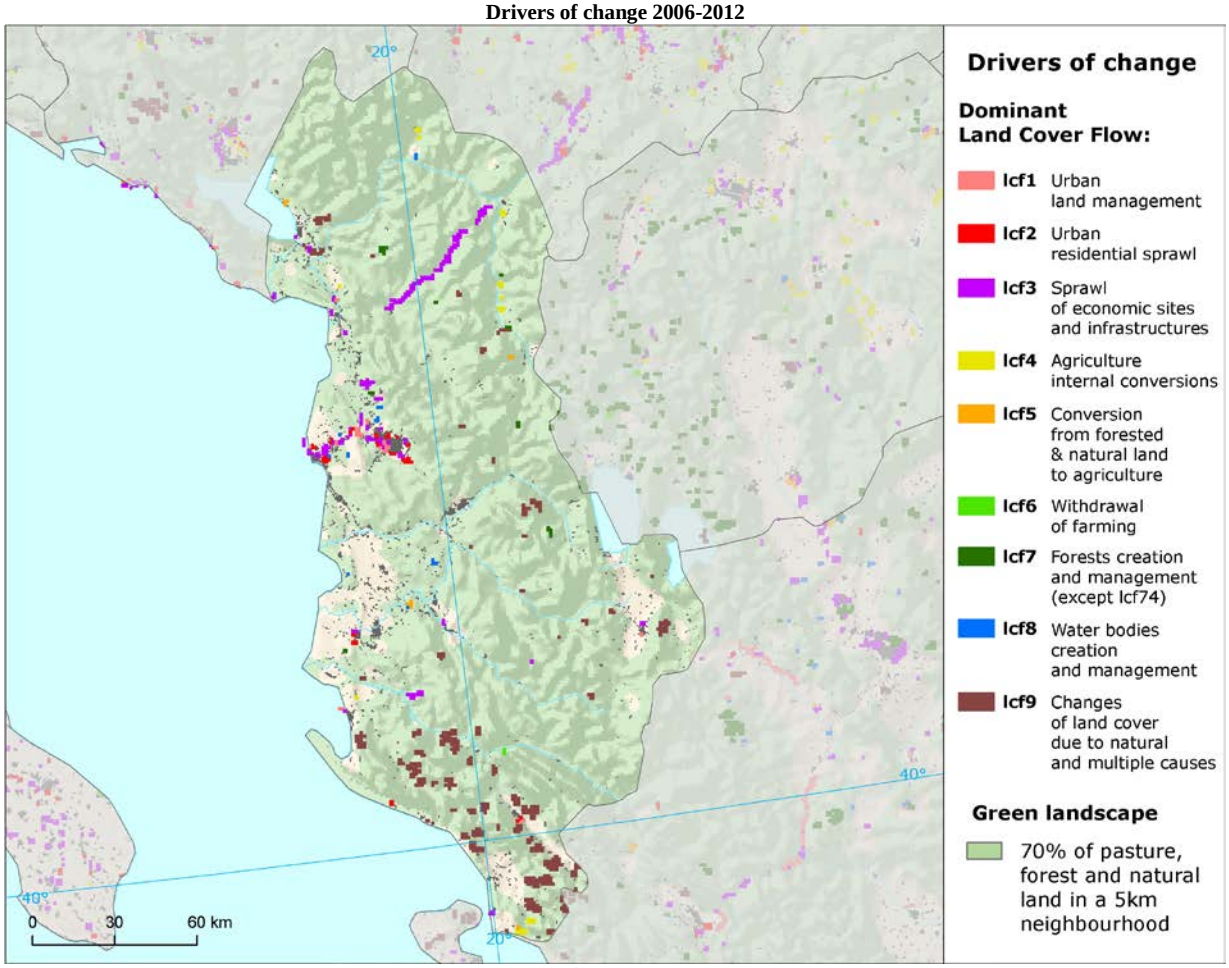
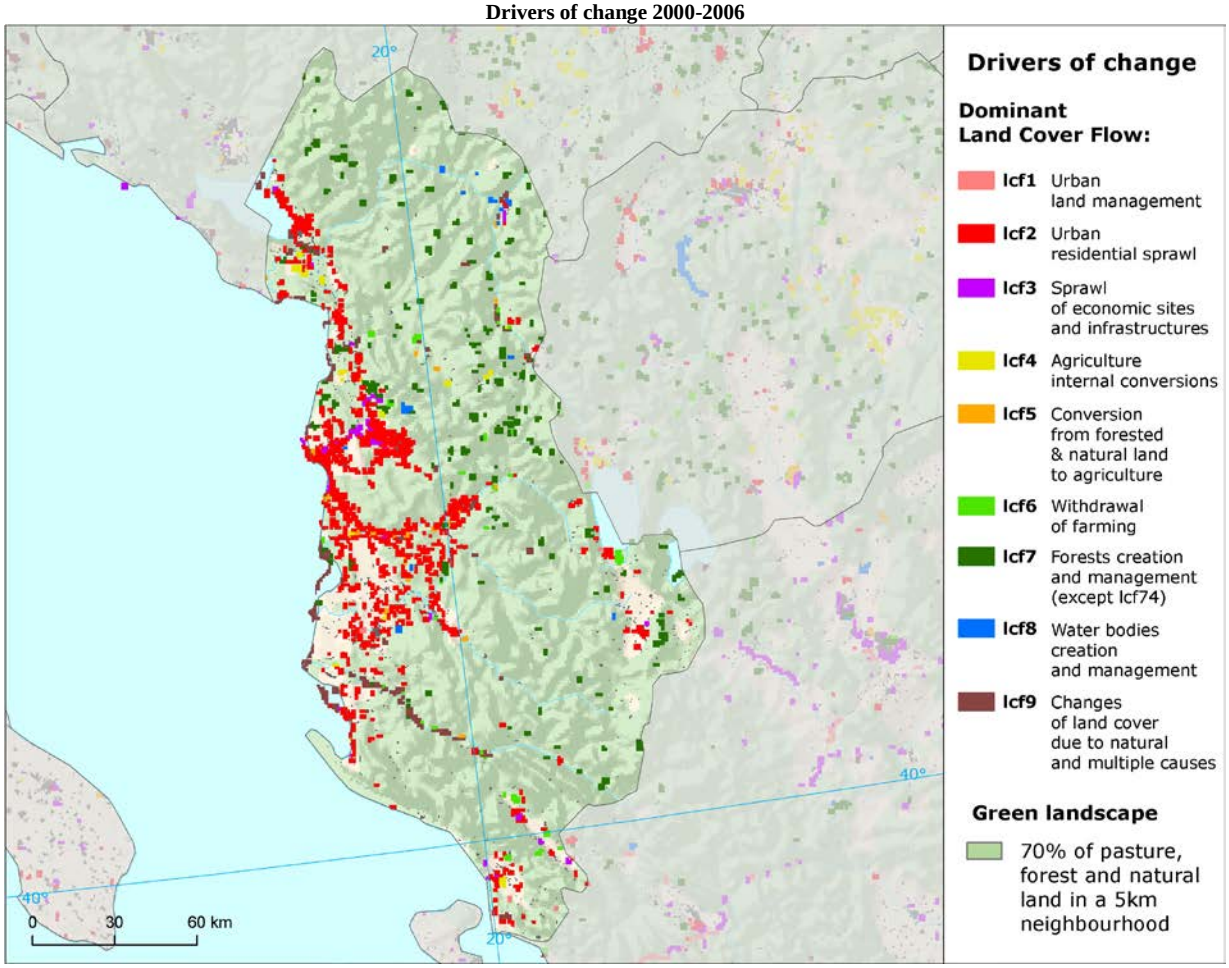
Drivers of change 2006-2012



Drivers of change 2000-2006



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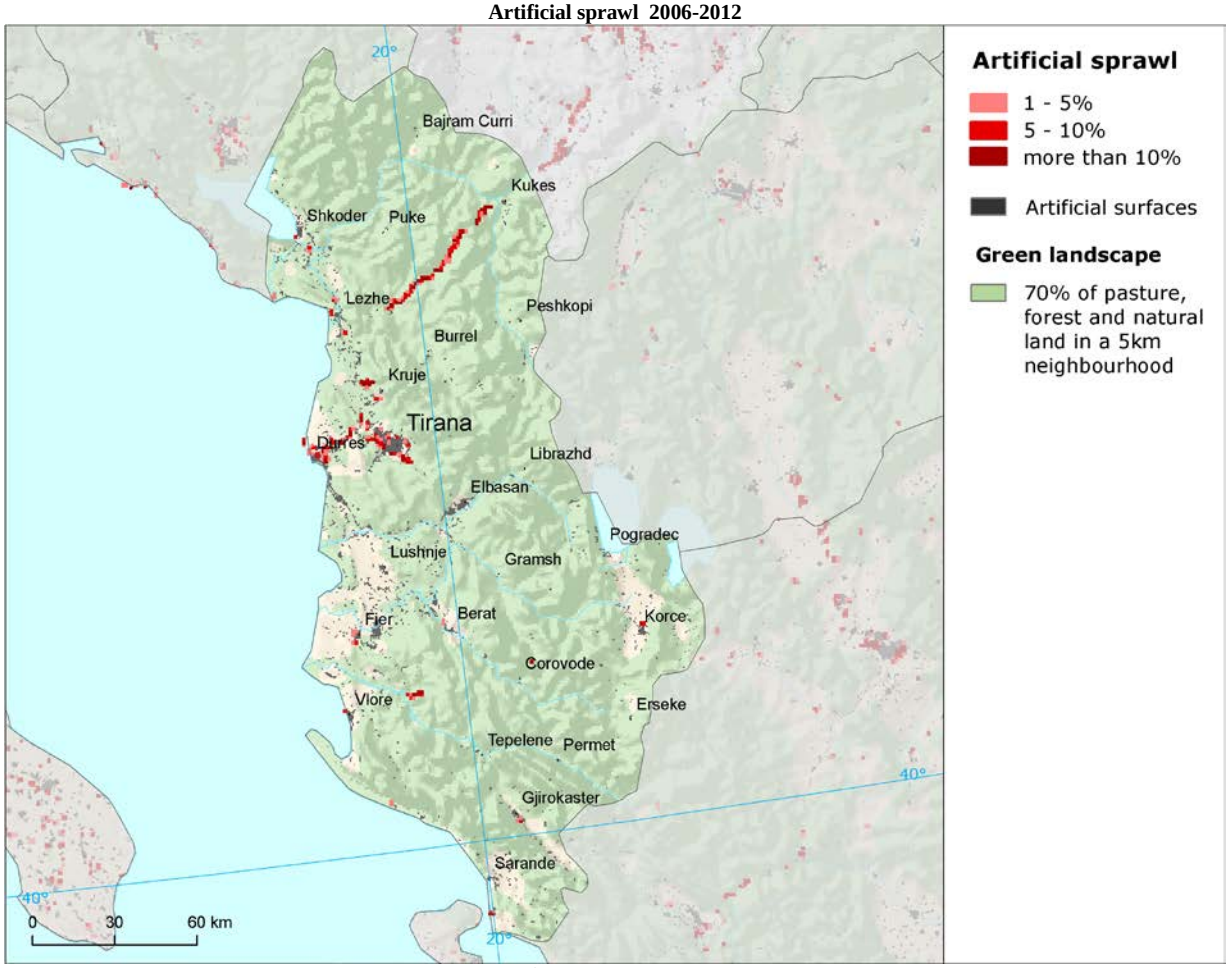
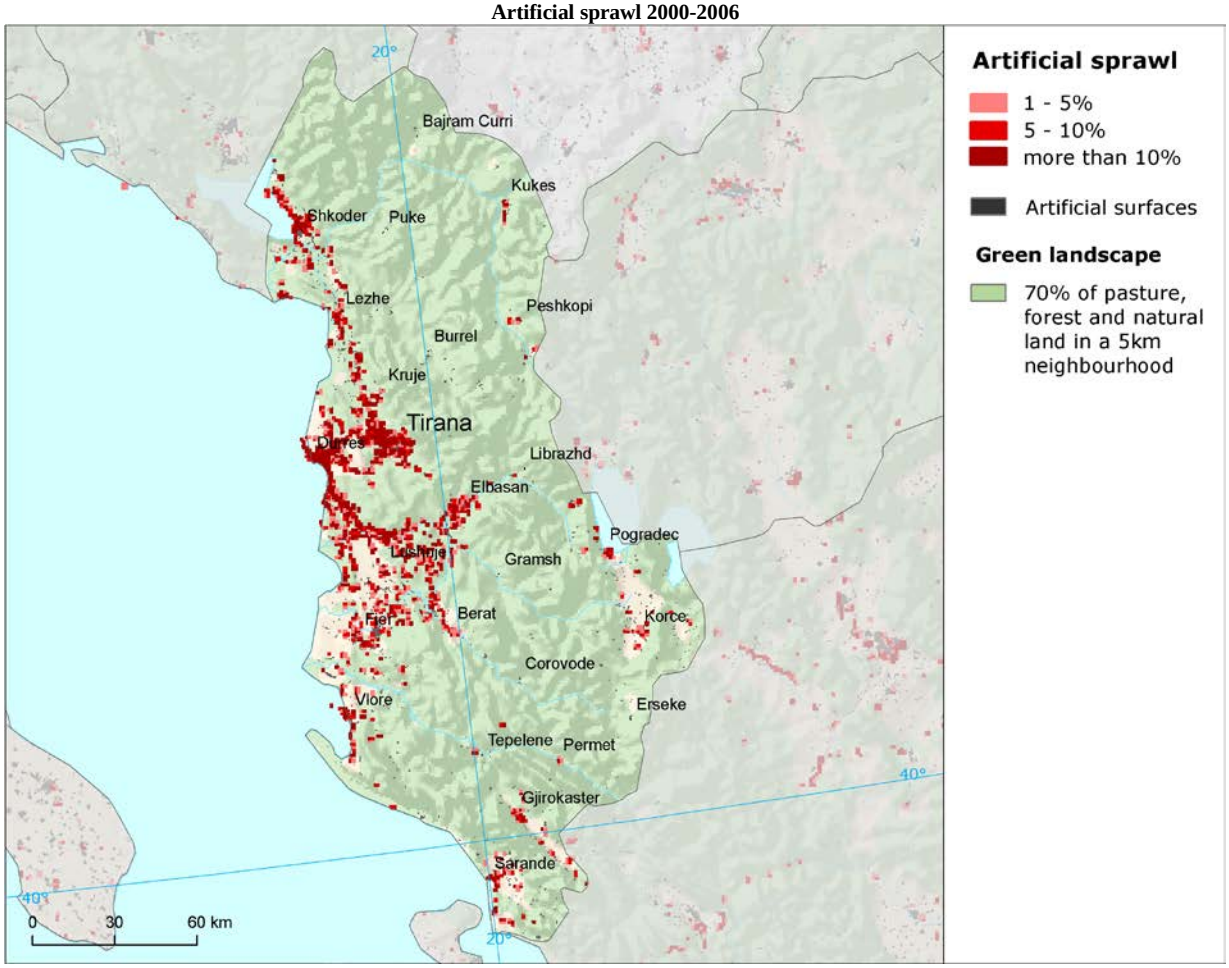
Artificial sprawl 2006-2012



Artificial sprawl 2000-2006



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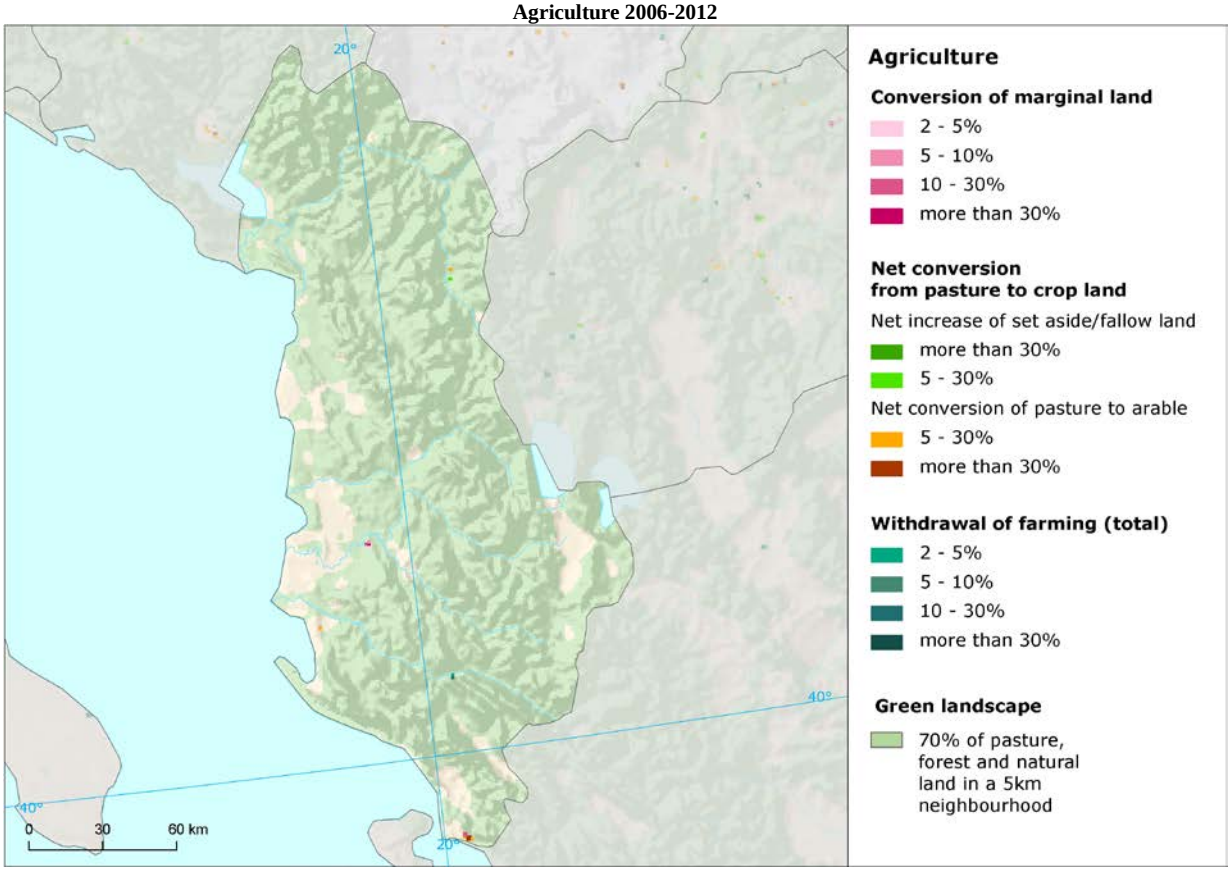
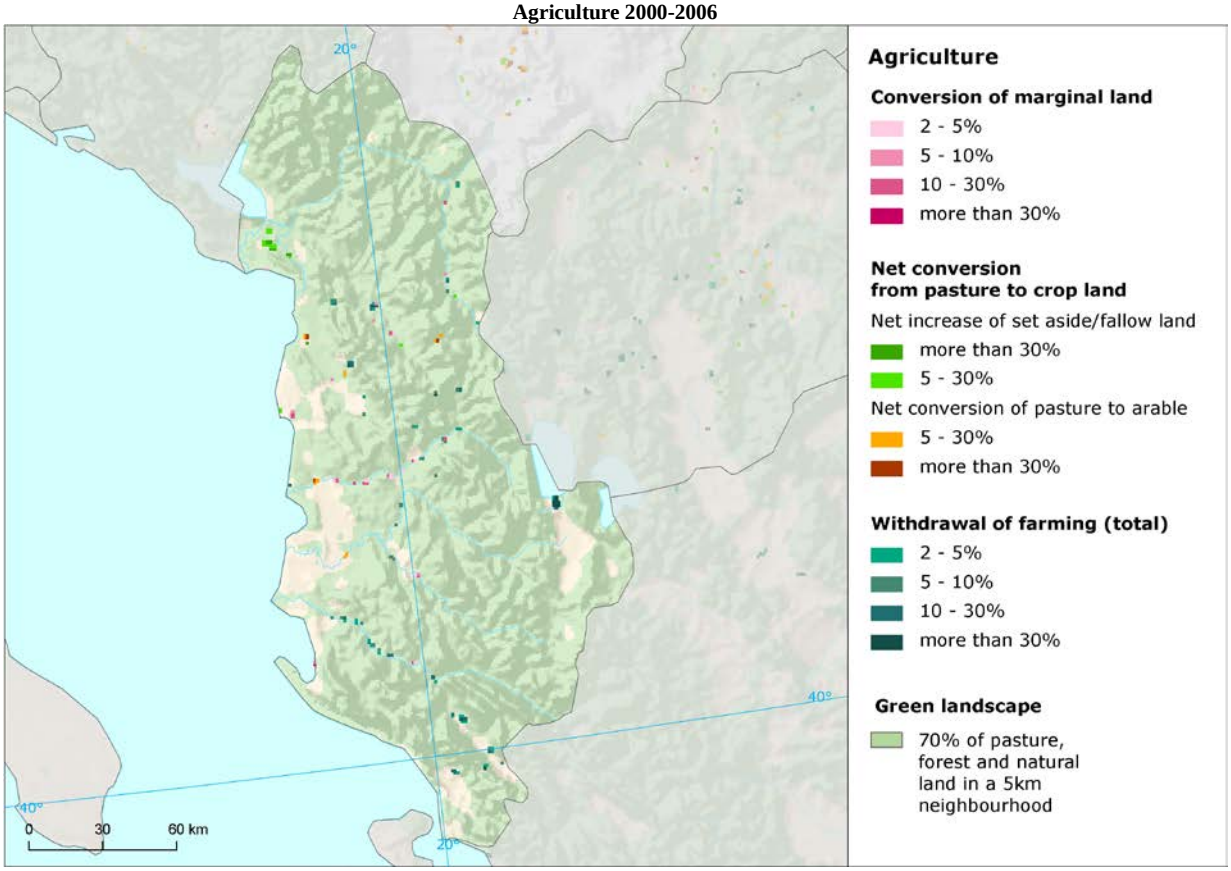
Agriculture 2006-2012



Agriculture 2000-2006



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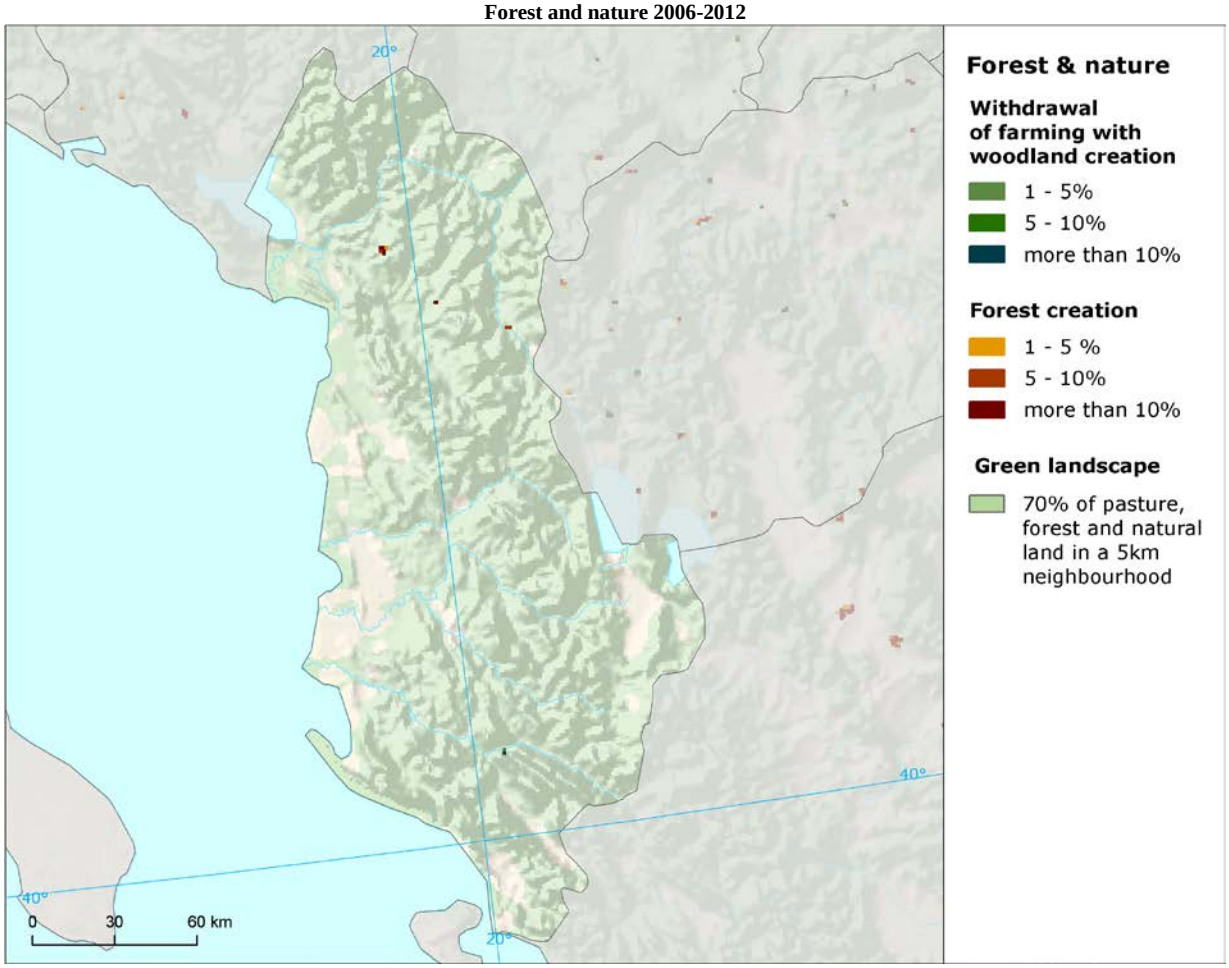
Forest and nature 2006-2012



Forest and nature 2000-2006