

19- LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND DUE TO URBANISATION		
CHAPTER 2 LANDS AND AREAS	THEME 1 HABITAT AND URBAN SYSTEMS	CATEGORY P

1 Definition:

This indicator is defined as the amount of farmland used for development, out of the total farmland. This indicator that is complementary to the loss of farmland, requires knowledge of the class changes from farmland to built lands.

2 Unit:

Percentage

3 Methodological description:

Changes in land use are usually known in the departments in charge of farming and town planning in local and district authorities.

With a view to harmonisation and simplicity, the nomenclature put forward in the OECD-Eurostat questionnaire is suggested for use:

1. Farmland
 - 1.1 Arable Land
 - 1.2. Land devoted to permanent crops
3. Built land.

The indicator is presented as the ratio of the area of change from farmland (1.1 and 1.2) in favour of built land (3), as a percentage of the total area for class 1 (1.1 + 1.2) during the period examined.

Data on changes in land use may be drawn from periodic work in cartography and monitoring, from remote sensing data, supported by on-site checks or regular investigations of the use of land.

4 Data sources identified and possible:

Territorial and local administrations

For the European countries, the updated project of Landcover (CLC2000) should also provide elements to calculate the class change matrix of land use.

The items necessary to the indicator calculation are contained at least partially in the Eurostat/OECD questionnaire on the Environment, which can provide methodological complements. These items of calculation will be partly gathered during the MEDSTAT Environment project (12 Mediterranean countries, 1999-2002).

5 Indicator geographical coverage

MARINE AREAS	NATIONAL LEVEL	MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL REGION (NUTS 3)	COASTAL STRIP	MEDITERRANEAN SPOT
-	YES	YES	YES	-