

Week 7: Land Use and Settlement Patterns

1. Introduction and Learning Objectives

This lecture introduces the concept of land use and how human activities shape the physical landscape through various types of settlements and land utilization. It explores the classifications of land use (agricultural, residential, industrial, commercial, recreational, etc.) and the spatial patterns of settlements (dispersed, nucleated, linear).

2. Key Vocabulary and Dual Definitions

1. Land Use

- Definition 1: “The management and modification of natural environment into built environment such as fields, pastures, and settlements.”

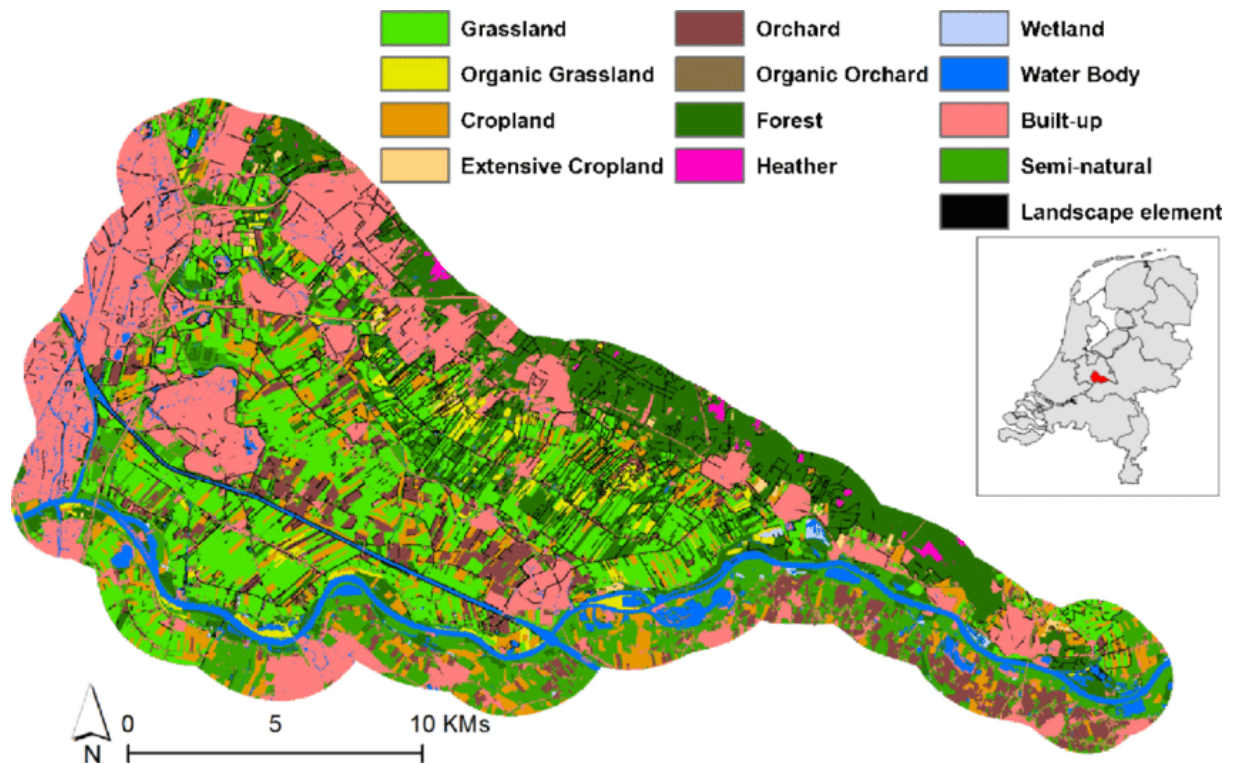
— *Oxford Dictionary of Geography*, 2022

- Definition 2: “The way in which land is used by humans for different purposes like agriculture, housing, industry, or recreation.”

— *National Geographic Glossary*, 2021

Examples:

- *Urban planners analyze land use to avoid overcrowding.*
- *Forested land is often cleared for agricultural use.*



2. Settlement

- Definition 1: “A place where people establish a community.”

— *Cambridge Geography Dictionary*, 2020

- Definition 2: “A permanent or temporary habitation site, ranging from a small village to a large city.”

— *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture*, Wiley, 2019

Examples:

- *Nucleated settlements are common in fertile valleys.*
- *Nomadic tribes often form temporary settlements in arid regions.*



Medellin, Colombia has been recognized by UN-Habitat for its innovative housing solutions and programmes to reduce urban poverty. © Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat

3. Agricultural Land

- Definition 1: “Land used for farming, including crops and livestock.”
— *FAO Glossary on Land Use*, 2020
- Definition 2: “An area specifically cultivated for food production.”
— *Oxford Companion to Food and Agriculture*, 2021

Examples:

- *Agricultural land in Algeria includes both irrigated plains and drylands.*
- *Farmers in the Mitidja Plain grow citrus and cereals.*



4. Urban Area

- Definition 1: “A region characterized by high population density and vast human features in comparison to areas surrounding it.”

— *World Bank Urban Studies*, 2020

- Definition 2: “A built-up area with infrastructure, housing, and economic activities like trade and services.”

— *United Nations Urbanization Report*, 2019

Examples:

- *Algiers is the largest urban area in Algeria.*
- *Urban areas face challenges like traffic congestion and pollution.*



5. Industrial Land

- Definition 1: “Land used for factories, manufacturing plants, and industrial warehouses.”

— *UNEP Land Classification Report*

- Definition 2: “Zones designated for production and storage of goods.”

— *Geography for Urban Planners*, Pearson, 2019

Examples:

- *Industrial land is usually located near transportation routes.*
- *Many cities separate industrial zones from residential neighborhoods.*



3. Grammar Focus: Prepositions of Place

Common Prepositions Used in Spatial Geography:

- *in, on, at, near, beside, between, behind, in front of, next to, above, below, across from*

Examples:

- *The industrial zone is located next to the railway line.*
- *The residential area is between the river and the hills.*
- *The school is across from the post office.*
- *There is a small park behind the hospital.*

Grammar References:

- Murphy, R. (2012). *English Grammar in Use*. CUP
- Hewings, M. (2005). *Advanced Grammar in Use*. CUP

6. References

- Oxford Dictionary of Geography (2022)
- National Geographic Glossary (2021)
- Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture. Wiley (2019)
- World Bank Urbanization Report (2020)
- FAO Glossary on Land Use (2020)
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- Pearson. (2019). *Geography for Urban Planners*