

2-1 MAIN LAND USES

Land use corresponds to the function or the use of a type of land cover (for example, a land cover “grass” may correspond to a land use “residential garden” or “pasture”). The way in which the land is used influences the quality of all environmental components (air, water, soil, fauna, flora, habitats).

KEY MESSAGE

In 2013, about half of Walloon territory was used for agriculture and about one third for forestry¹. The built-up proportion is steadily increasing (+37.6% in 28 years) and currently represents at least 10.3% of the territory², with an average population density of 212 inhab/km². This increase is occurring mainly at the expense of farmland. According to figures from the land registry, 526 km² of surface area were lost between 1985 and 2013 (i.e. -5.6% in 28 years), constituting an average loss of nearly 19 km² a year.

This evolution is not in line with either the objective of sustainable territorial development or the principle of the rational use of land and resources, affirmed in Article 1 of the Territorial Development Code (CoDT)³. Furthermore, restricting artificialisation and preserving farmland belong to the objectives of the draft⁴ Regional Spatial Development Plan (SDER) looking to 2020 and 2040.

Evaluation

Unfavourable and deteriorating situation

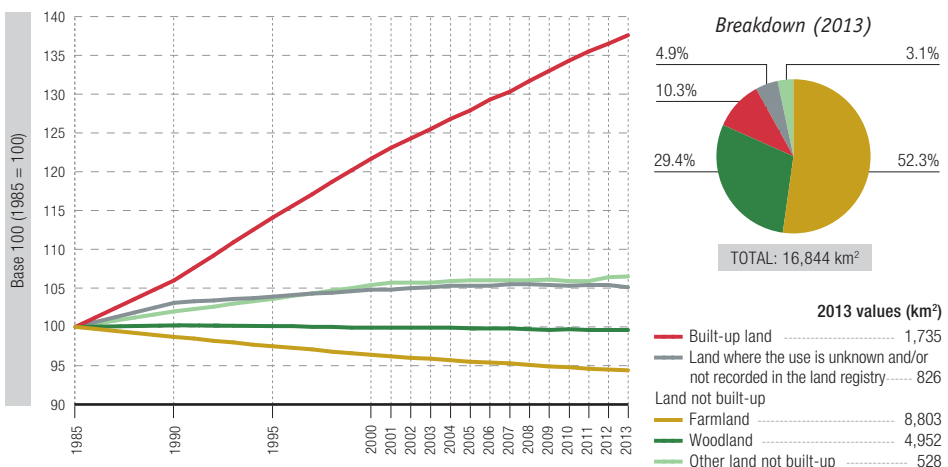
[1] → Map 1

[2] Land where the use is unknown and/or not recorded in the land registry, representing 4.9% of Walloon territory, is not considered here as built-up land, although it does include built-up areas (roadways, railways, etc).

[3] According to the 2014-2019 Regional Policy Statement (DPR), the CoDT is due to replace the Walloon Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Heritage and Energy Code (CWATUPE) on 01/07/2015.

[4] The 2014-2019 DPR provides for an update of the SDER.

Fig. 2-1 Main land uses in Wallonia



EOW 2014 – Sources: SPF Finances - AGDP (Bodem/Sol database); SPF Economie - DG Statistique / IWEPS and DEMNA calculations