Land cover refers to the observed (bio)physical cover of the Earth's surface.

The main classes in the LUCAS land cover nomenclature are as follows:

A00	Artificial land
B00	Cropland
C00	Woodland
D00	Shrubland
E00	Grassland
F00	Bareland
G00	Water areas
H00	Wetland

Various biophysical categories can be distinguished:

- areas of vegetation (trees, bushes, crops, grasses, herbs);
- artificial land (buildings, roads);
- bare soil (rock, sand);
- wet areas and bodies of water (sheets of water and watercourses, wetland).

Land cover corresponds to the physical coverage of the earth's surface.

Land cover can be observed in many ways, e.g. by field visits, aerial photographs or satellite sensors.

Related concepts

- Land use
- Land use/cover area frame survey (LUCAS)