

**LAND COVER MAP OF POLAND
AS A PART OF PAN-EUROPEAN CORINE DATABASE**

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Poland has a long tradition in land use / land cover mapping. The two last attempts to present these phenomena were accomplished in digital form. The newest version has been elaborated in concordance to the methodology developed within CORINE Programme of European Commission. The nomenclature consisted of 44 classes divided onto 3 hierarchical levels.

The remotely sensed data acquired by the Landsat TM were used as a basic source of information. The satellite scenes has been geometrically corrected and - after radiometric processing - printed in form relevant to topographic map sheet sections at the scale 1 : 100 000. At the first stage of the mapping process there were elaborated overlays by visual interpretation of false colour images supported by digital image processing. Additionally a set of auxiliary materials was used, like topographic maps in various scales, air photographs, thematic maps, etc. The most difficult areas from the interpretation point of view were visited and then the field checking accomplished the interpretation stage. Each of map sheet has been verified by several supervising persons.

Manually elaborated overlays with polygons representing separate classes (indicated by codes) of land cover has been redrawn by ink on tracing paper. The last document was subject of scanning, starting digital handling of land cover information. Then vectorizing and further processing took place. After editing and polygon coding a set of verification procedures were performed. The most time consuming and difficult task was related to edge matching of each sheet. It enabled to create a seamless coverage of the country in two zones of Gause-Krügger projection (Transverse Mercator).

The main goal of the project was to elaborate the digital version of land cover map. However, the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography has made some experiments oriented to preparation of paper maps derived from land cover database. Selected topographic elements were acquired in digital form in order to add them to the thematic information in the process of cartographic editing and displaying.

The series of applications of land cover database relevant to accuracy of map at the scale 1 : 100 000 has been foreseen. The immediate one is the use of the database for mapping biotopes, investigated within another CORINE programme. As a result of that application a geometrically coherent biotopes database has been created.