

Table 1. Land area modified by human action (as of ca. 2007)

Activity	Area involved 10 <sup>6</sup> km <sup>2</sup>	% of Earth's land surface
<u>Human-modified land</u>		
Cropland (mostly cultivated or plowed land = FAO's arable land and permanent crops)	16.7 ± 2.4	12.8 ± 1.8
Permanent meadows and pastures (mostly uncultivated)	30.5 ± 3.1	23.4 ± 2.4
Land area modified by deposition of eroded sediment	5.3 ± 2.0	4.1 ± 1.5
Land area modified by logging operations	2.4 ± 1.2	1.8 ± 0.9
Forest area (planted)	2.7	2.1
<u>Subtotal agriculture and forestry</u>	<u>57.6 ± 4.4*</u>	<u>44.3 ± 3.4</u>
Urban areas (including urban roads)	3.7 ± 1.0	2.8 ± 0.8
Rural housing and businesses	4.2 ± 1.4	3.2 ± 1.1
Highways and roads in rural areas	0.4 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.1
Reservoirs	0.2 ± 0.1	0.2 ± 0.1
Railways	0.03	0.02
Mining and quarrying	0.4 +0.4/-0.1	0.3 +0.3/-0.1
<u>Subtotal human infrastructure</u>	<u>8.9 ± 1.7</u>	<u>6.8 ± 1.3</u>
<u>Total land area modified by humans</u>	<u>66.5 ± 4.7</u>	<u>51.1 ± 3.6</u>
<u>Natural land (mostly)</u>		
Forest area (natural but not necessarily virgin)	36.2 ± 2.9	27.8 ± 2.2
Other land (largely high mountains, tundra, and deserts, unsuitable for agriculture)	27.5	21.1
<u>Subtotal natural land</u>	<u>63.6</u>	<u>48.9</u>
<u>Total land area (exclusive of ice sheets)</u>	<u>130.1</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Note: FAO—Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

\*Apparent errors in some sums are due to accumulated round-off errors.