# IUCN Habitats Classification Scheme

**Version:** 3.0 (24 April 2007)

### Level of Classification

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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Forest &amp; Woodland</strong></td>
<td>Forest consists of a continuous stand of trees and includes both forested areas (generally with a closed canopy) and wooded areas (canopy more open, but see <strong>2. Savanna</strong>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td><strong>Boreal Forest</strong></td>
<td>Distributed across the high latitudes of the northern hemisphere (occurring between 50° and 60° N) in a broad belt across Eurasia and North America. Trees are predominantly coniferous (pine, fir and spruce), though a few deciduous genera are nearly ubiquitous in their distribution and are locally common (see <strong>1.4</strong>). Includes forest types described as taiga, coniferous, coniferous deciduous, and broadleaved deciduous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td><strong>Subarctic Forest</strong></td>
<td>Included for completeness sake - probably little forest occurs at these high latitudes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td><strong>Subantarctic Forest</strong></td>
<td>Stunted forest on subantarctic islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td><strong>Temperate Forest</strong></td>
<td>Distributed in the temperate regions (under the influence of moist continental climates) of North and South America (primarily Chile), Europe, Asia (China/Korea/Japan) and Australia/New Zealand. Includes forest types described as coniferous, broadleaved evergreen, broadleaved deciduous, and mixed; also riverine and alluvial. The deciduous trees shed their leaves in the winter season. In the northern hemisphere, the coniferous (or needleleaf evergreen) component increases towards the north where the mixed forest transitions to Boreal Forest (see <strong>1.1</strong>). Includes Mediterranean forests but these might also be placed under <strong>1.5</strong> (needs resolution) and pine-oak forests found in Mexico and the southern US.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td><strong>Subtropical/Tropical Dry Forest</strong></td>
<td>Distributed in the subtropical/tropical regions of the Neotropics, Africa and Indo-Malesia. Typically forests that experience a dry season of several months. Includes forest types described as deciduous, makatea, atoll/beach, palm, thorn and spiny; Florida rockland hammocks, pune rocklands, marine hammocks, shellmounds (last 4 from SE USA); bosque chaco, espinal, bosque de algarrobo/prosopis (Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay); forest in the seasonally dry inter-Andean valleys.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland Forest</td>
<td>Distributed in the subtropical/tropical regions of the Neotropics, Africa and Indo-Malesia, generally below c.1,200 m (but varying with geography and topography).</td>
<td>Bamboo forests found at these elevations and conditions are included here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Includes (lowland/hill rain/wet/humid/moist) forest types described as evergreen or semi-evergreen or broadleaved evergreen, deciduous, dipterocarp and mixed; also riparian/riverine and gallery, Sierra maestra se Cuba, selva paranaense, bosque de quebrada, bosque sammolfo (Uruguay).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Subtropical/Tropical Mangrove Forest Vegetation Above High Tide Level</td>
<td>Distributed in the subtropics and tropics, growing in sheltered estuaries and along coastlines in brackish or salt water.</td>
<td>Species are above the high tide level - see 12.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Subtropical/Tropical Swamp Forest</td>
<td>Distributed in the subtropics and tropics. Typically flooded for at least part of the year and dependent on this flooding for its existence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Includes forest types described as peat swamp, bog, and varzea/igapo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane Forest</td>
<td>Distributed in the subtropical/tropical regions of the Neotropics, Africa and Indo-Malesia, generally above c.1,200 m (but varying with geography and topography).</td>
<td>Bamboo forests found at these elevations and conditions are included here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Includes (lower and upper montane/mountain rain/wet/moist) forest types described as cloud, mossy, elfin, dwarf, Polylepis, coniferous, pine, pine-oak and evergreen, mesophyllous, yungas (to Peru/Bolivia/Argentina).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Savanna

Savannas are transitional between grasslands and forests. They are ecosystems dominated by a grass ground cover with an overstorey of widely spaced trees and shrubs. May be referred to as savanna woodlands, savanna parklands, savanna grasslands, low tree/shrub savannas, thicket/scrub savannas. Distributed largely in Africa, Australia (mostly northern), Asia (India, SE Asia) and South America.

#### 2.1 Dry Savanna

Needs to be defined

Includes savanna types described as Eucalyptus and Acacia woodlands, mopane/miombo/Brachystegia woodlands (Africa), cerrado/campos/caatinga (Brazil, Guiana), chaco seco (Argentina/Uruguay) and mulga (Australia), oak woodlands (mid-western USA).
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</table>

### 2.2 Moist Savanna

Needed to be defined

- Includes savanna types described as pantanal (Brazil/Bolivia/Paraguay), chaco or chaco húmedo (Paraguay/Bolivia/Argentina), and llanos (Venezuela/Colombia).

### 3. Shrubland

Also referred to as scrub, bushland and thicket.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.1 Subarctic Shrubland</th>
<th>Needs to be defined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Subantarctic Shrubland</td>
<td>Needs to be defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Boreal Shrubland</td>
<td>Needs to be defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Temperate Shrubland</td>
<td>Needs to be defined. Compare to 3.5, 4.4 and 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 Subtropical/Tropical Dry Shrubland</td>
<td>Needs to be defined. Found mainly on the lowlands. Compare to 3.4, 4.4 and 4.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Subtropical/Tropical Moist Shrubland</td>
<td>Humid/semi-humid shrubland types described as evergreen and found mainly on the lowlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7 Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude Shrubland</td>
<td>Alpine/subalpine shrubland types around and above the tree-line in mountainous regions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Additional Notes on usage at end *
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8 Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation</td>
<td>Distributed in Mediterranean ecosystems of Australia, Chile, Europe/North Africa, North America (primarily California) and South Africa. Evergreen shrubs and sclerophyllous trees (low in stature with a relatively open canopy) are the dominant plant forms, and frequent fires have historically played an important role in regulating community composition and structure. The areas are characterized by warm dry summers.</td>
<td>Includes shrubland types described as garrigue, chaparral (California), maquis (Mediterranean), mallee or mallee scrub (Australia), matorral (Chile) and fynbos (South Africa).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Native Grassland

Grasslands occur in regions with warm growing seasons and moderate water shortages. Native grasslands are comprised of grasses and broadleaved herbaceous plants, and are either without woody plants, or the latter are very sparsely distributed (see also 2. Savanna).

#### 4.1 Tundra

Grasslands which have developed over permafrost. Confined to the northern hemisphere where it encircles the north pole and extends south to the Boreal Forests. The area is characterized by its extremely cold desert-like conditions.

#### 4.2 Subarctic Grassland

Not defined

#### 4.3 Subantarctic Grassland

Tufted grassland on subantarctic islands.

#### 4.4 Temperate Grassland

Not defined. See 3.4, 3.5 and 4.5.

Includes grassland types described as prairies (North America); steppe (Eurasia); calcareous; siliceous; edaphic; pampa or pampas (South America); pastizal patagónico, patagonia, pastizal pampeano (Argentina).

#### 4.5 Subtropical/Tropical Dry Lowland Grassland

Not defined. See 3.4, 3.5 and 4.4.

Includes (arid/dry) grassland types described as hummock/tufts (Australia); estepa (Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay).

#### 4.6 Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally Wet/Flooded Lowland Grassland

Not defined.
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.7 Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally High Altitude Grassland</td>
<td>Sometimes also referred to as alpine tundra. The night time temperatures are usually below freezing, but the soils are well-drained. Includes (alpine/subalpine/highveld) grassland types described as paramos, altiplanos, puna, pastizal de altura.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


| 5.1 Permanent Rivers, Streams, Creeks | Not defined. Includes waterfalls. | |
| 5.2 Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers, Streams, Creeks | Not defined. | |
| 5.3 Shrub Dominated Wetlands | Shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils. | |
| 5.4 Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands | Generally over 8 ha. Also includes mires. Excludes saline marshes (see 5.16 and 5.17). Note that the size difference between marshes coded here versus under 5.7 or 5.8. | |

- Bogs are peat-accumulating systems fed only by rainwater and thus have very low nutrient levels. They are usually strongly acidic, and water flow is restricted. The water table is either at or just below the surface and remains relatively constant. Fens have a predominantly peat substrate, but the peat is shallower and more decomposed than bogs. They are fed by both rain and groundwater resulting in low to moderate nutrient and acidity levels. The water table is typically just below the peat surface but there are small noticeable fluctuations. Swamps are relatively high in nutrients supplied via surface runoff and groundwater from the surrounding land. The water table is usually above some of the ground surface, but there are large, seasonal fluctuations. Marshes are characterized by large periodic fluctuations of water table or water level. |

<p>| 5.6 Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Lakes | Over 8 ha. Includes floodplain lakes (see 13.5). | |
| 5.7 Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools | Ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season. |</p>
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<tr>
<td>5.8 Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools</td>
<td>Below 8 ha. On inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.</td>
<td>The Inner Niger Delta and Peace–Athabasca Delta are notable examples. The Amazon has an inland delta before the island of Marajó and the Okavango Delta is the best example of a desert inland delta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9 Freshwater Springs and Oases</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10 Tundra Wetlands</td>
<td>Includes tundra pools and temporary waters from snowmelt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11 Alpine Wetlands</td>
<td>Includes alpine meadows, seepages, temporary waters from snowmelt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12 Geothermal Wetlands</td>
<td>Wetlands influenced by heated geothermal water or chemistry derived from current or former geothermal activity. Often found in volcanically active areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.13 Permanent Inland Deltas</td>
<td>Created by a river dividing into multiple branches, these usually rejoin and continue to the sea. They often occur on former lake beds. In some cases a river flowing into a flat and area splits into channels which then evaporate as it progresses into the desert.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.14 Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.15 Seasonal/Intermittent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes and Flats</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.16 Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Marshes/Pools</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.17 Seasonal/Intermittent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Marshes/Pools</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.18 Karst and Other Subterranean Inland Aquatic Systems</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td>Salinas in South America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Inland Rocky Areas</td>
<td>Not defined.</td>
<td>Includes inland cliffs, mountain peaks, talus, feldmark.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exposition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Caves & Subterranean Habitats

#### 7.1 Dry Caves

- Underground spaces produced naturally by the weathering of rock.
- Can extend deep underground, or can be much smaller rock.

#### 7.2 Other Dry Subterranean Habitats

- Not defined.

### 8. Desert

- Desert consists of arid landscapes with a sparse plant cover, except in depressions where water accumulates. The sandy, stony or rocky substrate contributes more to the appearance of the landscape than does the vegetation.

#### 8.1 Hot Desert

- Not defined.

#### 8.2 Temperate Desert

- Not defined.

#### 8.3 Cold Desert

- Deserts where the main form of precipitation is snow or fog, and thus would include the Atacama Desert (Peru and Chile), Gobi Desert (China and Mongolia), Namib Desert (Namibia and bit of South Africa), Antarctica and parts of the Arctic.

### 9. Marine - Neritic

- Submergent (below extreme low tide), nearshore, on or over the continental shelf or oceanic island shelf. [Continental shelf is the expanded perimeter of each continent, which is gently sloping and covered by relatively shallow seas (typically limited to a depth of around 200 m) or embayments. The shelf usually ends at a point of increasing slope (called the shelf break)].

#### 9.1 Pelagic

- The division of the marine environment composed of all the ocean’s water; living in the water column, away from the bottom.

#### 9.2 Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs

- Bottom habitat consisting predominantly of boulders (any loose rock larger than 256 mm in diameter) or consolidated rock (includes submerged coastal karst systems, but see 12.1).
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.3 Subtidal Loose Rock/Pebble/Gravel</strong></td>
<td>Bottom habitat consisting predominantly of unconsolidated cobbles (sediment size 64 to 256 mm diameter) and pebbles (sediment size 2 to 64 mm diameter).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.4 Subtidal Sandy</strong></td>
<td>Bottom habitat consisting of loose particles of rock or mineral sediments (predominantly ranges in size from 0.0625–2.0 mm in diameter).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.5 Subtidal Sandy-Mud</strong></td>
<td>Bottom habitat consisting predominantly of a mixture of sandy (see 9.4) and muddy (see 9.6) sediment types.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.6 Subtidal Muddy</strong></td>
<td>Bottom habitat consisting of wet clay (any particle smaller than 0.002 mm in diameter) and silt-rich sediment (silt consists of loose particles of rock or mineral (sediment) that ranges in size from 0.002–0.0625 mm in diameter).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.7 Macroalgal/Kelp</strong></td>
<td>Bottom habitat consisting predominantly of large algae, typically brown algae, which often forms dense macroalgal beds or forests.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8 Coral Reef</strong></td>
<td>Massive limestone structure built up through the cementing and depositional activities of colonial stony corals, predominantly of the order Scleractinia, and other calcareous invertebrate and algal species.</td>
<td>Note that the coral habitats listed here refer primarily to habitats found below water. The unvegetated coral habitat found above sea-level is not specifically included in this classification, hence for the interim this habitat can be recorded as 9.8 [also need to consider use of 12.1 or 13.1 for such cases]. If it has been colonized by plants, one of the other appropriate habitat types should be used. Note, it is not mandatory to code the coral habitats to the third-level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8.1 Outer Reef Channel</strong></td>
<td>Coral reef habitat on the foreslope (see 9.8.3) within or around the surge channels (spur and groove formations).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8.2 Back Slope</strong></td>
<td>The area opposite of the foreslope (see 9.8.3), also referring to the reef flat or inner part of a barrier reef or atoll.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8.3 Foreslope (Outer Reef Slope)</strong></td>
<td>The outer, seaward margin of a coral reef, also referring to the seaward side of a barrier reef or atoll.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8.4 Lagoon</strong></td>
<td>A shallow (less than a depth of 200 m), sheltered body of water separated from the open sea by coral reefs; also refers to the area between the shore and a fringing reef, between the coast and a barrier reef, or the portion of an atoll surrounded by the reef.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8.5 Inter-reef Soft Substrate</strong></td>
<td>Area between reefs typically consisting of sandy substrate (see 9.4), but sometimes also with clay or silt sediments (see 9.5 and 9.6).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.8.6 Inter-reef Rubble Substrate</strong></td>
<td>Area between reefs consisting predominantly of coral or calcareous fragments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.9 Seagrass (submerged)</strong></td>
<td>A bottom habitat consisting predominantly of grass-like marine flowering plants that grow and reproduce while submerged in seawater, such as eelgrass and turtle grass.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10 Estuaries</td>
<td>A semi-enclosed coastal embayment where fresh water and seawater meet and mix.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 10. Marine - Oceanic

| 10.1 Epipelagic (0–200 m) | The oceanic pelagic environment from the surface to a depth of around 200 m; also refers to the lighted or photic pelagic zone. |            |
| 10.2 Mesopelagic (200–1,000 m) | Uppermost oceanic pelagic aphotic zone from a depth of approximately 200 to 1,000 m. |            |
| 10.3 Bathypelagic (1,000–4,000 m) | Pelagic aphotic zone lying between the mesopelagic and abyssalpelagic zones between 1,000 to 4,000 m. |            |
| 10.4 Abyssopelagic (4,000–6,000 m) | Pelagic aphotic zone from a depth of 4,000 to 6,000 m. |            |

### 11. Marine - Deep Ocean Floor (Benthic and Demersal)

| 11.1 Continental Slope/Bathyl zone (200–4,000 m) | The bottom habitat on the steeper, seaward section of the continental or island margin from a depth of around 200 to 2,000 m. |            |
| 11.1.1 Hard Substrate | Bottom type consisting of loose or consolidated rock, including deep karst systems (see 9.2 and 9.3). |            |
| 11.1.2 Soft Substrate | Bottom type consisting of mud or sand or a mixture of mud and sand; most typically consisting of mud (see 9.4, 9.5, 9.6 for sediment sizes). |            |
| 11.2 Abyssal Plain (4,000–6,000 m) | The nearly flat area of the deep ocean floor lying between 4,000 and 6,000 m. |            |
| 11.3 Abyssal Mountain/Hills (4,000–6,000m) | The hilly or mountainous area of the deep ocean floor lying between 4,000 and 6,000 m. |            |
| 11.4 Hadal/Deep Sea Trench (>6000 m) | The bottom below 6,000 m. |            |
| 11.5 Seamount | Extinct volcano or steep-sided formation that rises abruptly from the deep sea floor but does not reach the surface. |            |
| 11.6 Deep Sea Vents (Rifts/Seeps) | An environment with ambient temperatures above normal, on the deep sea floor that depends on geothermal energy as the basis for biological productivity. |            |
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<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
</tr>
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#### 12. Marine - Intertidal

**Area of the shore between the extremes of high and low tides.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Habitat Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>Rocky Shoreline</td>
<td>Intertidal shore composed predominantly of consolidated rock or boulders (see 9.2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>Sandy Shorelines and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, etc.</td>
<td>Intertidal shore composed predominantly of sandy sediments (see 9.4 for sediment size characteristics).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches</td>
<td>Intertidal shore composed predominantly of pebble and cobble sediments (see 9.3 for sediment size characteristics).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>Mud Shoreline and Intertidal Mud Flats</td>
<td>Intertidal shore or bottom composed predominantly of mud or sandy-mud sediments (see 9.4 and 9.5 for sediment size characteristics).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>Salt Marshes (Emergent Grasses)</td>
<td>A grassy area that extends along the shores of estuaries and sheltered coasts in temperate and subpolar regions with emergent vegetation rooted in soils alternately inundated and drained by tidal action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>Tidepools</td>
<td>An intertidal depression in rocks or in sandy beaches that continues to hold water during low tide (also called tidal pools).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>Mangrove Submerged Roots</td>
<td>Intertidal zone in mangrove forests (see 1.7).</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### 13. Marine - Coastal/Supratidal

Coastal habitats above the high tide mark

These largely match to the coastal habitats used by Ramsar.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands</td>
<td>To be defined. <em>Would include limestone areas</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Coastal Caves/Karst</td>
<td>Karst systems, sea caves and other subterranean hydrological systems along the coast. (See 9.2 and 12.1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>Coastal Sand Dunes</td>
<td>Dune systems (including humid dune slacks).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes</td>
<td>Brackish to saline lagoons and lakes with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea. Often formed from sea inlets by silting and cut off from the sea by sand or mud banks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>Coastal Freshwater Lakes</td>
<td>Includes freshwater delta lagoons (see 5.5 and 5.6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Classification</td>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial - Terrestrial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.1 Arable Land</td>
<td>Includes cereal fields, rice paddies, perennial crops, orchards and groves (but see 14.3 and 14.4). Secondary grasslands may be coded here or under 14.2, depends on the usage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2 Pastureland</td>
<td>Includes fertilized or re-seeded permanent grasslands, sometimes treated with selective herbicides, with very impoverished flora and fauna. Also includes secondary grasslands and wooded farmland.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.3 Plantations</td>
<td>A plantation is an intentional planting of a crop, on a larger scale, usually for uses other than cereal production or pasture. The term is currently most often used for plantings of trees and shrubs. The term tends also to be used for plantings maintained on economic bases other than that of subsistence farming. Plantations are typically (but not exclusively) found in tropical or semitropical countries and usually require resident labourers. Examples include cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, banana, sisal, coffee, rubber, oil palm, coconut, timber trees, pineapples.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.4 Rural Gardens</td>
<td>Rural gardens are located in a rural setting, serving families whose main income comes from wage labour (rural or urban). Rural gardens differ from arable land production by the following features which are usually, but by no means in all cases, found simultaneously: (1) cropping plants for personal consumption that cannot be collected nor supplied by arable farming, (2) small plots, (3) proximity to the house, (4) fencing, (5) mixed or dense planting of a great number of annual, semi-permanent, and perennial crops, (6) a high intensity of land use, (7) land cultivation several times a year, (8) permanence of cultivation, and (9) cultivation with hand implements. These gardens also provide space and/or fodder for the raising of small animals (usually poultry, rodents and small ruminants). In extreme cases, the rural garden may be the only source of livelihood and income for the rural poor. If enough space is available, small cash crops may be produced and exchanged or sold for purchased food. Market gardens should be coded here.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.5 Urban Areas</td>
<td>Occurs throughout the world. Usually metropolitan and commercial areas dominated by asphalt, concrete and roof. Includes buildings, lawns and parks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.6 Subtropical/Tropical Heavily Degraded Former Forest</td>
<td>Former subtropical or tropical forest that has been extensively cleared or impacted by human activities. Often there is some degree of regeneration or there are small fragments of forest remaining. There is currently no differentiation between lowland and montane types.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### IUCN Habitats Classification Scheme

**Version:** 3.0 (24 April 2007)

**Level of Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examples</td>
<td>Exposition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15. Artificial - Aquatic</th>
<th>These are human-made wetland habitats</th>
<th>Mostly match those of Ramsar.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.1 Water Storage Areas</td>
<td>Generally over 8 ha. Includes reservoirs, barrages, dams and impoundments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.2 Ponds</td>
<td>Generally below 8 ha. Includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.3 Aquaculture Ponds</td>
<td>For example, fish or shrimp ponds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.4 Salt Exploitation Sites</td>
<td>Salt pans, salines, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5 Excavations (open)</td>
<td>Gravel, brick, clay pits, borrow pits and mining pools.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.6 Wastewater Treatment Areas</td>
<td>Sewage farms, settling ponds, oxidation basins, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.7 Irrigated Land</td>
<td>Includes irrigation channels and paddy (rice) fields.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.8 Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Land</td>
<td>Including intensively managed or grazed wet meadow or pasture.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.9 Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches</td>
<td>Linear excavations (varying enormously in size) made specifically to improve drainage of farmland, for controlling river courses, for controlling flow of water, for allowing ship movement, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.10 Karst and Other Subterranean Hydrological Systems</td>
<td>Human-made subterranean systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.11 Marine Anthropogenic Structures</td>
<td>Artificial reefs, docks, seawalls, rip rap, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.12 Mariculture Cages</td>
<td>Cages (made out of net or mesh) located in an open environment which includes both the sea and inland brackish water areas, for the culture of organisms, both plants and animals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.13 Mari/Brackish-culture Ponds</td>
<td>Human-made saltwater or brackish ponds for the cultivation of organisms, both plants and animals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 16. Introduced Vegetation | Includes only non-cultivated species or those that have escaped from cultivation. | No type specified |
## IUCN Habitats Classification Scheme

**Version:** 3.0 (24 April 2007)

**Level of Classification** | Definition | Examples | Exposition
---|---|---|---
1 | 2 | 3 | 2

### 17. Other
A habitat type not covered by any of the other categories in the system.

### 18. Unknown
The habitat is unknown.

### Additional Notes:

1. Habitats are recorded in the SIS database via the Habitats module using the "Add General Habitat Information" or "Quick Add to General Habitat Information" functions.

2. For each habitat recorded, additional required information is requested on how suitable and how important the habitat is to the taxon concerned.

3. The Coral Reef habitats (9.8) have a third-level, which is not mandatory, unlike other instances where there are three levels.