Introduction

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),the definition of land cover is fundamental, because in many existing classifications and legends it is confused with land use. It is defined as: *Land cover is the observed (bio)physical cover on the earth's surface.***Land cover** indicates the physical **land** type such as forest or open water whereas **land use** documents how people are using the **land**.**Land cover** data documents how much of a region is covered by forests, wetlands, impervious surfaces, agriculture, and other **land** and water types.

http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/lclu.html