OPINion ITU-R 101[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

Worldwide land cover databases

(2013)

ITU Radiocommunication Study Group 3,

considering

*a)* that there is a requirement for planning purposes for improved worldwide methods of predicting field strength which take account of ground cover such as buildings, vegetation, etc.;

*b)* that propagation predictions are improved by the inclusion of more detailed information on ground cover and suitable digital maps are becoming available nationally;

*c)* that the availability of ground cover would be of considerable benefit to developing countries in the planning of their existing and newly introduced services;

*d)* that the use of ground cover data may optimize technical studies and assist national spectrum management;

*e)* that Radiocommunication Study Group 3 has an active work programme concerning the development of improved prediction methods,

is of the opinion

1 that a land cover database with a 1 arc second horizontal resolution in latitude and longitude is suitable for worldwide methods of propagation prediction in the frequency range above 30 MHz;

2 that administrations be encouraged to review the land cover data available in this format, and should provide additional data with more information on land cover and with regular updates as necessary to account for development, so as to complete the worldwide extent of the database;

3 that administrations be encouraged to make these land cover databases freely available for ITU purposes;

4 that administrations are advised to encourage organizations involved in the production of terrain maps to produce databases of land cover classified as described in Recommendation ITU-R P.1058;

5 that administrations be encouraged to use land cover classifications for radio propagation prediction and national spectrum management;

6 that terrain heights should be used according to ITU‑R Recommendations.

1. \* Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau is requested to bring this Opinion to the attention of the UN FAO Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) and to the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)