

# Evolution Analysis of the land use in the municipality of Korsimoro, north-central Burkina Faso: Predictive modelling for 2050

In the context of the commune of Korsimoro in Burkina Faso, this study looked at the evolution of land use between 1991 and 2021, with projections to 2050. Using satellite data and geospatial processing methods, an analysis of past and projected trends in future land-use scenarios was conducted. The results revealed a significant increase in anthropogenic activities in recent decades, with a 25.69 per cent increase in land dedicated to agriculture and the expansion of urban areas. However, an optimistic outlook for 2050 suggests a regression in anthropogenic activities and an increase in natural areas, with 5.67 per cent increase for wooded savannahs and 78.37 per cent increase for shrub and grassy savannahs, respectively. These findings underscore the importance of rethinking land management policies in order to promote more sustainable development. Sustainable agricultural practices, integrated urban planning and the protection of natural ecosystems appear to be promising avenues for reconciling human needs with environmental preservation.

Keywords: Land occupation; trend projection; optimistic projection; Municipality of Korsimoro

## ABSTRACT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the heart of north-central Burkina Faso lies Korsimoro, a dynamic commune where land use planning issues are paramount for local and regional development. This rainfed agricultural hub is characterized by a mosaic of cultivated fields and a strong human presence, making it a compelling case study for examining the changing dynamics of land use and its implications for sustainable development.

In a context of increasing urbanization and unprecedented environmental pressures, effective land management in Korsimoro is crucial to ensure harmonious and sustainable progress. The municipality is grappling with changing demographics and increasing economic pressures, which presents a unique opportunity to study land use dynamics and anticipate future trends (YAMEOGO and al., 2020)[1].

This study embarks on a forward-looking analysis of land use trends in Korsimoro, using both optimistic and realistic scenarios. Based on historical data from 1991 and population projections, we aim to identify the key trends and determining factors that shape the future land use of the municipality.

Landsat satellite data, combined with the power of geographic information system (GIS) tools such as QGIS, form the backbone of this analysis. These technologies allow us to map and quantify land-use changes over time, determining the extent of housing, agriculture, vegetation, and other types of land cover [2], [3].

Over the past three decades, Korsimoro has undergone a remarkable transformation of its territory, marked by a growing phenomenon of anthropization. From 1991 to 2021, urban sprawl, intensive agriculture, and other human activities have put continuous pressure on the land, leading to rapid and sometimes irreversible changes to the natural landscape. This anthropization has been fueled by a combination of factors, including population growth, rapid urbanization, unsustainable agricultural practices, and often poorly coordinated development policies, [4].

By providing a forward-looking perspective on the changes ahead, this study provides local decision-makers and development actors with valuable tools and information to guide their land-use planning efforts. By gaining a better understanding of possible land use trajectories in Korsimoro, we can contribute to a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive planning approach, ensuring that the needs of current and future generations are met while preserving the municipality's natural resources and environmental heritage,[5].

## 2. RESULTS

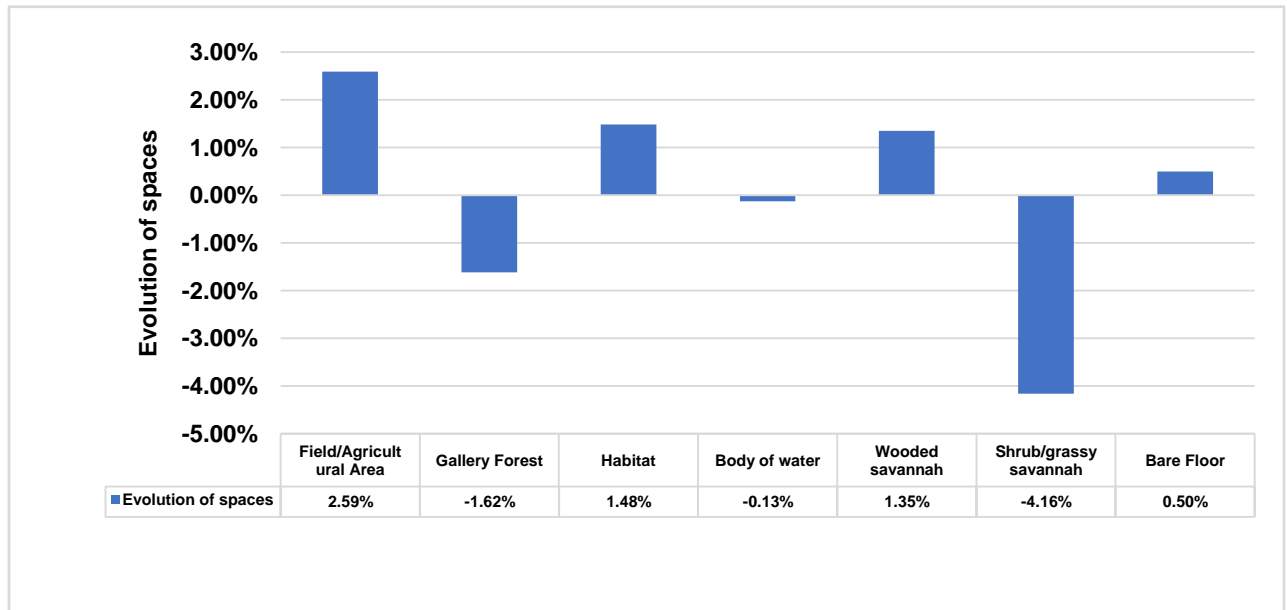
### 1.1. Summary of land use from 1991 to 2021

From 1991 to 2021, over a 31-year period, land tenure units have fluctuated several times. These changes are summarized in Table 1 and Figure 1.

**Table 1 : 2001 and 2021 space review**

Unit	Area in 1991 (%)	Area in 2021(%)	Evolution of spaces(%)
<b>Field/Agricultural Area</b>	10.51	13.09	<b>2.59</b>
<b>Gallery Forest</b>	2.72	1.10	<b>-1.62</b>
<b>Habitat</b>	0.78	2.26	<b>1.48</b>
<b>Body of water</b>	0.45	0.32	<b>-0.13</b>
<b>Wooded savannah</b>	3.00	4.35	<b>1.35</b>
<b>Shrub/grassy savannah</b>	81.47	77.31	<b>-4.16</b>
<b>BareFloor</b>	1.08	1.58	<b>0.50</b>

**Source:** Landsat Image Processing 1991, 2021



Source: Landsat 2001 Image Processing; 2021

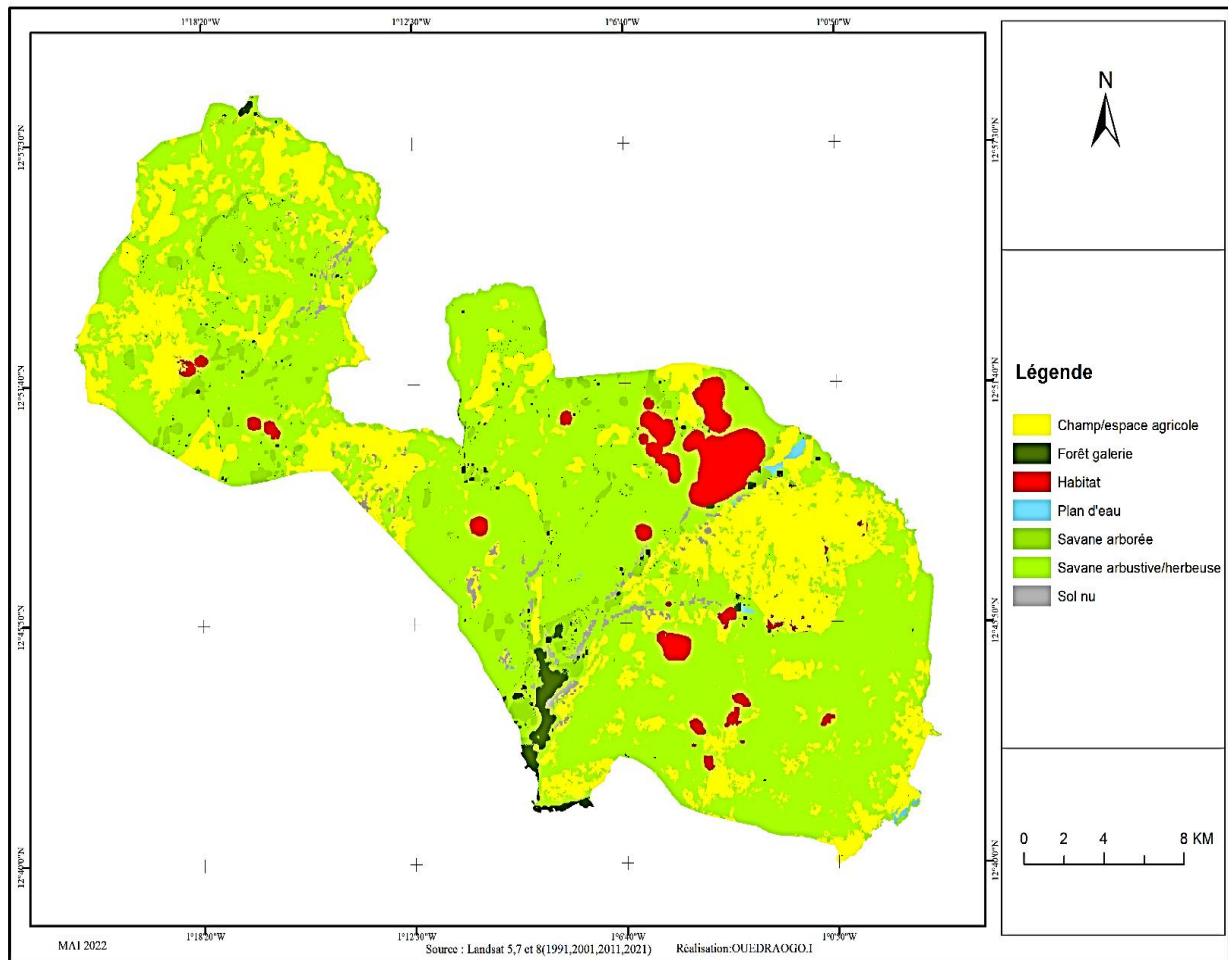
**Figure 1: Evolution of occupancy units from 2001 to 2021**

The general observation, based on the analysis of the data from the two extreme dates, allows us to make the following observations:

- An increase in the surface area of bare soil, wooded savannahs, habitats and especially fields and agricultural areas;
- a regression in the areas of shrub and grassy savannahs, water bodies and gallery forests.

## 1.2. Land cover Trend in 2050

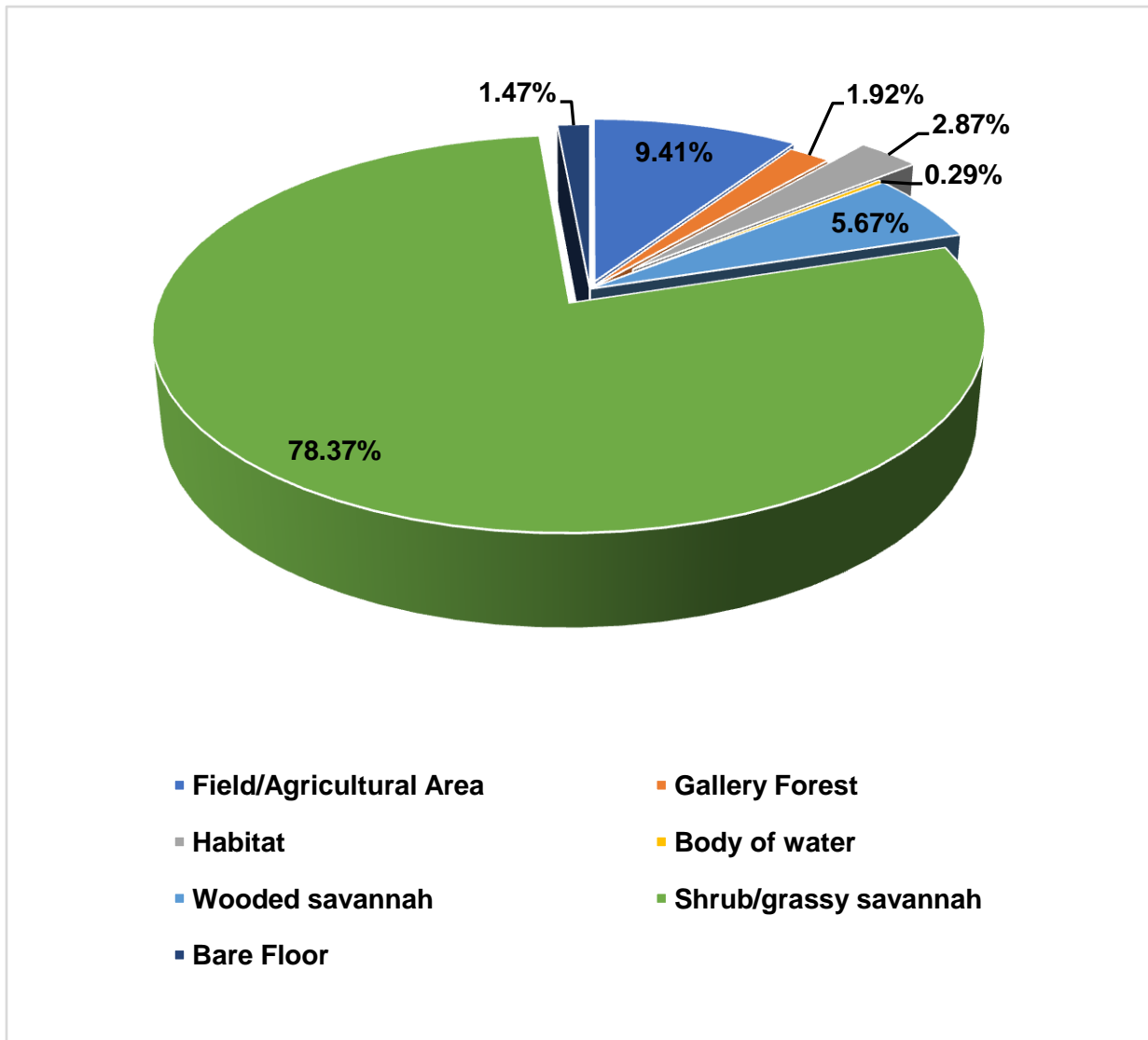
Based on data on the evolution of land cover by the different occupancy units, from 1991; 2001; In 2011 and 2021, a trend shows land use in 2050. This form of occupation shows an increase in the spaces occupied by anthropogenic activities, particularly fields and agricultural areas (25.69%), habitats and bare soil. However, natural areas are in decline (Map 1, Figure 2).



**Map1: Trend to 2050**

This expansion of agricultural land implies the deforestation of natural vegetation formations such as gallery forests, dense forests and wooded and shrub savannas by producers in search of fertile land, probably because of the decline in crop yields, but also because of the constant increase in the population whose basic needs must be met or incomes improved. Unfortunately, the cultivation technique seems to have remained traditional without a remarkable improvement. It is characterized by slash-and-burn cultivation, without the use of a minimum of chemical or organic fertilizer to preserve soil fertility. Agricultural activities are one of the main causes of the downward trend of natural vegetation formations and their degradation.

The simulation indicates a profound landscape change. However, this future development did not take into account changes in the population, changes in land use practices in particular, and the implementation of a possible development project.



**Source:** Landsat Image Processing 1991, 2001, 2011, 2021

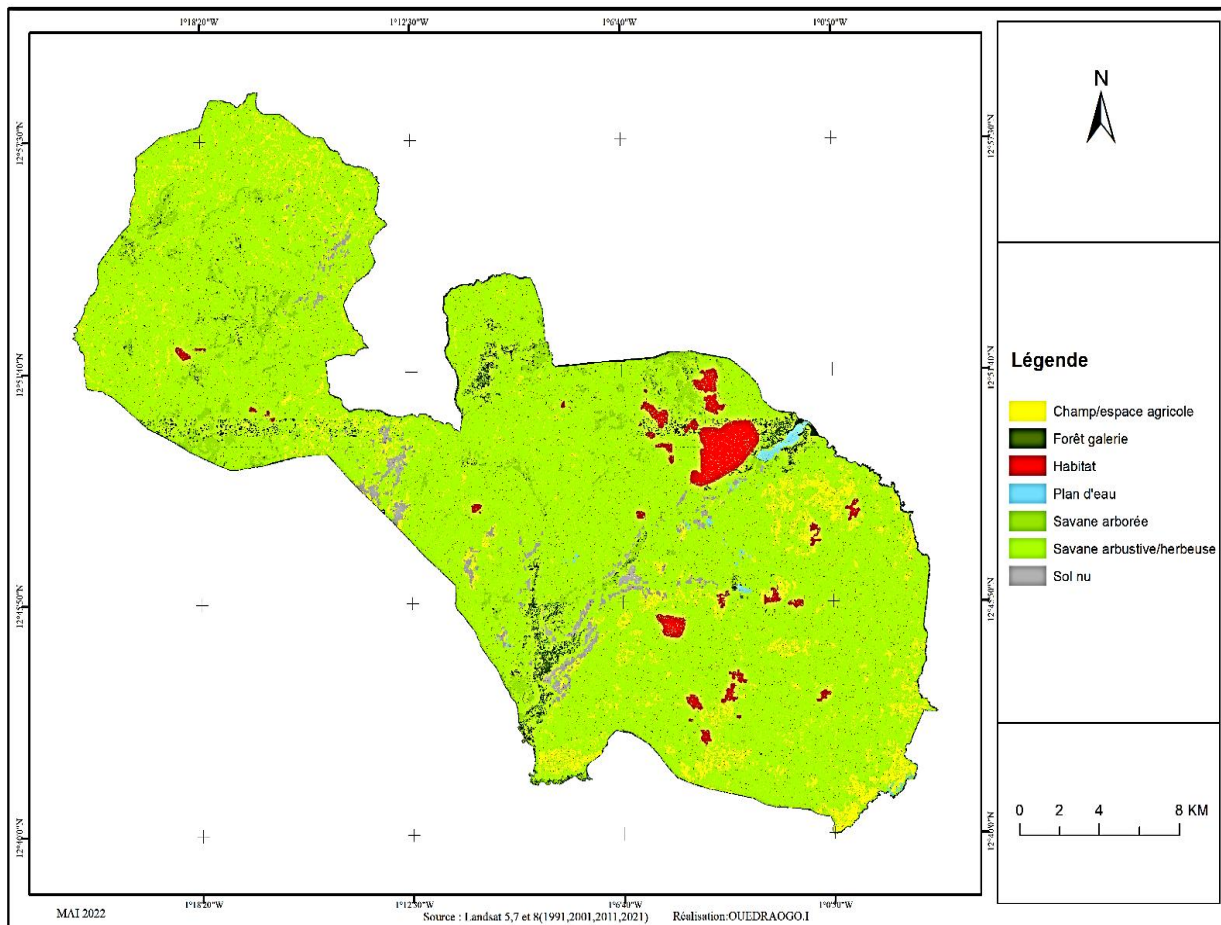
**Figure 2: Proportion of spaces with trend occupancy by 2050**

According to Malthus' theory, this pessimistic scenario predicts the evolution of space. As human populations increase, the continued and irreversible pressure on the environment will lead to the depletion of the natural resources on which humans depend. Expanding the field will not be conducive to plant formation. This would result in a degraded savannah, reddish-brown formations, or even an occupation of fringe areas constituting rocky outcrops or armoured spaces. The loss of pasture land to agricultural land will lead to the scarcity or disappearance of fodder resources.

### 1.3. Optimistic outlook for 2050

An optimistic forecast of land use by 2050 based on 1991 data; 2001; 2011 and 2021, shows a regression in the spaces occupied by anthropogenic activities

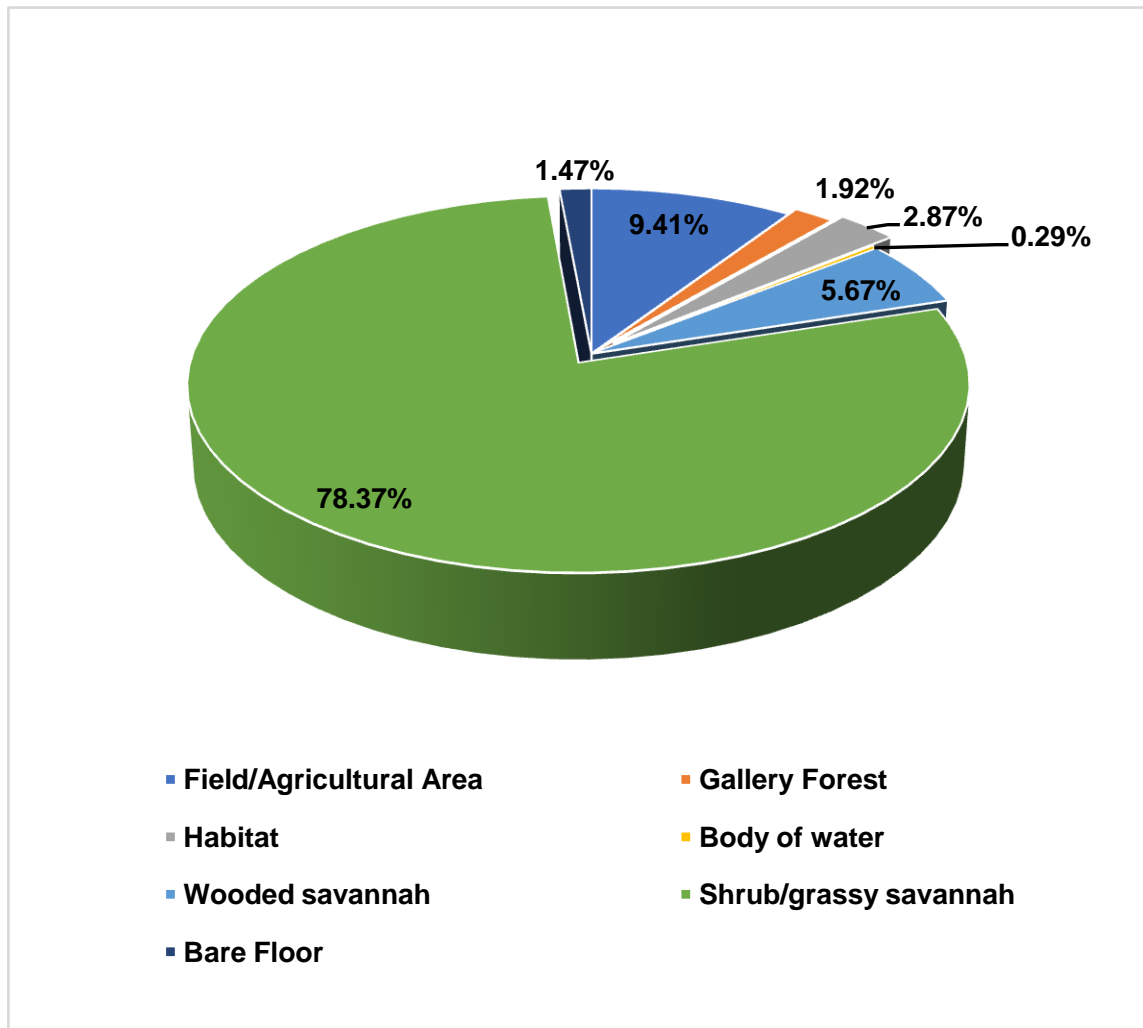
and an increase in natural areas of 5.67% for wooded savannahs and 78.37% for shrub and grassy savannahs. This dynamic of optimistic land use is only possible if there is a break with the current trend (Map 2, Figure 3).



**Map 2 : Optimistic outlook for 2050**

The optimistic simulation is based on the likely awareness of the dire situation and the implementation of environmental restoration projects. This forecast is optimistic insofar as it would be the result of a rational exploitation of natural resources and an efficient implementation of a land use plan that takes into account not only the needs of people, but also the environment.

The second scenario, on the other hand, calls for human ingenuity to cope with the constraints of natural resource degradation in a context of population growth. This is an optimistic Boserupian scenario. In this context, the abuse and destruction of forest resources, crops and residential occupation to the detriment of natural areas will lead actors to become aware of the need to protect the environment. Pastoral areas are dedicated to grazing animals. In addition, other spaces have been allocated for hunting activities and can be used as grazing areas for animals. The aim is to protect ecosystems from risks and threats, particularly those associated with agricultural activities. In this scenario, land use and the protection of certain areas will be fully respected in the future.



**Source:** Landsat Image Processing 1991, 2001, 2011, 2021

### 3. DISCUSSION

The analysis of the evolution of land cover in the municipality of Korsimoro, based on data collected between 1991 and 2021, made it possible to project land cover trends up to 2050. The results indicate a trend marked by a significant increase in the areas occupied by anthropogenic activities, in particular fields and agricultural areas, as well as urban habitats, to the detriment of natural areas. These different results are corroborated by those [6];[7] and [8].

Observing these trends reveals a major change in the land landscape of the municipality. In fact, the data shows a 25.69% increase in the area devoted to agricultural activities, suggesting an intensification of land use to meet the population's growing needs for food and agricultural resources. This expansion of agricultural activities is often associated with intensive practices such as

**Figure 3: Proportions of Optimistic Occupancy Spaces by 2050**

deforestation and the conversion of natural land to arable land, thus leading to a regression of natural areas, as evidenced by the work of the [9] and [10].

At the same time, this study shows an increase in housing and bare soil, which testifies to increasing urbanization and an expansion of human infrastructure in the municipality. This rapid urbanization may be the result of factors such as population growth, the attraction of economic opportunities, and increased demand for housing and infrastructure. Similar results are found by [11].

However, this shift towards land use dominated by anthropogenic activities raises major concerns in terms of environmental and biodiversity preservation. The regression of natural areas can have harmful consequences on local ecosystems, air and water quality, as well as on resilience to climate change. In the face of these challenges, it is imperative to adopt land management policies and strategies that promote sustainable and balanced use of natural resources. This could involve measures such as the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, the preservation of green spaces and integrated urban planning to limit excessive urban sprawl,[12], [13], [14].

In contrast, the analysis of the evolution of land use in the municipality of Korsimoro, taking into account an optimistic forecast for 2050, reveals contrasting trends compared to the current situation. This optimistic projection, based on data from 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021, highlights a potential reversal of land use trends, with a regression in the spaces occupied by anthropogenic activities and an increase in natural areas,[15], [16].

Indeed, our results indicate a regression of the spaces occupied by anthropogenic activities, including fields and agricultural areas, in contrast to the trend observed so far. This dynamic is supported by a significant increase in natural areas, in particular an increase of 5.67% for wooded savannahs and 78.37% for shrub and grassy savannahs.

This optimistic trend highlights the possibility of a break with current land use patterns, with positive implications for biodiversity conservation and the preservation of local ecosystems. However, it is important to note that achieving this optimistic projection would require significant changes in development policies and land management practices [17], [18].

To achieve this optimistic momentum of land use, measures such as the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the establishment of protected areas would be necessary. In addition, active involvement of local stakeholders and increased awareness of the importance of nature conservation would be key to supporting this transition to a more sustainable future, [19], [20].

In short, this study highlights the importance of considering alternative scenarios in the analysis of the evolution of land use, highlighting the possibilities and challenges related to an optimistic projection for the future of the municipality of Korsimoro. These results offer important perspectives to guide land management policies and contribute to a more sustainable development of the region.

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The analysis of the evolution of land use in the municipality of Korsimoro, integrating both current trends and an optimistic projection towards 2050, reveals valuable lessons for sustainable land management and the preservation of biodiversity. The results highlight the significant impact of human activities on the landscape, with an expansion of agricultural and urban land at the expense of natural ecosystems. However, an optimistic projection suggests a possible reversal of these trends, with a regression in human activities and an increase in natural areas. The use of predictive methods is essential in this analysis, allowing for the assessment of past trends and the anticipation of future land use scenarios. These methods are crucial for informing land management decisions and guiding interventions to promote sustainable development.

- **Implement Sustainable Land Use Policies:** Develop and enforce policies that promote sustainable land use practices in Korsimoro municipality. This can include regulations on land conversion, zoning laws to protect natural habitats, and incentives for landowners to adopt conservation measures.
- **Invest in Green Infrastructure:** Invest in green infrastructure projects such as reforestation, green corridors, and wetland restoration to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. These projects can also help mitigate the impacts of urbanization and agricultural expansion on natural ecosystems.
- **Promote Agroecology:** Encourage the adoption of agroecological practices among farmers to promote sustainable agriculture while preserving biodiversity. This can include practices such as agroforestry, organic farming, and crop diversification, which can improve soil health, reduce reliance on chemical inputs, and enhance biodiversity on agricultural lands.
- **Foster Community Engagement:** Engage local communities, stakeholders, and indigenous groups in land use planning processes to ensure that their perspectives and traditional knowledge are integrated into decision-making. This can help build local support for conservation efforts and foster stewardship of natural resources.
- **Monitor and Evaluate:** Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track changes in land use over time and assess the effectiveness of interventions aimed at promoting sustainable land management. Regular monitoring can help identify emerging threats to biodiversity and inform adaptive management strategies.
- **Invest in Education and Awareness:** Educate the public about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management through outreach campaigns, environmental education programs, and community workshops. Increasing awareness about the value of natural ecosystems can help garner support for conservation initiatives and foster a culture of environmental stewardship.
- **Collaborate Across Sectors:** Foster collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector actors to address complex land use challenges in a coordinated manner. By working together, stakeholders can leverage their expertise and resources to develop holistic solutions that balance socio-economic development with environmental conservation goals.

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