

Handling Temporal Environmental Data

The Data

The data set consists of three shape files called **landcover70s**, **landcover80s** and **landcover90s**. These are all maps of different land cover categories at the Mafungabusi forest reserve in Zimbabwe and the immediately surrounding area of smallholder agricultural land. Each shape file is for a different year (1976, 1985, and 1996) and was produced from aerial photographs.

As well as the area, perimeter, and unique identifier for each object, two further fields of data are available:

Treecover: estimated percentage tree cover, based on the aerial photographs

Landcover (called **type** in 1976): the main land cover class for the polygon (e.g. forest, farmland, vlei [riverine grassland]), etc.

Note:

These data are described in more detail in the following article:

Mapedza E, Wright JA, and Fawcett R (2003): 'An investigation of land cover change in Mafungabusi Forest, Zimbabwe, using GIS and participatory mapping'. *Applied Geography* **23**: 1-21.