

GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS

Block Plantation :

Tree plantations in compact blocks of more than 0.1ha on lands outside recorded forest areas.

Canopy (or Crown) :

The cover of branches and foliage formed by the crown of trees.

Canopy Density :

Percent area of land covered by the canopy of trees. Also referred to as “Crown Density”.

Cartographic Limitation/Resolution:

The minimum mapable size or dimension of features at a given map scale (about 25 ha at 1:250,000 scale and about 1 ha at 1:50,000 scale).

Change Matrix:

It describes the change in forest cover for a given region (state or UT) over a period of two assessments by showing the extent of areas changing from one class of land cover to another between the two periods.

Crown Area:

The area of crown of individual trees computed by measuring the width of the horizontal projection of tree crown on the ground.

Culturable Non Forest Area (CNFA):

It is the net geographical area, lying outside recorded forest area and forest cover, which can support tree vegetation (thus, excluding areas under wetlands, riverbeds, perennial snow covered mountains, etc.). CNFA is the area over which the sample data on tree cover is aggregated for the assessment of tree cover.

Dense Forest:

All lands with a forest cover with canopy density of 40 percent and above.

Digital Image Processing (DIP):

Interpretation and classification of land use or land cover from digital data (from remote sensing satellites) using computer aided technology.

Error Matrix:

It is a means to quantitatively assess the accuracy of classification of a map generated by interpretation of data obtained by remote sensing. It is a square matrix of numbers laid out in rows and columns denoting class or category of land cover. The numbers in individual cells indicate the number of randomly selected locations that were categorised in a particular class denoted along the row but on the ground were actually found to belong to the class denoted in the column. The matrix is also known as “confusion matrix”.

False Color Composite:

Product generated by combining the data contained in three different spectral bands into one image by assigning blue, green and red colour to the data in three spectral bands, respectively.

Farm Forestry:

The practice of planting/cultivating and managing trees on farms or agricultural lands.

Forest Area:

Geographic areas recorded as forests in Government records. It is also referred to as “recorded forest area”.

Forest Blanks:

A part of forest area where, for any reason, only a few or no trees are growing.

Forest Cover:

All lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent. Such lands may not be statutorily notified as forest area.

Forest Inventory:

The measuring and describing the quantity and quality of forest crop and many other characteristics of the land area upon which forest crop is growing

Geographic Area:

The total physical area within the boundaries on a map. (The geographic area of India includes area that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China)

Geographic Information System (GIS):

A system for capturing, storing, checking, manipulating, analysing and displaying data that are spatially referenced to the earth.

Green Wash:

The extent of wooded areas generally shown with light green tinge on the SOI maps or toposheets.

Growing Stock:

The sum-total of all the trees, by number or volume or biomass, growing within a particular area of interest.

Hill Districts:

Districts with more than 50 percent geographic area under "hill talukas" based on criteria adopted by the Planning Commission for Hill Area and Western Ghats Development Programmes.

Land Cover:

Broad land use classes interpreted from satellite data. The land cover classes used in this report are dense forest, open forest, scrub and non-forest.

Mangroves:

Salt tolerant forest ecosystem found mainly in tropical and sub-tropical coastal and/or inter-tidal regions.

Mangrove Cover:

Area covered under mangrove vegetation as interpreted digitally from remote sensing data. It is classified into dense mangrove cover (canopy density over 40 percent) and open mangrove cover (canopy density from 10 to 40 percent).

Net Change (in Forest Cover) :

The sum-total of positive and negative changes in forest cover within a given region that took place during the period of two assessments.

Non Forest Area:

Geographic area outside recorded forest area.

Non Forest:

Lands without any forest cover.

Open Forest:

All lands with a forest cover with a canopy density of 10 to 40 percent.

Protected Forest:

An area notified under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act or other State Forest Acts, having limited degree of protection. In Protected forest all activities are permitted unless prohibited.

Physiographic Zone:

A physiographic zone constitutes geographical areas that exhibit broad similarities in factors responsible for the growth of tree vegetation.

Physiographic zones have been used as strata for assessing tree cover in the country.

Recorded Forest Area:

Same as “forest area”; i.e., geographic areas recorded as forests in Government records.

Reserved Forests:

An area so constituted under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act or other State Forest Acts, having full degree of protection. In Reserved forests all activities are prohibited unless permitted.

Scrub:

All lands, generally in and around forest areas, having bushes and/or poor tree growth chiefly of small or stunted trees with canopy density less than 10 percent.

Spatial Resolution:

The area on earth’s surface that can be “seen” by a sensor as being separate from its surroundings and is represented by a “pixel”.

Thematic Maps:

Maps, generally on 1:50,000 scale, showing forest types, major species composition, crown density and other land uses prepared by interpretation of aerial photographs and verified by ground truthing.

Tree :

Tree, in this report, denotes all perennial woody vegetation (including bamboos, palms, coconut, neem, peepal, fruit trees, etc.). It excludes non-perennial non-woody species (e.g., banana) and tall shrubs or climbers (e.g., lantana or canes). For the purpose of assessing

tree cover, only those trees having diameter of 10 cm or more at breast height (1.37 m) have been considered. In case of trees having multiple branches below breast height, the individual stems with diameter over 10 cm at breast height have been considered as individual trees.

Tree Cover:

The term used in this report refers to the notional area covered by crown of trees that is too small to be delineated by digital interpretation of remote sensing data used for forest cover delineation.

Trees Outside Forests:

Tree wealth existing outside recorded forest areas.

Tribal Districts:

Districts identified as tribal districts under Tribal Sub-Plan (Government of India).

Unclassed Forests:

An area recorded as forest but not included in reserved or protected forest category. Ownership status of such forests varies from state to state.

Visual Interpretation:

A non-computer based method of satellite data interpretation, normally by using magnifying glass and light table.

Village Woodlot:

Naturally growing trees (sometimes supplemented with tree plantations) growing on village community land or panchayat land.
