

7.3
ASSAM

Geographical Area	74,438 sq km
Population (as per Census 2011)	31.21 million
Urban	4.40 million (14.10%)
Rural	26.81 million (85.90%)
Tribal	3.88 million (12.45 %)
Average Population Density	398 per sq km
Livestock population (as per 18th Live Stock Census)	17.23 million
No. of Districts (as per Census 2001)	23
No. of Hill Districts	03
No. of Tribal Districts	16

Land Use Pattern

Land Use	Area in '000 ha	Percentage
Total Geographical Area	7,844	
Reporting area for land utilization	7,850	100
Forests	1,853	23.61
Not available for cultivation	2,620	33.38
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	160	2.03
Land under Misc. Tree crops and groves	196	2.49
Culturable wasteland	78	0.99
Fallow lands other than current fallows	52	0.66
Current fallows	81	1.04
Net area sown	2,811	35.80

Source: Landuse Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2012-13.

Forest Cover Within Green Wash

Very Dense Forest	1,343 sq km
Moderately Dense Forest	9,731 sq km
Open Forest	8,919 sq km
Sub Total	19,993 sq km

Forest Cover Outside Green Wash

Very Dense Forest	98 sq km
Moderately Dense Forest	1,537 sq km
Open Forest	5,995 sq km
Sub Total	7,630 sq km

Total Forest Cover	27,623 sq km
Tree Cover	1,613 sq km
Total Forest & Tree Cover	29,236 sq km
Per capita Forest & Tree Cover	0.094 ha
Of State's Geographical Area	37.27%
Of India's Forest & Tree Cover	3.68%

* Seven toposheet of 1:50,000 scale of Assam state were not available and corresponding green wash area could not be digitized.

Forest Cover Informatics in Different Patch Size Class

S.No.	Patch Size Range in (sq km)	No. of Patches	Area (sq km)	%age
1.	>=0.01 <= 1.0	52,434	2,884	10.45
2.	> 1.0 <= 10	656	1,851	6.70
3.	> 10 <= 100	105	3,142	11.37
4.	> 100 <= 500	23	4,713	17.06
5.	> 500 <= 1000	2	1,200	4.35
6.	> 1000 <= 5000	1	2,177	7.88
7.	> 5000 <= 10000	0	0	0.00
8.	> 10000	1	11,656	42.19
	Total	53,222	27,623	100

Forest Types

 (Area in km²)

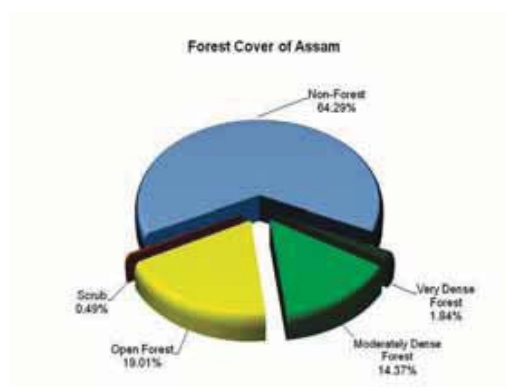
Forest Type	Area	Percent
1B/C1 Assam Valley Tropical Wet Evergreen Forest	1,848.58	6.65
1B/C2a Kayea Forest	281.70	1.01
1B/C2b Mesua Forest	21.40	0.08
1B/C3 Cachar Tropical Evergreen Forest	966.80	3.48
1/2S1 Pioneer <i>Euphorbiaceous</i> Scrub	228.43	0.82
2B/C1a Assam Alluvial Plains Semi-Evergreen Forest	843.98	3.04
2B/C2 Cachar Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forest	11,229.71	40.41
2B/1S1 Sub-Himalayan Light Alluvial Semi-Evergreen Forest	510.08	1.83
2B/2S2 Eastern Alluvial Secondary Semi-Evergreen Forest	413.40	1.49
2/2S1 Secondary Moist Bamboo Brakes	1,373.95	4.94

Forest Types

(Area in km²)

Forest Type	Area	Percent
3C/C1aii Khasi Hill Sal Forest	38.25	0.14
3C/C1b (i) East Himalayan Upper Bhabar Sal Forest	826.48	2.97
3C/C2d (iv) App. Kamrup Sal	877.96	3.16
3C/C3b East Himalayan Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest	4,889.78	17.59
3C/2S1 Northern Secondary Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest	460.19	1.66
3/1S2a <i>Terminalia-Lagerstroemia</i> Forest	33.36	0.12
5/1S2 Khair-Sissu Forest	25.40	0.09
9/C2 Assam Subtropical Pine Forest	124.63	0.45
Plantation/TOF	2,796.92	10.07
Total	27,791.00	100.00

Source: Atlas Forest Types of India, 2011



Growing Stock

Growing Stock in Recorded Forest Area	143.67 million cum
Growing Stock in TOF	33.02 million cum

Recorded Forest Area

Reserved Forest	17,864 sq km
Protected Forest	0 sq km
Unclassed Forest	8,968 sq km
Total	26,832 sq km
Of State's Geographical Area	34.21 %
Of India's Forest Area	3.51%

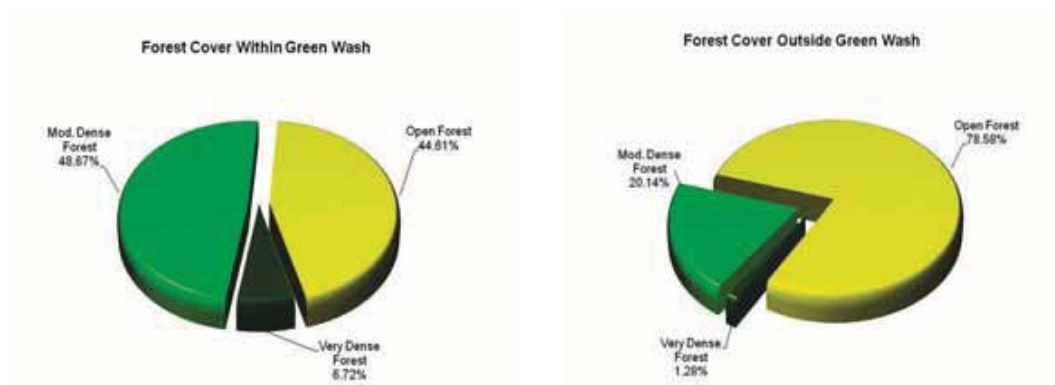


Figure 7.3: Forest Cover Map of Assam

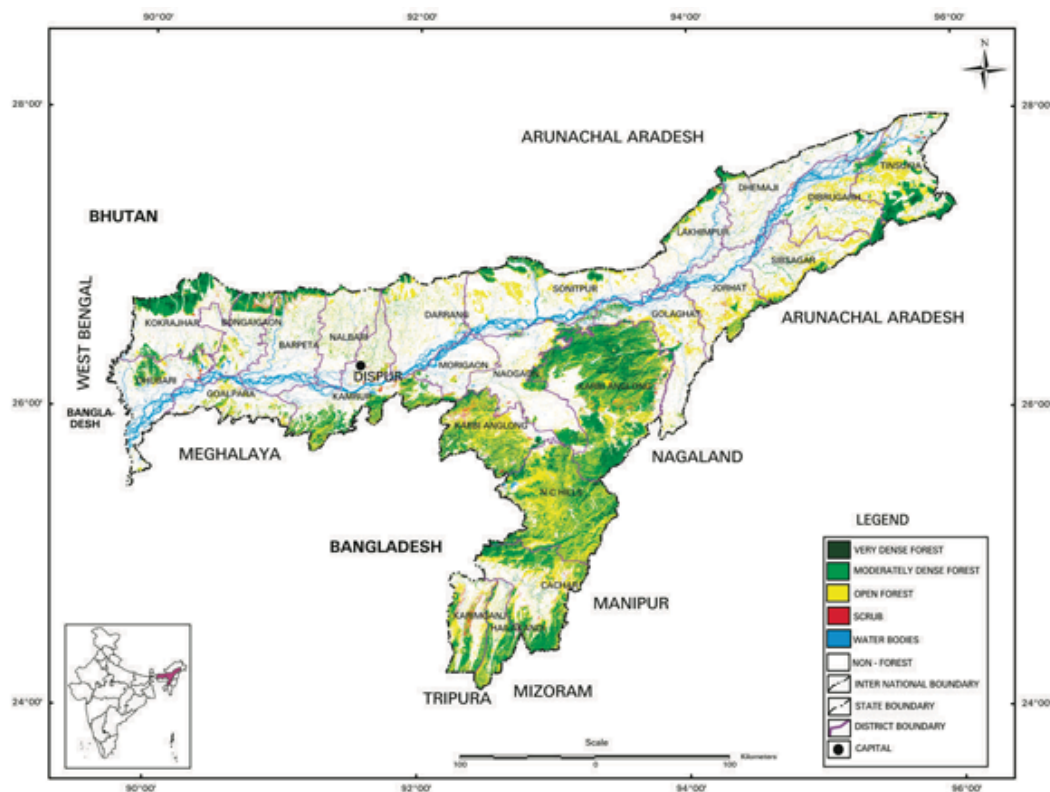


Table 7.3a : District-wise Forest Cover of Assam

District-wise Forest Cover (Area in km²)

District	Geo-graphical Area	Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total	Percent of GA	Change	Scrub
Barpeta ^T	3,245	35	177	183	395	12.17	0	23
Bongaigaon	2,510	33	267	222	522	20.80	1	29
Cachar ^T	3,786	81	971	1,181	2,233	58.98	-8	18
Darrang ^T	3,481	12	91	368	471	13.53	3	3
Dhemaji ^T	3,237	7	124	164	295	9.11	3	9
Dhubari ^T	2,798	21	194	192	407	14.55	-5	13
Dibrugarh ^T	3,381	29	163	571	763	22.57	8	2
Goalpara ^T	1,824	1	71	267	339	18.59	2	9
Golaghat	3,502	6	122	392	520	14.85	-5	13
Hailakandi	1,327	13	372	401	786	59.23	-3	5
Jorhat ^T	2,851	2	111	473	586	20.55	-23	10
Kamrup ^T	4,345	68	606	754	1,428	32.87	-1	28
Karbi-Anglong ^H	10,434	564	3,766	3,624	7,954	76.23	-6	104
Karimganj	1,809	3	316	542	861	47.60	-3	49
Kokrajhar ^T	3,169	207	678	222	1,107	34.93	-13	15
Lakhimpur ^T	2,277	4	118	174	296	13.00	3	6
Morigaon ^T	1,704	6	41	85	132	7.75	-1	5
North Cachar Hills ^H	4,888	135	1,542	2,585	4,262	87.19	-8	3
Naogaon ^H	3,831	40	351	402	793	20.70	-1	12

District-wise Forest Cover								(Area in km ²)
District	Geo-graphical Area	Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total	Percent of GA	Change	Scrub
Nalbari ^T	2,257	4	70	207	281	12.45	-1	1
Sibsagar ^T	2,668	8	143	539	690	25.86	-2	4
Sonitpur ^T	5,324	56	278	611	945	17.75	-11	5
Tinsukia ^T	3,790	106	696	755	1,557	41.08	23	18
Grand Total	78,438	1,441	11,268	14,914	27,623	35.22	-48	384

Table 7.3b : Change Matrix of Assam

Forest Cover Change Matrix							(Area in km ²)
Class	2015 Assessment					Total ISFR 2013	
	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF		
Very Dense Forest	1,441	0	1	0	2	1,444	
Moderately Dense Forest	0	11,267	15	0	63	11,345	
Open Forest	0	1	14,668	26	187	14,882	
Scrub	0		8	173	1	182	
Non Forest	0		222	185	50,178	50,585	
Total ISFR 2015	1,441	11,268	14,914	384	50,431	78,438	
Net Change	-3	-77	32	202	-154		

Table 7.3c : Altitude-wise Forest Cover of Assam

Altitude-wise Forest Cover					(Area in km ²)
Altitude Zone	VDF	MDF	OF	Total	
0-500m	1,017	8,809	12,394	22,220	
500-1000m	334	2,105	2,234	4,673	
1000-2000m	90	354	286	730	
Total	1,441	11,268	14,914	27,623	

(Based on SRTM, Digital Elevation Model)

Reasons for change detected in 2015 assessment:

The decrease in forest cover of the state is mainly due to encroachment in forest land, biotic pressure, rotational felling in tea gardens and shifting cultivation. Positive change in few districts is mainly due to plantations within and outside forest areas.

