

8.1 ANDHRA PRADESH

8.1.1 Introduction

Andhra Pradesh is situated at the southeast coast of the country and lies between lat 12°37' and 19°55' N and long 76°45' and 84°46' E. It has a geographic area of 27.51 million ha and constitutes 8.37% of the total area of the country. Physiographically the State can be divided into 3 distinct regions viz. (i) the hilly region having Nallamalai and Erramalai Hills of the Rayalaseema and the Eastern Ghats, (ii) the plateau having an altitude of 100 m to 1000 m spread mainly over the Telengana region and (iii) the deltas of rivers between the Eastern Ghats and the sea coast. The major rivers are Godavari and Krishna, which pass through the Deccan Plateau and drain into the Bay of Bengal. Land use pattern of the State is given in Table 8.1a.

Climate of the State is hot and humid with temperatures ranging from 15°C to 45°C. Annual rainfall ranges from 1,100 to 1,250 mm in the north, reducing to about 500 mm in the south. The northeastern areas along the coastline are periodically lashed by cyclones.

The total population of the State is 76.21 million (*Census 2001*), which constitutes 7.41% of the country's population. Of this, rural population is 72.70% and urban 27.30%. The population density is 277 persons per km². The Scheduled Tribes constitute 6.6% of the population mainly distributed over 8 districts. The livestock population is 48.2 million (*Livestock Census 2003*), which has increased by about 30% since the census of 1992.

8.1.2 Forest Resources

The recorded forest area is 63,821 km², which is 23.20% of the geographic area of the State. By legal status,

Reserved Forests constitute 79.09%, Protected Forests, 19.37%, and Unclassed Forests, 1.54%.

The four major forest types occurring in the State are Tropical Dry Deciduous, Southern Tropical Thorn, Southern Tropical Moist Deciduous and Littoral and Swamp forests. Forests are distributed mainly in the form of a wide strip in the north starting from Nizamabad district in the west to Srikakulam in the east. Besides this, a belt runs from central to the southern part of the State in the Nallamalai hills.

8.1.3 Protected Areas

There are 4 National Parks spread over an area of 0.33 m ha and 21 Wildlife Sanctuaries over 1.25 m ha. Thus a total of 1.58 m ha area constituting 5.76% of the geographical area of the State is under protected area network.

The largest Tiger Reserve of the country, Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem spread over 0.36 million ha and the Kolleru wildlife sanctuary which is a Ramsar site are located in this State.

8.1.4 Joint Forest Management

Andhra Pradesh is one of the pioneer State to start Joint Forest Management. There are 8,663 Vana Samarakshana Samithies (VSSs) managing 2.29 million ha of forest area which is about 36% of the forest area of the State. About 1.59 million members are involved in JFM. Out of these, 0.48 million members belong to Scheduled Tribes.

Source: AP Forest Department.

Table 8.1a: Land use pattern

Land Use	Area in '000 ha	Percentage
Total geographical area	27,507	
Reporting area for land utilization	27,440	100.00
Forests	6,199	22.59
Not available for cultivation	4,725	17.22
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	675	2.46
Land under misc. tree crops & groves	269	0.98
Culturable wasteland	728	2.65
Fallow lands other than current fallows	1,417	5.16
Current Fallows	2,312	8.43
Net area sown	11,115	40.51

Source: *Land Use Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2005.*

8.1.5 Forest Cover

The forest cover of the State, based on satellite data of October-December 2004, is 44,372 km², which is 16.13% of the geographic area. Very dense forest is 130 km², moderately dense forest, 24,199 km², and open forest, 20,043 km². The forest cover of the State is shown in Fig.8.1.

A decrease of 40 km² of forest cover has been assessed in the present assessment as compared to previous assessment (based on satellite data of October-December 2002.)

The change matrix, given in Table 8.1b reveals that there has been a decrease of 22 km² in the moderately dense forest, and 18 km² in open forest.

Based on field verification by the FSI officials and subsequently corroborated by Andhra Forest Department, the loss in forest cover is attributed to the departmental felling (mainly of Eucalyptus) in the districts of Khammam,

Chittoor, East Godavari, Medak, Prakasam, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam, and Warangal. In addition, there has been illicit felling in some parts of Warangal due to local disturbances (Naxalite activities).

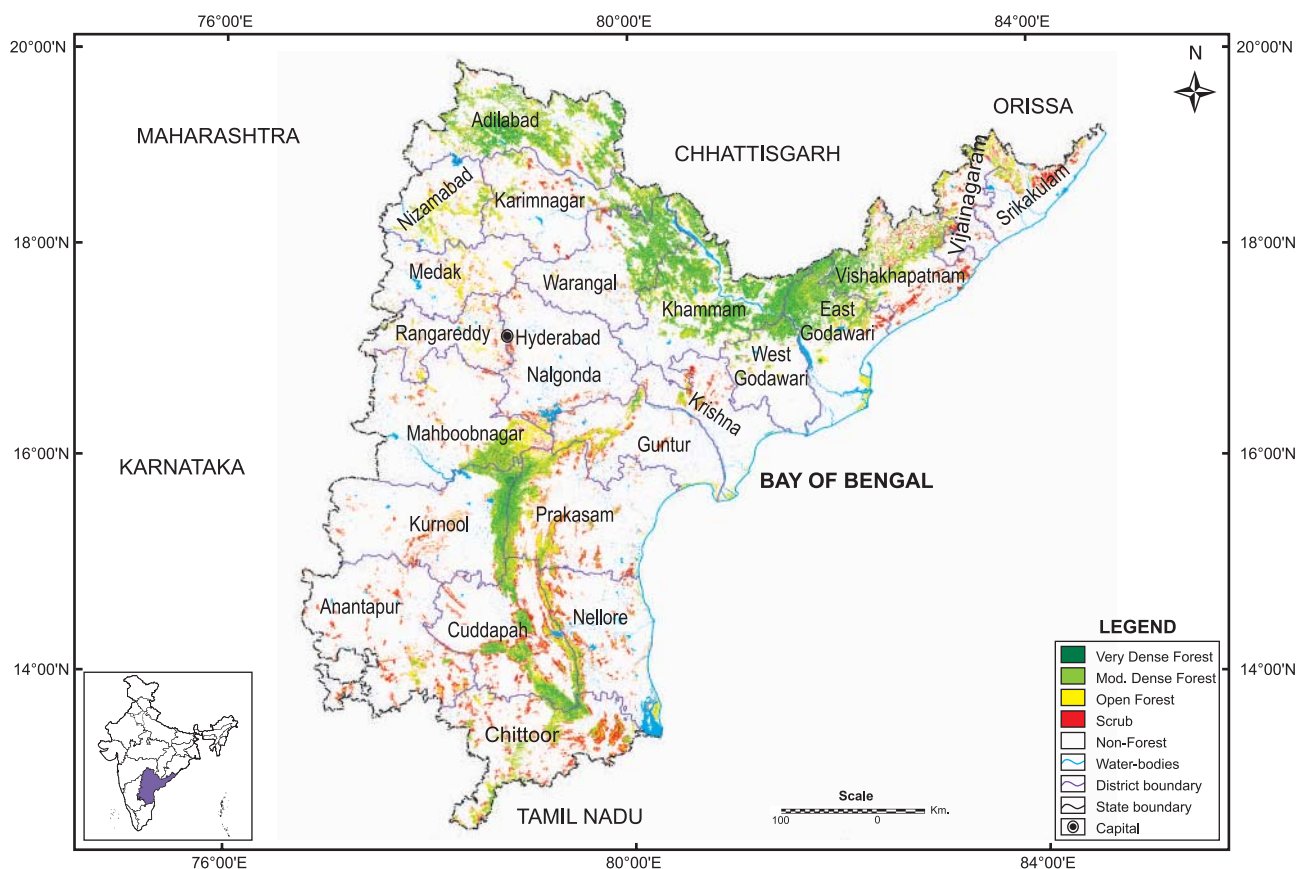
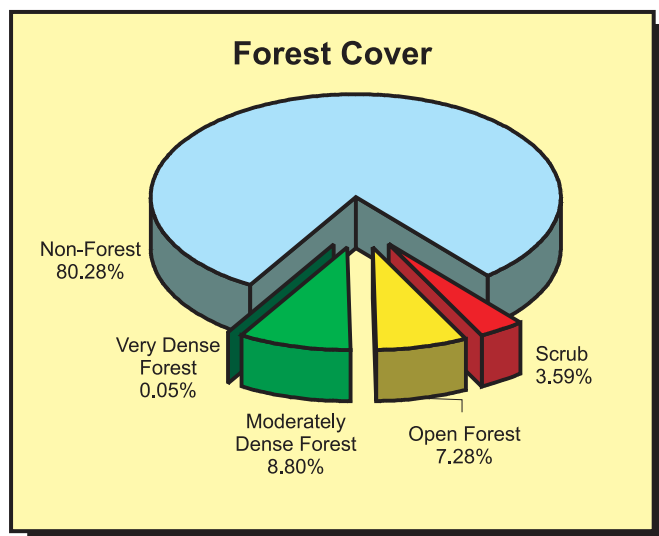


Fig 8.1 : Forest Cover Map of Andhra Pradesh

Table 8.1b: Forest cover change matrix

(area in km²)

2003 Assessment (Data of Oct.-Dec. 2002)	2005 Assessment (Data of Oct.-Dec. 2004)					Total 2003
	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	
Very Dense Forest	130	0	0	0	0	130
Moderately Dense Forest	0	24,199	0	0	22	24,221
Open Forest	0	0	20,043	0	18	20,061
Scrub	0	0	0	9,862	0	9,862
Non-Forest	0	0	0	0	220,795	220,795
Total 2005	130	24,199	20,043	9,862	220,835	275,069
Net Change	0	-22	-18	0	40	

The district wise details of very dense forest, moderately dense forest, open forest and scrub along with

the changes compared to 2003 assessment, have been provided in Table 8.1c.

Table 8.1c: District-wise forest cover

Number of Districts: 23

(area in km²)

District	Geographic area	2005 Assessment				Percent of G.A.	Change	Scrub
		Very dense forest	Mod. dense forest	Open forest	Total			
Adilabad ^T	16,128	37	3,640	2,440	6,117	37.93	0	139
Anantapur	19,130	0	73	337	410	2.14	0	945
Chittoor	15,151	2	825	1,364	2,191	14.46	-1	1,417
East Godawari ^T	10,807	9	2,327	1,157	3,493	32.32	-2	152
Guntur	11,391	0	197	672	869	7.63	0	381
Hyderabad & Rangareddy	7,710	0	36	353	389	5.05	-3	255
Kadapa	15,359	4	1,864	1,510	3,378	21.99	0	1,325
Karimnagar	11,823	0	864	785	1,649	13.95	0	336
Khammam ^T	16,029	5	5,117	2,048	7,170	44.73	-12	54
Krishna	8,727	0	50	200	250	2.86	0	250
Kurnool	17,658	35	1,433	671	2,139	12.11	0	441
Mahboob Nagar	18,432	20	728	1,203	1,951	10.58	0	310
Medak	9,700	0	40	533	573	5.91	-1	181
Nalgonda	14,240	0	17	136	153	1.07	0	346
Nellore	13,076	0	213	676	889	6.8	0	720
Nizamabad	7,956	0	236	894	1,130	14.2	0	116
Prakasam	17,626	18	1,345	1,735	3,098	17.58	-1	816
Srikakulam ^T	5,837	0	102	319	421	7.21	0	376
Vishakapatnam ^T	11,161	0	1,995	1,385	3,380	30.28	-1	826
Vijainagaram ^T	6,539	0	145	582	727	11.12	0	297
Warangal ^T	12,847	0	2,341	755	3,096	24.1	-6	150
West Godawari ^T	7,742	0	611	288	899	11.61	-13	29
Total	275,069	130	24,199	20,043	44,372	16.13	-40	9,862

8.1.6 Tree Cover

Tree cover of Andhra Pradesh has been estimated following a sampling based approach. A separate exercise was carried out where high resolution satellite data (5.8m) was used for identification of tree patches for field

inventory. Field inventory has been carried out on 661 sample plots spread over 5 districts of the State between 2002-06 and the estimated tree cover in the State is 7,640 km².

The forest and tree cover of the State is presented in the Table 8.1d.

Table 8.1d: Forest & tree cover

(area in km²)

Category	Area	% of Geographical Area
Tree Cover	7,640	2.77
Forest Cover	44,372	16.13
Forest & Tree Cover	52,012	18.90