

Assessment of damage due to Super Cyclone in Orissa

A super-cyclone struck Orissa coast on 29th October, 1999 with an intensity of about 300 km per hours accompanied with 7 meter high storm surges. Out of total number of 30 Districts, 11 coastal districts were heavily affected leading to a death toll of more than 10,000 people. A large number of trees both outside as well as within forest area were uprooted leading to a large scale ecological devastation.

FSI took up a special study on assessment of damage to forest cover due to this super-cyclone. Two districts namely Jagatsinghpur and Kendra Para, which were among the worst hit districts were selected for the study. Satellite data of IRS-1C (LISS-III) of pre-cyclone date (11th Oct' 99) and post cyclone date (30th Nov'99) was procured for the study and digitally interpreted.

The results of the study are given in Table 10. It is observed that in Jagatsinghpur, more than 50% dense forest was lost. In Kendrapara, about 40% of open forest was lost. In mangrove areas the loss has been less in both the districts.

Table10 : Change in Forest and Mangrove Cover due to Super-cyclone in Orissa
(Area in km²)

	Jagatsinghpur				Kenderpara				Total			
	DF	OF	Mangrove	Total	DF	OF	Mangrove	Total	DF	OF	Mangrove	Total
Oct. '99	8.2	17.0	8.1	33.2	-	16.6	175.1	191.7	8.2	33.6	183.2	224.9
Nov. '99	3.5	14.8	7.1	25.4	-	10.1	171.2	181.3	3.5	24.9	178.3	206.7
Change	-4.7	-2.2	-1.0	-7.8	-	-6.5	-3.9	-10.4	-4.7	-8.7	-4.9	-18.22
% Change	57.4	12.9	11.6	23.5	-	39.1	2.2	5.4	57.4	25.8	2.7	8.1