

9.35 PUDUCHERRY

9.35.1 Introduction

The Union Territory of Puducherry is scattered over four locations, each having the status of a district; Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam on the east coast whereas Mahe on Malabar coast of Western Ghats. The geographical area of the Union Territory is 480 km². Physiography is almost plain and climate is tropical.

As per *Census 2011*, the population of the UT is 1,244,464 of which the rural population constitutes 31.69% and urban population 68.31%. The population density is 2,593 persons per km². The livestock population is 161,000 (*Livestock Census 2007*).

Land use pattern of the Union Territory is given in Table 9.35.1.

Table 9.35.1: Land Use Pattern

Land Use	Area in '000 ha	Percentage
Total geographical area	48	
Reporting area for land utilization	49	100.00
Forests	0	0
Not available for cultivation	18	36.73
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	0	0
Land under misc. tree crops and groves	1	2.04
Culturable wasteland	4	8.16
Fallow lands other than current fallows	2	4.08
Current fallows	3	6.12
Net area sown	19	38.78

Source: *Land Use Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2008-09.*

9.35.2 Recorded Forest Area

The recorded forest area of the UT is 13 km² which is only 2.71% of its geographical area.

Protected Forests constitute 15.38% and Unclassed Forests constitute 84.62%.

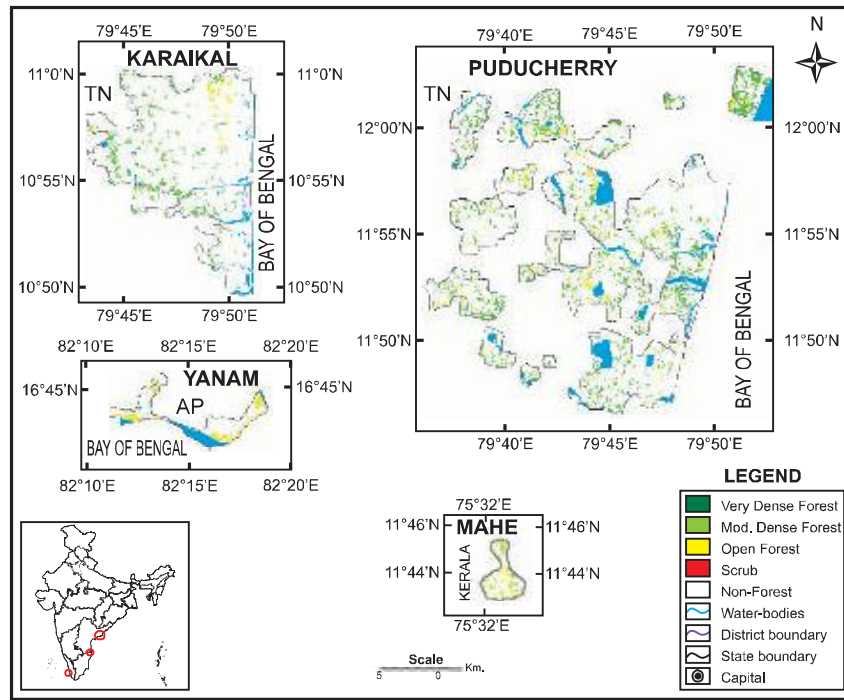
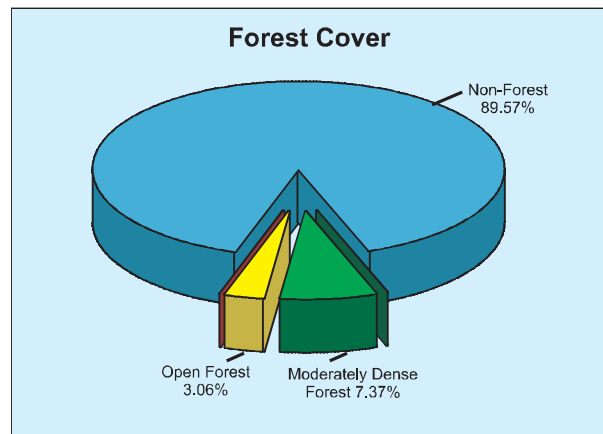


Fig 9.35 Forest cover map of Puducherry

9.35.3 Forest Cover

The forest cover in the UT, based on interpretation of satellite data of October-December 2008, is 50.06 km² which is 10.43% of its geographical area. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the UT has 35.37 km² area under moderately dense forest and 14.69 km² area under open forest. The forest cover of the UT is shown in Fig. 9.35.



District-wise forest cover in different canopy density classes and scrub along with the

changes compared to 2009 Assessment are given in Table 9.35.2.

Table 9.35.2: District-wise Forest Cover

 (Area in km²)

District	Geographical Area	2011 Assessment				Percent of GA	Change*	Scrub
		Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total			
Karaikal	161	0	7.39	1.56	8.95	5.56	0	0
Mahe	9	0	1.36	3.54	4.90	54.44	0	0
Pondicherry	293	0	24.62	8.59	33.21	11.33	0.09	0
Yanam	17	0	2.00	1.00	3.00	17.65	0	0
Grand Total	480	0	35.37	14.69	50.06	10.43	0.09	0

* Change figures are based on comparison of 2011 Assessment with that of 2009 after incorporating interpretational changes therein.

9.35.4 Forest Cover Change

Although there is an actual change of 0.09 km² in the 2011 Assessment, there is a net increase of 6.19 km² in the forest cover from the reported area in ISFR 2009. This has resulted

due to interpretational changes (on positive side) noticed on account of refinement of methodology and also the availability of satellite data of appropriate season with improved quality as compared to previous years.

Table 9.35.3: Forest Cover Change Matrix

 (Area in km²)

2009 Assessment	2011 Assessment					Total 2009
	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	
Very Dense Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moderately Dense Forest	0	33.31	0	0	0.79	34.10
Open Forest	0	0.17	13.3	0	2.40	15.87
Scrub	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non- Forest	0	1.89	1.39	0	426.75	430.03
Total 2011	0	35.37	14.69	0	429.94	480.00
Net Change	0	1.27	-1.18	0	-0.09	

The change matrix given in Table 9.35.3 reveals that there has been an increase of 1.27 km² in moderately dense forest whereas there is a decrease of 1.18 km² in the open forest.

9.35.5 Altitude Zone-wise Forest Cover

Forest cover of the UT in different altitude zones is given in Table 9.35.4.

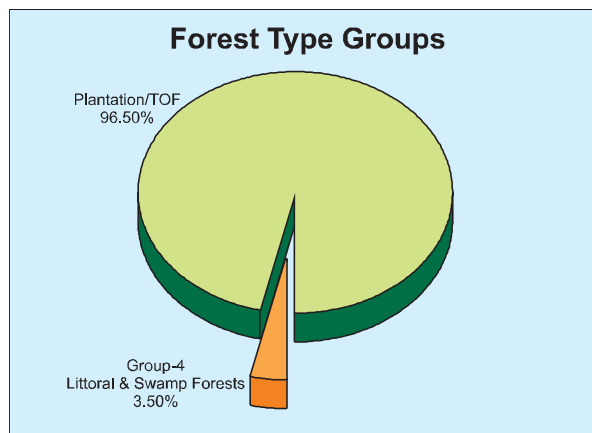
Table 9.35.4: Altitude Zone-wise Forest Cover (Area in km²)

Altitude Zone	VDF	MDF	OF	Total
0-500m	0	35.37	14.69	50.06
Total	0	35.37	14.69	50.06

(Based on SRTM, Digital Elevation Model)

9.35.6 Forest Cover in Different Forest Types

Forest type mapping using satellite data has been undertaken by Forest Survey of India with reference to Champion & Seth Classification. As per this assessment, the UT has one forest type which belongs to Littoral & Swamp Forests type group. Percentage-wise distribution of forest cover in the forest type group is given in the pie diagram.



9.35.7 Tree Cover

Tree cover of the UT has been estimated using TOF inventory data collected over a period of

six years, i.e. 2004-10. The estimated tree cover in the UT is 31 km² which is 6.44% of its geographical area. The forest and tree cover of the UT is presented in Table 9.35.5.

Table 9.35.5: Forest and Tree Cover (Area in km²)

Category	Area	% of Geographical Area
Tree Cover	31.00	6.44
Forest Cover	50.06	10.43
Forest and Tree Cover	81.06	16.87

9.35.8 Growing Stock

The growing stock in the recorded forest area has been estimated on the basis of current forest cover map, forest type map and forest

inventory data. For trees outside forests (TOF), the same has been estimated using TOF inventory data. It is presented in the Table 9.35.6.

Table 9.35.6: Growing Stock (million cum)

Forest	TOF	Total
0.093	0.320	0.413