

9.35



Lakshadweep

9.35.1 Introduction

The Union territory of Lakshadweep located in Arabian Sea consists of a group of 36 coral islands covering 12 atolls, 3 reefs and submerged sand banks. The Union territory has a geographical area of 30 sq km. The average annual rainfall varies from about 1,000 mm to about 2,000 mm and the average annual temperature ranges between 23°C to 35°C. The UT has only 1 district, which is also a tribal district. The UT does not have any hill district. As per the 2011 census, Lakshadweep has a population of 64,473 and population density of 2,149 per sq km, which is much higher than the national average of 382 persons per sq km. The 19th Livestock census, 2012 has reported a total livestock population of 49,596.

Table 9.35.1 Land Use Pattern

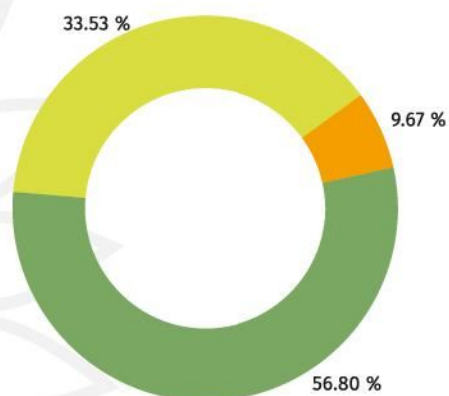
Land Use Types	Area (in 000' ha)	Percentage
Total Geographic Area	3	
Reporting area for land utilization	3.36	100
Forests	0	0
Not available for land cultivation	1.01	30.06
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	0	0
Land under misc. tree crops and groves	0	0
Culturable wasteland	0	0
Fallow land other than current fallows	0	0
Current fallows	0	0
Net area sown	2.35	69.94

Source: Land Use Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2013-14.

9.35.2

Forest Cover

Based on interpretation of satellite data pertaining to Oct-Dec 2015, the forest cover in the UT is 27.10sq km which is 90.33% of the UT's geographical area. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the UT has 17.04 sq km under moderately dense forest and 10.06 sq km under open forest.



Forest cover of Lakshadweep

Pie Chart showing Forest Cover of Lakshadweep

■ Non Forest
 ■ Scrub
 ■ Open Forest
 ■ Mod. Dense Forest
 ■ Very Dense Forest

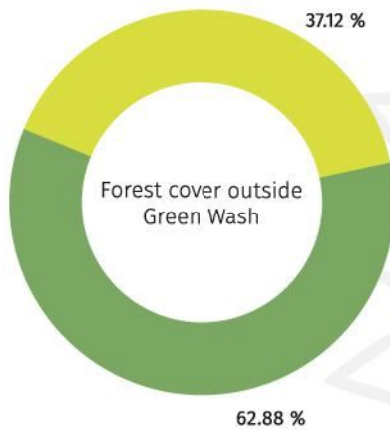
9.35.3

Forest Cover within and outside Green Wash Area

The UT has not reported any Recorded Forest Area and the green wash area is also not available on the Soil toposheets. Therefore all the forest cover is found outside the Green wash area as depicted below.

Table 9.35.2 Forest Cover within and outside Green wash area

Forest Cover within Green wash (Area in sq km)	
Very Dense Forest (VDF)	0.00
Moderately Dense Forest (MDF)	0.00
Open Forest (OF)	0.00
Total	0.00
Forest Cover outside Green wash	
Very Dense Forest	0.00
Moderately Dense Forest	17.04
Open Forest	10.06
Total	27.10
Total Forest Cover	27.10
Tree Cover	2
Total Forest & Tree Cover	29.10
Of UT's Geographical Area	97.00%
Of India's Forest & Tree Cover	0.004%
Per capita Forest & Tree Cover	0.045 ha



Pie charts showing Forest Cover outside Green wash area

■ Open Forest ■ Mod. Dense Forest ■ Very Dense Forest

Table 9.35.3 Altitude-wise Forest Cover (Area in sq km)

Altitude Zone (m)	Geographical Area	VDF	MDF	OF	Total
0-500	30	0.00	17.04	10.06	27.10
Total	30	0.00	17.04	10.06	27.10

(Based on SRTM, Digital Elevation Model)

Table 9.35.4 Forest Cover in different Patch Size Classes

S.No.	Patch Size Range (sq km)	No. of Patches	Area(sq km)	%age
1.	≥ 0.01 ≤ 1.0	13	3.56	13.14
2.	> 1.0 ≤ 10	8	23.54	86.86
	Total	21	27.10	100

Table 9.35.5 Growing Stock

	Growing Stock	% Contribution to country
Growing Stock in Recorded Forest Area	-	-
Growing Stock in TOF	0.06m cum	0.004
Potential Production of industrial wood from TOF	-	-
Bamboo bearing area within forest area of the UT	-	-
Total number of culms	-	-
Total green weight equivalent of culms	-	-

9.35.4

Carbon Stock

The total Carbon stock of forests in the UT is 0.161 million tonnes (0,590 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) which is 0,002% of total forest carbon of the country.

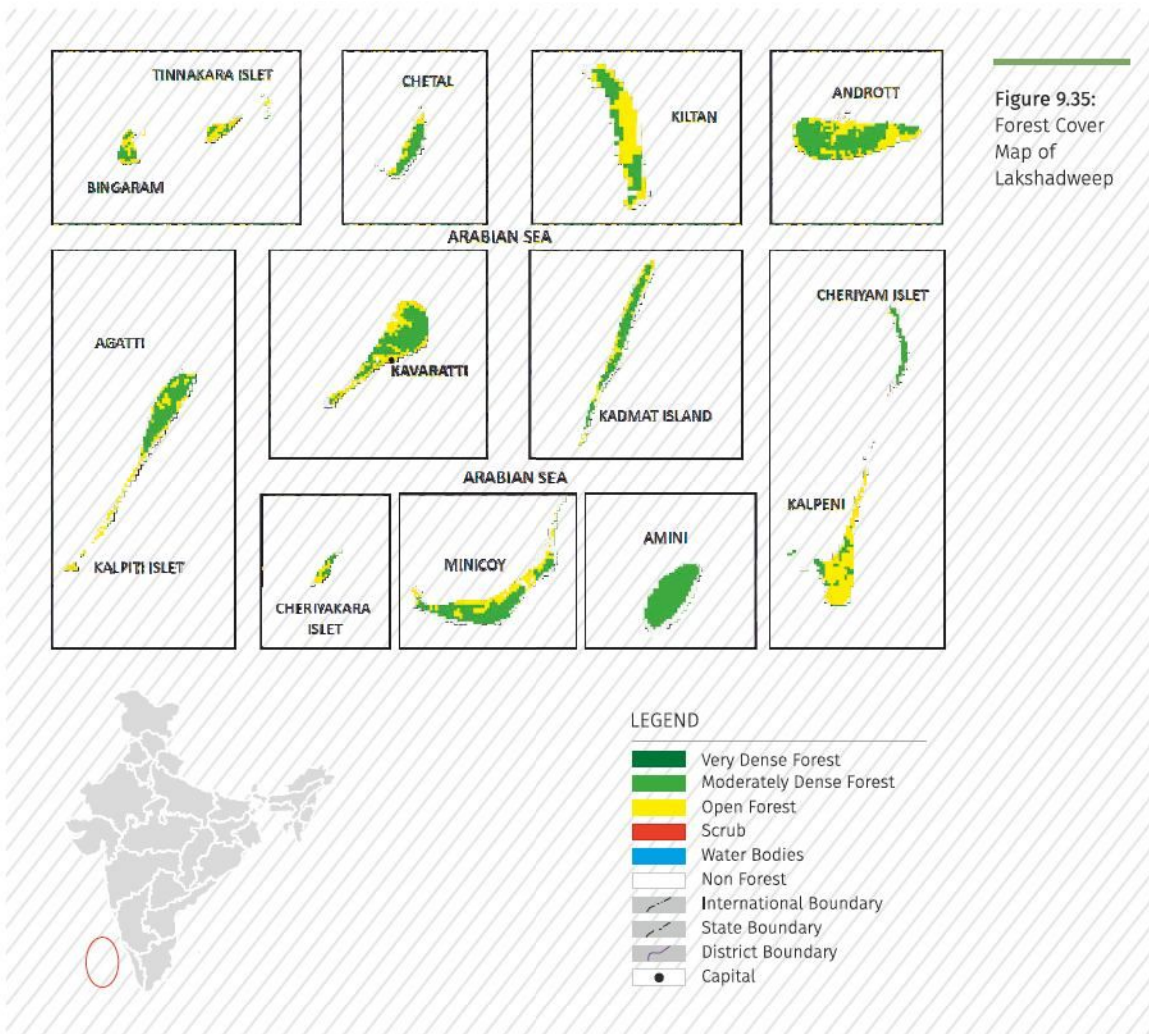


Table 9.35.6 Water bodies within Forest for the years 2005 and 2015

Area/Coverage	2005	2015
Extent of water bodies (sq km) within Forest	0.0	0.0
% of water bodies to Forest Cover	0.0	0.0

Table 9.35.7 District- wise Forest Cover (area in sq km)

District	Geographical Area	2017 Assessment				% of GA	Change *	Scrub
		Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total			
Lakshadweep ^T	30	0.00	17.04	10.06	27.10	90.33	0.04	0
Grand total	30	0.00	17.04	10.06	27.10	90.33	0.04	0

*Change compared to updated 2015 assessment.

Table 9.35.8 Forest Cover Change Matrix (area in sq km)

Class	2017 Assessment				Total ISFR 2015 updated	
	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	
Very Dense Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moderately Dense Forest	0	15.91	0.25	0	1.06	17.22
Open Forest	0	0.44	8.15	0	1.25	9.84
Scrub	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non Forest	0	0.69	1.66	0	0.59	2.94
Total ISFR 2017	0	17.04	10.06	0	2.9	30
Net Change	0	-0.18	0.22	0	-0.04	

9.35.5

Reasons for change detected in 2017 assessment

The small positive change of 0.04 sq km in forest cover observed in the UT can be attributed to expansion of tree cover outside the recorded forest area.