



Puducherry

9.36.1 Introduction

Puducherry is a Union Territory located in the southern part of the country having geographical area of 490 sq km. The UT has four districts out of which none are hill districts or tribal districts. As per the 2011 census, Puducherry has a population of 1.25 million. The rural and urban population constitutes 0.40 million and 0.85 million respectively. The population density of the UT is 2,547 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 0.12 million.

Table 9.36.1 Land Use Pattern

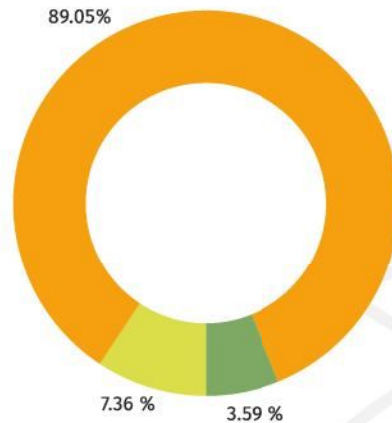
Land Use Types	Area (in 000' ha)	Percentage
Total Geographic Area	49	
Reporting area for land utilization	48.65	100
Forests	0.40	0.82
Not available for land cultivation	18.67	38.38
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	0	0
Land under misc. tree crops and groves	1.16	2.38
Culturable wasteland	4.54	9.33
Fallow land other than current fallows	2.70	5.55
Current fallows	5.77	11.86
Net area sown	15.41	31.68

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

9.36.2

Forest Cover

Based on interpretation of satellite data pertaining to Oct – Dec 2015, the forest cover in the UT is 53.67 sq km which is 10.95% of the UT's geographical area. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the UT has 17.60 sq km under moderately dense forest and 36.07 sq km under open forest.



Forest cover of Puducherry

Pie Chart showing forest cover of Puducherry



9.36.3

Forest Cover within and outside Green Wash Area

The recorded forest area of the UT is 13 sq km which is 2.65% of its geographical area. The Protected and Unclassed Forests are 15.38% and 84.62% respectively of the recorded forest area. Due to non-availability of digitized boundary of recorded forest area from the UT, the updated green wash area which is 3.05 sq km has been used and the analysis of forest cover within this area is depicted below.

Table 9.36.2 Forest Cover within and outside Green Wash Area

Forest Cover within Green Wash (Area in sq km)	
Very Dense Forest (VDF)	0
Moderately Dense Forest (MDF)	0
Open Forest (OF)	1.02
Total	1.02
Forest Cover outside Green Wash	
Very Dense Forest	0
Moderately Dense Forest	17.60
Open Forest	35.05
Total	52.65
Total Forest Cover	53.67
Tree Cover	27
Total Forest & Tree Cover	80.67
Of UT's Geographical Area	16.46%
Of India's Forest & Tree Cover	0.01%
Per capita Forest & Tree Cover	0.006 ha

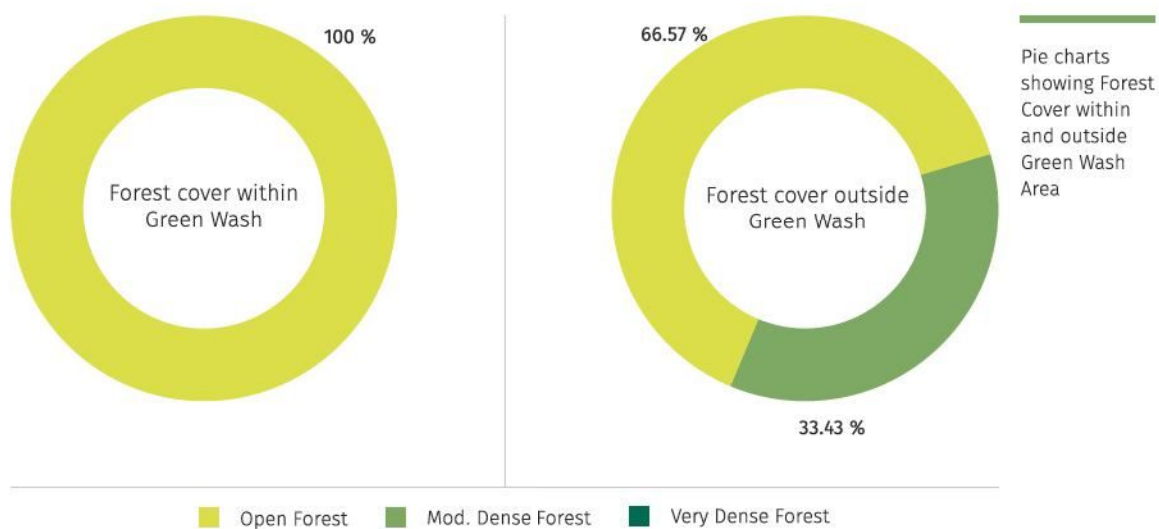


Table 9.36.3 Altitude-wise Forest Cover (area in sq km)

Altitude Zone (m)	Geographical Area	VDF	MDF	OF	Total
0-500	490	0.00	17.60	36.07	53.67
Total	490	0.00	17.60	36.07	53.67

(Based on SRTM, Digital Elevation Model)

Table 9.36.4 Forest Cover in different Patch Size Classes

S. No	Patch Size Range in (Sq km)	No. of Patches	Area (Sq km)	%age
1.	≥ 0.01 ≤ 1.0	853	48.53	90.42
2.	> 1.0 ≤ 10	3	5.14	9.58
	Total	856	53.67	100.00

Table 9.36.5 Growing Stock

	Growing Stock	% Contribution to country
Growing Stock in Recorded Forest Area	0.065 m cum	0.002
Growing Stock in TOF	0.298 m cum	0.02
Potential Production of industrial wood from TOF	0.03 m cum	0.04
Bamboo bearing area within forest area of the UT	-	-
Total number of culms	-	-
Total green weight equivalent of culms	-	-



9.36.4

Carbon Stock

The total Carbon stock of forests in the UT is 0.451 million tonnes (1,654 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) which is 0.01 % of total forest carbon of the country.

Table 9.36.6 Water bodies within Forest Cover for the years 2005 and 2015

Area/Coverage	2005	2015
Extent of water bodies (sq km) within Forest Cover	0.00	0.00
% of water bodies to Forest Cover	0.00	0.00

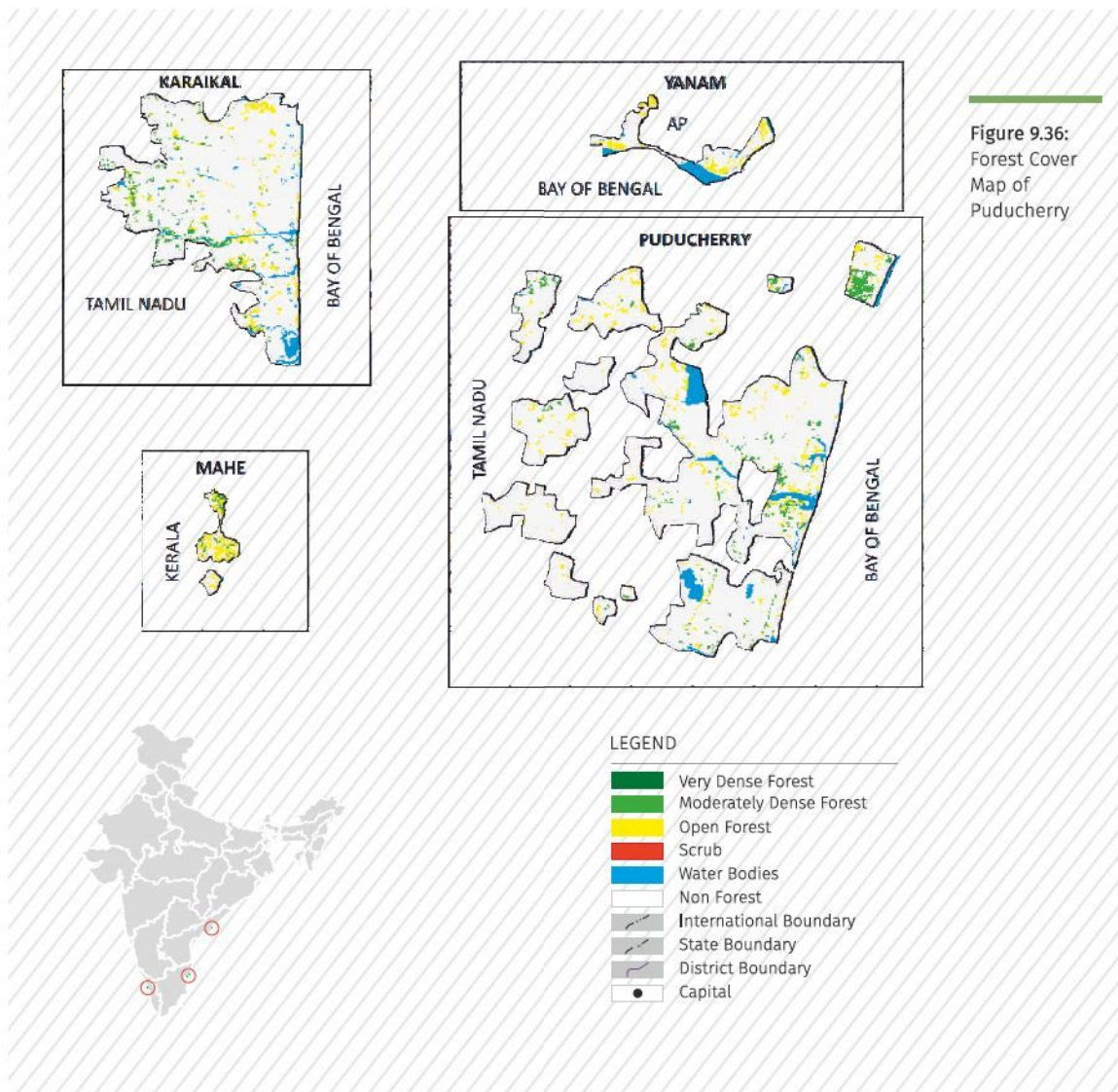


Figure 9.36:
Forest Cover
Map of
Puducherry

Table 9.36.7 District- wise Forest Cover (area in sq km)

District	Geographical Area	2017 Assessment			Total	% of GA	Change *	Scrub
		Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest				
Karaikal	157	0.00	6.83	8.57	15.40	9.81	6.09	0.00
Mahe	9	0.00	1.06	4.61	5.67	63.00	0.28	0.00
Puducherry	294	0.00	9.71	16.39	26.10	8.88	-9.87	0.00
Yanam	30	0.00	0.00	6.50	6.50	21.67	0.22	0.00
Grand total	490	0.00	17.60	36.07	53.67	10.95	-3.28	0.00

*Change compared to updated 2015 assessment.

Table 9.36.8 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	11.98	2.79	0	14.01	28.78
Open Forest	0	0.79	15.80	0	11.58	28.17
Scrub	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non Forest	0	4.83	17.48	0	410.74	433.05
Total ISFR 2017	0	17.60	36.07	0	436.33	490
Net Change	0	-11.18	7.90	0	3.28	

9.36.5

Reasons for change detected in 2017 assessment

The main reason for decrease of 3.28 sq km in forest cover can be attributed to harvesting of trees outside forests.

