

# Assessment of Changes in Vegetation Cover in Nainital District - An Input to the Environment Status Report

**Year of Starting:** 1989

**Year of Completion:** 1991

**Funding Agency & Funds Received:** In-house project

**Objectives:** The objective of the study was to assess environmental degradation over a period of 70 years between 1911-21 to 1989 for preparation of an environmental status report by Society for Himalayan Environmental Rehabilitation and People's Action (SHERPA).

**Study Area:** Nainital district

**Data Used:** IRS - 1A LISS - I satellite images of February - March, 1989 and Survey of India topographical maps of 1911 - 1921.

## Salient Results:

- Forest cover in 1911 - 21 was estimated as 46% of the total Geographical area, which has been reduced to 39% in the year 1989 - Net loss of 7% over 70 years.
- Changes under different categories are as follows.

Kind of Change	Area(ha)	Percentage to Geographical area
A. Depletion of forest inside notified forest land		
(i) Area changed to agriculture	16282.75	2.40
(ii) Area changed to waterbodies	3662.81	0.54
(iii) Area changed to tongia	2998.66	0.44
(iv) Area changed to blanks/barren	11305.72	1.66
(v) Total forest area depleted	34249.94	5.04
B. Depletion of forest outside notified forest land		
(i) Area changed to agriculture	20125.04	2.96
(ii) Area changed to waterbodies	1732.86	0.25
(iii) Total forest area depleted	21857.90	3.21
C. Total depletion of forestland	56107.84	8.26
D. Increment in the forest inside notified forest land		
(i) Area changed from bank/barren or agricultur	5557.93	0.42
E. Increment in the forest outside notified forest land		
(i) Area changed from blank/barren or agriculture	3332.31	0.49
F. Total increment in forest	8890.24	1.31
G. Net loss in forest/vegetation	47217.60	6.95
H. Area changed to waterbodies in non vegetated area	5634.21	0.83

**Recommendation/Special Achievement:** Results of the study were used by SHERPA Organisation.

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