Large Scale Forest / Vegetation Mapping in Rajaji National Park, Using LANDSAT - 5 TM and IRS - 1A LISS- II Data

Year of Starting: 1988

Year of Completion: 1990

Funding Agency & Funds Received: In-house plan project on the request of Forest Dept.

Objectives: To carry out the forest / vegetation mapping in Rajaji National Park on 1:50,000 scale for wildlife habitat evaluation and corridor identification.

Study Area: Rajaji National Park, Uttaranchal.

Data Used: LANDSAT - 5 TM of April, 1986 and IRS - 1A LISS - II of April & May, 1988.

Salient Results:

- Using LANDSAT TM images on 1:50,000 scale, 16 categories of forests could be classified in the present study which could be grouped under 4 major forest types described by Champion & Seth (1968).
  - * High density Sal forests
  - * Medium density Sal forests
  - * Misc. Medium density forest with Sal
  - * Misc. low - density forests with Sal
  - * Misc. high - density forest with evergreen species
  - * Misc. medium density moist deciduous forests (Sal may or may not present)
  - * Misc. medium density moist deciduous forests (with bamboo)
  - * Misc. low density dry deciduous forests
  - * Eucalyptus plantations
  - * Teak plantations
  - * Shisham plantations / natural
  - * Other mixed plantation
  - * Jamun
  - * Other riparian vegetation
  - * Forest blanks
  - * Open grasses
- Suitable location for corridor development was also identified.

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Recommendation/Special Achievements: First time in country attempt was made to use satellite data for location corridor specially recommended for movement of the Elephants. The large scale mapping was found to be very useful by Forest Dept. U.P. in the management of the park.

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