

8.31 CHANDIGARH

8.31.1 Introduction

The Union Territory of Chandigarh is located in the north-west of the country and lies between lat 30°39' and 30°49'N and long 75°41' and 76°51' E. It has a geographic area of 11,400 ha. The territory is also capital of Punjab and Haryana States.

The average annual rainfall ranges between 400-600 mm. The average annual temperature varies between 1°C to 45°C.

The population of Chandigarh is 0.90 million (*Census 2001*), 90% of which is urban. The population density is 7,900 persons km². The livestock population is 31,000 (*Livestock Census 2003*), showing no change since the census of 1992. Land use pattern of the Union Territory is given in Table 8.31a.

8.31.2 Forest Resources

The recorded forest area is 33 km², which is 28.95%

of the geographic area of the UT. By legal status, Reserved Forests constitute 93.94%, and Unclassed Forests, 6.06%.

Major forest type occurring in the Union Territory is Tropical Dry Deciduous.

8.31.3 Protected Areas

An area of 26.10 km², which constitutes 22.89% of the geographical area, is being managed as protected area under 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries. Sukhna lake sanctuary with 2,598 ha area is famous for aquatic birds from Central Asia and Siberia.

8.31.4 Forest Cover

The forest cover of the UT, based on satellite data of November 2004, is 15 km², which is 13.16% of the geographic area. Very dense forest is 1 km², moderately dense forest, 8 km², and open forest, 6 km². The forest cover of UT is shown in Fig. 8.31.

There is no change in forest cover and its density as

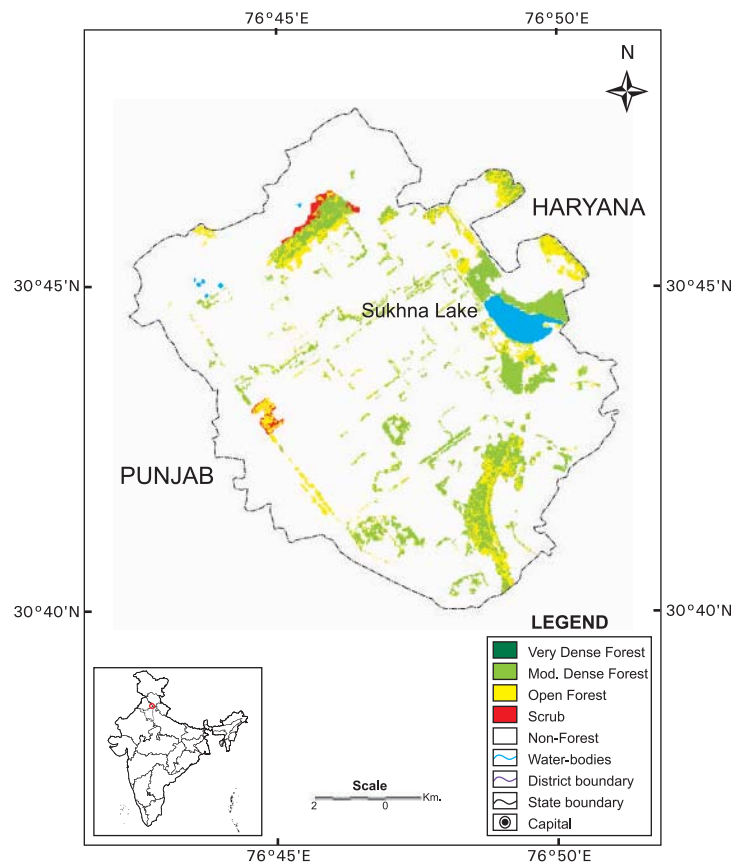
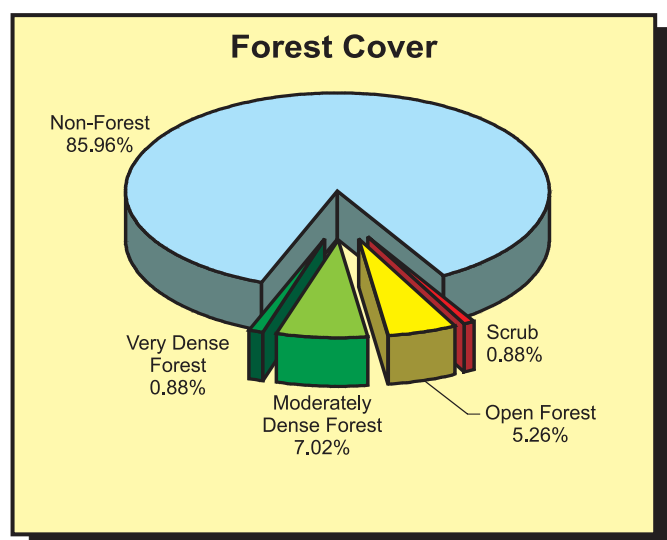


Fig. 8.31 : Forest Cover Map of Chandigarh



compared to the previous assessment (based on satellite data of November-December 2002) hence no change matrix is given.

There is only one district in Chandigarh and the details given for the UT also hold for the district.

Table 8.31a: Land use pattern

Land Use	Area in '000 ha	Percentage
Total Geographic Area	11	
Reporting area for land utilization	7	100.00
Forests	a	0.00
Not available for land cultivation	4	57.14
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	0	0.00
Land under misc. tree crops and groves	a	0.00
Culturable Wastelands	0	0.00
Fallow land other than current fallows	1	14.29
Net area sown (Relates to the year 1987-88)	2	28.57

a: Below 500 Hectares

Source: Land Use Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2005

8.31.5 Tree Cover

Tree cover of Chandigarh has been estimated following a sampling based approach. A separate exercise was carried out where high resolution satellite data (5.8m)

was used for identification of tree patches for field inventory. The estimated tree cover in the UT is 9 km².

The forest and tree cover of the UT is presented in the Table 8.31b.

Table 8.31b: Forest & tree cover

(area in km²)

Category	Area	% of Geographical Area
Tree Cover	9	7.89
Forest Cover	15	13.16
Forest & Tree Cover	24	21.05