

Monitoring of Forest Cover in Selected Protected Areas:

In 1989, FSI assessed changes in forest cover in selected Protected Areas during the period between 1981-84 and 1984-86 using Landsat imagery of the respective years. The assessment was done visually on 1:250,000 scale. The selected Protected Areas included four National Parks and eight Wildlife Sanctuaries were as follows:

1. Corbett National Park (Uttaranchal),
2. Rajaji National Park (Uttaranchal)
3. Great Himalayan National Park (Himachal Pradesh)
4. Indravati National Park (Madhya Pradesh)
5. Naina Devi Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh)
6. Chail Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh)
7. Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh)
8. Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)
9. Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)
10. Bhairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)
11. Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)
12. Lokhawa Wildlife Sanctuary (Assam)

It was observed that only Rajaji National Park and Naina Devi Wildlife Sanctuary showed marginal net increase in the forest cover while Kugti and Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuaries showed marginal net decrease in forest cover during the intervening period. There was no net change in the forest cover of the remaining protected areas. Increase in the density of forest cover was observed in Rajaji National Park, Indravati National Park, Udanti Wildlife sanctuary and Bhairamgarh Wildlife sanctuary while decrease in density of forest cover was noticed in Corbett National Park, Kugti Wildlife sanctuary, Sitanadi Wildlife sanctuary and Barnawapa Wildlife sanctuary. Results of the study are summarized in table 3.

Table 3: Forest Cover Changes in some Protected Areas

S. No.	Name of Protected Area	State	Period/Forest cover						Change (+/-)		
			1981-84			1985-87			DF	OF	Net
			DF	OF	Total	DF	OF	Total			
1.	Corbett National Park	Uttaranchal	397.30	80.20	477.50	395.08	8.42	473.50	-2.22	+2.22	-
2.	Rajaji National Park	-do-	610.50	170.40	780.90	620.74	163.20	783.94	+10.24	-7.20	+3.04
3.	Great Himalaya National	Himachal Pradesh	197.42	275.12	472.54	197.42	275.12	472.54	-	-	-
4.	Indravati National Park	M.P.	330.25	825.64	1155.89	373.59	782.30	1155.89	+43.34	-43.34	-
5.	Naina Devi Wildlife sanctuary	H.P.	4.90	27.80	32.70	4.90	27.82	32.72	-	+0.02	0.02
6.	Chail Wildlife	H.P.	13.58	15.50	29.08	13.58	15.50	24.08	-	-	-

	Sanctuary										
7.	Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary	H.P.	22.05	30.04	52.09	19.85	31.26	51.11	-2.20	+1.22	-0.98
8.	Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary	M.P.	193.13	23.69	216.82	194.70	22.12	216.82	+1.57	-1.57	-
9.	Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary	M.P.	442.17	63.56	505.73	417.59	88.14	505.73	-24.58	+24.58	-
10.	Bhairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary	M.P.	76.72	49.07	125.79	80.00	45.79	125.79	+3.28	-3.28	-
11.	Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary	M.P.	170.47	35.46	205.93	166.15	38.07	204.22	-4.32	+2.69	-1.71
12.	Laokhawa Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	26.52	28.87	55.39	26.52	28.87	55.39	-	-	-