

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

CHAPTER-XVII

Such other information as may be prescribed

Forest Cover

As per the State of the Forest Report 2003 of the Forest Survey of India about 84.42% of the 8249 sq. km. of geographical area of Andaman & Nicobar Island is under forest cover whose breakup (density-wise) is given in the table below.

Table-1

(in Sq. km)

<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Geograph-ical area</i>	<i>Forest cover 2003 assessment</i>					<i>Scrub</i>
		<i>*Very Dense Forest</i>	<i>*Moderately Dense</i>	<i>*Open Forest</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
Andaman	6408	2613	2202	572	5387	84.07	-
Nicobar	1841	862	607	108	1577	85.66	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>8249</i>	<i>3475</i>	<i>2809</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>6964</i>	<i>84.42</i>	<i>1</i>

*Very dense: forest cover with a canopy density over 70%

*Moderately dense: canopy density between 40% and 70%

*Open Forest: canopy density between 10 % and 40%

Notified Forest

The total notified forest is 7170.69 Sq. Km, which is 86.93% of the total geographical area of the Islands. District wise and category wise details of recorded forest are given in the following table (This information is prior to 26.12.2004 when earthquake and tsunami hit these islands causing loss/damage to land mass/forest cover).

Table-2

(in Sq. km)

<i>District</i>	<i>Reserved Forest</i>	<i>Protected Forest</i>	<i>Total Forest</i>
Andaman	2928.76	2699.86	5628.62
Nicobar	-	1542.07	1542.07
<i>Total</i>	<i>2928.76</i>	<i>4241.93</i>	<i>7170.69</i>

It may be observed that the notified forest area is 2.51% more than the forest cover of 84.42% of the geographical area of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This is mainly on account of the fact that notified area also covers grass lands particularly in Nicobar group of islands falling within forest area but not treated as forest cover.