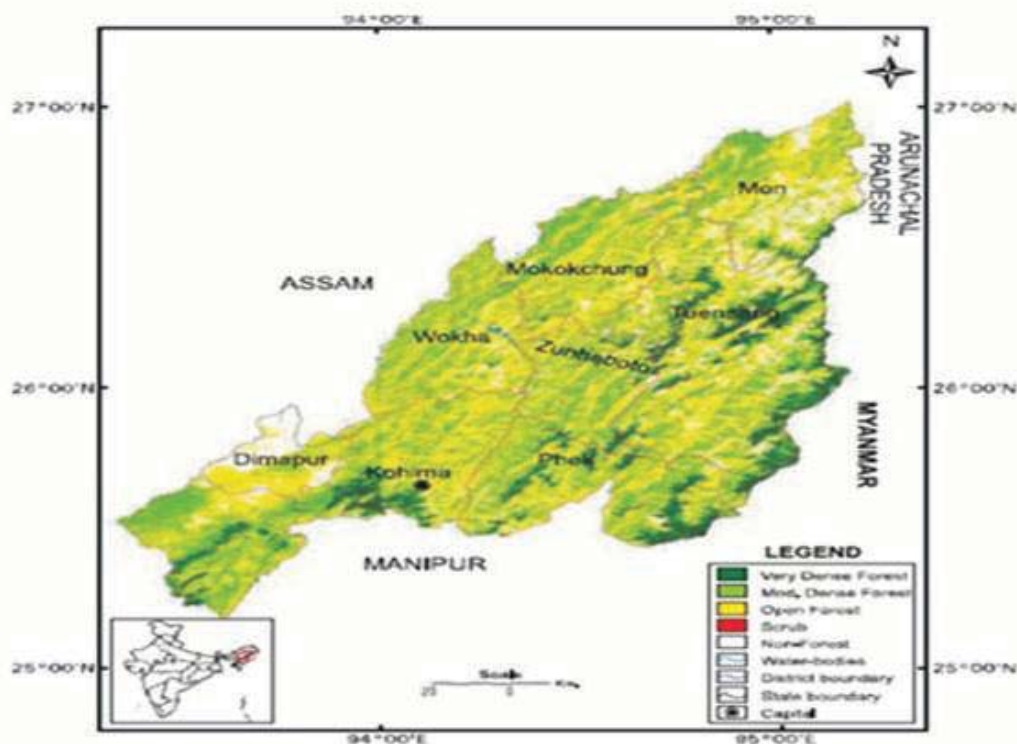


## Chapter-1 Introduction

### 1.1 The Department

The total geographical area of Nagaland is 16,579 sq. km. As per Status of Forests Report (SFR), 2011 of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), the recorded forest area of the State is 9,222 sq. km which is 55.62 *per cent* of its geographical area. Reserved forests constitute 0.93 *per cent*, Protected Forests 5.51 *per cent* and Un-classed Forests constitute 93.56 *per cent*.



Source: Forest Cover Map of Nagaland (SFR 2011)

As per the SFR 2011, the forest cover in the State is 13,318 sq. km. which is 80.33 *per cent* of its geographical area. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the State has 1,293 sq. km. under very dense forest, 4,931 sq. km. under moderately dense forest and 7,094 sq. km under open forest.

As per SFR 2011, comparison of forest cover<sup>1</sup> with previous assessment<sup>2</sup> showed a net loss of 146 sq. km of forest cover as shown in the table below:

**Table 1.1: Change in forest cover**

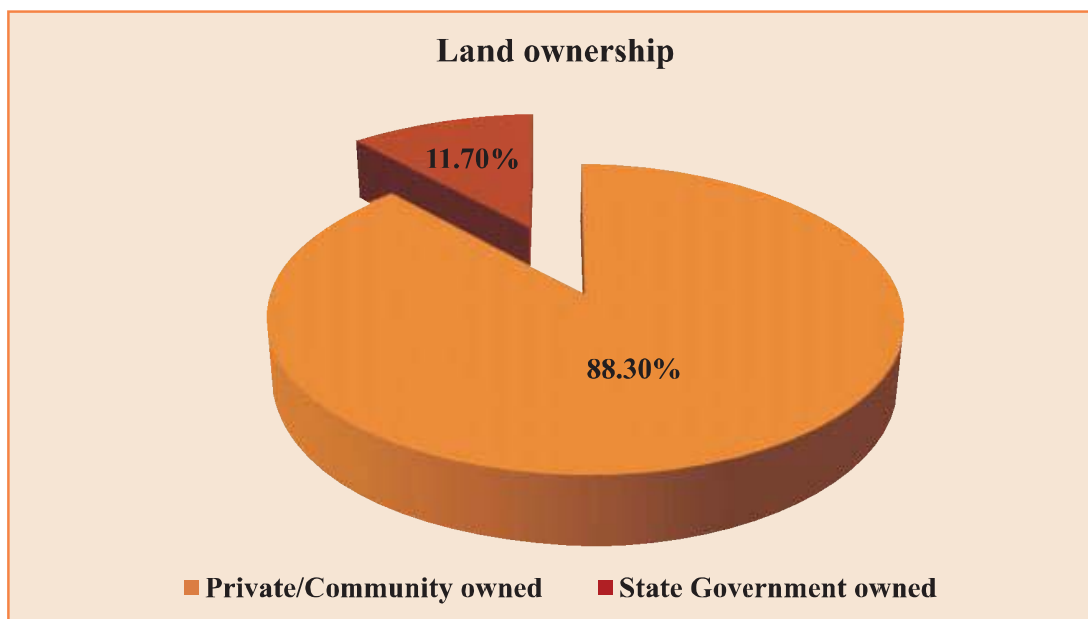
Year of assessment	Canopy density classes (area in sq. km)			Total (sq. km)
	Very dense forest	Moderately dense forest	Open forest	
SFR 2009	1274	4897	7293	13464
SFR 2011	1293	4931	7094	13318
<b>Net change</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(-) 199</b>	<b>(-) 146</b>

<sup>1</sup> Satellite data of November 2008-February 2009

<sup>2</sup> Satellite data of December 2006-January 2007

The table reveals that there was increase of 19 sq. km in very dense forest, increase of 34 sq. km in moderately dense forest and a decrease of 199 sq. km in open forest. The decrease in forest cover was attributed by the FSI to shifting cultivation practised widely across the State.

Nagaland has a peculiar pattern of land ownership. Most land is owned by individuals, the village community as a whole or by clans within the village. As per Departmental records, 88.30 *per cent* of forest area in the State was private/community owned forests as shown below.



*(Source: Departmental records)*

The Department received grants from the Twelfth/Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC) amounting to ₹ 70.62 crore during 2008-13 out of which an amount of ₹ 65.62 crore was expended during the period. The funds were spent to achieve the broad objectives of providing the finances for preservation so as to halt and reverse past declines in the quantum and the quality of area under forest and providing fiscal resources by which the State could enable alternative economic activities as a substitute for economic disability imposed by forest cover.

Apart from the above, the Department also implemented various schemes/programmes, centrally sponsored as well as under State Plan to achieve its objectives as detailed in *Appendix I*. The major schemes implemented by the Department during the period 2008-2013 are summarised in the succeeding paragraphs.

***Intensification of Forest Management (IFM):*** The Scheme formerly known as the Integrated Forest Management Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 90 *per cent* contribution from GOI and the remaining 10 *per cent* from the State Government. The major components of the Scheme were strengthening of infrastructure for forest protection and forest fire control and management. A total amount of ₹ 11.41 crore was released and spent for implementation of the Scheme during 2008-13.

**Working Schemes:** As per Hon'ble Supreme Court Order (January 1998), felling of trees from forests, including private forests, shall be only in accordance with Working Plans/Schemes approved by the MoEF. Working Schemes prescribe the activities to be carried out scientifically in a specified forest area for a fixed number of years so that use/extraction of forest resources including timber are managed in a sustainable manner.

Working Schemes were prepared by the Working Plan Officer, Kohima as per guidelines of the National Working Plan Code and approved by the MoEF usually for an operation period of 5 years. The Division had prepared a total number of 72 working schemes, out of which 50 were in operation during the period from 2008-13. As most forests in Nagaland are private/community owned, village-wise Working Schemes were prepared on the application submitted by the concerned Village Councils.

**National Afforestation Programme (NAP):** The Scheme sponsored by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India was launched in Nagaland during 2000-01 with the objectives of sustainable development and management of forest resources and to increase/improve forest and tree cover. A total amount of ₹ 49.41 crore was received directly from the NAEB and spent by the Department for implementation of the Scheme during 2008-13.