

A GIS based modeling approach for finding the suitable districts of Orissa for the potential forest based business or industry development considering vegetational, socio-economic and infrastructural factors

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Forest based industry and business is not only important for the economical development of the country, it also provides employment to rural people living near or inside the forest. Orissa is rich in natural resources and forests; in spite of having large natural resources and vast area under forest covers, Orissa remains to be one of the poorest states of India. There is large potential of forest produce and hence, large potential of forest based business development or industry in the state. The aim of this research was to find out the districts of Orissa potential for forest based business or industry development, considering vegetation, socioeconomic and infrastructural variables using GIS modeling and analysis technique. The related database were collected and incorporated into GIS for analysis and model development. The weights for each of the variables were collected from the forest officers, forest based industry people and experts of this field. A Cumulative Potential District Index (CPDI) was developed and results were obtained by perspectives of different stakeholders.