

Watershed Analysis in Forest Management for Forest Development Agency (FDA) managed forest areas in Chhattisgarh

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The current study was conducted with an aim to standardise the approach and to support watershed based development in FDA managed area. Integrated approach was adopted, collected data/ information from various departments/ organisation and integrated those information with the help of GIS. Remotely Sensed data provided timely data and information which were found to be useful for the study in terms of updating the data and information. Methods developed were prototyped in Marwahi Forest Division, Chhattisgarh. The analysis is useful in clustering the compartments and identifying the relevant JFMCs and their involvement in development of fragmented forests of the division. Data collected from various sources needs to be manipulated by bringing them to uniform scale, updating the information with the help of temporal remotely sensed data. Primary data collected from the field can be integrated with the help of GIS to enhance the knowledge of landscape. The knowledge gained from the analysis further facilitates the site specific interventions. The FDA at present follow thumb rule approach, which in majority cases do not yield the desired output. The study simplified the approach in terms of integration of available data and information through stake holder participation.