

UTTARAKHAND FLOOD: VEGETATION / FOREST COVER LOSS ASSESSMENT – A

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

The loss of small vegetation patches in the flood affected areas in Uttarakhand state are mostly located along the Mandakini river between Kedarnath to Rudraprayag. The loss in vegetation cover can be attributed to the landslides due to continual rains during 16th and 17th of June, 2013 in upstream of Mandakini river and its tributaries.

A vegetation / forest cover mapping was carried out at National remote Sensing Centre for the flood affected area using pre and post IRS LISS IV data (spatial resolution 5.8m). The pre event data source for IRS LISS IV is from archives of Bhuvan (2012). The Post-event data is of Resourcesat-2 LISS-IV (20th June 2013). Visual image interpretation technique has been used in order to map the changes in the study area due to flood (Table 1). The assessment shows vegetation / forest cover change at 50 locations (grassland – 29 patches and forest – 21 patches). Forest cover map prepared by Forest Survey of India (1:50,000 scale) was also consulted for reference.

Table 1. Vegetation / Forest cover loss after floods

Sl.No.	Class	Area in ha
1	Grassland cover loss	124.9
2	Forest cover loss	46.0

Disclaimer:

i) Areas under snow, cloud cover and shadow could not be mapped.