

## **MoU signed between Maharashtra Forest Department and Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC) for Strengthening of Forest Department GIS Cell**

Maharashtra Forest Department (MFD) has abiding interest in the conservation, protection and utilization of forests, the scientific understanding of various issues related to forest monitoring. This makes GIS a mandatory requirement for Forest Department. Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC) and Maharashtra Forest Department have planned a collaborative programme for monitoring and management of forest resources of Maharashtra using the latest technologies of Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS and Web Services.

To develop Forest GIS infrastructure and applications, MFD had requested to work mutually on this aspect and had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 23rd of December 2014 for a period of three years, valid till 22nd December 2017. During the above mentioned duration of December, 2014 to December 2017 Maharashtra Forest Department along with MRSAC achieved the following:

- 1) Creation of Geo-database, its Standardization, and Integration of forest administrative layers. Quality Assurance and Checking (QAC) of these administrative boundaries up to compartment level of Territorial and Wild Life Wings of MFD have been superimposed on the geo-spatial portal of MRSAC.
- 2) Designing of Plantation and Offence modules for Nagpur Division of Nagpur Territorial Circle.
- 3) Analysis of changes taken place Nagpur Forest division due to the construction of Bawanthadi Dam Project using Land Use/Land Cover data of 2005-06, 2011-12 and Google data for 2013.
- 4) Detail mapping of the changes in forest type in Nagpur Forest division from 2005 to 2012. Approximately 315 forest cover change spots have been identified for Nagpur Division for which field verification by MFD is in progress.
- 5) 'Vanyukt Shivar' mobile GIS app developed and deployed for post-plantation survival monitoring of 2-crore and 4-crore plantation drive under the 50 crore Plantation program of Green Maharashtra Mission.

- 6) Maharashtra Forest Cover Change Report for 2005-06 to 2011-12 completed and published in April 2017.
- 7) Forest Fire incidents from 2012 to 2016 mapped and ported on MFD web-GIS portal.
- 8) Forest Check-Post data GIS layer generated using MIS data of MFD for Nagpur Forest Division.
- 9) Mapping and estimation of encroachment under Forest Conservation Act 1980 (FCA) in and around Sanjay Gandhi National Park using satellite data for the year 1975, 1987 & 1994 (Thane & Borivali Tahsils).
- 10) Tree Clad Map preparation using Landuse/Landcover of Maharashtra, 2011-12 for Aurangabad District.
- 11) Using Cartosat and LISS IV merged satellite data prepared "Nandurmadhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary" boundary for Nasik Wildlife Forest based on village and survey/gut number maps and forest data of MFD.

To strengthen the newly established GIS cell by Maharashtra Forest Department, today on 6th January 2018 in the presence of Shri. Shree Bhagwan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Shri. Praveen Srivastava, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Information, Technology and Policy) Nagpur and MRSAC Dr. Subrata Das, Director of MRSAC Nagpur signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for extending the contract for the next three years. Vide MoU, MRSAC has been appointed as the Technical Advisors (GIS) for the next three years.

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