

Assessment of Land Use and Land Cover Changes in a Mountain Landscape

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Land use and land cover (LULC) information is essential for managing natural resources and monitoring of environmental changes. As a response to challenge of land use policies and lack of reliable data for ensure sustainable development of natural resources, this study assesses impacts of disturbance on Mount Popa landscape and evaluates the rate and extent of changes on the land cover for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of Mount Popa. Landsat satellite imageries acquire by USGS and used for LULC classification employing the maximum likelihood classifier. There are five land cover Classes namely, forest, vegetation, agricultural, water bodies and built-up. Major land changes identify using post-classification comparison and produce a LULC maps over these periods. The result of this paper, built-up area and agriculture land increase and forest and water bodies decrease. This provide useful for introducing future policy intervention and _ forest restoration in Mount Popa Landscape.