

Preface

Northeast India remains in some ways *terra incognita*. Although this status is slowly changing, in terms of availability and output of the scientific literature, much of these cobwebs still remain. Various factors have contributed to this state of affairs, not least the lack of accessibility within the tract. Tucked away in remote corners of the land known as the Seven Sisters, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks are a treasure trove being given shabby treatment as their flora and fauna increasingly come under the pressure of the Anthropocene. The forests resources of northeast India amounting to almost a quarter of India's forest acreage are slowly but surely being decimated. Existing structures of protection seem unable to cope with growing human population and their fuel and other requirements. The level of poaching of hapless one-horned rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park underlines the scenario. This book was written with the intention of providing a quick-look at the declining forest cover and the increasing level of forest fragmentation in this global biodiversity hotspot.

Satellite data, courtesy of the USGS's Landsat program, and landscape metrics provide the two core areas around which the work centers. If it is able to stoke further interest on forest loss in northeast India and some positives emerge, I will consider its purpose more than served.

Over-Exploitation of Forests

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