

Under-Mining India's Forest and Biodiversity

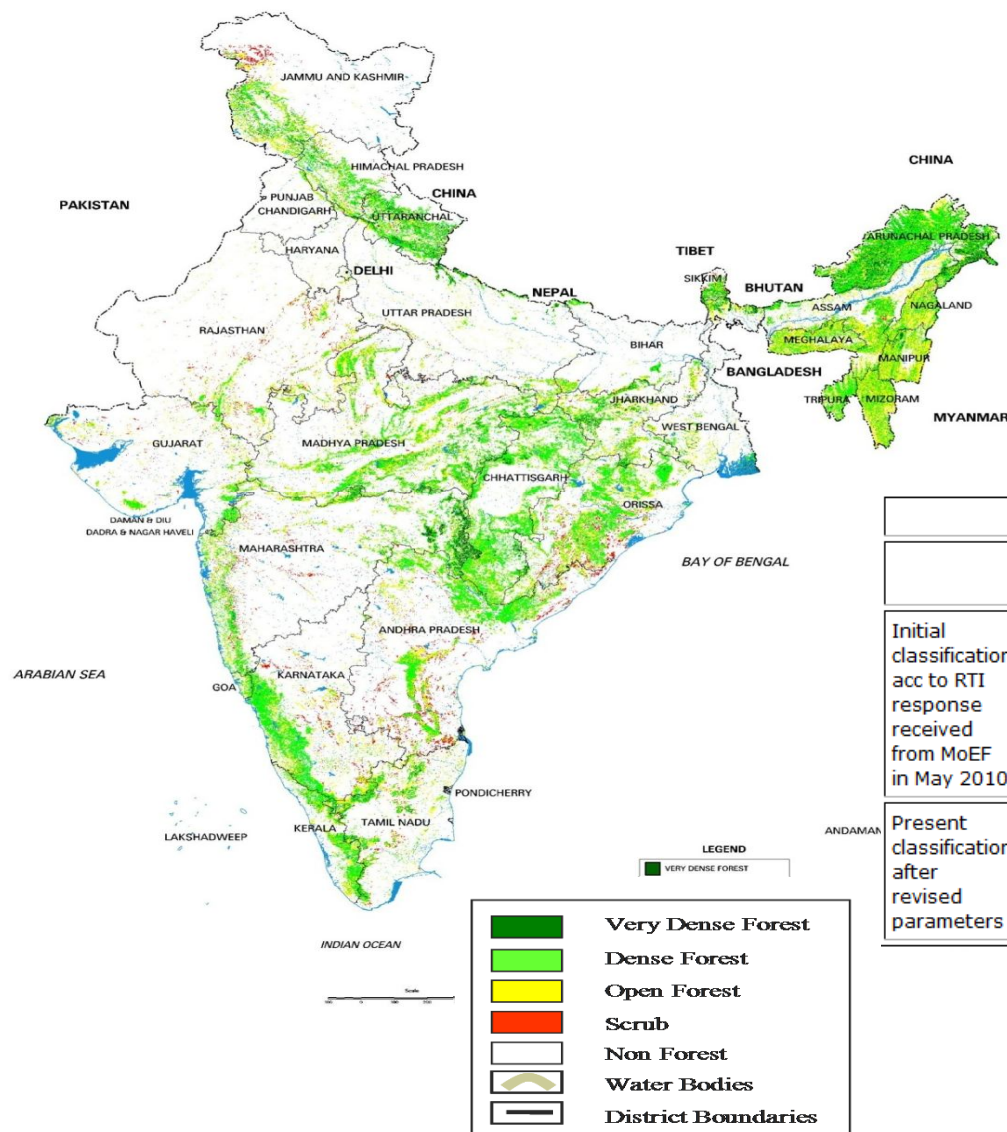
Coal in India

- 55% of the standing capacity in India's power sector is Coal Based
- 37% of India's emissions are from the power sector
- According to Government of India estimates by 2016, India would need 1187 Million Tonnes of Coal which is currently around 696 Million Tonnes
- A Lot of this coal is found in central India which is also one of the last few heavily forested areas of India. More than 1.5 Million acres of forests and biodiversity present in central India is under threat from coal mining.

GO and NO-GO Forest Zones

- Designation of Go and No-Go forest zones for coal mining being deliberated at the highest levels in India.
- Tremendous pressure from Industry and Coal Companies to allow more coal mining and limit No-GO zones
- Coal being deemed essential for economic growth and prosperity by steel and power companies

(Based on Digital Interpretation of IRS 1C/ID LISS-III Oct/Nov 2002 Data)



	Total		'NO GO' Zones			'GO' Zones		
	Total Land	Total Blocks	Hectares	No. of Blocks	% of land	Hectares	No. of Blocks	% of land
Initial classification acc to RTI response received from MoEF in May 2010	6,52,572 Hectares	605	3,20,684	222	49%	3,31,888	383	51%
Present classification after revised parameters	6,02,850 Hectares	582	1,40,311	105	23.27%	4,62,539	477	76.72 %

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Undermining the Tiger



- Greenpeace organized Fact finding mission by wildlife experts revealed that Coal mining poses a serious threat to tigers in central Indian region.
- Observations- Over the last 20 years and more, coal mining has steadily fragmented this landscape which is an important tiger source population complex
- And eaten away at important forest corridors connecting this region to other forest blocks.
- ***This case symptomatic of the larger threat that coal mining poses to the central Indian forest landscape and its biodiversity.***