

FOREST OF MANIPUR

Forest is the natural habitats where collection of diverse species of plant covering a relatively large area. In comparatively, Manipur is smaller in area geographically but has the distinctive of having a wide range of forest types. These forests are home of wide range of flora and fauna. The state also falls within a Vavilovian centre of diversity of various indigenous plant.

Manipur, a state of north-eastern India lies at a latitude of 23°83'N – 25°68'N and a longitude of 93°03'E – 94°78'E. The total area covered by the state is 22,327 square kilometres. It comprises 1820 sq km of flat plateau of alluvial valley and 20507sq km of hill territory and form a part of the Himalayan mountain system which carries this cup-shaped wonderland inside its series of hill ranges. The capital lies in an oval-shaped valley of approximately 700 square miles (2,000 km²) surrounded by blue mountains and is at an elevation of 790 metres (2,590 ft) above sea level. The slope of the valley is from north to south. The mountain ranges create a moderated climate, preventing the cold winds from the north from reaching the valley and barring cyclonic storms originating from the Bay of Bengal.

BORDER STATE OF MANIPUR: -

The state is bordered by the Indian states of Nagaland to its north, Mizoram to its south, Assam to its west, and shares international border with Myanmar to its east.

FOREST STATUS: -

According to the India State of Forest Report 2017, the forest covered area of Manipur is 17,346 sq km, which is 77.69 % of the geographical area of the State.

In term of forest canopy density classes, the state has

- 908 sq km under Very Dense Forest
- 6510 sq km under Moderately Dense Forest
- 9928 sq km under Open Forest

District-wise Forest Cover
(as per India State of Forest Report 2017, F.S.I., Dehradun)

District	Geo. Area	Very Dense Forest	Moderately Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total Forest cover	% of Geo. Forest	Area in Sq.km	
							Change	Scrub
Bishnupur	496	0	1	21	22	4.44	0	2
Chandel	3313	11	970	1926	2907	87.75	17	120
Churachandpur	4570	42	1663	2464	4169	91.23	-17	143
Imphal East	709	0	61	217	278	39.21	-2	15
Imphal West	519	0	16	38	54	10.40	-1	9
Senapati	3271	272	751	1161	2184	66.77	102	285
Tamenglong	4391	390	1754	1809	3953	90.03	13	152
Thoubal	514	0	2	71	73	14.20	0	11
Ukhrul	4544	193	1292	2221	3706	81.56	151	374
Grand Total	22327	908	6510	9928	17346	77.69	263	1111

MAJOR FOREST TYPES FOUND IN MANIPUR:

The Forests of Manipur have been classified by different authors based on different criteria viz. floristic composition, altitudinal variation etc. based on **Champion & Seth's classification**, the following forest types of forests are found in Manipur.

Tropical Semi-evergreen forests: Found in the western part of Manipur adjoining Cachar and extend over 644 sq.km area approx. The system that consist of timber species like species are *Michelia champaca*, *Schima wallichii*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Podocarpus nerifolium*, *Dellinia spp.*etc. These forests have been subject to heavy jhumming.

Moist Deciduous Forests: Situated along the Burma border in Manipur east hills. The area under these types of forests is roughly 610sq.km. The main species of this type of forests are *Tectona grandis*, *Dipterocarpus turbinatus*, *Melanorrhoe ausitata*, *Dillenia*, *Xylia*, *Lagerstroemia*, *Terminalia*, *Gmelina*, *Bombax species etc.* The practice of jhum cultivation is also not uncommon in these areas too.

East Himalayan Wet Temperate Forests: Forests of Quercus-Magnolia-Acer and conifers association are met with covering an area of approximately 1450 sq.km. This type of forests falls under Champion & Seth's 'East Himalayan Wet Temperate Forests' i.e. 11B/C1.

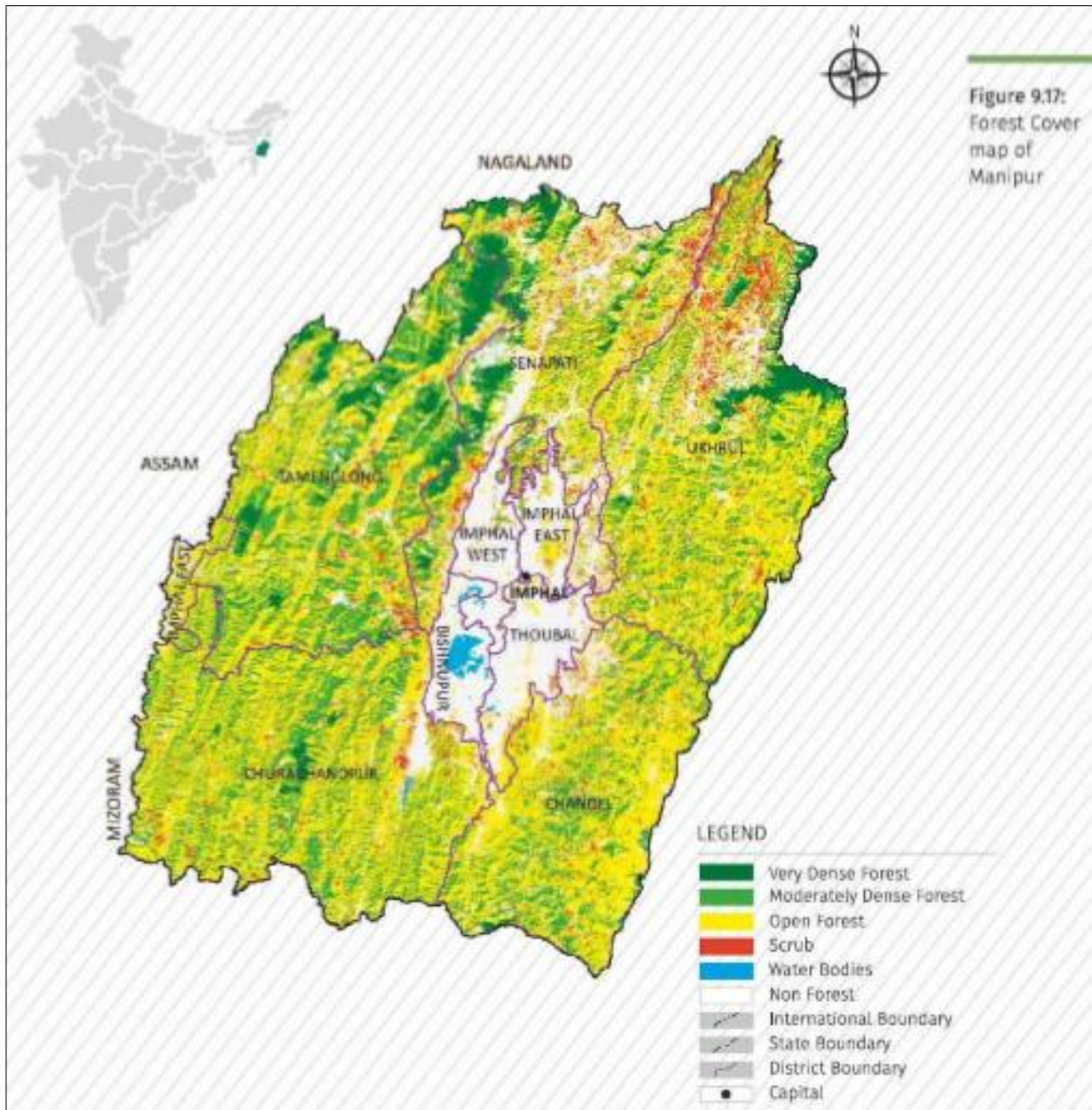
Sub-Alpine Forests: Sub-alpine vegetation is observed covering a small tract with characteristic species of *Prunus*, *Pyrus*, *Ligustrum*, *Taxus*, *Bucklandia populnea*, *Acer campbelli*, *Magnolia campbelli*, *Castanopsis tribuloides* etc. Such areas are of very limited extent.

Grassy Blanks: A certain tract of forests are in a sub-climax state of grassland due to heavy biotic interference measuring upto 154 sq.km. approx.

Bamboo brakes: Bamboo brakes and bamboo mixed with scrubs of large extent occur in the western, southwestern and north-western parts of the state. Most of the Cachar tropical semi-evergreen type of forest in the western part of the state has been hacked down for jhum and the trees have given way to a denser growth of Melocana bamboo interspersed with some clump forming bamboos and rare trees here and there. Bamboos also occur as an understory in tree forest. At present, there are above 53 species (Devi & Devi) of bamboo occurring naturally in the state. Two new species identified recently viz. *Bambusa manipureana* and *Dendrocalamus manipureanus*, are also found to be endemic to Manipur.

Cane Brakes: In places where the soil is wet over a long period and is in ill drained clay, rich in humus, various species of canes are found. They form an impenetrable thorny thicket sometimes with a few trees standing over them. The stems are typically trailing and may go as far as 70-75m. A few palms such as *Divisteria*, *Lienla* etc. and duloo bamboos are found to occur with the canes. The important species of canes found occurring are *Calamustenius*, *Leptospadix*, *Calamus floribundus* and *Calamus erectus*

Forest Cover Map of Manipur



District wise reserve forest of Manipur

	NAME OF THE RESERVED FORESTS	Area covered (sq. km.)
Imphal East	Chingkhei- Ching	14.23
	Heingang	9.71
	Nongrenching (Khema)	5.18
	Ningthemchakul (Laiching)	2.59
	Sambei Purum	19.40
Jiribam	Jirimukh	7.74
Imphal West	Langol	19.22
	Langol R/F Extension	2.05
Thoubal	Heirolk Chingdongpok	1.27
	Gwarok	5.21
Kakching	Thongam Mondum	8.90
	Waikhong Pine Forest	5.10
	Thongjao Kabui Chingkhongching	1.00
	Khunulabaching	0.03
Bishnupur	Warok	0.31
	Konung	0.15
	Langjingmanbi	2.59
Churachandpur	Cheklaphai	52.84
	Dampi	135.89
	Vangai	57.00
Pherzawl	Tolbung	90.00
Senapati	Yaingangpokpi	48.20
	Nongmaiching	67.00
	Khamenlok -Gwaltabi	31.08
	Tadubi-Maram	7.77
Kangpokpi	Khumanthou Ching	2.18
	Kangchup Chiru	2.59
	Kangchup	9.60
	Kanglatombi – Kangpokpi	85.47
Tamenglong	Irangmukh	92.68
	Ke biphundai Extension	15.54
Noney	Laimaton	2.59
Chandel	Yangenching	32.56
	Kangbung	67.34
	Longya	41.96

Protected forests of Manipur

Sl.No.	Name of Protected Forest	Area
1	Kharam Protected Forest	Area not defined
2	Ukhrul Protected Forest	Area not defined
3	Tuineng Tuichum Protected Forest	67.38 sq.km
4	Sendra Protected Forest	10.91 sq.km
5	Sikhong-Ningel Hill Protected Forest	Area not defined
6	Churuchandpur-Khoupum Protected Forest	5148.66 Ha
7	Tairenpokpi-Tamenglong Protected Forest	8070.65 Ha
8	Soigupat Protected Forest	174.81Ha
9	Kakching Khunou Protected Forest	Area not defined
10	Waithou Ching Protected Forest	2772.64Ha
11	Kangchup-Leimakhong-Irang-Imphal-Iiril Protected Forest	49456Ha
12	Haraorou Protected Forest	Area not defined
13	Yangoi Achouba Sileikhong Protected Forest	929.61 Ha
14	Kangpokpi- Tamenglong Roadside Protected Forest	909Ha
15	Pallel-Lokchao Roadside Protected Forest	Strip of land 60m wide from the berm of either side of the road from Pallel to Sibong Lokchao along Imphal to Moreh NH excluding notified areas and bonafide village land
16	Churachandpur-Thingpat Roadside Protected Forest	Strip of land 60m wide from berm of either side from Churachandpur to Thingpat along ChurachandpurThinghatstate highway excluding the portions of Checklapai Reserved Forests, Notified areas and bonafide village lands
17	Bishenpur-Khoupum Roadside Protected Forest	Strip of land 60m wide from berm on either side of the road from Bishenpur to Khoupum along Old Cachar road excluding notified areas bonafide village land
18	Gwaltabi-Ukhrul Roadside Protected Forest	Strip of land 60m wide from the berm of either side of the road from Gwaltabi to Ukhrul along ImphalUkhrul state highway
19	Churuchandpur-Tipaimukh Roadside Protected Forest	Areas measuring 60m wide from the berm of either side of the road from Churachandpur to Tipaimukhalong Churuchandpur-Tipaimukh road excluding notified areas and bona-fide village land
20	Uningthou Ching Protected Forest	20400 Ha
21	Valley Protected Forests	148 Nos.
22	M. XVI(A)	Area not defined

Proposed Rerved Forests

Sl.No.	Name of Reserve Forest
1	Uningthou Ching Reserved Forest
2	Koubru Reserved Forest
3	Kailam Ching Reserved Forest
4	Tuining Tuichum YengkaiLok Reserved Forest
5	Chandel Pine Reserved Forest
6	Sirohi-Lok Reserved Forest
7	Lamphel Research Plot Reserved
8	Maibam Lokpa Ching Reserved Forest
9	Khunuda Laiching Reserved Forest
10	Upper Makru Reserved Forest
11	Inkanki Reserved Forest
12	Lentang Reserved Forest
13	Tuilong Reserved Forest
14	Kangpokpi-Kanglatongbi & Burma Border Teak Growing Reserved Forest
15	Oinamlong&Nungba Reserved Forest
16	Burma Border Reserved Forest
17	Lamdang Reserved Forest
18	Lamdang Reserved Forest