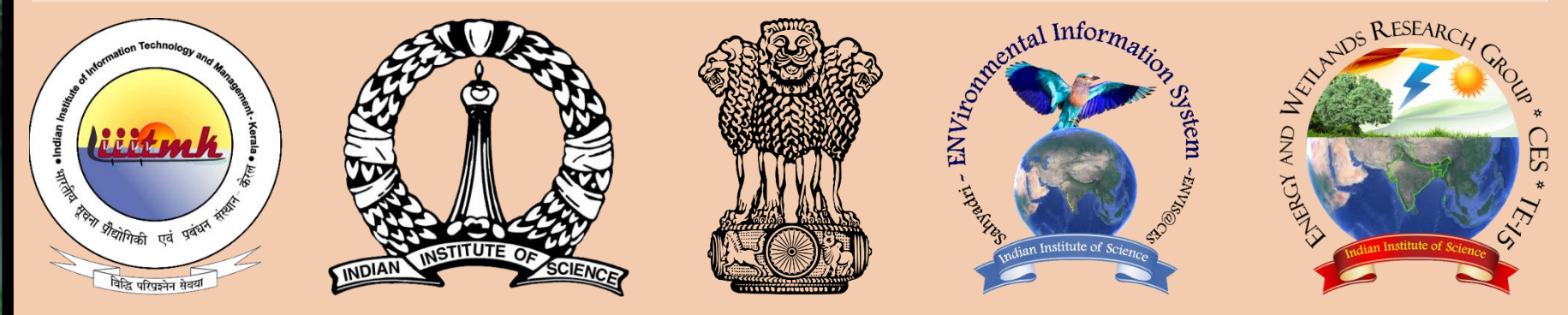


NETRAVATHI RIVER — A LIFE LINE OF DAKSHINA KANNADA IN TROUBLE

Bharat Settur, Vinay S, Ramachandra T V



CULTURE



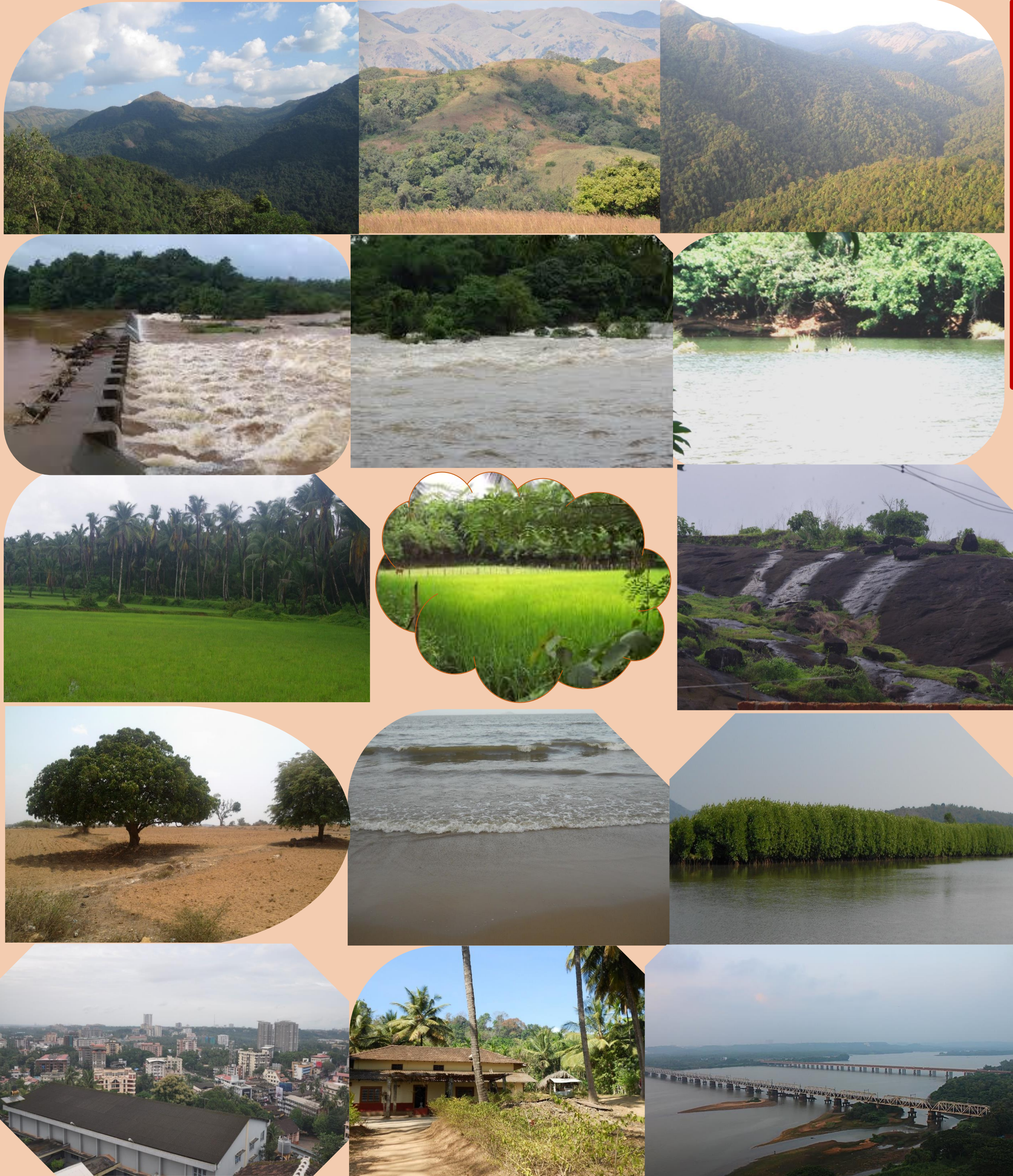
BIODIVERSITY



Netravathi River Basin:

- Netravathi River system has numerous perennial streams with typical tropical climax evergreen forested catchment areas of high conservation value with a catchment area of 4409 km².
- The significant floral species includes *Knema attenuate*, *Gymnacranthera canarica*, *Holigarna ferruginea*, *Myristica malabarica*, *Madhuca insignis*, *Syzygium travancoricum*, *Pandanus unipappilatus*, *Helminthostachys zeylanicus*, *Hopea ponga*, *Vateria indica* etc., and many of them are under Critically Endangered, Vulnerable, Threatened categories.
- The river has an inextricable connection between culture and diversity, also forms a major economic source for the people.

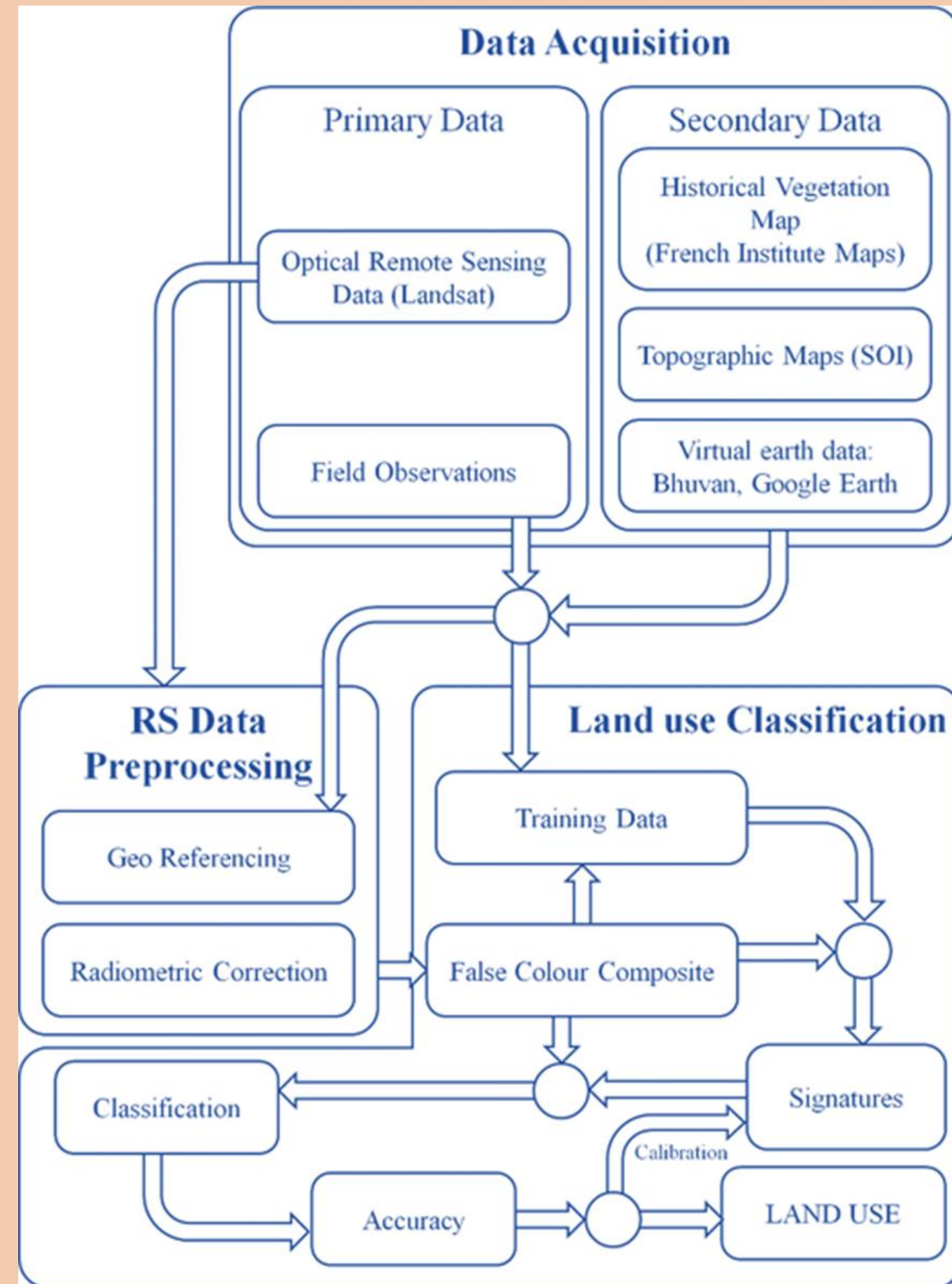
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS



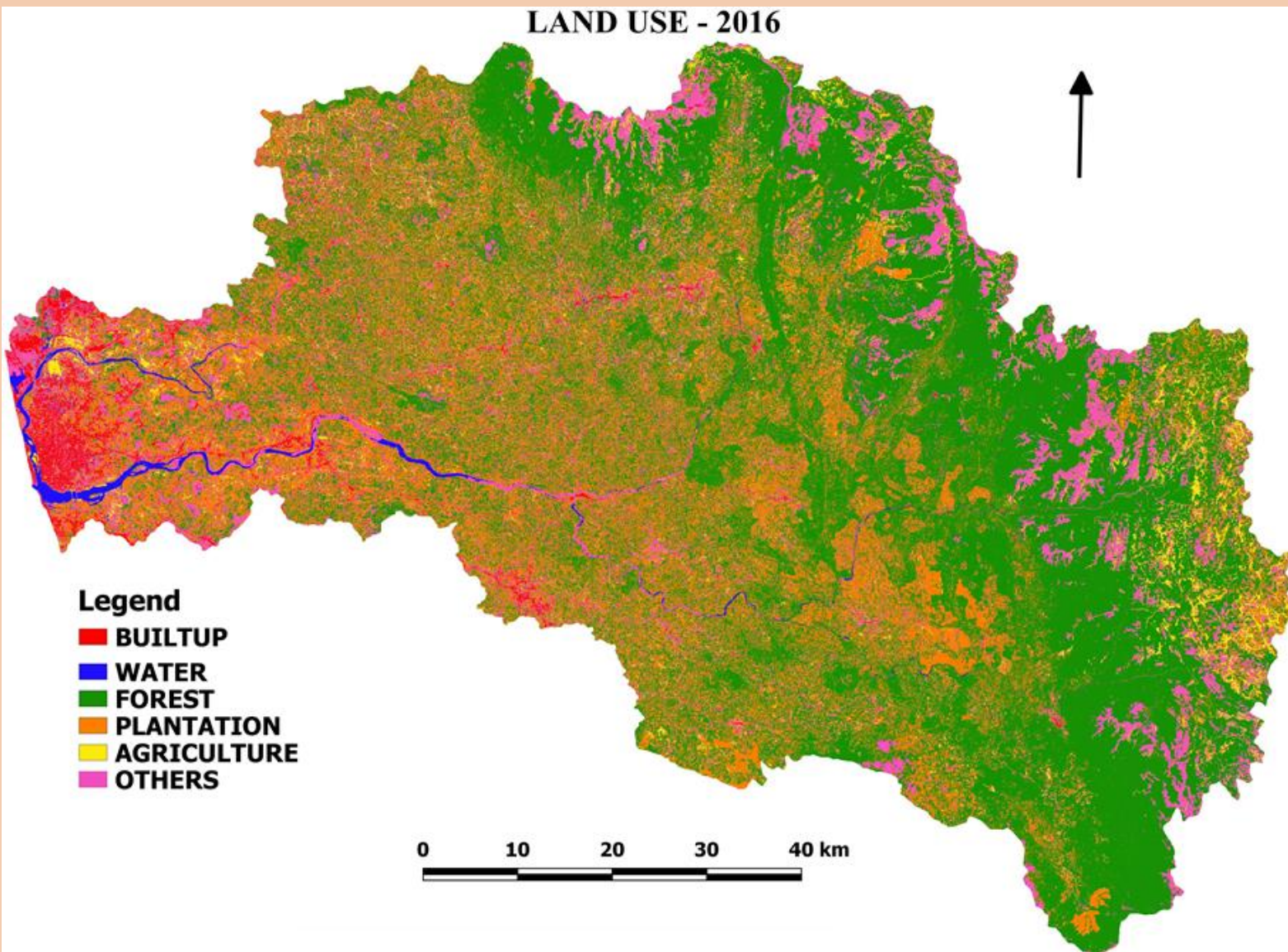
Objectives

- To understand land use status of Netravathi River Basin.
- Identifying ecological sensitive regions based on ecology, hydrology and bio-geo climatic variables.

Method

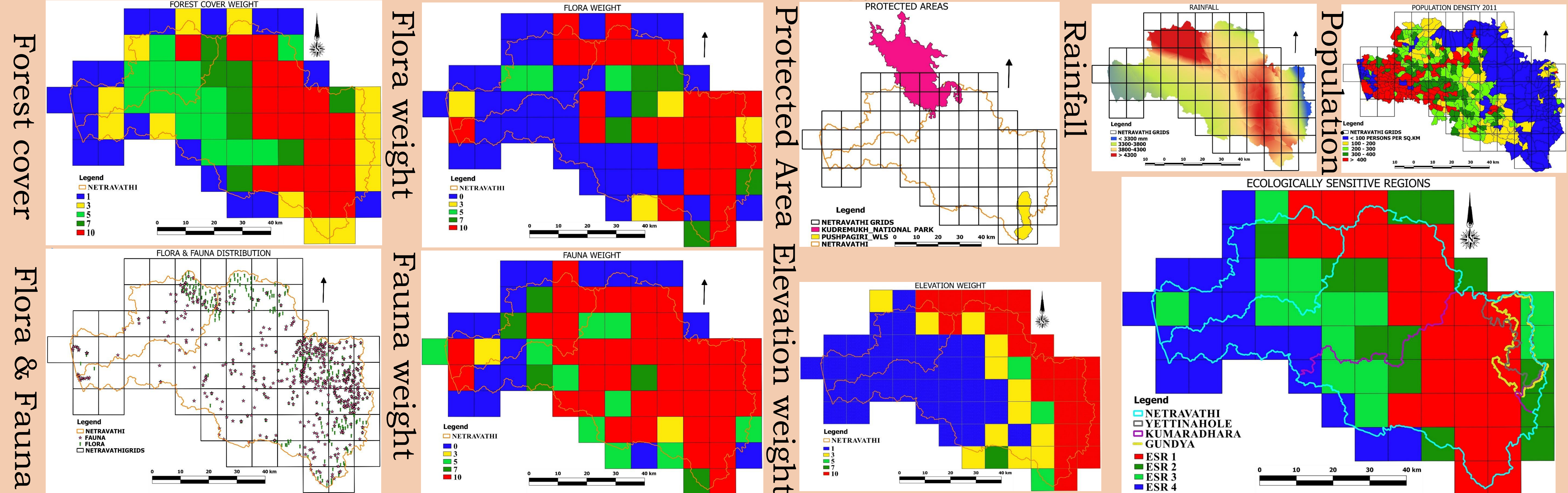


LAND USE



S. NO	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	Ha	%
1	FOREST	Evergreen forests, deciduous forest, degraded forests, scrublands, Soppina betta	224900	51.67
2	PLANTATIONS	Horticulture and Forest plantations	115010	26.42
3	AGRICULTURE	Current Sown and Fallow Agricultural lands	21800	5.01
4	BUILT-UP	Buildings, Roads and paved surfaces	9410	2.16
5	OTHERS	Open area, Grasslands, Riverbed, Sand, Quarries, Cloud and Shadow	61030	14.02
6	WATER	Rivers, Lakes, Ponds, Estuary	3150	0.72
TOTAL AREA			435300	

Prioritisation based on ecology geo climatic variables



Significant Findings

- The land use analysis shows 51.67% area under forest after losing dense zones of forests for mini-hydroelectric, infrastructure projects and monoculture plantations. The plantations constitute 26.42 % of the basin.
- ESR maps at the village level, elucidates Netravathi river basin covers total 433 villages across five districts. The ESR-1 shows 111, ESR-2 shows 69, ESR-3, 4 shows 119 and 134 villages respectively.

Recommendations

- The ESR_1 represents a zone of highest conservation, no further degradation allowed. River diversion projects should not be allowed in the name of drinking water projects
- Monoculture plantations are not allowed, existing exotics should be replaced by planting endemic species.
- The local bio resource based industry should be promoted. All should be strictly regulated and be subject to social audit.