

Suswa River

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Suswa is a right-bank tributary of the Song River that originates after the confluence of Rispana River and Bindal River near Mothrowala town of Dehradun district in Uttarakhand.
- Suswa covers a length of ~21 km with a total catchment area of about 310.98 km² in Uttarakhand.
- Climate of the Suswa River Basin is sub-tropical, humid and temperate.
- Suswa flows through the Gangetic Plain biogeographic zone and Upper Gangetic Plain (7A) biotic province.
- Bindal and Rispana are the key tributaries of the Suswa river.



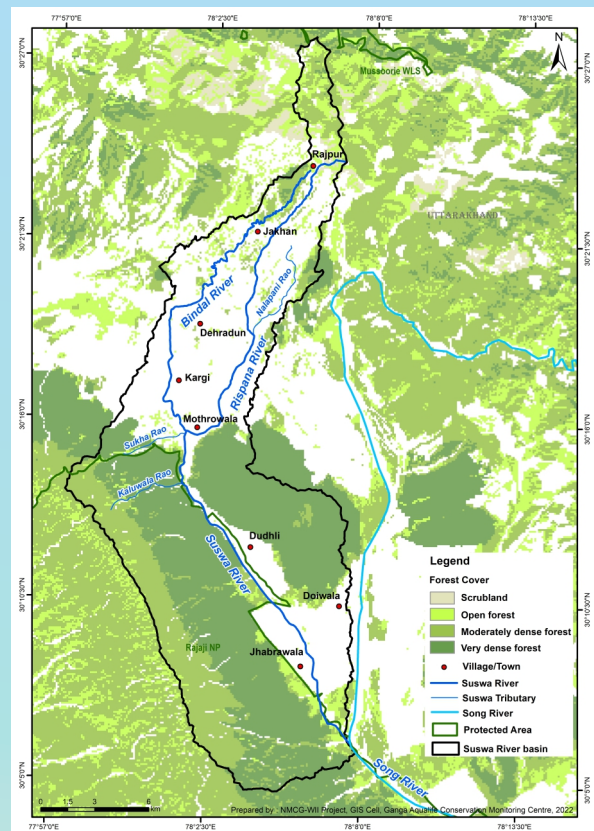
SALIENT FEATURES

- Around a 13 km stretch of Suswa River flows through Rajaji National Park and has been protected since 1983.
- Two major forest types, the moist sal-bearing forest (3C/C2) and the dry sal-bearing forest (5B/C1) dominate the Basin.
- Vegetation of the Basin is represented by *Shorea robusta*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Mallotus philippensis*, *Litsea glutinosa*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Ehretia laevis*, *Litsea glutinosa*, *Clerodendrum viscosum*, and *Millettia auriculata*.
- Among birds, sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), have been reported from the Basin.
- Golden mahseer (*Tor putitora*) and mahseer (*Tor tor*) are some of the important fish species reported from the river.
- Suswa River basin supports a human population of 38.68 lakh people.

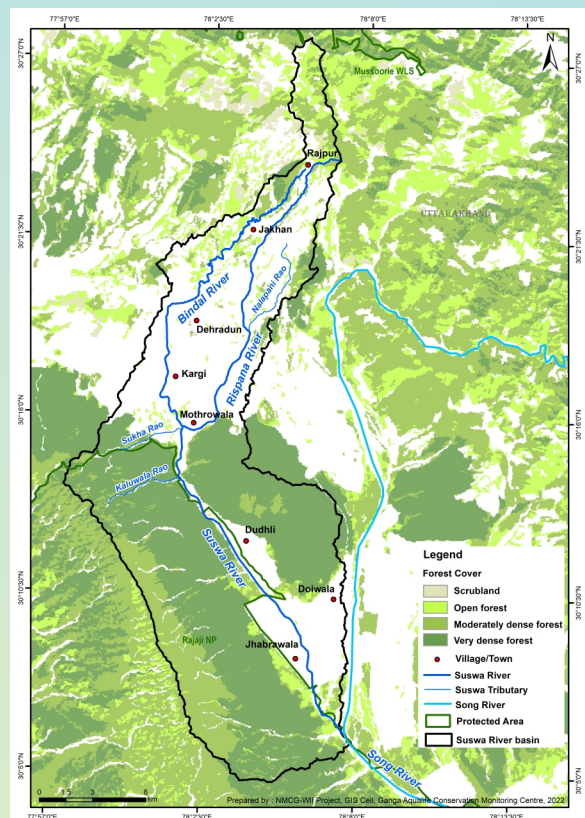


FOREST COVER

Catchment of Suswa River is dominated by very dense forest, followed by non-forest cover, moderately dense forest, open forest and scrubland.



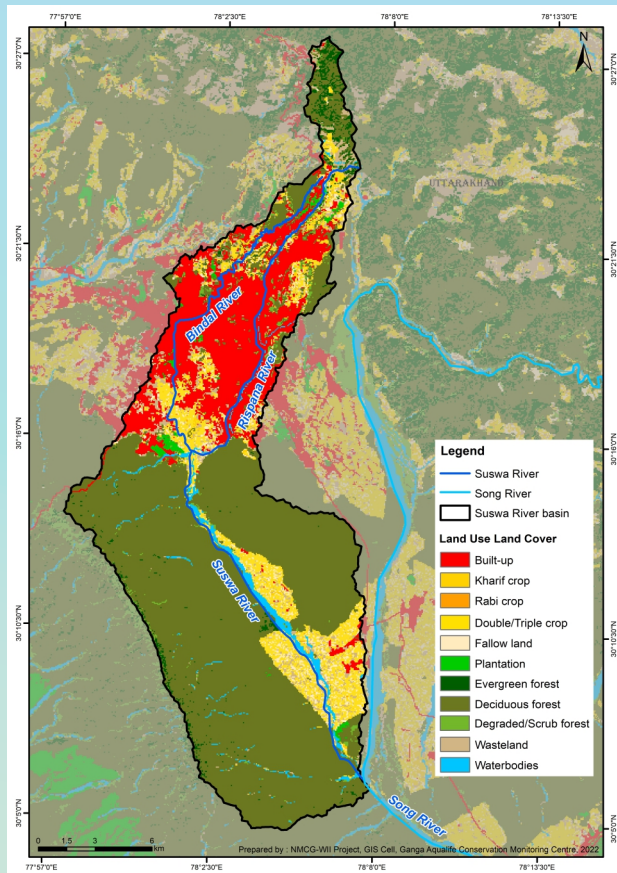
Forest cover in 2015



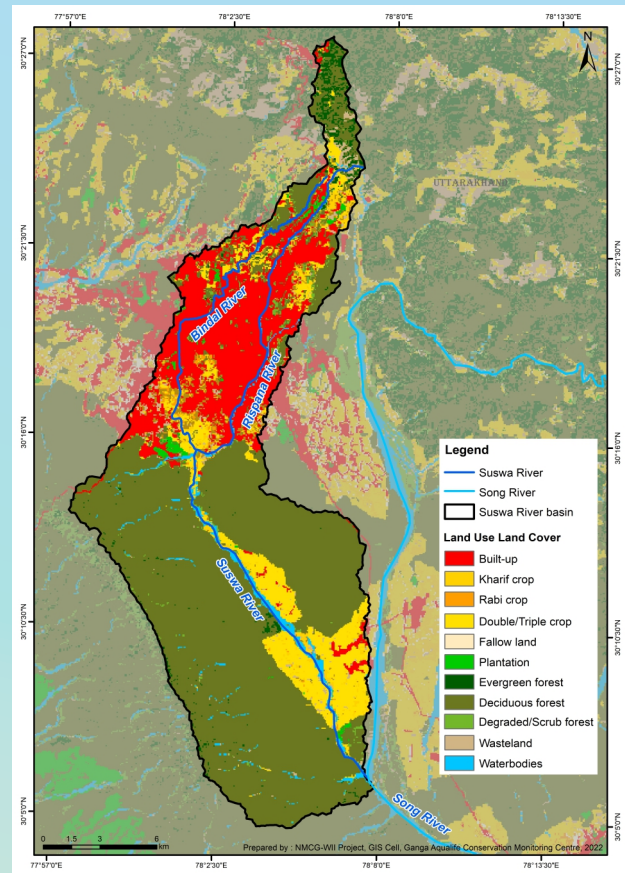
Forest cover in 2019

LAND USE AND LAND COVER CHANGE

Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) maps (2008-09 & 2018-19) revealed that over a period of ten years, there was an increase in Kharif crop (0.97%), Rabi crop (0.39%), waterbodies (0.01%) and Built-up (1.07%); and a decrease in the wasteland (1.98%), deciduous forest (0.07%) and fallow land area (0.59%).



LULC map of 2008-09



LULC map of 2018-19

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Encroachment due to urbanisation and rapid expansion in agriculture.
- Discharge of urban waste deteriorating the River's water quality and affecting the riverine habitat of aquatic biodiversity.



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