

**D-13: REMOTE SENSING FOR LAND RESOURCE SURVEY OF  
VICTORIA-RANDENIGALA AND RANTAMBE SANCTUARY**  
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Victoria - Randenigala - Rantambe (VRR) sanctuary was established in January 1987 and set apart for the benefit of the immediate catchment of three reservoirs and for the preservation of the natural environment. VRR sanctuary covers approximately 41600 ha and includes both private and crown lands.

Environmental degradation due to the continuation of traditional human uses is the main management problem of the Sanctuary. Mis-management of land resources for agricultural land use has been accelerated by the rate of encroachments of state land, deforestation for chena farming, soil erosion and siltation. As a result the common wildlife in the sanctuary has faced a severe threat of existence due to the destruction of their natural habitats by the human activities. The main objective of this study was to develop a remote sensing data base for the land resource management of VRR Sanctuary.

A land resource survey was carried out in the Kirindioya basin of the Sanctuary as an experimental study. Panchromatic black-and-white air photos and SPOT images were interpreted manually to make resource maps; terrain, soil, vegetation and land use. Field work was carried out to establish the mapping units and the legend.

Following maps were prepared for the Kirindioya basin: Terrain, soil and hydrology map & Land use and land cover map.

The resource maps prepared by the present study using remote sensing techniques provides a more accurate and up-to-date data base required for resource management.