

**D-14:APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING FOR LAND USE AND
LAND COVER MAPPING OF UDA - WALAWE NATIONAL PARK**

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Uda-Walawe declared a national park on 30th June, 1972. The total extent of the national park is 30821 ha. The park consists of the immediate catchment area of the Walawe reservoir of 3400 ha. The park serves the dual purpose of ensuring a perennial supply of silt-free water to the reservoir and providing a refuge for wildlife displaced by the opening up of land in the lower reaches of the Walawe Ganga.

Following the park's establishment there was extensive encroachment and about 70% of the forest has been destroyed, due largely in chena cultivation.

The main objective of this study was to carry out a land use and land cover survey of the Uda-Walawe National Park. The final aim of the study was to prepare a land use and land cover (vegetation) classification map.

Interpretation of SPOT images and panchromatic Black-and-white photographs were done manually. Field work was carried out to check the accuracy of the interpretation and boundaries of the vegetation units.

Five land use units and fifteen vegetation units were identified within the National Park.

The final map can be used as a data base for land use planning and development work of the park in general, and to calculate the carrying capacity of the vegetation cover in special.