

7.0. Results and Discussion :

After mapping the wetlands of Assam within the reserved forest 7313 numbers of wetlands (excluding rivers and streams) are found within the reserved forest of Assam. The total wetlands area found 243791.29 Ha (i.e. 2439.91 Sq. km.). Wetlands during this inventory are categorised into two classes i.e. river and other water bodies. Out of 249 numbers of Reserved Forest wetlands (i.e. other waterbodies excluding rivers) could not be detected only in 45 numbers of Reserved Forest based on interpretation of satellite data used for inventory. It is also observed that out of 27 districts of Assam 2 districts viz. Barpeta and Nalbari have no Reserved Forest boundary. Moreover it is found that inside the Reserved Forest areas of Assam river stream occupy maximum wetland area which is found to be 234931.83 Ha. (i.e. around 96 percent of total wetland within the Reserved Forest).

Considerable number of other water bodies detected in the Barak Valley (ie. Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi Districts) and Golagaht district which are basically seasonally water logged in nature due to its physiographic and surrounding landscapes needs extensive ground truthing for proper inventory. Use of multi temporal satellite data also will help to enhance the spatial extent of the wetlands database.