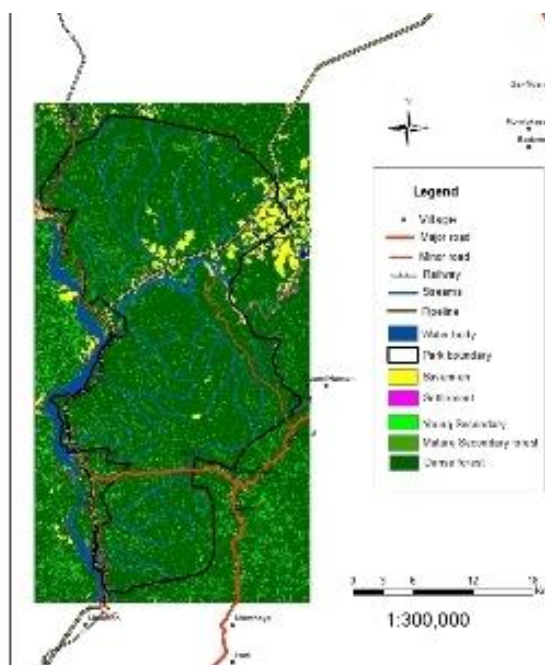
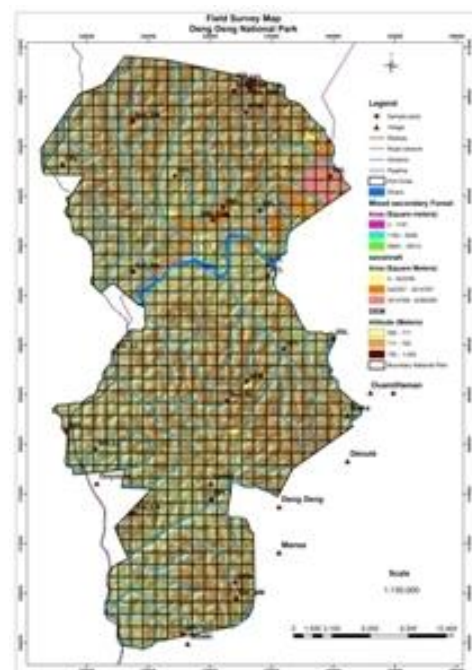


### Project Update: January 2013

Recent efforts to measure the effects of habitat heterogeneity and anthropogenic influence on mammals in Deng Deng National park has focused on classifying and validating land cover classes and also on establishing a concise sampling design for the acquisition of relevant survey data. Regionally geospatial resources including Landsat ETM+ for the period 2002 - 2007, Aster images for the period 2008 - 2009, Digital elevation model (DEM) 2011, interactive forest atlas as well as Google Earth features has served as valuable resources for classification. Using GIS/remote sensing imagery software, images of the study area was subset and then processed through priori and supervised classification to create geodatabases and land-cover layers of this diverse zone, which confirmed certain simulation that is being validated by ground truth survey. Each thematic layer on the map has been defined and further distinguished from others by the application of different colours for the land cover types to facilitate visual differentiation. Figure 1 shows the pattern of land cover analysed from Aster 2009 merged images.



**Figure 1. showing distribution of broad cover types within the area of interest including Deng Deng National Park.**



**Figure 2: Northern section of park showing the distribution of sampling points. Study area showing the distribution of sampling points (red dots)**

Following set considerations for selection of sampling sites (cover type, cover size, elevation, distances from boundary, drainage, aspect etc), 40 points has randomly been selected from 884, 1km<sup>2</sup> grid cells as sampling points and are being surveyed by the data collection team.

During this first part, the researcher acquired additional GIS/remote sensing skills and also offered a short introductory training, to a group of eight assistants (who are participating in

the study), on research methodology, field identification and data collection procedures relevant for this research. Below are few introductory training photos.

