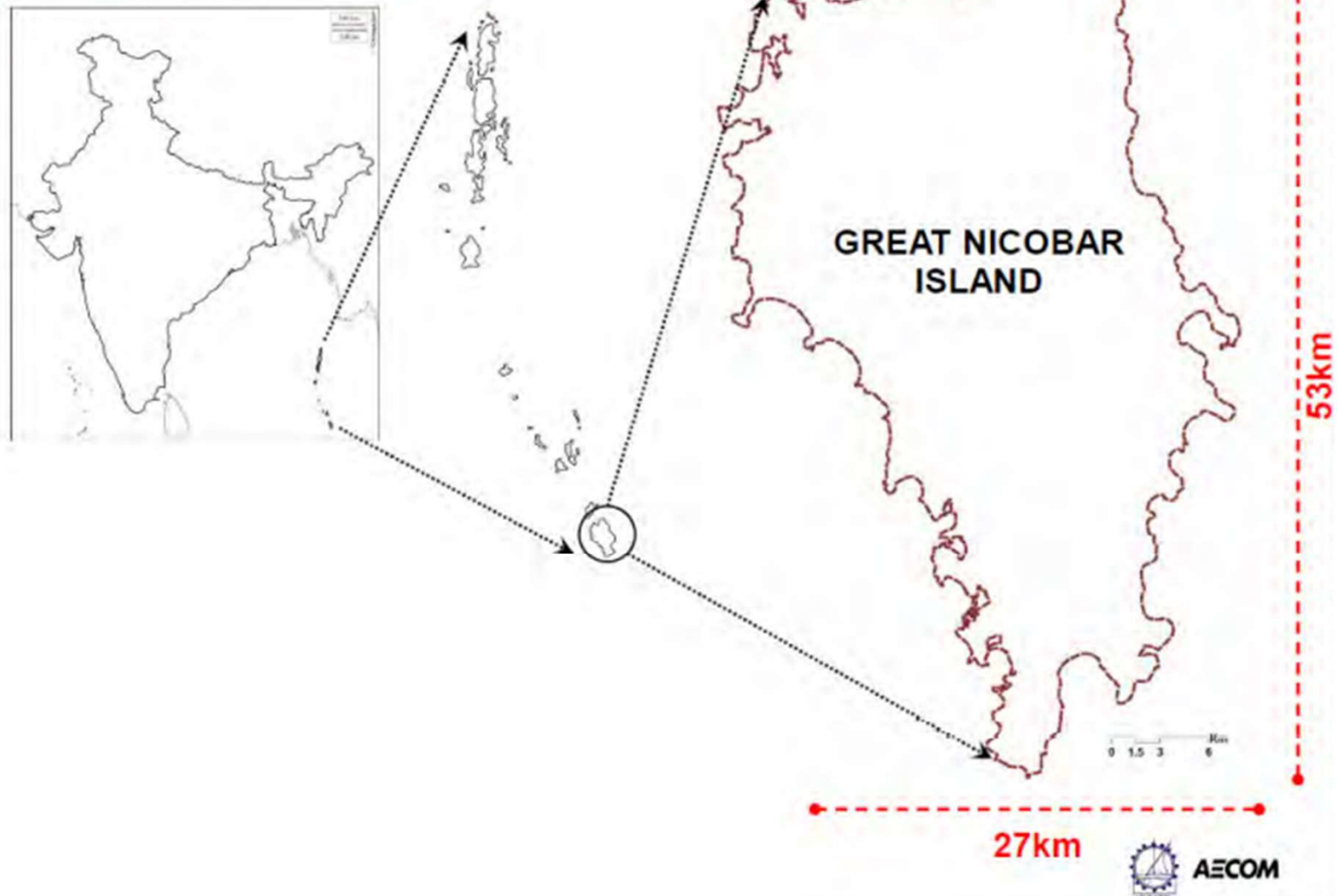


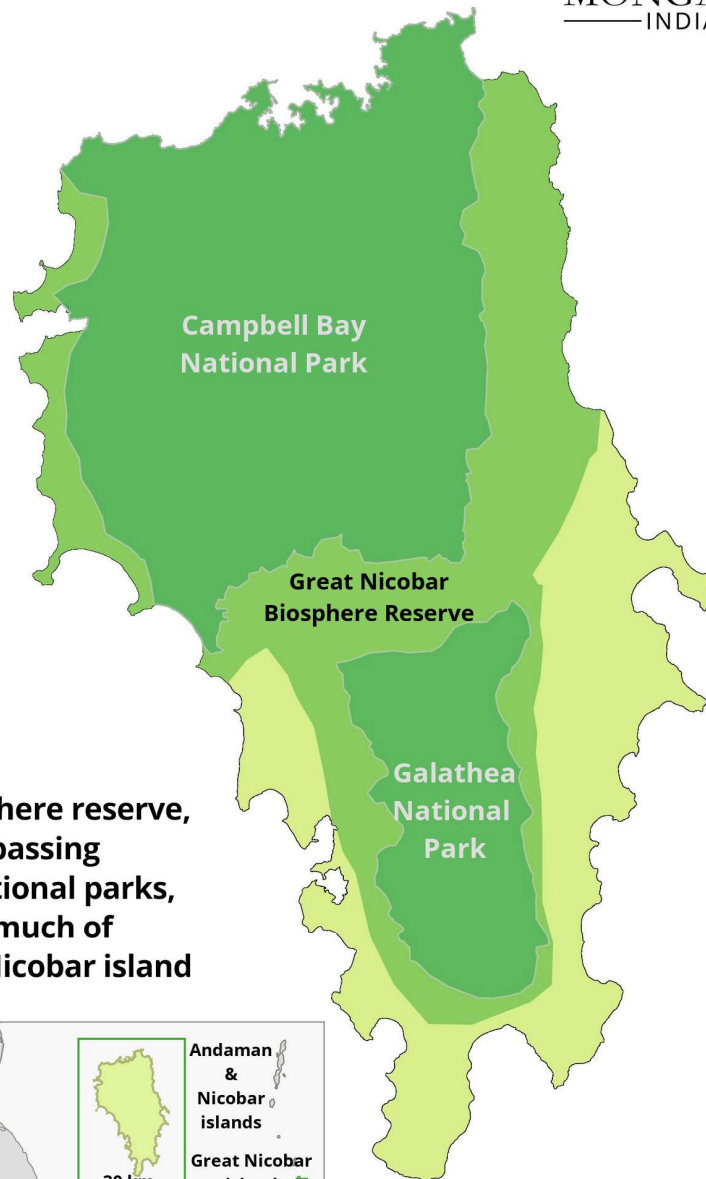
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The Great Nicobar- Case

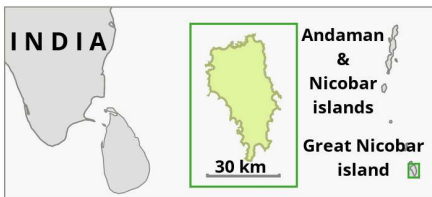
21st October 2022

Great Nicobar Island Site



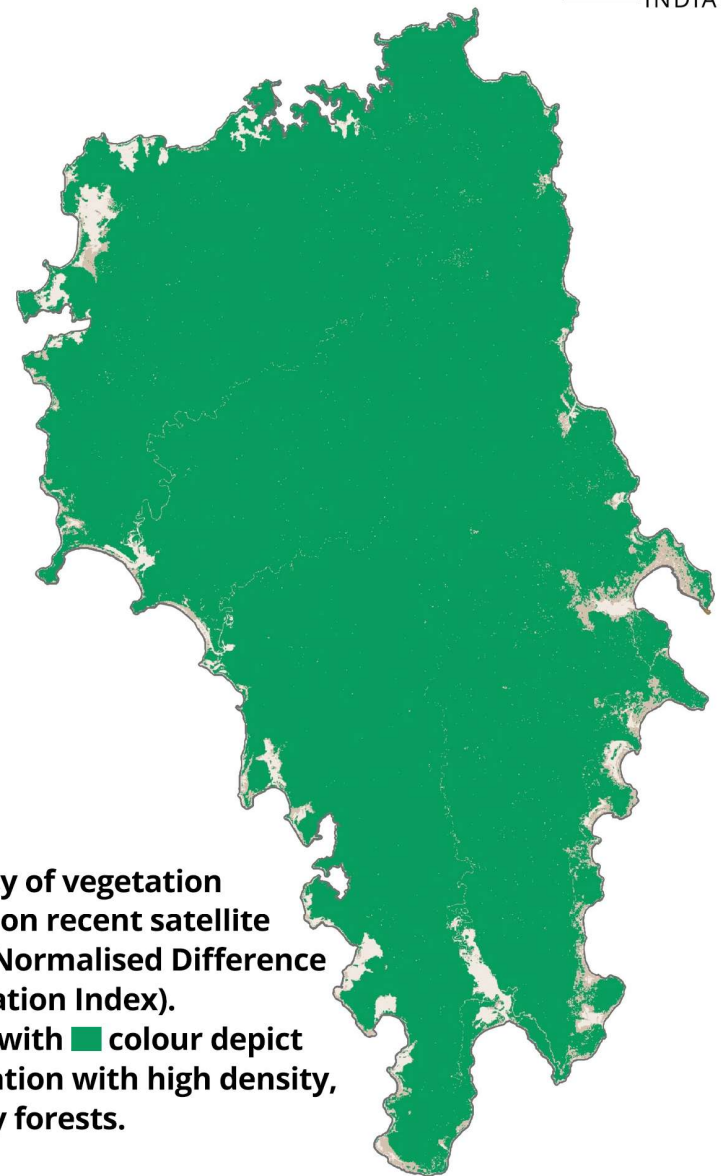


A biosphere reserve, encompassing two national parks, covers much of Great Nicobar island



Map by T Ramachandran/Mongabay

Source: Gazette notifications (MoEFCC), OpenStreetMap

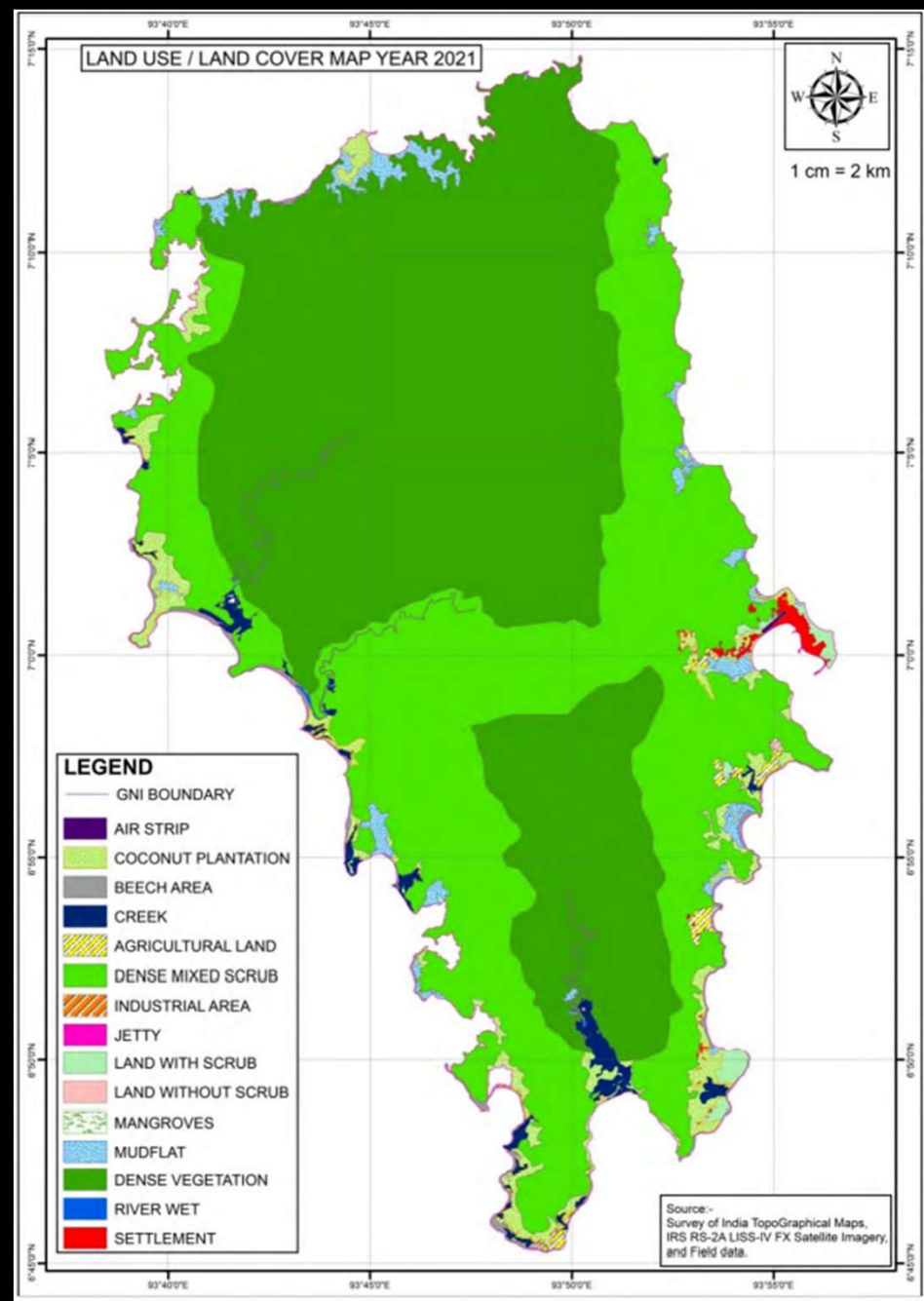
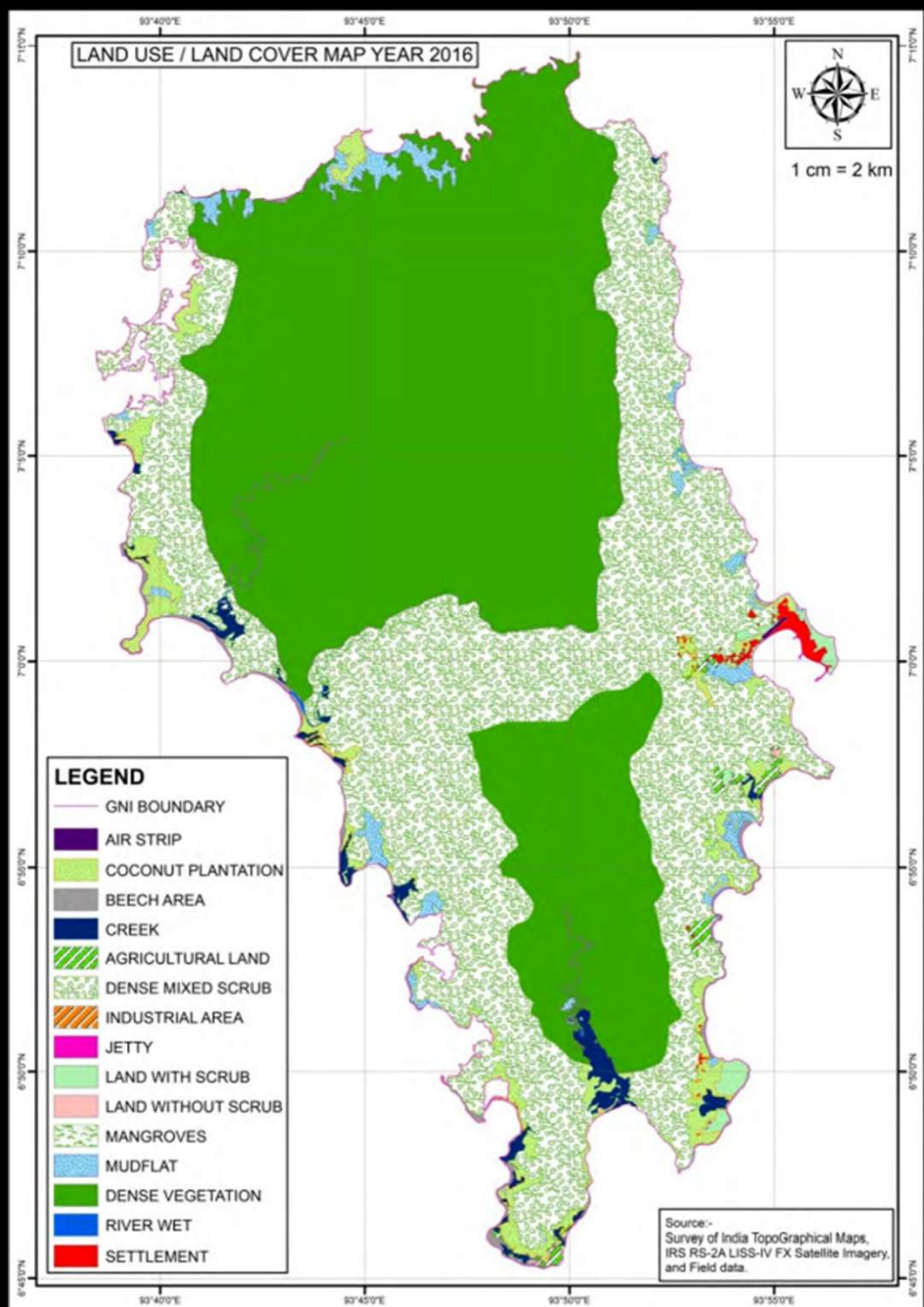


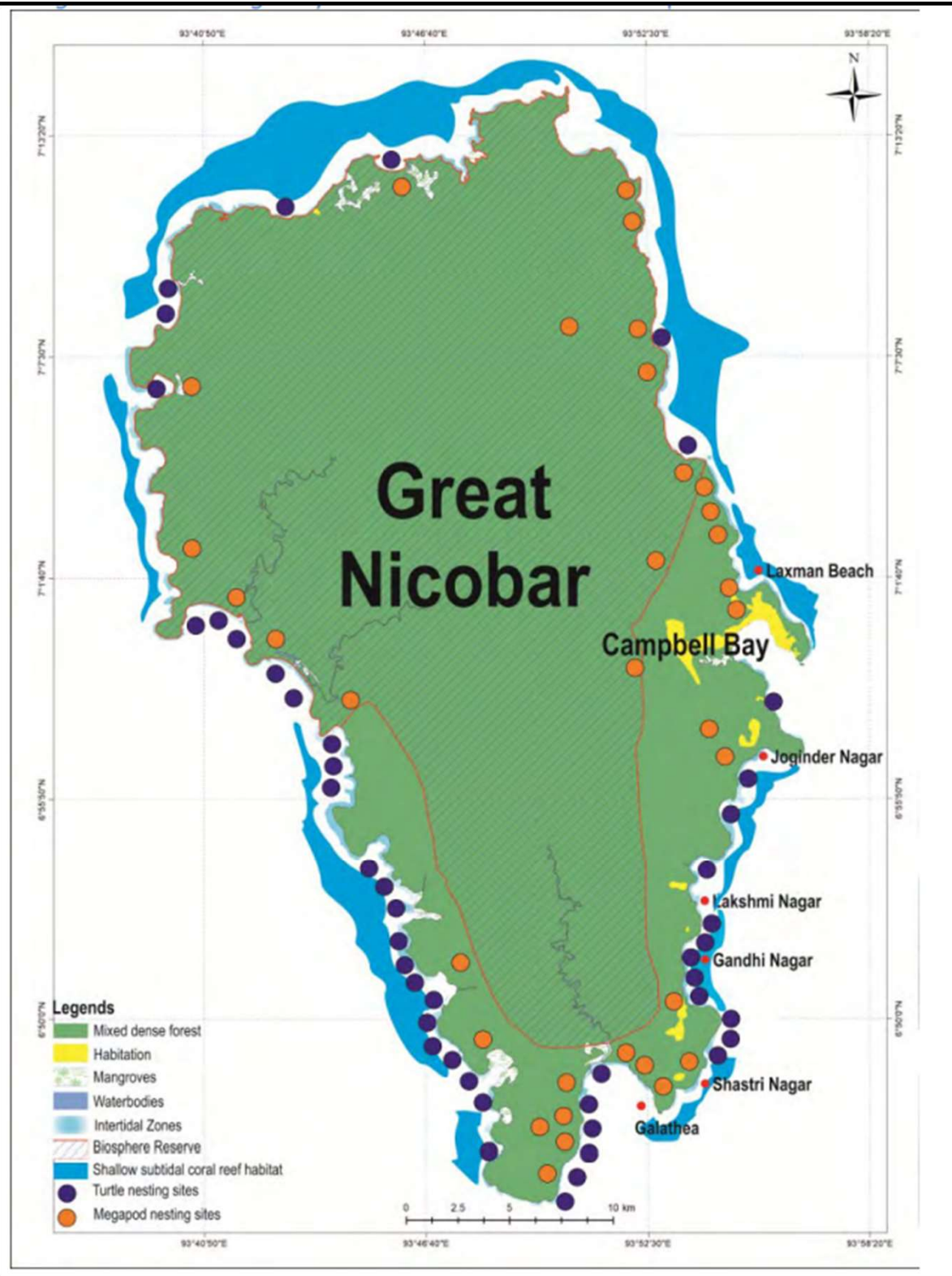
Density of vegetation based on recent satellite data (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index). Areas with ■ colour depict vegetation with high density, mainly forests.

Map by T Ramachandran/Mongabay

Source: Modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2021, 2022; OpenStreetMap

650 species of angiosperms, ferns, gymnosperms, and bryophytes
1800 Faunal species





Great Nicobar mega project gets end-nod

Tags: GS Paper-2, ET Online • Last Updated: Sep 21, 2022, 05:44 PM IST

Synopsis

The project, which will see around 8.5 lakh trees in pristine rainforests being felled, loss of 12 to 20 hectares of mangrove cover and considerable coral translocation, had come under fire from various quarters for ecological reasons.



The project area falls within a 10 km radius of the Galathea Bay National Park and the Campbell Bay National Park.

The [Great Nicobar](#) mega development project has been given the go-ahead by the [Environment ministry](#).

The strategically-crucial move involves the development of a multi-component mega project in the Great Nicobar Island.

The Great Nicobar Island is located at the southernmost part of the Indian territory. A strategically important area, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands give India a commanding geostrategic presence in the Bay of Bengal, besides providing it access to South and Southeast Asia.

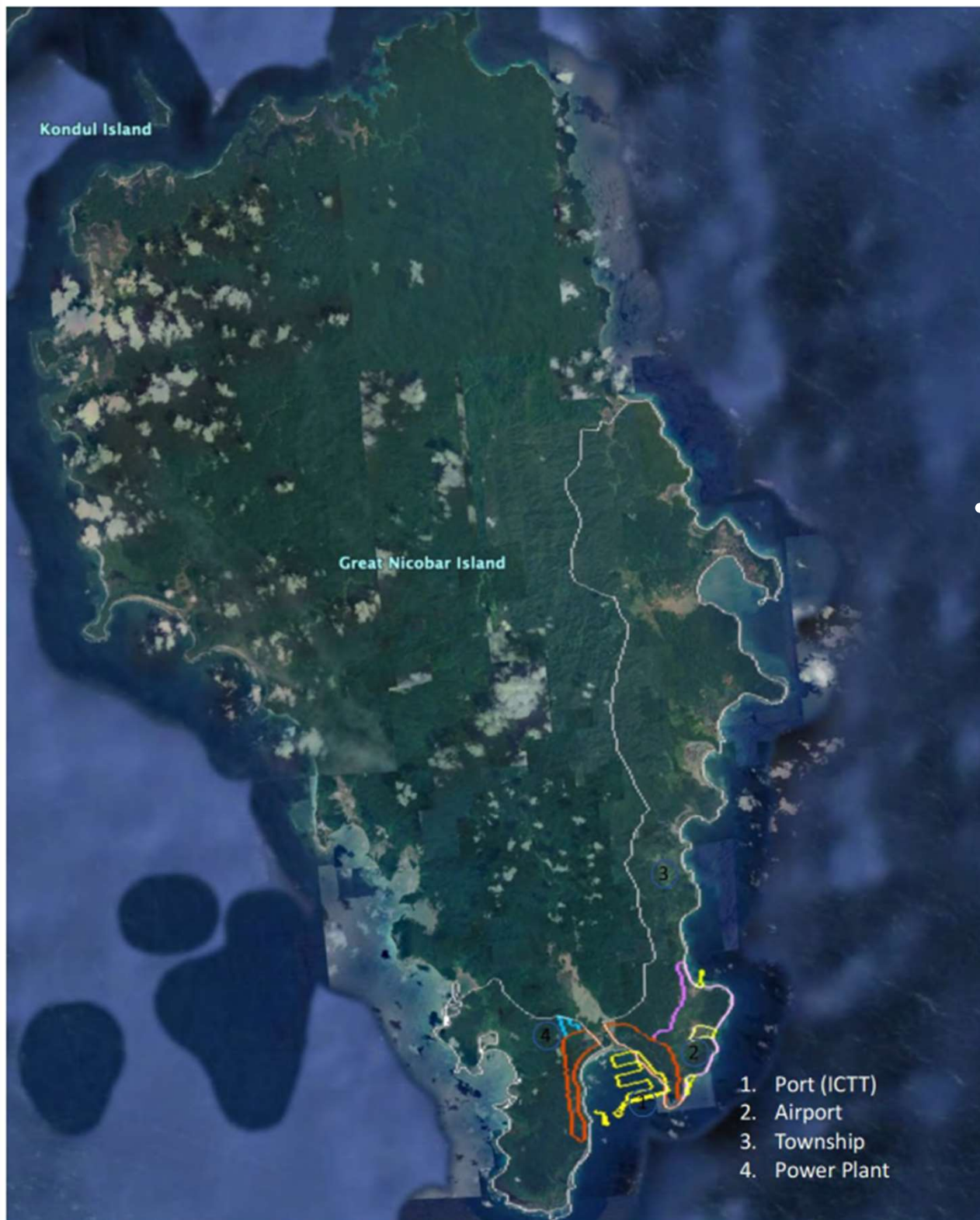
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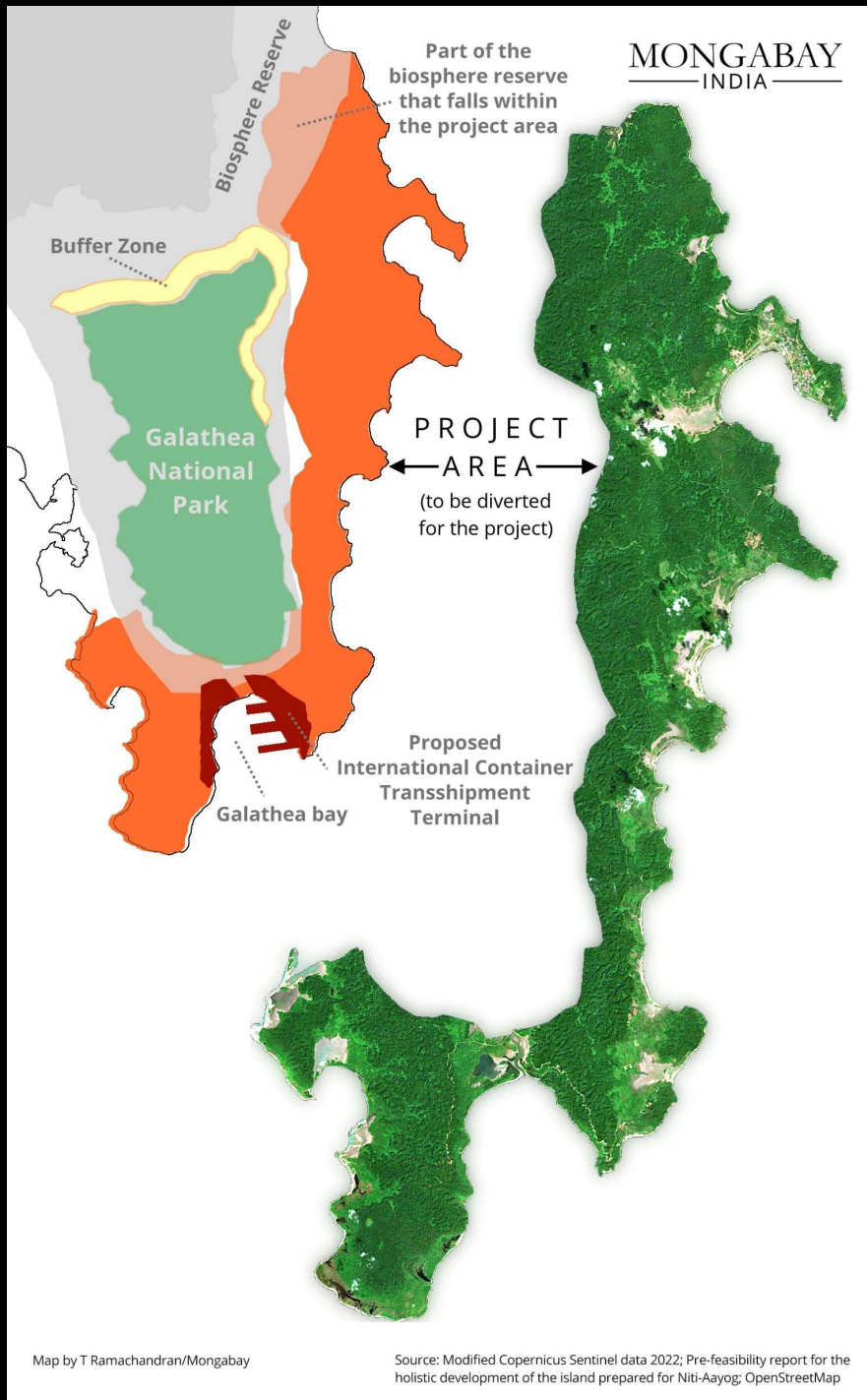
Andaman



- Diversion of 15 % of its forest area and the felling of 8.52 lakh (852,000) trees in phases

•Issues with the EIA Report: Incorrect or Incomplete Information:

- The area of the island is mentioned in one place as 1,045 sq. km², while it is 910 km² (the current official figure) in another.
- It was reported that the Galathea port area does not record any coral reefs, whereas the **ZSI** study shows that the coral reef spread over 116 hectares in Galathea Bay.
 - Galathea Bay is an **iconic nesting site in India** of the enigmatic Giant Leatherback, the world's largest marine turtle
- 330 species of fauna are recorded in the island, while the same ZSI study puts the number at more than double at 695.
- The EIA says in another place **no migratory birds have been reported from Great Nicobar**, whereas it is well known that these islands are located along two globally significant bird flyways and **more than 40 species of migratory birds** have been recorded from Great Nicobar.



Conditions imposed

The EAC has imposed specific conditions for wildlife conservation and tribal welfare, mainly plans to do

with leatherback sea turtles, Nicobar megapodes, saltwater crocodiles and several other species, as well as mangrove restoration, coral translocation and welfare of the local Shompen and Nicobari tribal population.

Three independent monitoring committees are to be constituted to oversee aspects related to environmental management.

The committee noted that three new wildlife sanctuaries had been identified at Little Nicobar (14 square kilometres, for protecting leatherback turtles), Menchal (1.3 km², for megapodes) and Meroe Islands (2.8 km² for corals).

Massive infrastructure project threatens Great Nicobar Island

ISHIKA RAMAKRISHNA

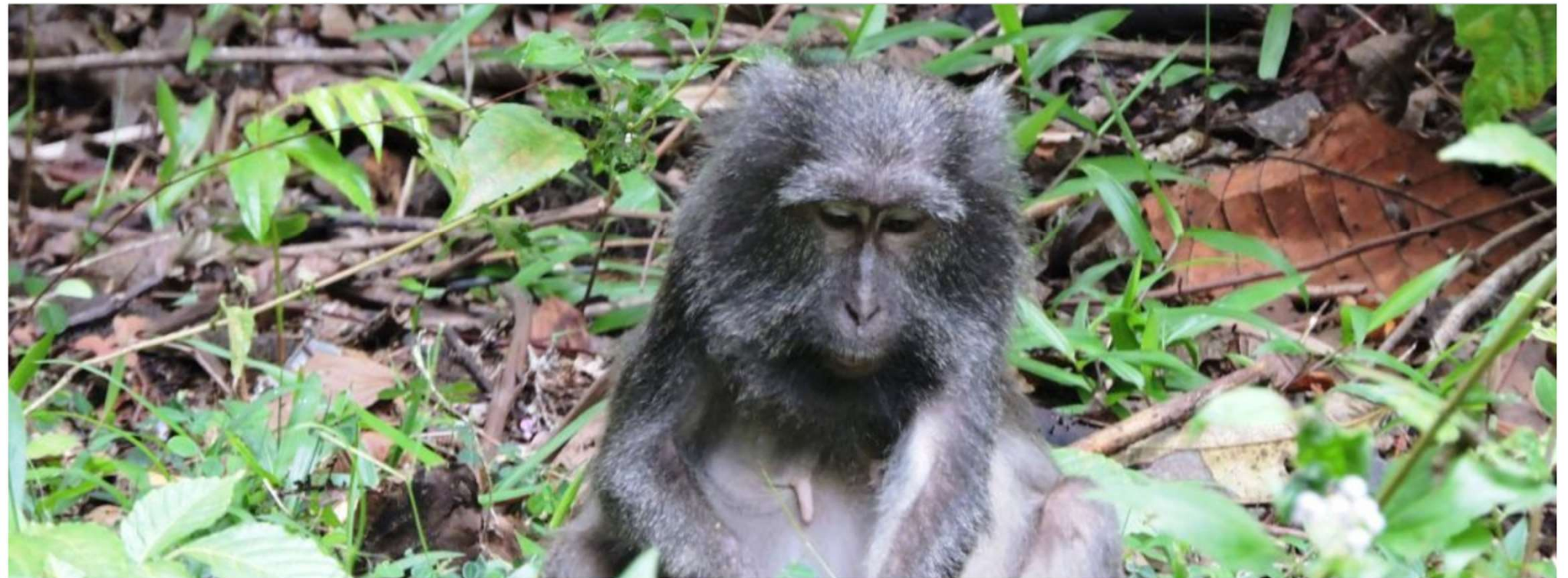
Print edition : Oct 20, 2022

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The container terminal that could sink the Great Nicobar Island

by Mayank Aggarwal on 20 July 2022

f t in w e b



A view of the Andaman Sea from the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve. The proposed container transshipment terminal and airport and other projects could change the colour of this landscape to brown. | Photo Credit: Ishika Ramakrishna