

Kerala District-wise Forest Density

Basim Nihal

2025-11-08

```
# Load libraries
library(sf)

## Linking to GEOS 3.8.0, GDAL 3.0.4, PROJ 6.3.1; sf_use_s2() is TRUE
library(ggplot2)
library(dplyr)

##
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##   filter, lag
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##   intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
library(readr)

#Load kml file
map_data <- st_read("kerala.kml")

## Reading layer `Kerala Districts' from data source `/cloud/project/kerala.kml' using driver `LIBKML'
## Simple feature collection with 14 features and 18 fields
## Geometry type: POLYGON
## Dimension:      XYZ
## Bounding box:   xmin: 74.86434 ymin: 8.293018 xmax: 77.4124 ymax: 12.79553
## z_range:        zmin: 0 zmax: 0
## Geodetic CRS:   WGS 84
print(map_data)

## Simple feature collection with 14 features and 18 fields
## Geometry type: POLYGON
## Dimension:      XYZ
## Bounding box:   xmin: 74.86434 ymin: 8.293018 xmax: 77.4124 ymax: 12.79553
## z_range:        zmin: 0 zmax: 0
## Geodetic CRS:   WGS 84
## First 10 features:
##      Name description timestamp begin  end altitudeMode tessellate extrude
## 1  ALAPPUZHA      <NA>      <NA> <NA> <NA>      <NA>      -1      0
## 2  ERNAKULAM      <NA>      <NA> <NA> <NA>      <NA>      -1      0
## 3   IDUKKI      <NA>      <NA> <NA> <NA>      <NA>      -1      0
## 4   KANNUR      <NA>      <NA> <NA> <NA>      <NA>      -1      0
```

```
## 5 KASARAGOD <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> -1 0
## 6 KOLLAM <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> -1 0
## 7 KOTTAYAM <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> -1 0
## 8 KOZHIKODE <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> -1 0
## 9 MALAPPURAM <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> -1 0
## 10 PALAKKAD <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> -1 0
## visibility drawOrder icon District STATE REMARKS State_LGD DISTRICT_L
## 1 -1 NA <NA> ALAPPUZHA KERALA 32 554
## 2 -1 NA <NA> ERNAKULAM KERALA 32 555
## 3 -1 NA <NA> IDUKKI KERALA 32 556
## 4 -1 NA <NA> KANNUR KERALA 32 557
## 5 -1 NA <NA> KASARAGOD KERALA 32 558
## 6 -1 NA <NA> KOLLAM KERALA 32 559
## 7 -1 NA <NA> KOTTAYAM KERALA 32 560
## 8 -1 NA <NA> KOZHIKODE KERALA 32 561
## 9 -1 NA <NA> MALAPPURAM KERALA 32 562
## 10 -1 NA <NA> PALAKKAD KERALA 32 563
## Shape_Leng Shape_Area geometry
## 1 295138 1453750000 POLYGON Z ((76.33289 9.8769...
## 2 414199 3115070000 POLYGON Z ((76.58487 10.298...
## 3 578311 4444600000 POLYGON Z ((77.17662 10.358...
## 4 339137 2976760000 POLYGON Z ((75.4706 12.3004...
## 5 344681 1993000000 POLYGON Z ((75.41595 12.500...
## 6 351984 2552850000 POLYGON Z ((76.96151 9.1529...
## 7 322326 2253780000 POLYGON Z ((76.62856 9.8545...
## 8 296316 2364870000 POLYGON Z ((75.78204 11.797...
## 9 405137 3589220000 POLYGON Z ((76.23719 11.527...
## 10 552163 4537720000 POLYGON Z ((76.70614 11.238...
```

```
district_column <- "Name"
```

```
#Load data
```

```
datafile <- read.csv("datafile.csv")
head(datafile)
```

```
## District Geographical.Area X2011.Assessment.Very.Dense.Forest
## 1 ALAPPUZHA 1414 0
## 2 ERNAKULAM 2407 12
## 3 IDUKKI 5019 350
## 4 KANNUR 2966 21
## 5 KASARAGOD 1992 0
## 6 KOLLAM 2491 75
## X2011.Assessment...Mod..Dense.Forest X2011.Assessment...Open.Forest
## 1 12 26
## 2 298 385
## 3 2159 1421
## 4 351 269
## 5 307 285
## 6 632 623
## X2011.Assessment...Total Percent.of.GA Change Scrub
## 1 38 2.69 0 0
## 2 695 28.87 -1 1
## 3 3930 78.30 -2 5
## 4 641 21.61 0 0
## 5 592 29.72 0 1
```

```
## 6          1330          53.39          -7          0

# Prepare the forest density data frame for merging
forest_density_data <- data.frame(
  District = c(datafile$District),
  Forest_Density_Percent = c(datafile$Percent.of.GA))

# Merge the data
merged_data <- map_data %>%
  left_join(forest_density_data, by = setNames("District", district_column))

# Create the Choropleth Map using ggplot2
kerala_choropleth <- ggplot(data = merged_data) +
  geom_sf(aes(fill = Forest_Density_Percent),
    color = "white",
    size = 0.5) +

  # Set a color scale for forest density (e.g., a green gradient)
  scale_fill_viridis_c(
    option = "G",
    direction = -1,
    name = "Forest Density (%)",
    guide = guide_colorbar(barheight = 10)
  ) +

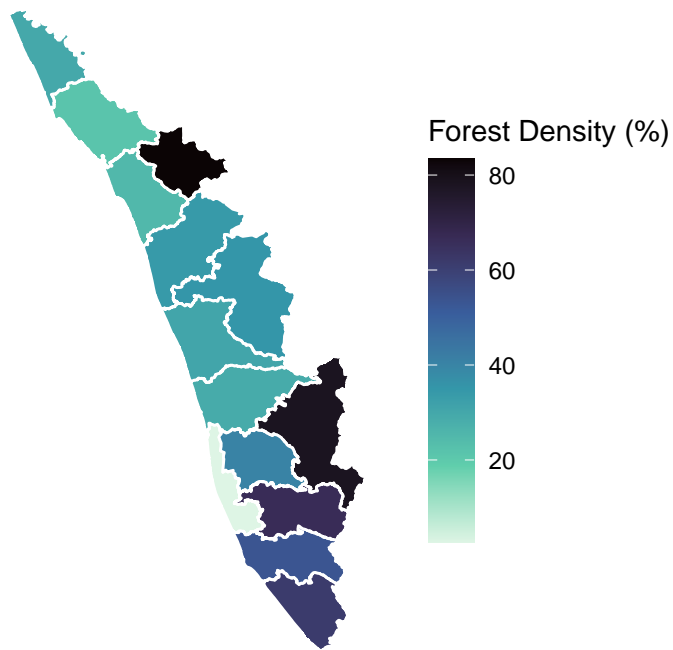
  # Add labels and title
  labs(
    title = "Kerala District-wise Forest Density",
    subtitle = "Visualizing the percentage of forest cover by district",
    caption = "Data Source: data.gov.in"
  ) +

  # Customize the theme
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(
    plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5, face = "bold"),
    plot.subtitle = element_text(hjust = 0.5),
    axis.title = element_blank(),
    axis.text = element_blank(),
    panel.grid = element_blank()
  )

# Display the map
print(kerala_choropleth)
```

Kerala District-wise Forest Density

Visualizing the percentage of forest cover by district



Data Source: data.gov.in