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*Climate Responsive Land Governance and Disaster Resilience: Safeguarding Land Rights*



# ASSESSMENT OF LAND DEGRADATION IN KHOTANG DISTRICT USING REMOTE SENSING AND GIS

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### INTRODUCTION

- Reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain fed cropland, irrigated cropland, pasture, forest and woodlands ([UNO, 2018](#))
- Occurs through different physical, chemical and biological processes.
- Key challenge for sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate adaptation ([Goals et al., 2015](#))
- SDG 15.3.1, aims to combat desertification, restore degraded land, and achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030.
- Important global issue for the 21st century affecting agriculture, the environment, food security, and overall quality of life. ([H. Eswaran, R. Lal, P.F. Reich](#))



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## NEED FOR LAND DEGRADATION ASSESSMENT

- Rising Population: By 2050, a booming 10 billion people will need 70% more food (Goal et al., 2017).
- Land Under Pressure: Converting new land or intensifying existing farms puts stress on ecosystems.
- Degradation Threat: Already, 60% of ecosystem services, and 25% of land, are degraded or at risk (UNCCD, 2014).
- Competing Demands: Food, water, and other resources face growing competition, straining people and nature.



Source: The Guardian



Source: United Nations of University

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## OBJECTIVES

### Primary Objective:

- To identify the land degradation and key indicators of degradation in khotang district

### Secondary Objective:

- To identify criteria and develop the criteria map for land degradation.
- To prepare the land degradation map by using of AHP technique.
- To validate the land degradation area.



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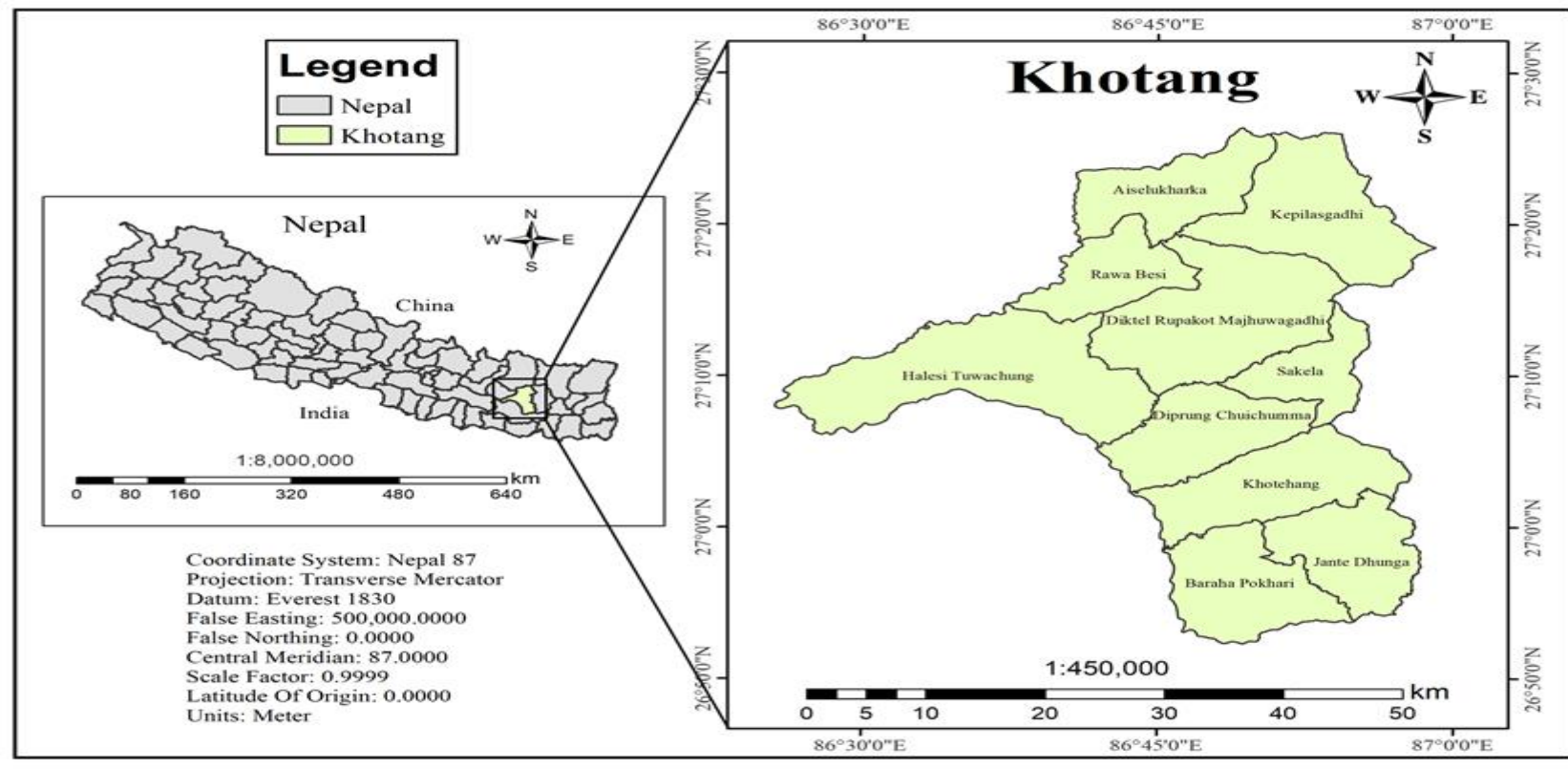
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## STUDY AREA



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## DATA SOURCES

Dataset	Datatype	Resolution	Data Source
DEM	Raster	12.5m	ALOSPALSAR <a href="https://asf.alaska.edu/datasets/daac/alos-palsar-radiometric-terrain-correction/">https://asf.alaska.edu/datasets/daac/alos-palsar-radiometric-terrain-correction/</a>
SOC, Soil, Texture, Bulk density	Raster	250m	ISRIC-World Soil Information <a href="https://www.isric.org/">https://www.isric.org/</a>
Land Cover Map	Raster	10m	Harmonized Sentinel 2A
Rainfall Data	Vector	-	DHM <a href="https://www.dhm.gov.np/">https://www.dhm.gov.np/</a>
LST	Raster	30m	LANDSAT 8
NDVI	Raster	30m	LANDSAT 8



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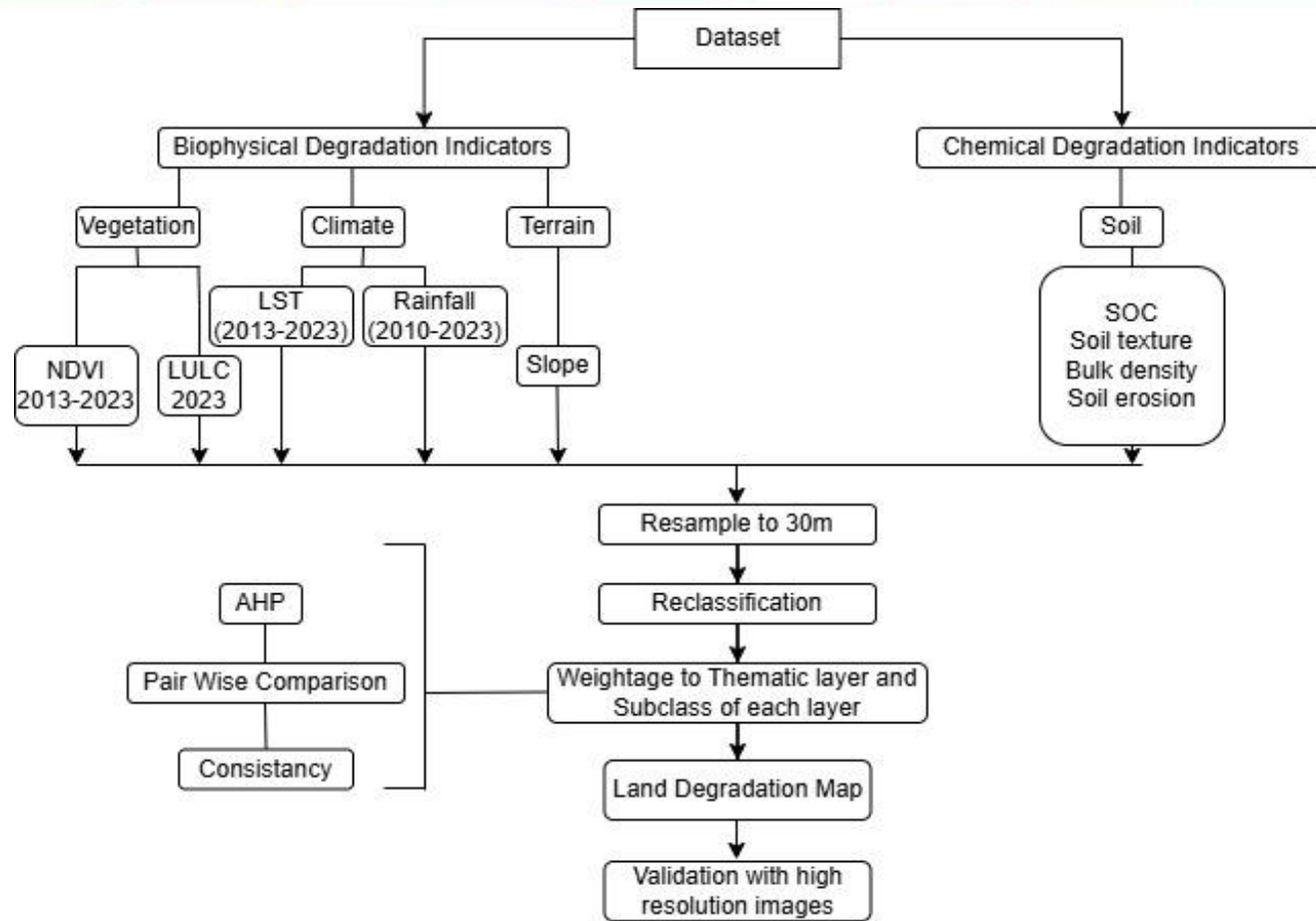


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## METHODOLOGY





## METHODOLOGY

Formula to calculate soil erosion:

$$A = R \times K \times LS \times C \times P$$

where,

A= soil loss(t ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>)

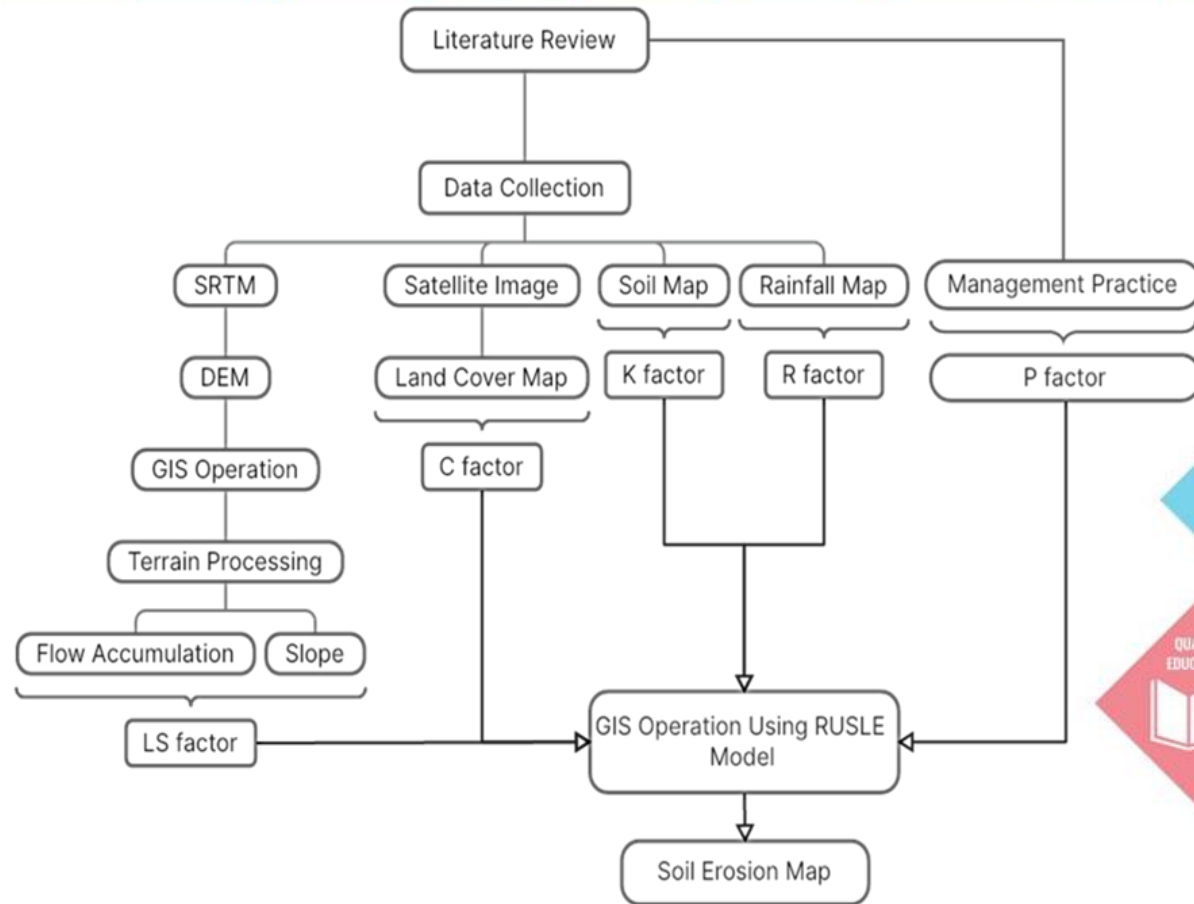
R=Rainfall Erosivity Factor

K=soil erodibility factor

LS=(L- Slope length factor and S- Slope Steepness factor)

C=Cover Management Factor

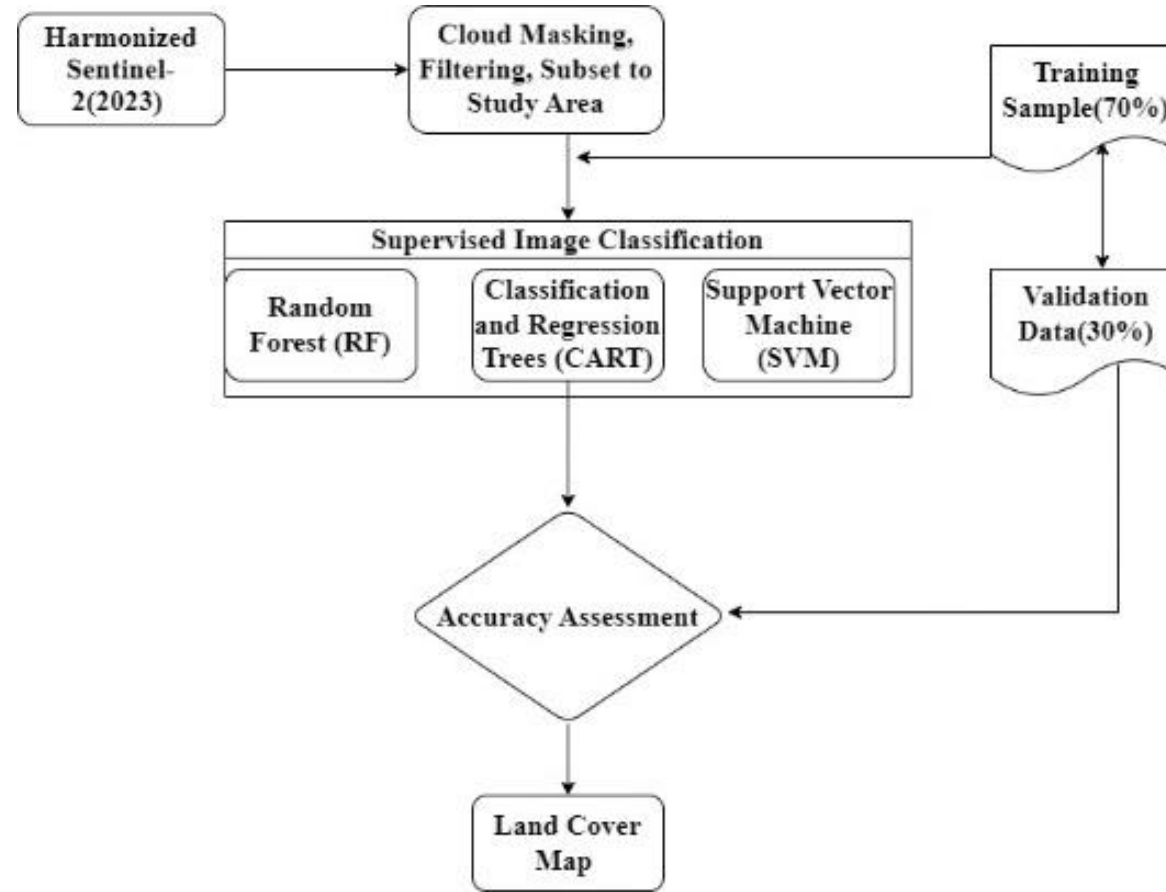
P=Conservation practice factor







## METHODOLOGY



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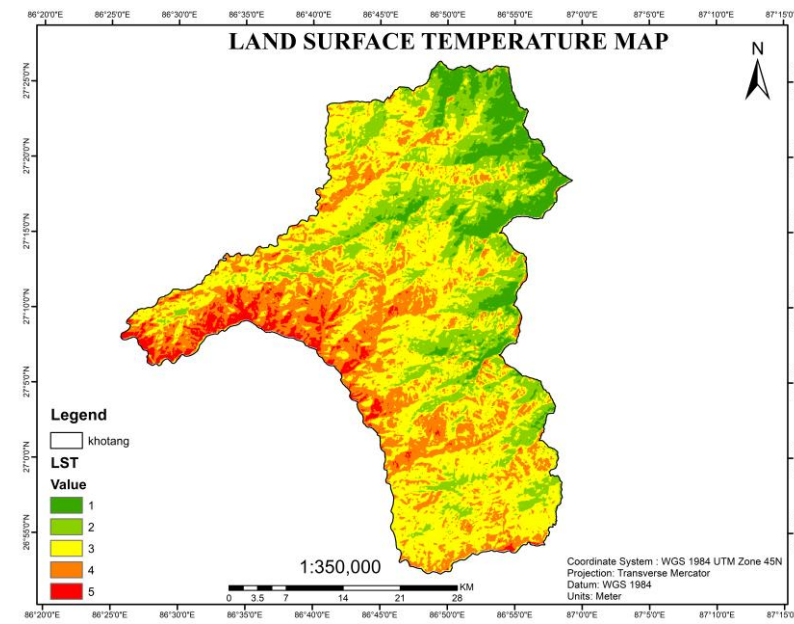
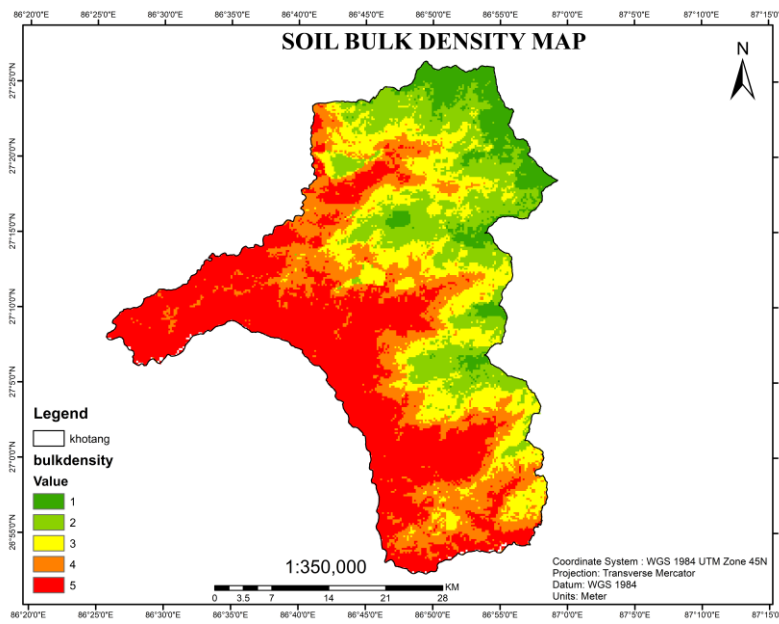
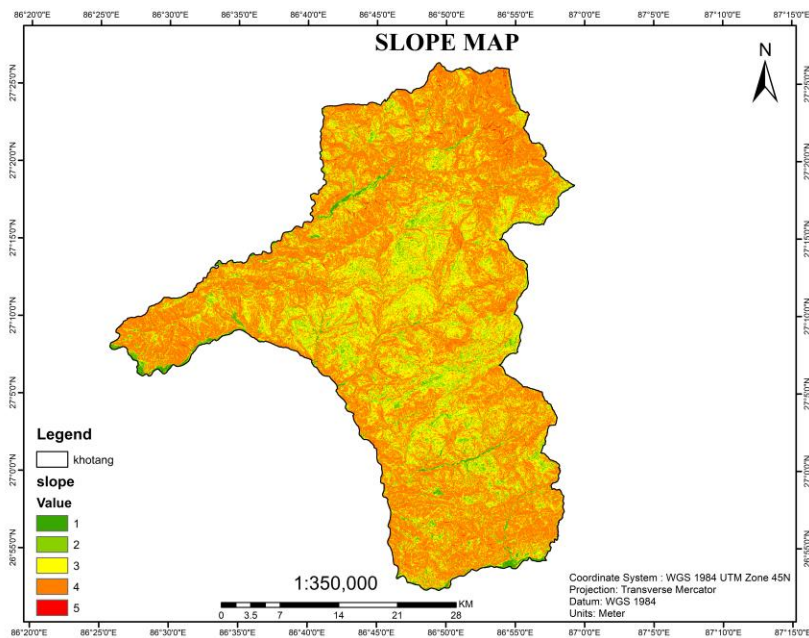
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## FACTORS INFLUENCING LAND DEGRADATION



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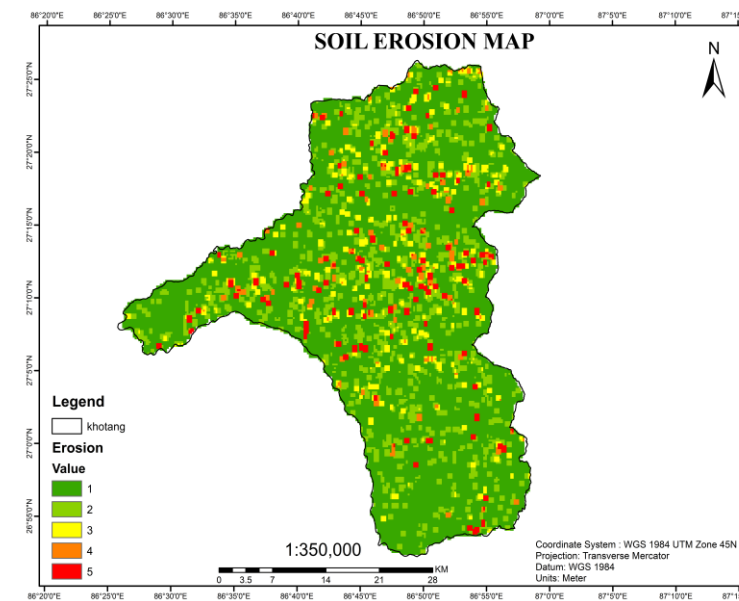
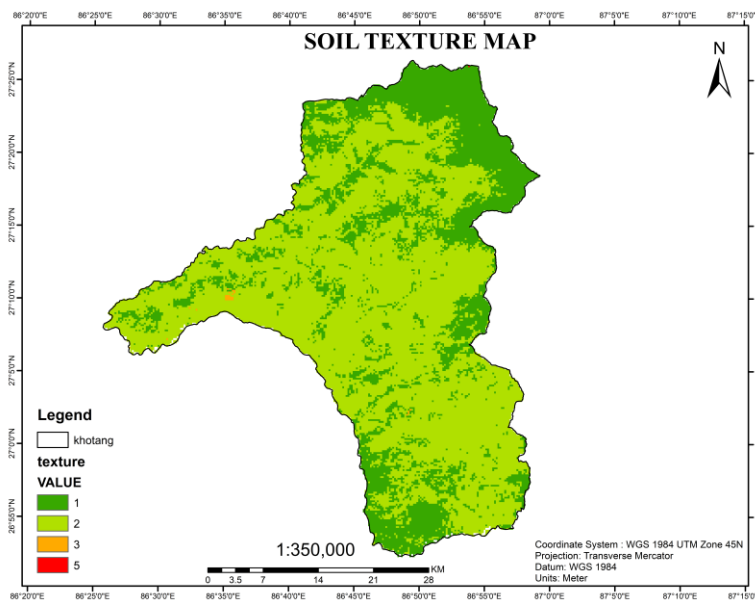
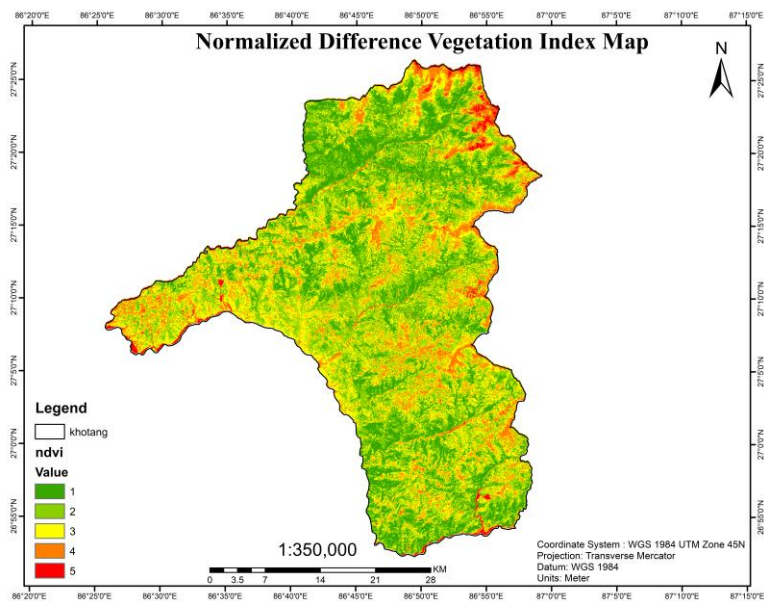
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## FACTORS INFLUENCING LAND DEGRADATION



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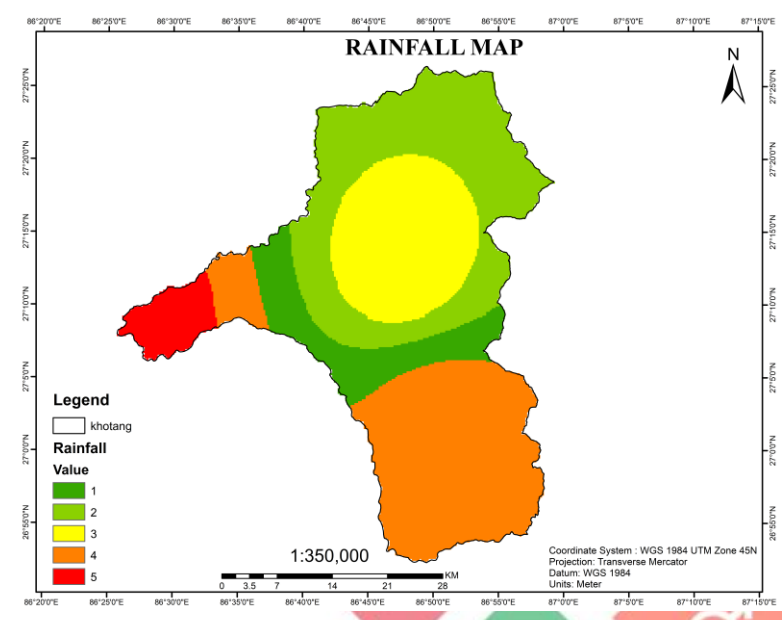
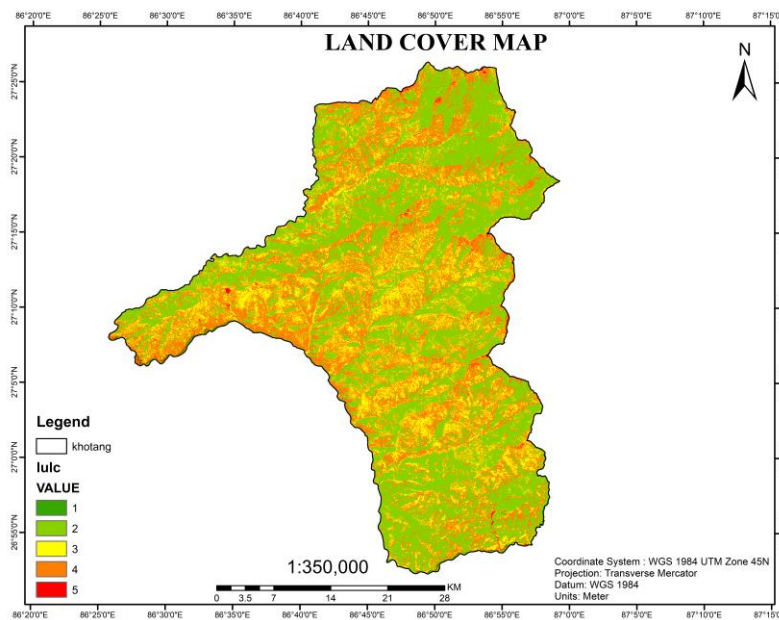
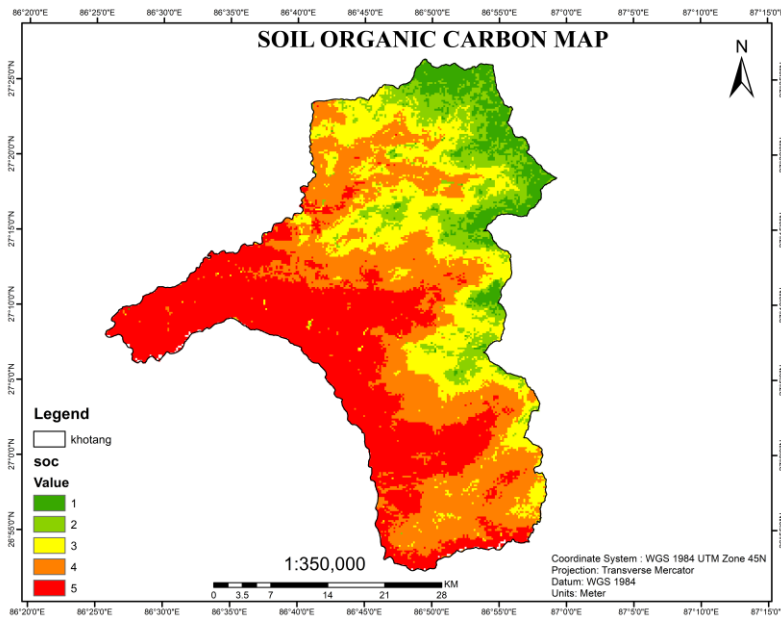
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## FACTORS INFLUENCING LAND DEGRADATION



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**FIG****Kathmandu, Nepal 14–16 November****REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024***Climate Responsive Land Governance and Disaster Resilience: Safeguarding Land Rights***COMPUTATION OF CRITERIA WEIGHT**

Criteria	Soil Erosion	NDVI	LULC	Slope	SOC	Precipitation	LST	Soil Texture	Bulk Density	Computation of Citation Weight(%)
Soil Erosion	0.20	0.31	0.10	0.26	0.22	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.16	20
NDVI	0.10	0.16	0.10	0.39	0.22	0.18	0.14	0.20	0.14	19
LULC	0.40	0.31	0.20	0.07	0.17	0.30	0.22	0.12	0.14	22
Slope	0.10	0.05	0.40	0.13	0.28	0.12	0.17	0.17	0.16	18
SOC	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.12	0.17	0.10	0.12	8
Precipitation	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.15	0.12	7
LST	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.09	3
Soil Texture	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.07	2
Bulk Density	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	1
Sum										100(Checked)

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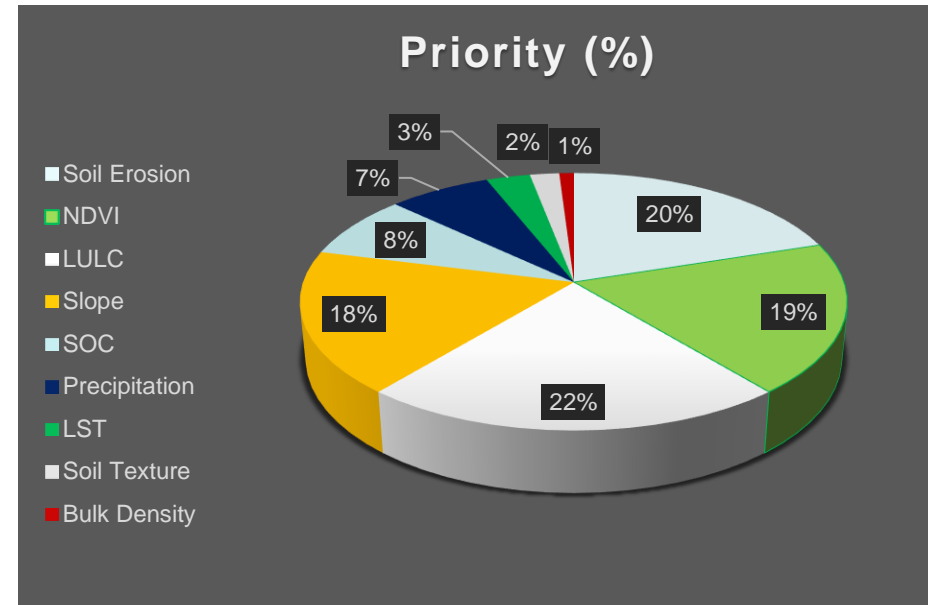
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## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Criterion	Priority (%)
LULC	22
Soil Erosion	20
NDVI	19
Slope	18
SOC	8
Precipitation	7
LST	3
Soil Texture	2
Bulk Density	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100% (Checked)</b>

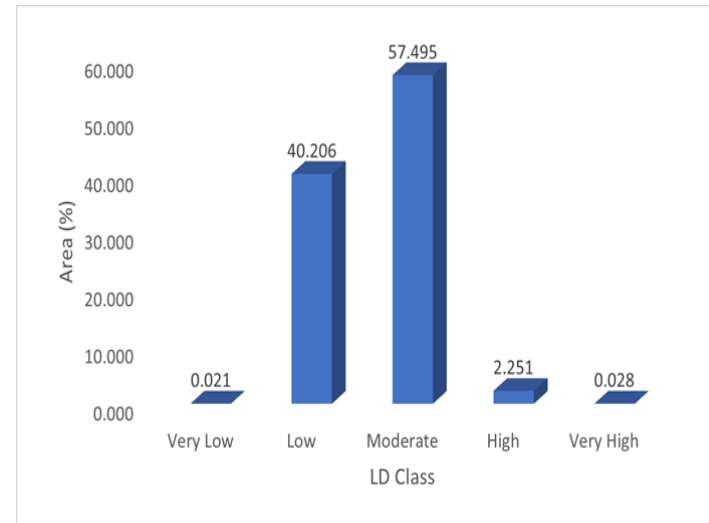
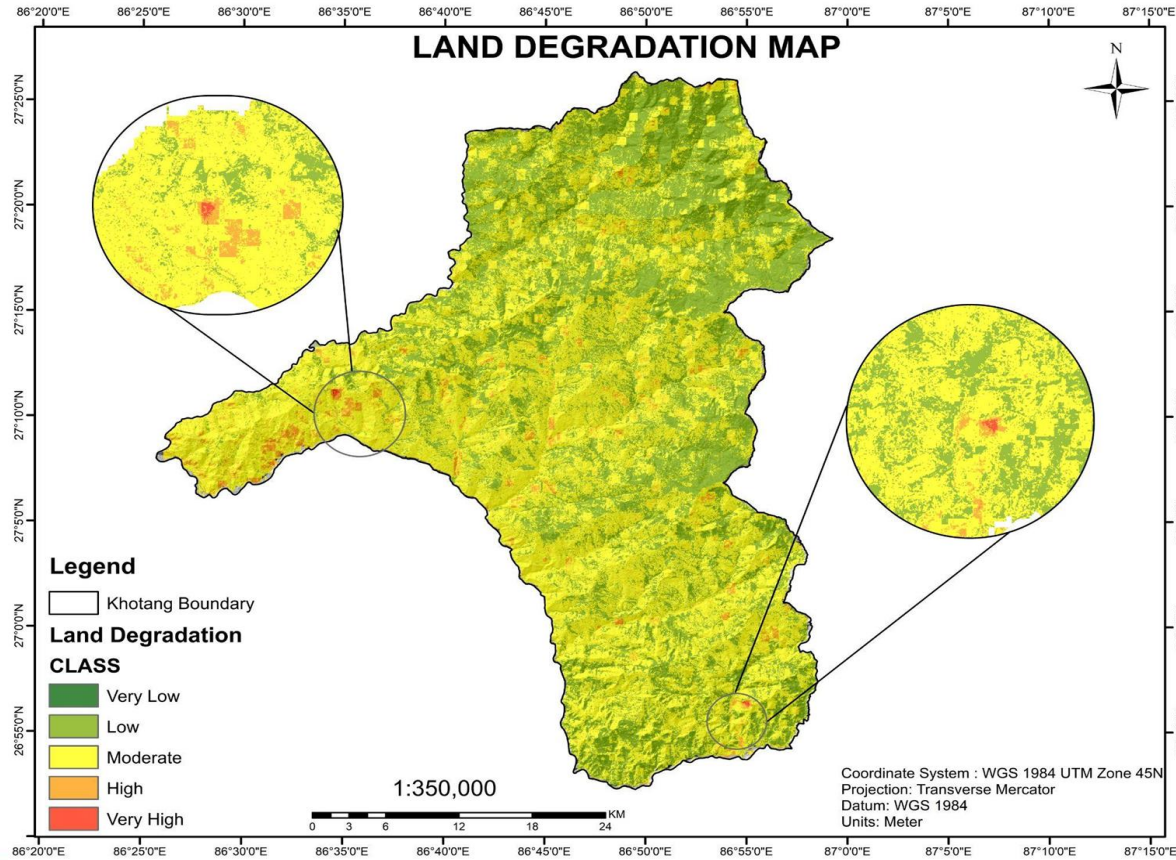


CR = 0.096 < 0.10





## RESULT AND DISCUSSION





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## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Class	Area%									
	Rupakot	Halesituwachung	Diprung	Khotehang	Kepilashga dhi	Aaiselukharka	Rawa Besi	Jantedhunga	Barahapokhar i	Saakela
Very Low	0.012	0.00	0.05	0.000	0.054	0.032	0.01	0.000	0.000	0.10
Low	40.14	19.52	38.72	30.20	65.54	59.02	44.71	34.64	39.23	50.56
Moderate	57.66	74.13	59.37	68.46	33.63	40.20	54.78	63.33	59.79	47.52
High	2.18	6.25	1.86	1.329	0.766	0.75	0.50	2.018	0.968	1.82
Very High	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.119	0.006	0.00
Total (High & Very High)	2.18	6.35	1.86	1.33	0.77	0.75	0.50	2.14	0.97	1.82

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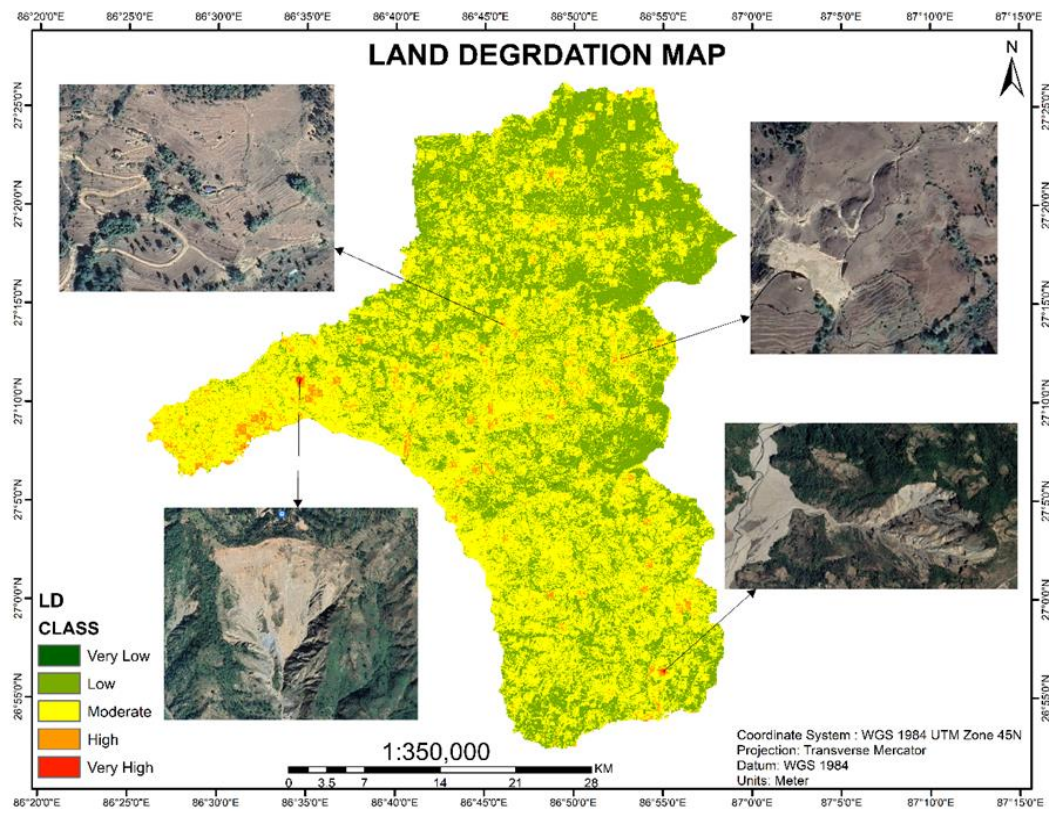
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## VALIDATION



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## CONCLUSION

- Identification of Land Degradation and key indicators of degradation in Khotang District
- Moderate land degradation is the most prevalent, covering 57.49% of the district.
- Halesi Tuwachung (6.35%) followed by Rupakot (2.18%), and Jantedhunga(2.14%) municipality exhibits the highest degradation in khotang district



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