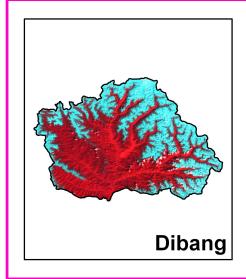
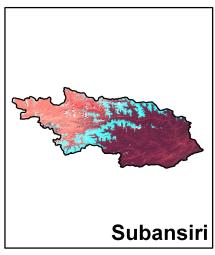
SNOW COVER ATLAS OF BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN

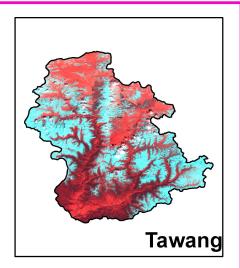
Sub basins: Dibang, Subansiri and Tawang

(A Joint Project of Indian Space Research Organisation and Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

Year: 2008-09









Space Applications Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad - 380015

February 2013

SNOW COVER ATLAS OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN

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Space Applications Centre (ISRO)
Ahmedabad-380015

February 2013

SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ISRO), AHMEDABAD - 380015 DOCUMENT CONTROL AND DATA SHEET

Report Number	SAC/RESA/MESG/SGP/SN/ 84 /2013
Month and year of publication	February 2013
Title	Snow cover Atlas of Brahmaputra basin
Type of Report	Scientific Report
No. of pages	76
No. of figures, Charts & Tables	56, 9 & 6
Authors	B. P. Rathore, S. K. Singh, I. Bahuguna, A. S. Rajawat and Ajai
No. of References	9
Originating Unit	Geo Sciences Division, Marine, Geo and Planetary Sciences Group, Earth, Ocean, Atmosphere, Planetary Sciences and Applications area, Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad-15
Abstract	This atlas gives sub basin-wise distribution of snow cover in the Brahmaputra basin from October 2008 to June 2009. The sub basins included in this report are Dibhang, Subansiri and Tawang. The areal extent of snow cover was estimated in fully automatic mode using Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) based algorithm. For this purpose AWiFS sensor of Resourcesat satellite was used. This atlas gives snow cover products, statistics and seasonal snow depletion curve. It is expected that this data will be useful for hydrological and climatological applications.
Key words	Snow cover, NDSI, AWiFS, depletion curve, Dibhang, Subansiri and Tawang basins.
Security Classification	Unrestricted
Distribution	Among concerned

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1. Introduction

Snow covers almost 40 per cent of the Earth's land surface during Northern Hemisphere winter. This makes albedo and areal extent of snow as important component of the Earth's radiation balance (Foster and Chang, 1993). In addition, large areas in the Himalayas are also covered by snow during winter. Area of snow can change significantly during winter and spring. This can affect stream flow for rivers originating in the higher Himalayas. All the rivers originating from higher Himalayas receive almost 30-50 % of annual flow from snow and glacier melt run off (Agarwal et al., 1983). In addition, snow pack ablation is highly sensitive to climatic variation. Increase in atmospheric temperature can influence snowmelt and stream runoff pattern (Kulkarni et al., 2002). Therefore, mapping of the areal extent and reflectance of snow are important parameter for various climatological and hydrological applications. In addition, extent of snow cover can also be used as input for numerous other applications.

Mapping and monitoring of seasonal snow cover using field methods are normally very difficult in a mountainous terrain, like the Himalayas. Therefore, remote sensing techniques have been extensively used for snow cover monitoring. Snow cover monitoring using satellite images were started by using the TIROS-1 satellite from April 1960 (Singer and Popham 1963). Since then, the potential for operational satellite-based mapping has been enhanced by the development of higher temporal frequency and satellite sensors with higher spatial resolution. In addition, satellites with better radiometric resolutions, such as NOAA have been used successfully for snow mapping (Hall et al., 1995). This is possibly due to the distinct spectral reflectance characteristics of snow in visible and near infrared regions. India has launched series of Indian Remote Sensing satellite (IRS) to study the different earth resources. Previously launched satellites have flown with many sensors having different spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions. Recently launched RESOURCESAT-1 satellite has three different sensors namely LISS III, LISS IV & AWiFS with different spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions as desired for different applications. AWiFS (Advanced Wide Field Sensor) is an advanced version of earlier Indian satellite sensor WiFS (Wide Field Sensor) with improved spectral and spatial resolutions maintaining the same repetivity. There are a series of other polar orbiting satellites, like Landsat, NOAA and MODIS etc., which have provided information on different aspects of snow. Geo-stationary satellites also proved their utility in mapping/monitoring the snow-covered regions. Information generated from satellite observations has been extensively used for snowmelt runoff modeling (Kulkarni et al., 1997).

2. Study Area:

This Atlas gives distribution of snow cover in three subbasins of the Brahmaputra basin. These are Dibang, Subansiri and Tawang sub basins. Locations of these basins are shown in Figure 1.

3. Data used:

AWiFS data from October 2008 to June 2009 were used in this study.

4. Normalised Difference Snow Index (NDSI):

In general, the reflectance of snow is high at the red end of the visible spectrum. It tends to decline in the near-infrared region until 1090 nm, where slight gain in reflectance occurs and gives a minor peak at approximately 1090 to 1100 nm. One of the important difficulties in snow cover monitoring is the presence of cloud cover. Cloud has strong reflectivity in visible, NIR and SWIR regions while snow absorbs in SWIR, and this difference can be utilized for snow/cloud discrimination. Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) utilize the normalized ratio of green and SWIR and is used as an automated approach for snow mapping addressing the shadow and cloud problems in snow bound areas.

Normalized Difference Snow Index was calculated using the ratio of green wavelength (band 2) and SWIR (band 5) of AWiFS sensor:

Normalized Difference Snow Index(NDSI) = (band 2 - band 5)/(band 2 + band 5) ...(1)

To estimate NDSI, DN numbers were converted into reflectance. This involves conversion of digital numbers into the radiance values, known as sensor calibration, and then estimation of

reflectance from these radiance values. Various parameters needed for estimating spectral reflectance are maximum and minimum radiances and mean solar exo-atmospheric spectral irradiances in the satellite sensor bands, satellite data acquisition time, solar declination, solar zenith and solar azimuth angles, mean Earth-Sun distance etc. (Markham and Barker, 1987; Srinivasulu and Kulkarni, 2004).

5. Snow cover monitoring algorithm

An algorithm is developed to provide changes in the areal extent of snow (Kulkarni et. al., 2006). Snow extent is estimated at an interval of 5-days and 10-days, depending upon availabilities of AWiFS data. In 5-daily product, snow extent is generated scene-wise. In this product, snow and cloud extents are given. Estimate of cloud is important because, at times, snow is covered by cloud and this may be classified as non-snow area, leading to erroneous conclusions. In 10-daily product, three scenes are analyzed, if available. For example, 10 March product data of 5, 10 and 15 March was used. If any pixel is identified as snow on any one date then this pixel will be classified as snow on final product. This provides snow cover at an interval of 10 days, an important requirement in hydrological applications. Therefore, this product is generated basinwise. Since this product is using three scenes, probability becomes high that at least in one scene, pixel may be cloud-free and this helps in overcoming problem associated with snow under cloud cover. If three consecutive scenes are not available, then all available scenes in 10 days window was used in the analysis. Differentiation between water and snow is difficult using NDSI image. In addition, separation of snow and water pixels is also difficult based on reflectance due to mountain shadow. Therefore, in the present algorithm, water bodies are marked in pre-winter season and are masked in the final products during winter. Flow diagram of the algorithm is given in Figure 2.

6. Results and discussions

In this atlas, basin-wise snow cover statistics, maps, and seasonal depletion curves have been provided from October 2008 to June 2009. Snow ablation pattern varies from basin to basin, depending on area altitude distribution in the basins. In the Tawang river basin, in the end of November, 2008, 77 percent area was covered by seasonal snow. This was reduced to 38 percent at the end of January, 2009. Continuous accumulation & ablation was observed till mid of May, 2009. Dibang sub-basin also shows accumulation and ablation of snow throughout the winter season and maximum snow was observed 40%. Subansiri sub-basin also shows accumulation and ablation of snow throughout the winter season but percentage areal extent snow is very less compare to Tawangs.

Acknowledgements

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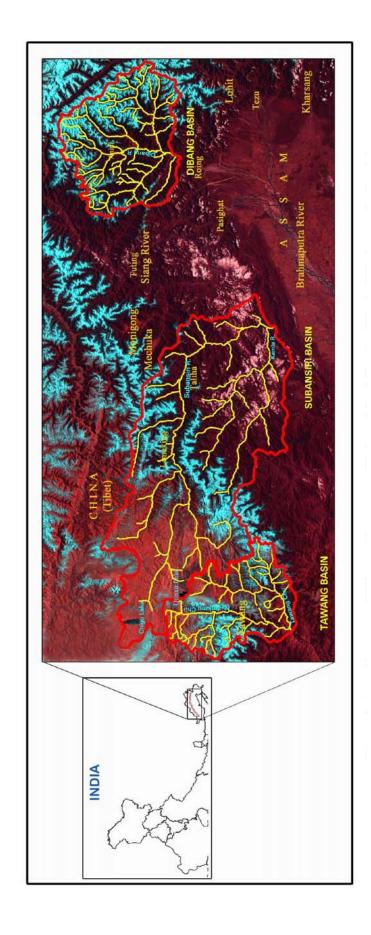


Figure 1: Location map of Dibang, Subansiri and Tawang sub-basins (Part of Brahmputra basin)

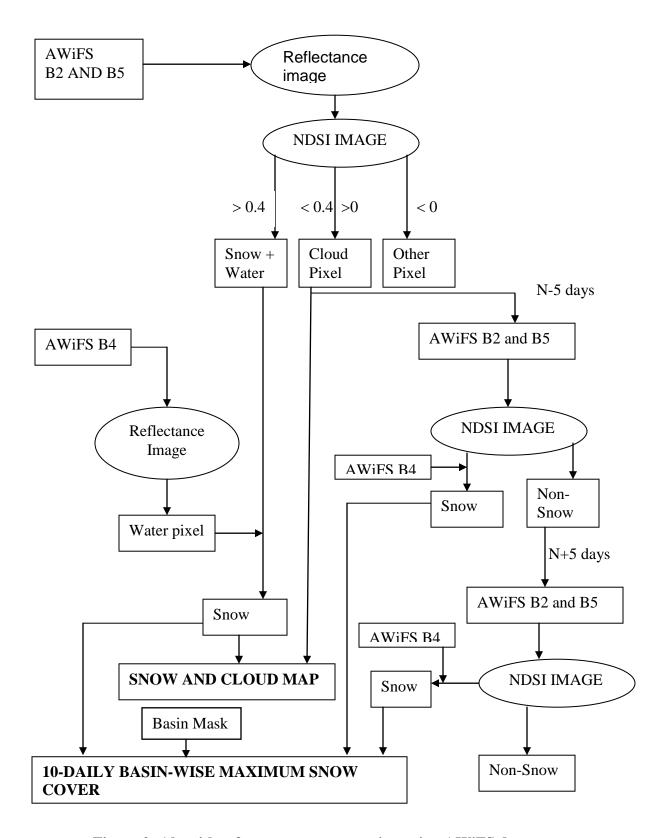


Figure 2: Algorithm for snow cover mapping using AWiFS data

DIBHANG BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: DIBANG

BASIN	AREA:	9171 sc	ı km
-------	--------------	---------	------

S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover	
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)	
October 2008								
1	12-Oct-08	1657	18					
2	17-Oct-08	102	1					
November 2008								
3	10-Nov-08	1508	16	6	20-Nov-08	75	1	
4	15-Nov-08	1191	13	7	24-Nov-08	2927	32	
5	19-Nov-08	884	10	8	29-Nov-08	1920	21	
December 2008								
9	4-Dec-08	1269	14	11	14-Dec-08	982	11	
10	9-Dec-08	1082	12	12	28-Dec-08	2149	23	
			Januar	y 2009				
13	11-Jan-09	2221	24	16	30-Jan-09	2638	29	
14	16-Jan-09	3599	39	17	31-Jan-09	1054	11	
15	21-Jan-09	2553	28					
		•	Februa	ry 2009		•		
18	4-Feb-09	3668	40					
19	14-Feb-09	2042	22					
			March	1 2009		1		
20	15-Mar-09	4740	52					
21	24-Mar-09	987	11					
April 2009								
22	12-Apr-09	2831	31					
23	13-Apr-09	3966	43					
May 2009								
24	2-May-09	2138	23					

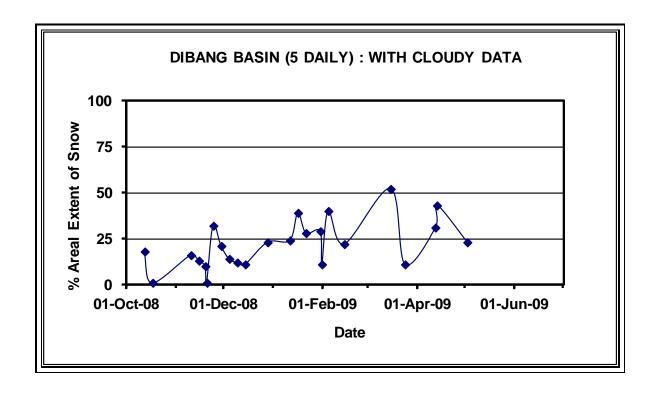
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

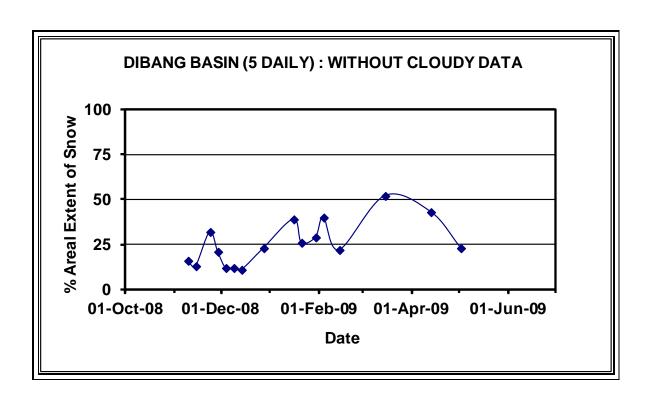
BASIN NAME: DIBANG

BASIN AREA: 9171 Sq km

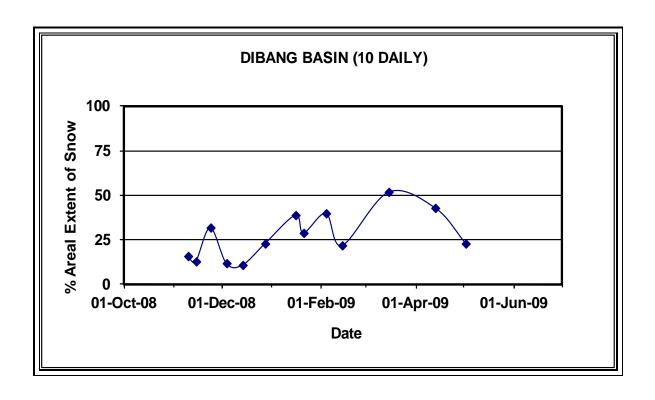
S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)
	November 2008			December 2008			
1	10-Nov-08	1508	16	4	4-Dec-08	1057	12
2	15-Nov-08	1191	13	5	15-Dec-08	1009	11
3	24-Nov-08	2935	32	6	28-Dec-08	2149	23
January 2009				February 2009			
7	16-Jan-09	3599	39	9	4-Feb-09	3668	40
8	21-Jan-09	2423	26	10	14-Feb-09	2042	22
	N	I arch		April 2009			
11	15-March-09	4769	52	12	13-Apr-09	3966	43
	May 2009			June			
13	2-May-09	2138	23				

Snow cover depletion curve

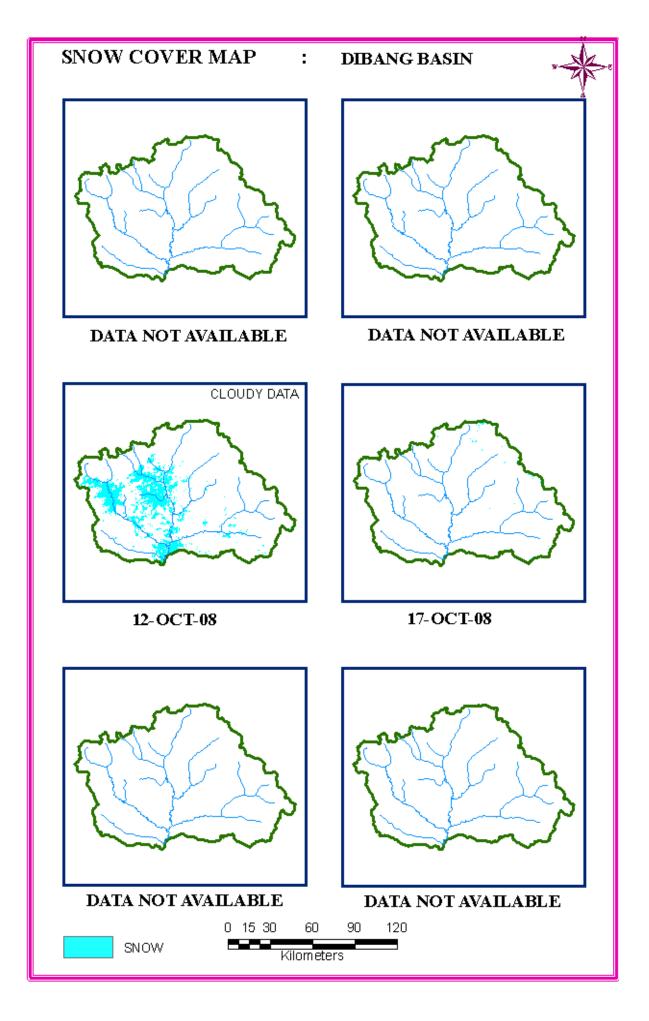


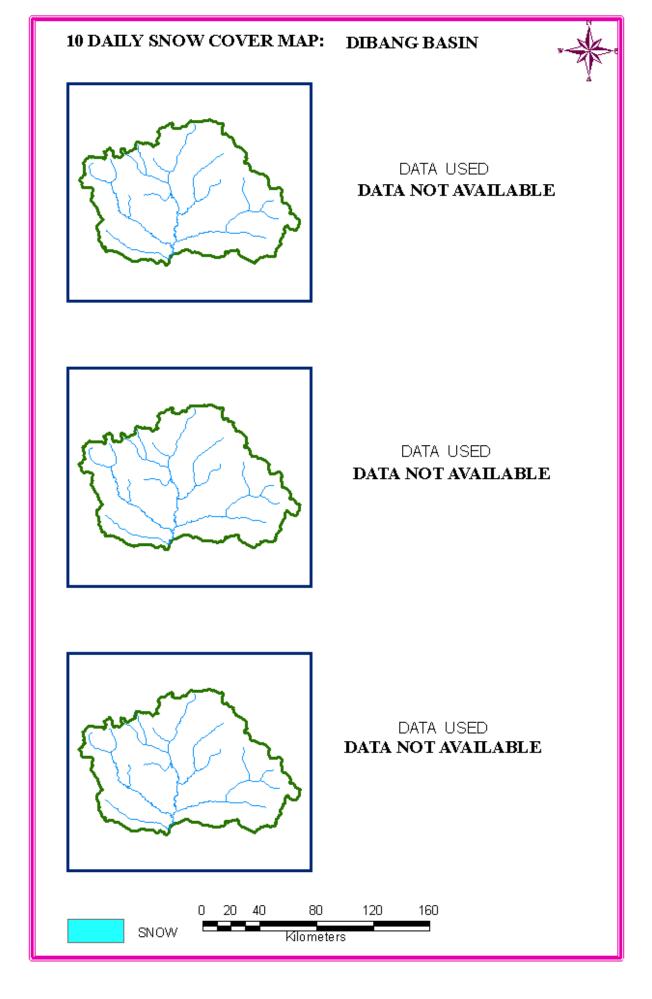


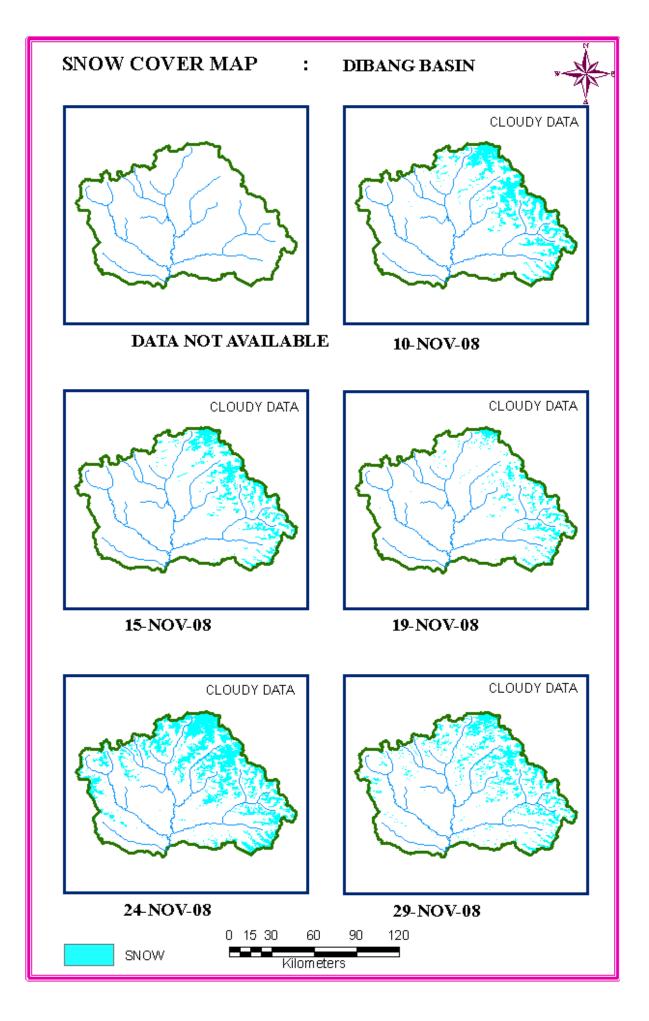
Snow cover depletion curve

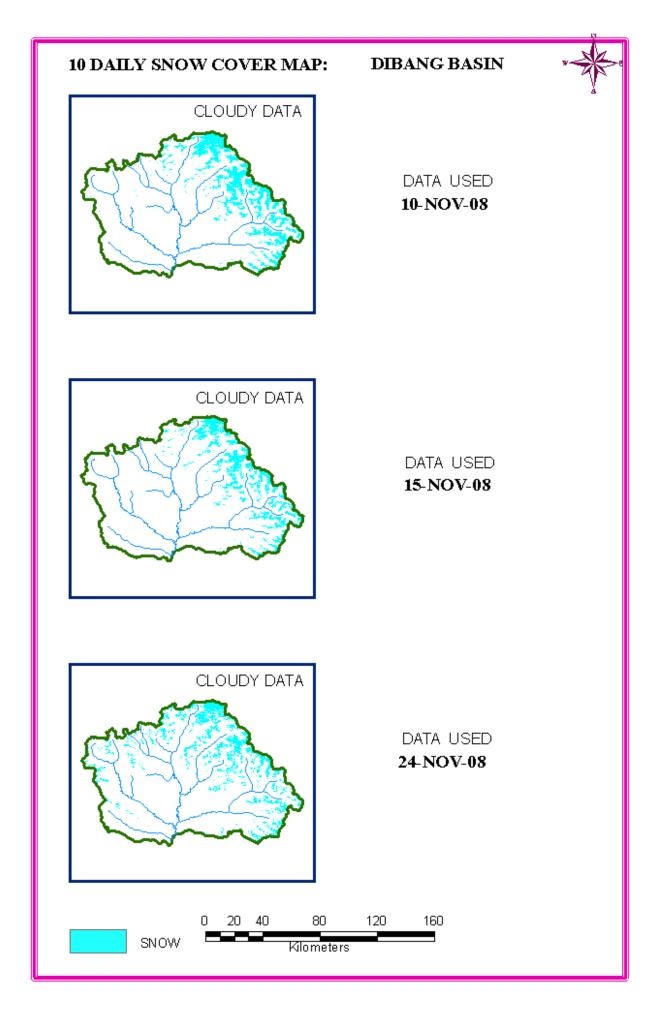


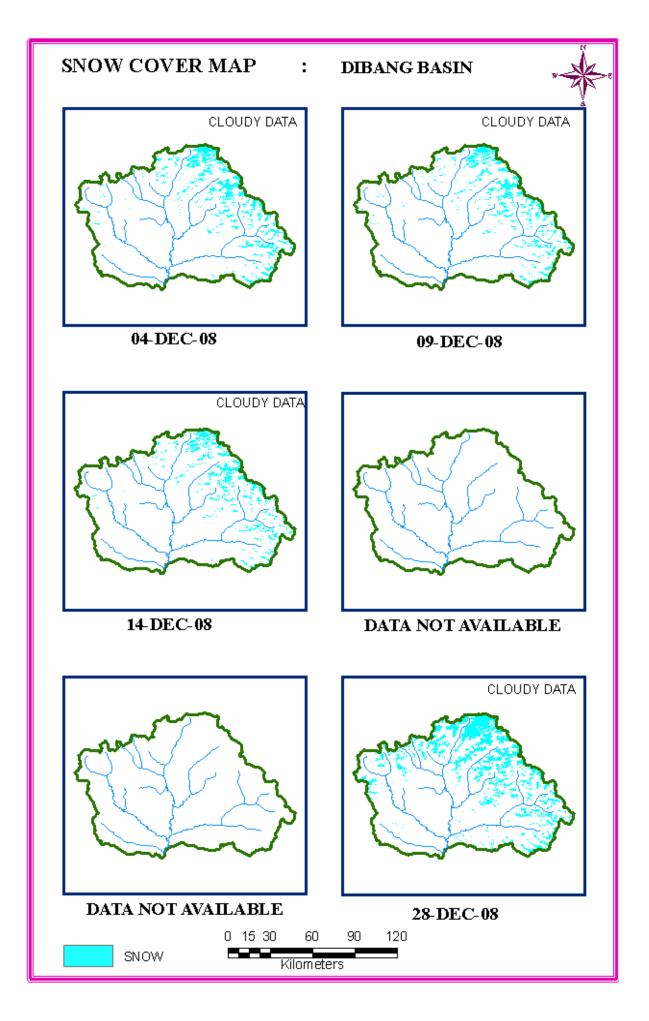
SNOW COVER MAP

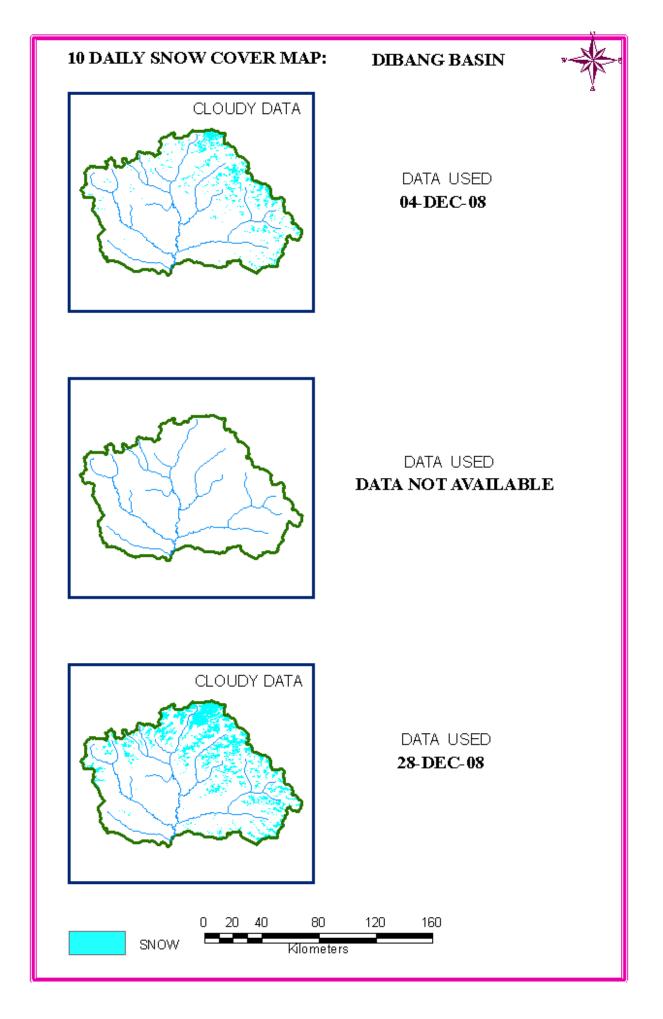


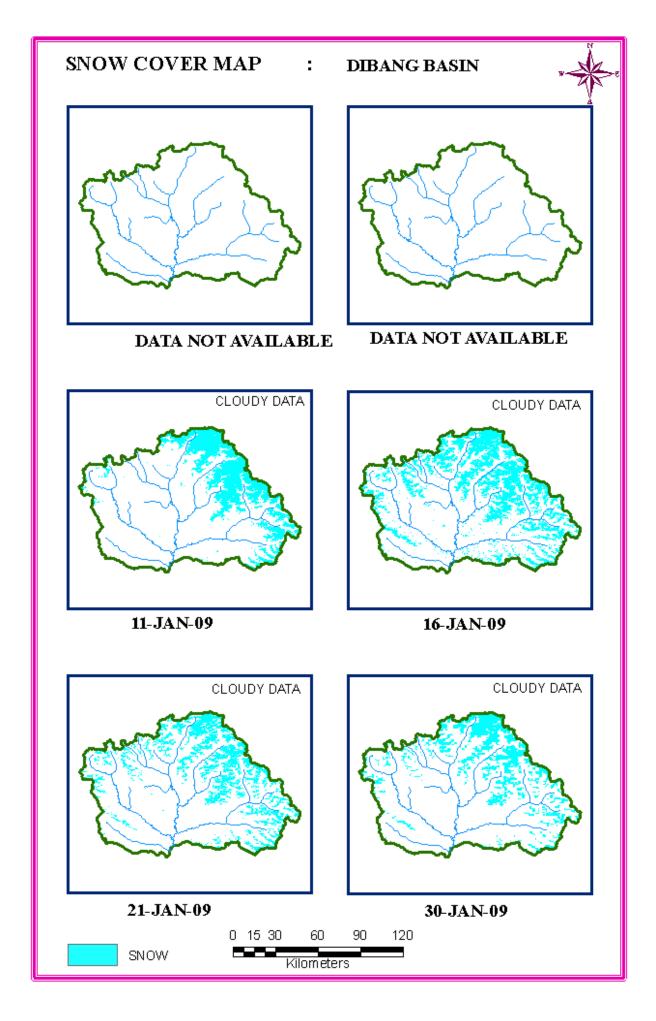


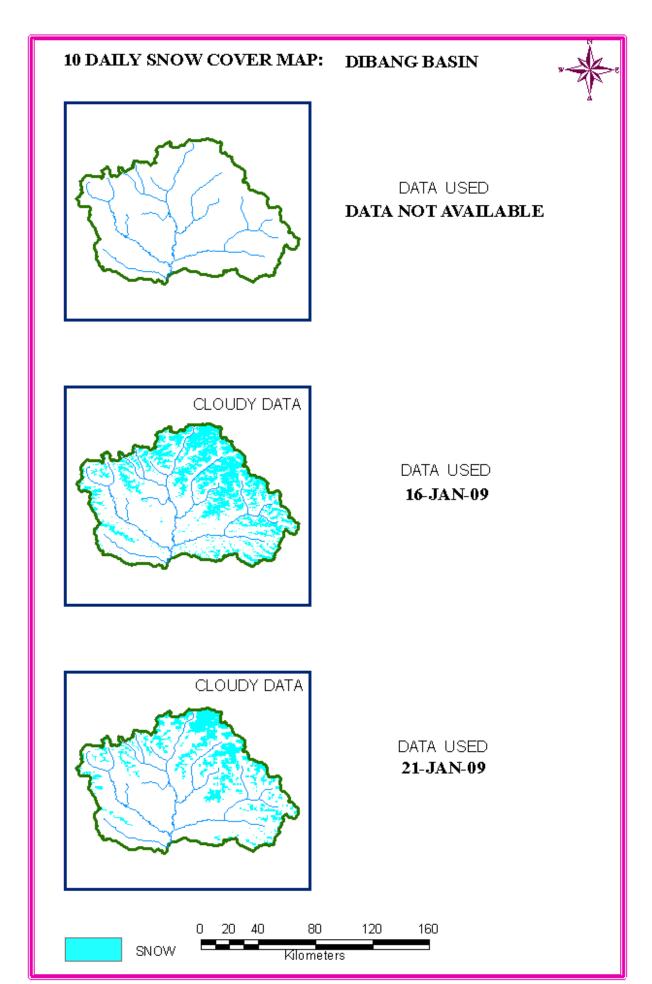


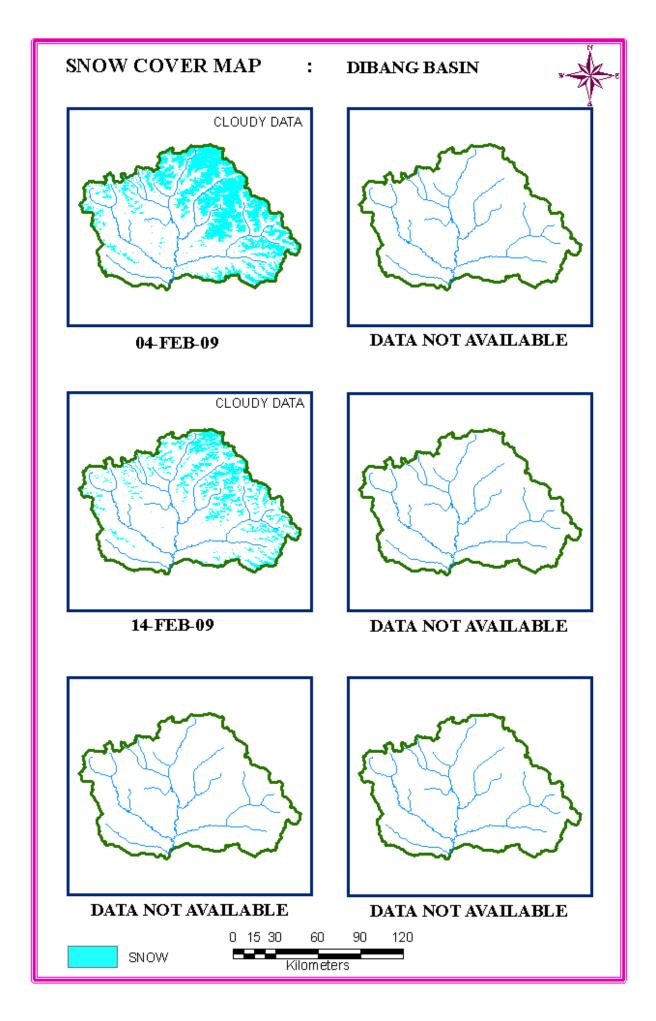


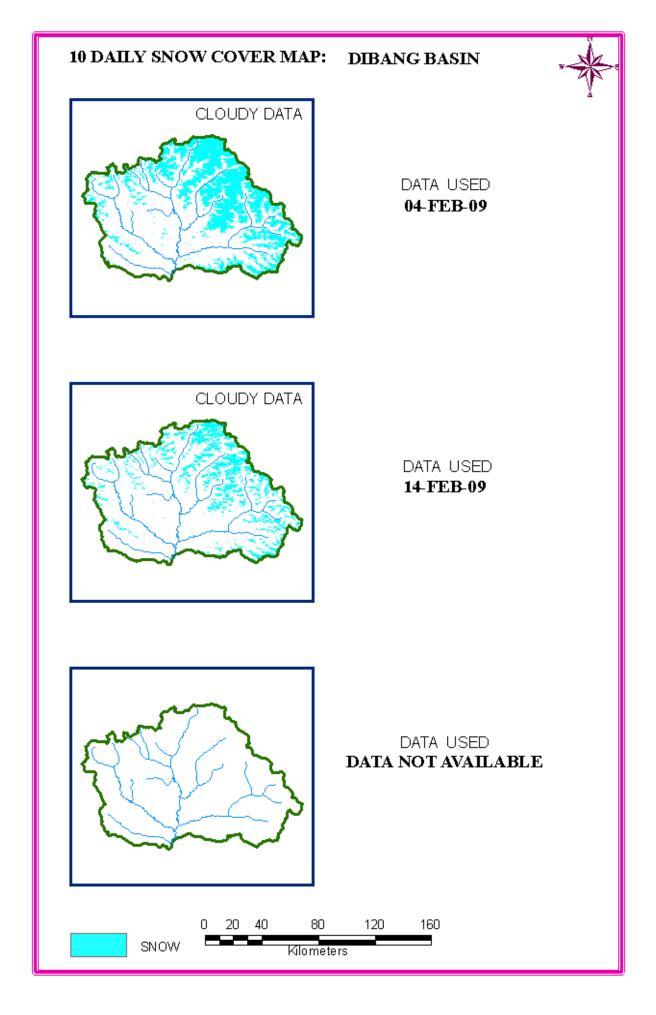


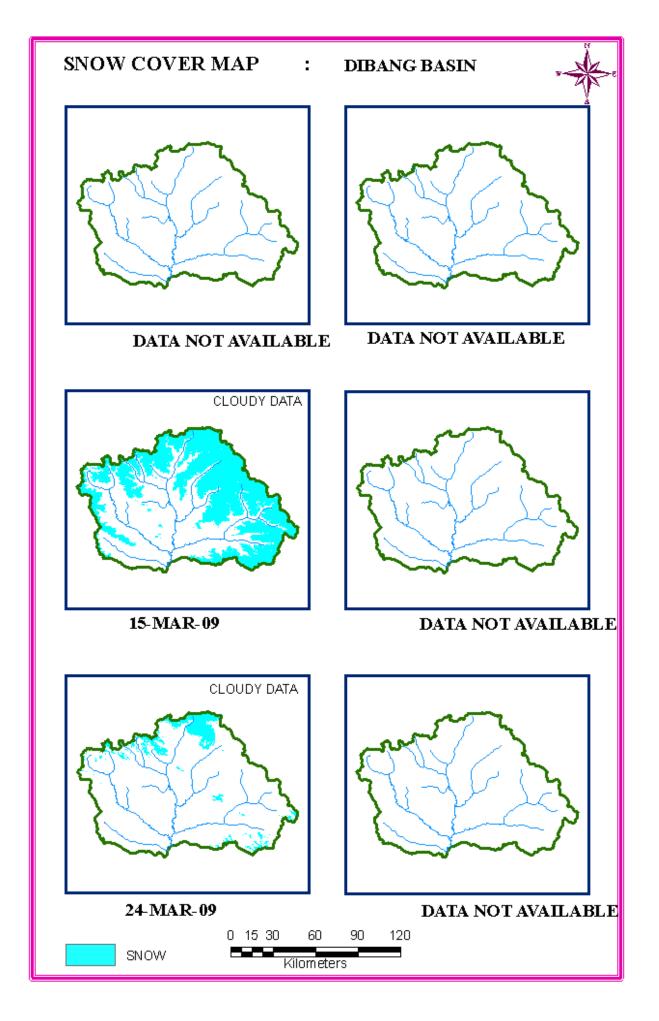


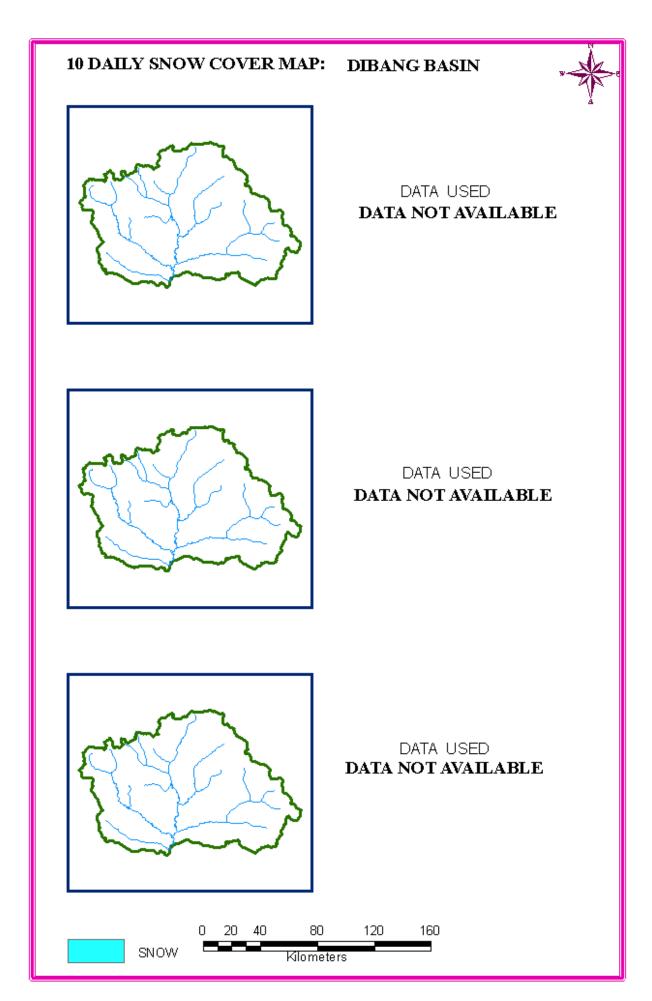


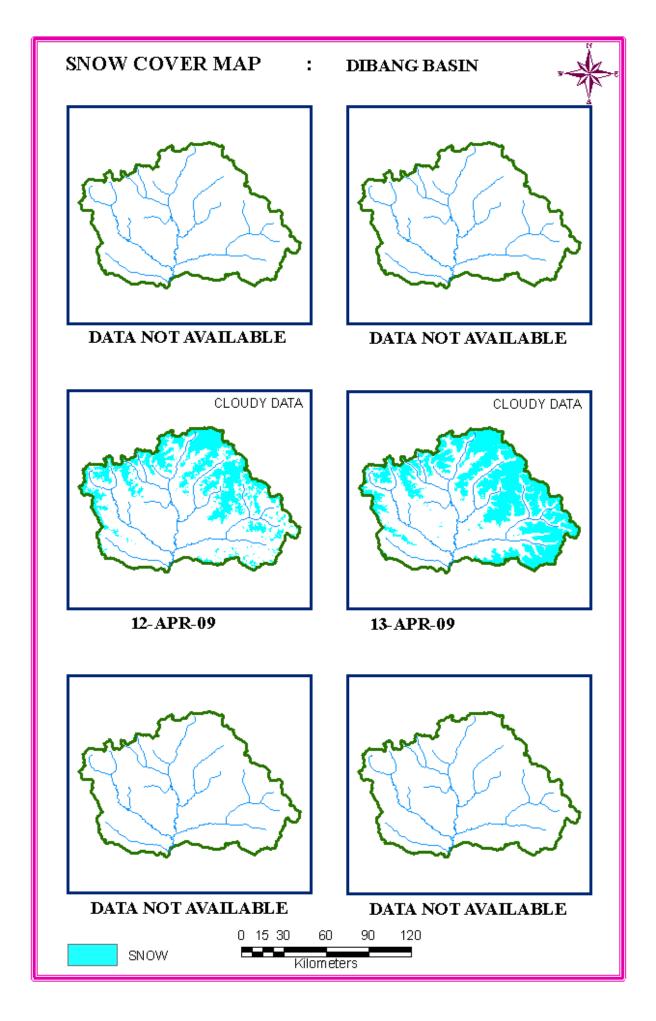


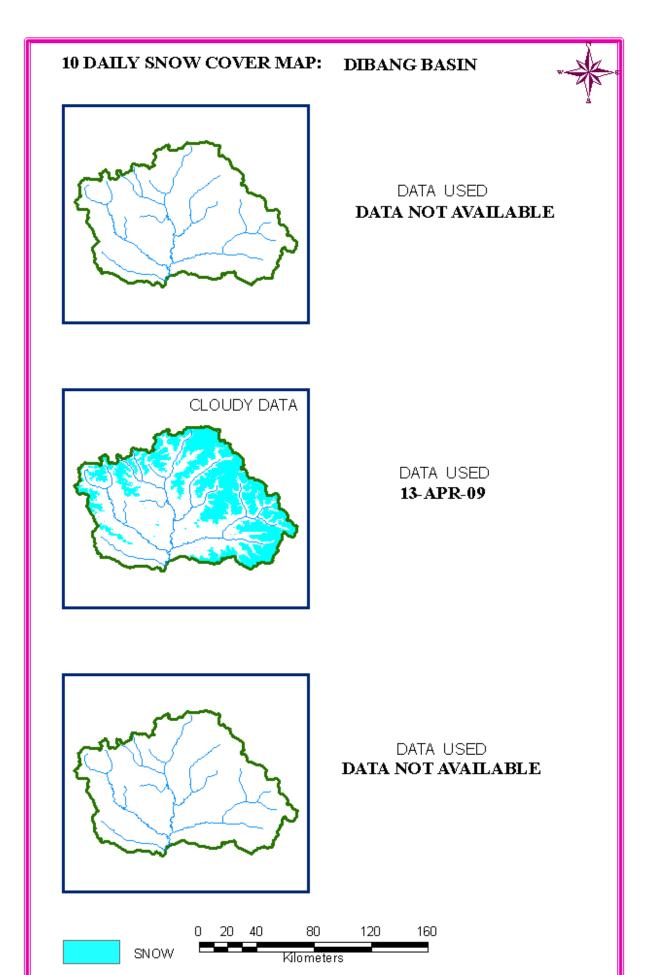


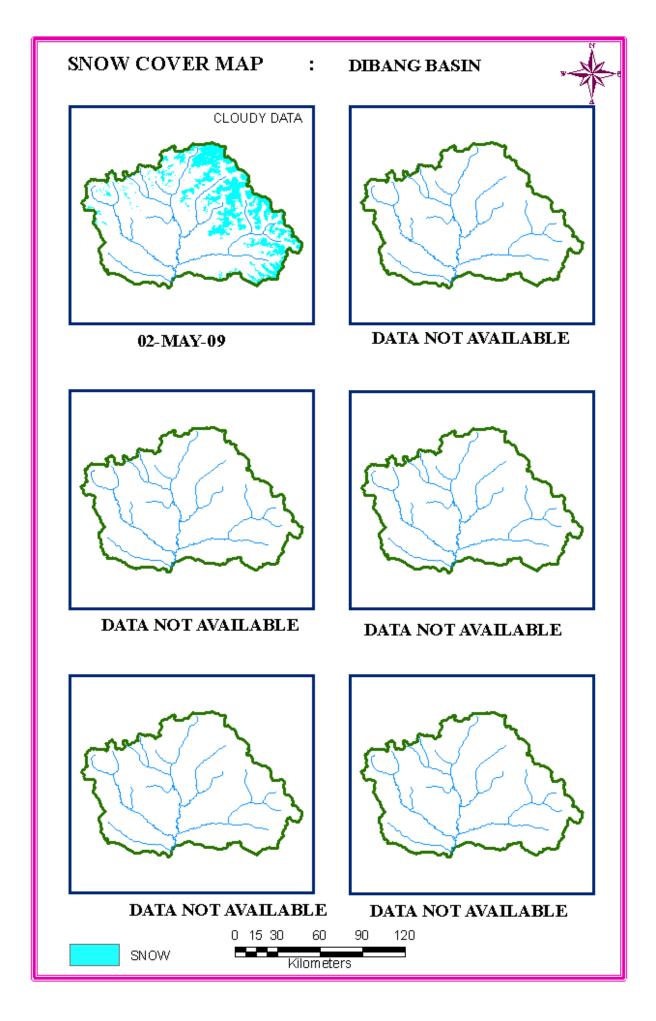


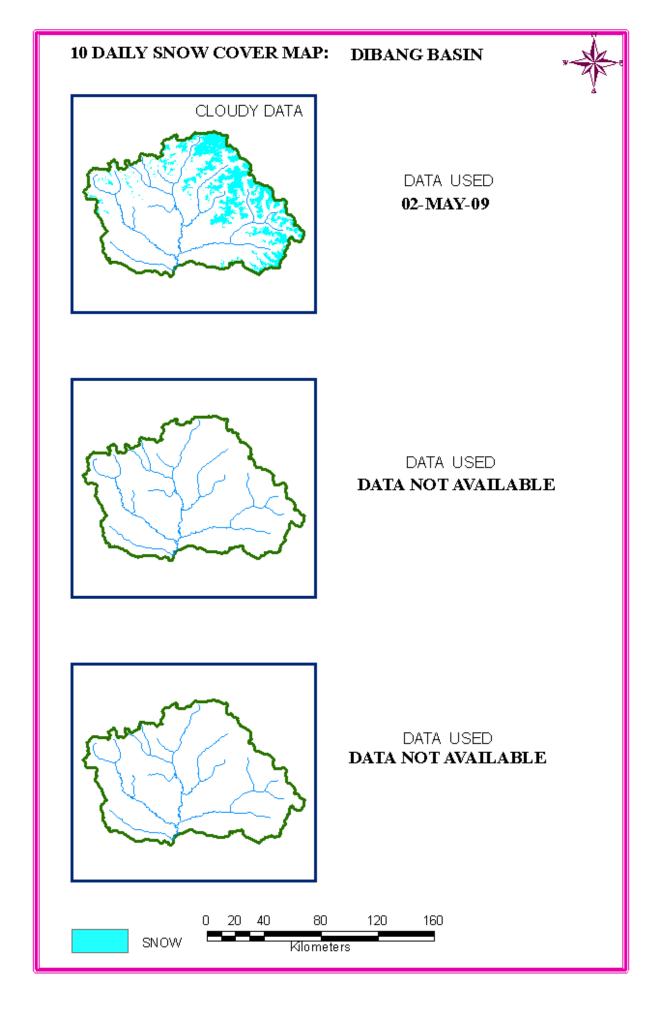


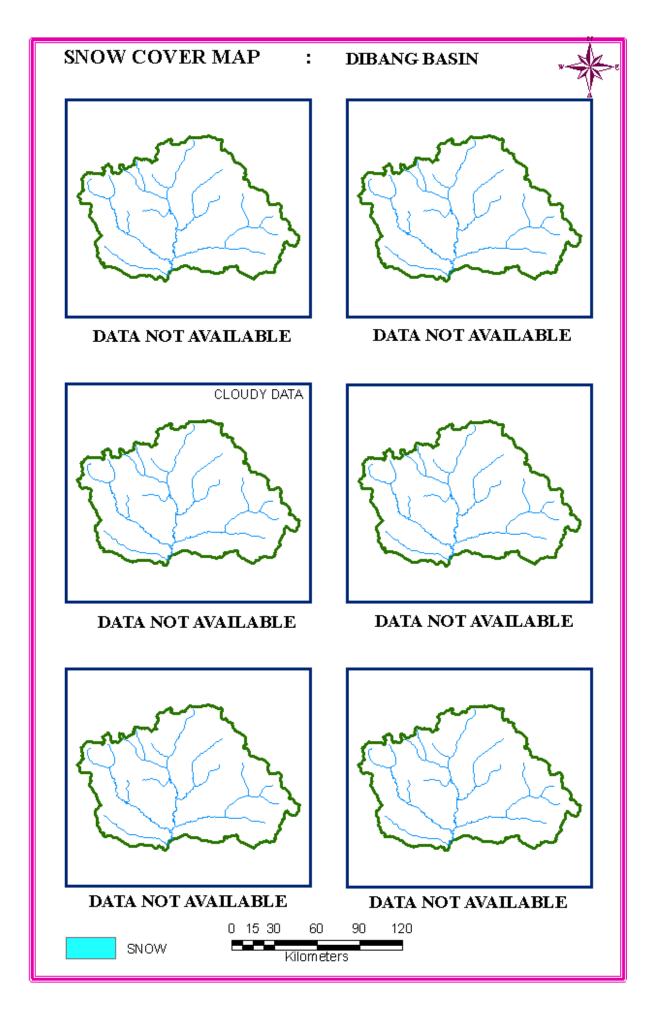














SUBANSIRI BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: SABANSIRI

BASIN AREA: 25329 sq km

S No	Date		Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover
		(sq km)	(%)	•		(sq km)	(%)
	T	T .	Octobe		<u></u>		T
1	12-Oct-08	10334	41	2	16-Oct-08	792	3
3	17-Oct-08	862	3	4	21-Oct-08	977	4
			Novemb	er 2008			
5	9-Nov-08	9245	36	6	10-Nov-08	9246	37
7	14-Nov-08	7532	30	8	19-Nov-08	7381	29
9	24-Nov-08	6734	27	10	28-Nov-08	6840	27
11	29-Nov-08	6284	25				
		•	Decemb	er 2008	•	•	
12	3-Dec-08	6134	24	13	8-Dec-08	5841	23
14	27-Dec-08	5127	20				
			Januar	y 2009	<u> </u>		
15	1-Jan-09	4034.	16	16	6-Jan-09	4433	18
17	11-Jan-09	4396	17	18	16-Jan-09	4318	17
19	20-Jan-09	3168	13	20	21-Jan-09	3045	12
21	30-Jan-09	3077	12				
		•	Februa	ry 2009	•		
22	4-Feb-09	2753	11	23	8-Feb-09	2896	11
24	9-Feb-09	2374	9	25	13-Feb-09	2874	11
26	14-Feb-09	2496	10	27	18-Feb-09	1232	5
			March	1 2009			
28	9-Mar-09	1720	7	29	14-Mar-09	3335	13
30	24-Mar-09	3043	12				
			A . *1	2000			
21	12 4 00	3520	April	32	26 1 00	920	3
31	12-Apr-09	3320	14	32	26-Apr-09	820	3

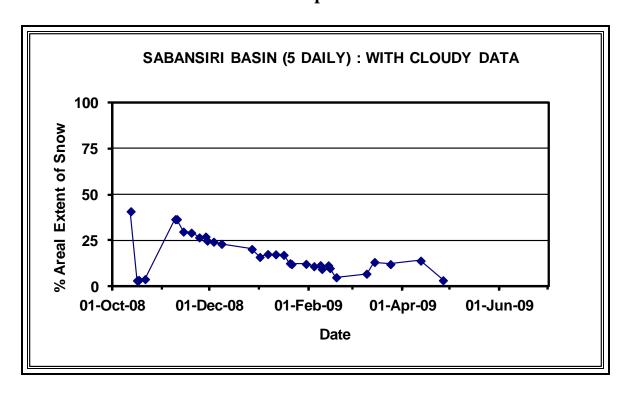
S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)
			May	2009			
l.			June	2009		1	l
			July	2009			

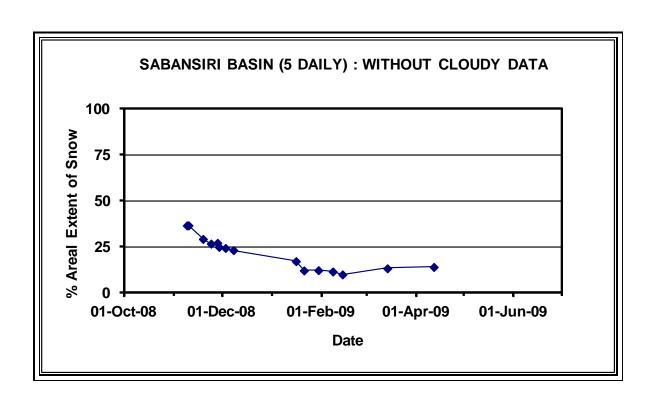
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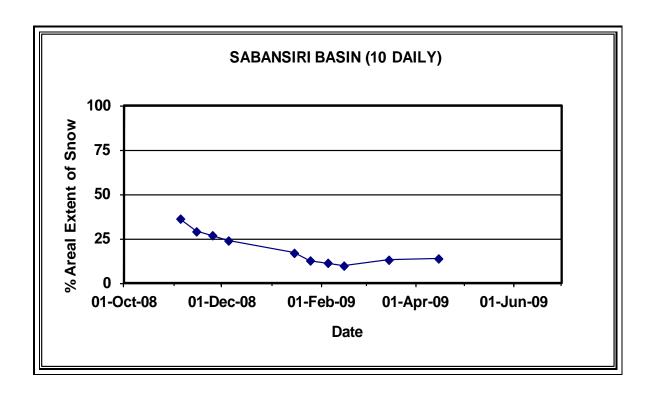
BASIN NAME: SABANSIRI

BASIN AREA: 25329 sq km

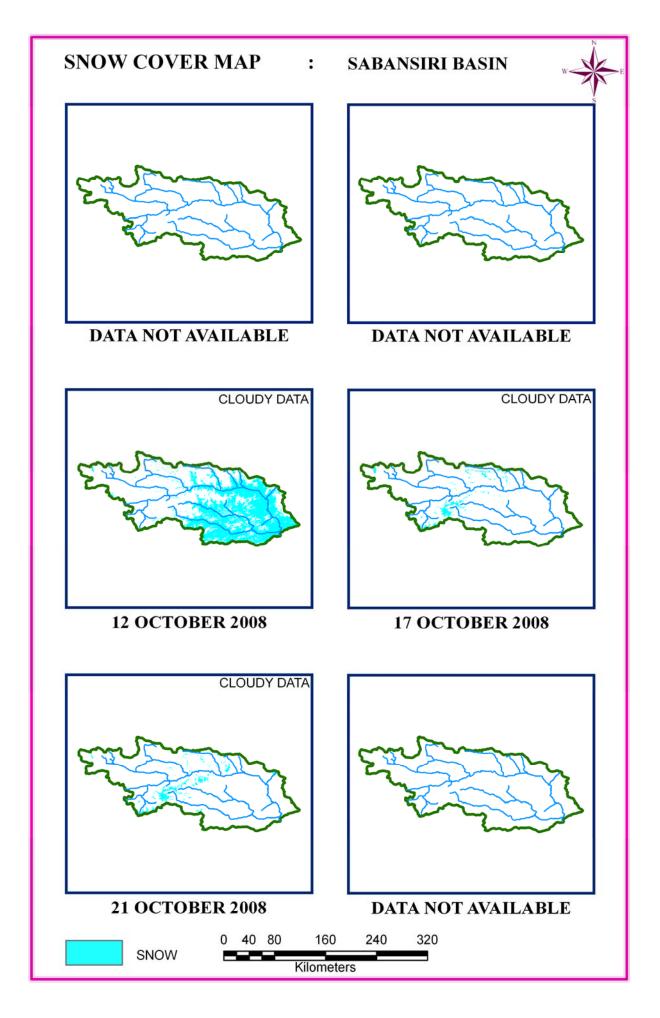
S No	Date		Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover	
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)	
	October 2008				Nover	nber 2008		
				1	9-Nov-08	9201	36	
				2	19-Nov-08	7381	29	
				3	28-Nov-08	6833	27	
	Dece	mber 2008			Janu	ary 2009		
4	8-Dec-08	6079	24	5	16-Jan-09	4318	17	
				6	21-Jan-09	3233	13	
	Febr	uary 2009		March 2009				
7	5-Feb-09	2786	11	8	14-Mar-09	3335	13	
7	15-Feb-09	2533	10					
	Aı	 pril 2009			Ma	y 2009		
	15-Apr-09	3546	14					
	June 2009			July 2009				
				-				





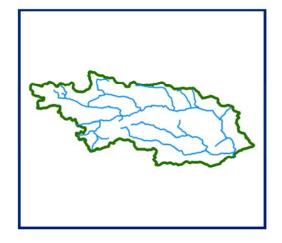


SNOW COVER MAP





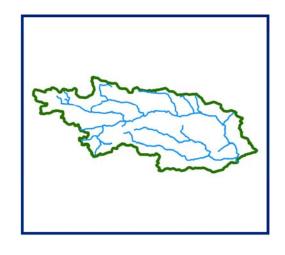




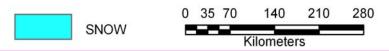
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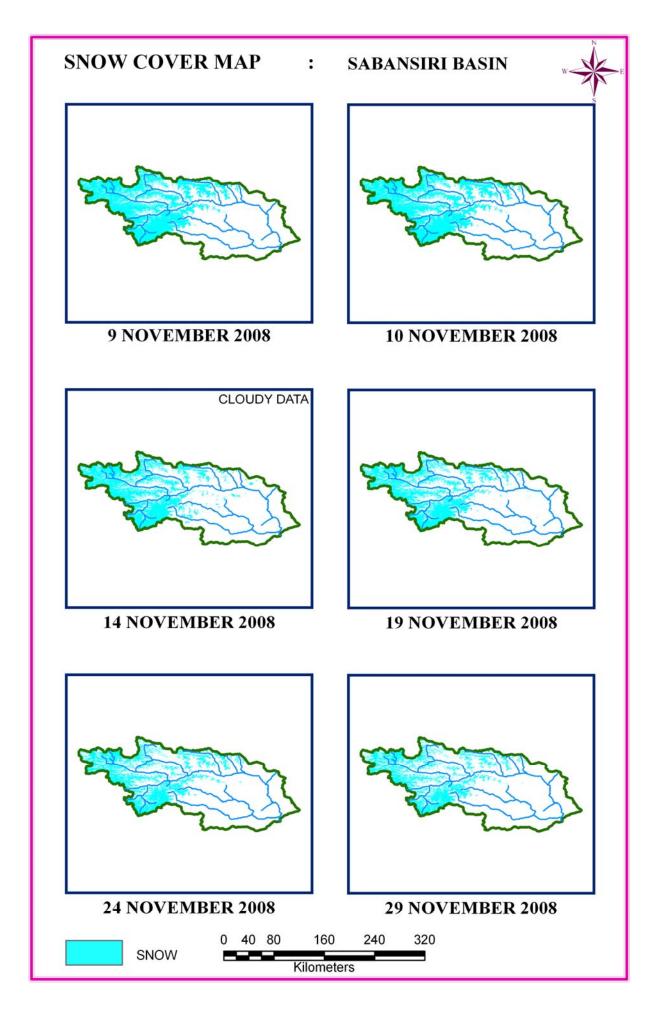


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DATA NOT AVAILABLE





10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: SABANSIRI BASIN





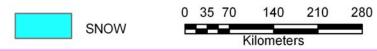
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10 NOVEMBER 2008

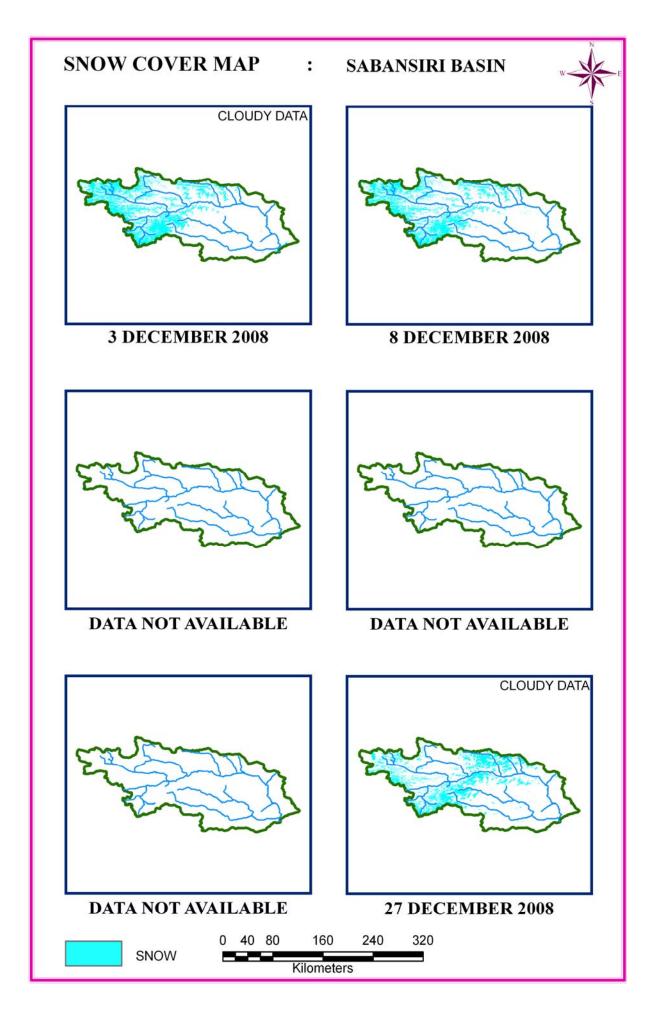


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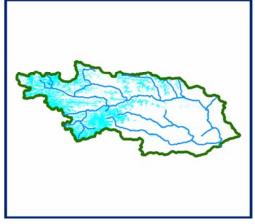
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29 NOVEMBER 2008





10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: SABANSIRI BASIN





DATA USED **8 DECEMBER 2008**



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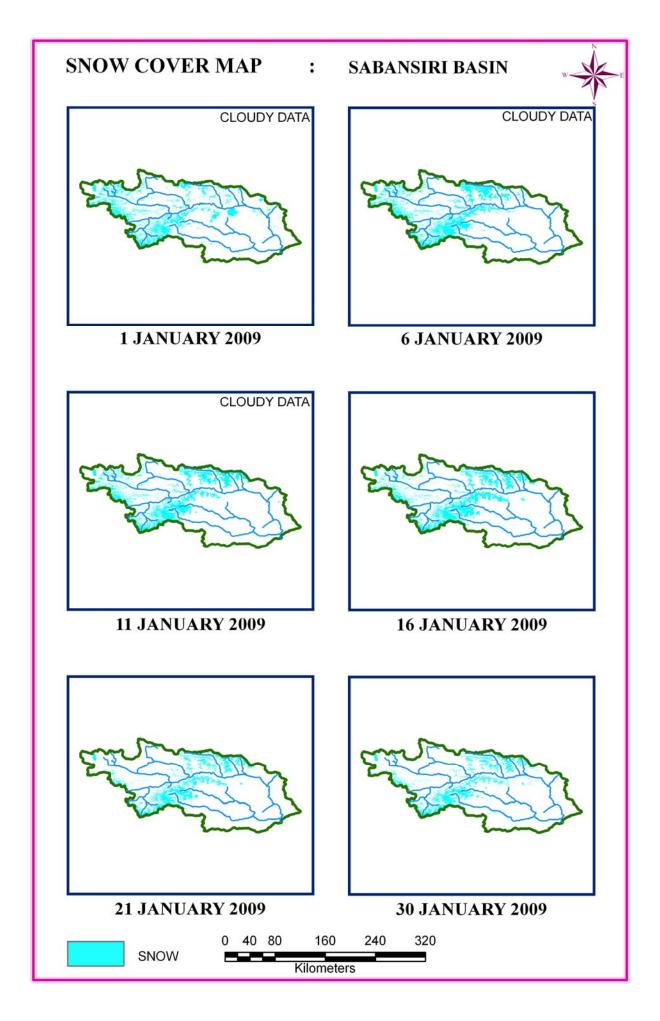


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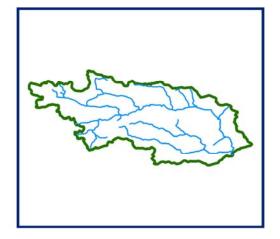
SNOW

0 35 70 140 210 280 Kilometers



10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: SABANSIRI BASIN





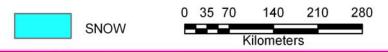
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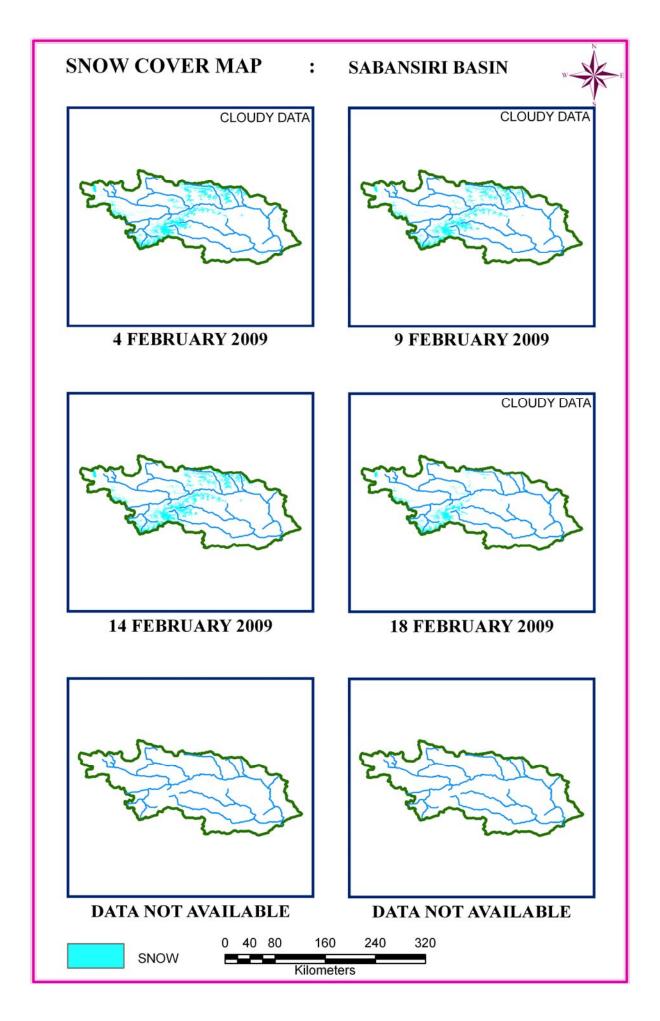


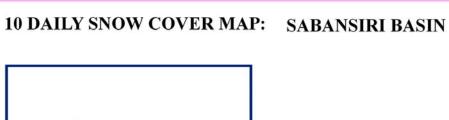
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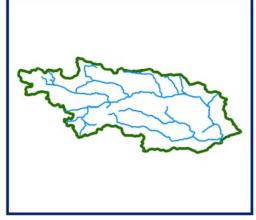
DATA USED 21 JANUARY 2009 30 JANUARY 2009











DATA NOT AVAILABLE

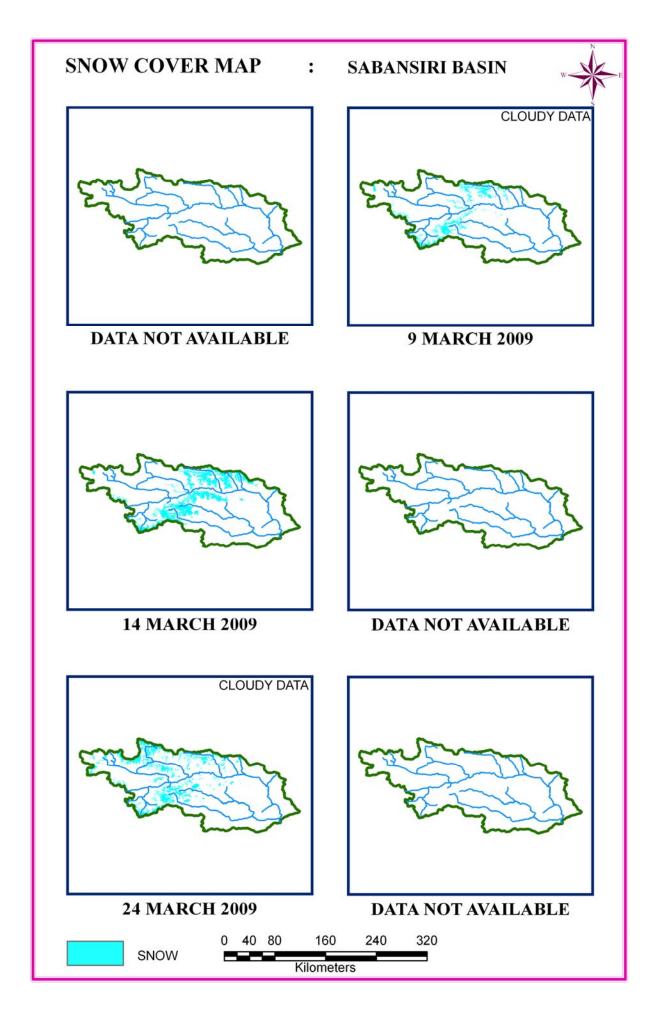


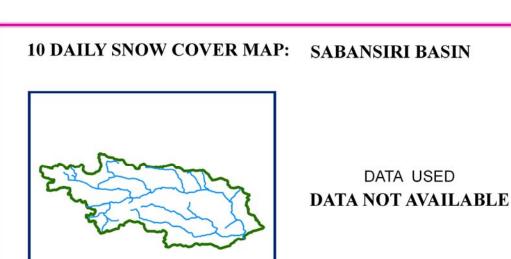
DATA USED
14 FEBRUARY 2009



DATA NOT AVAILABLE

SNOW 0 35 70 140 210 280 Kilometers

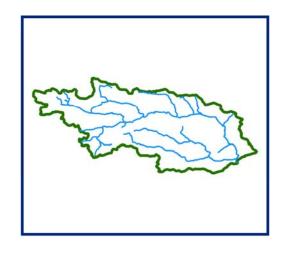






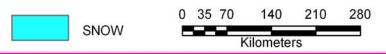


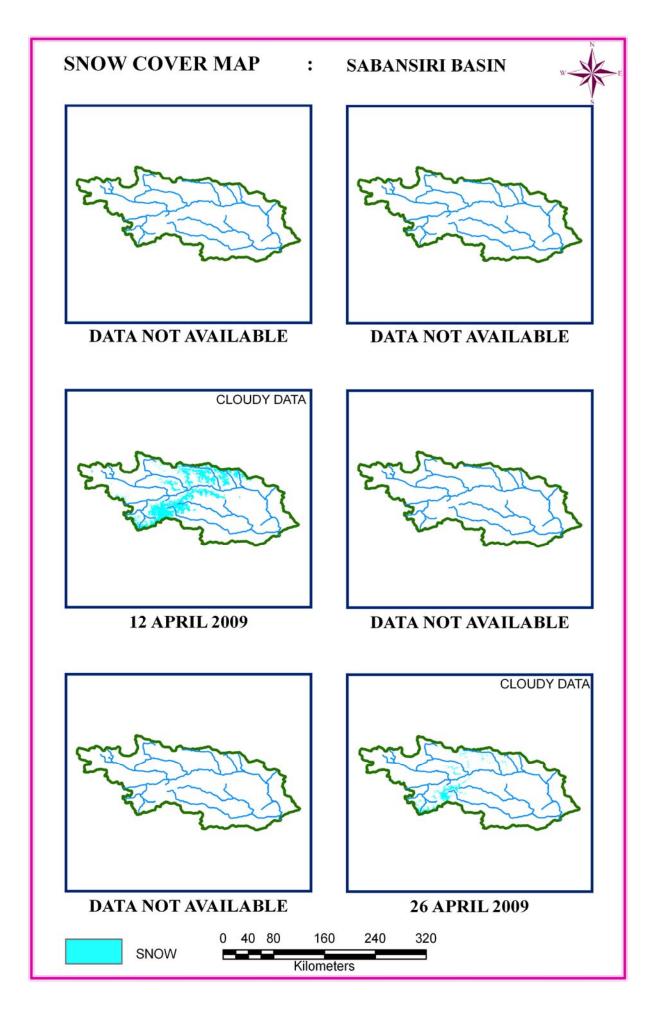
DATA USED
14 MARCH 2009

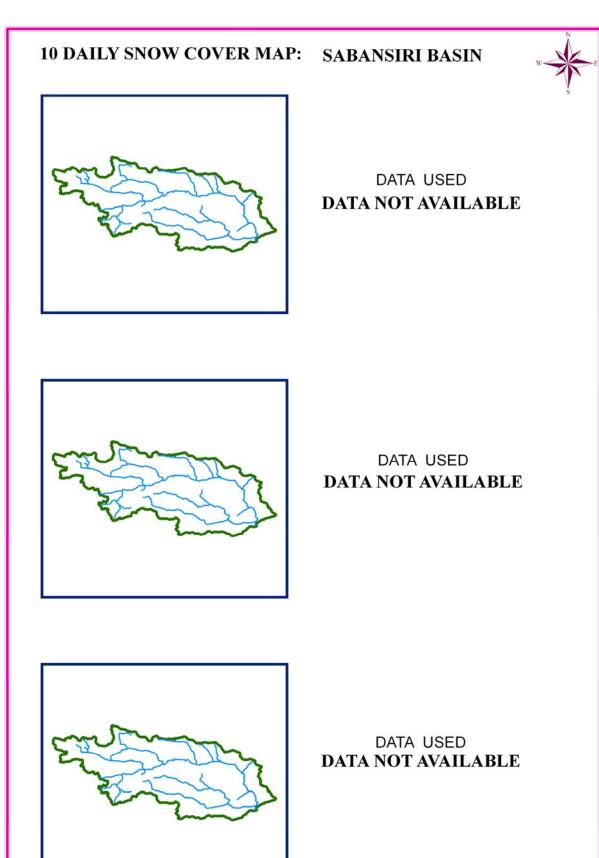


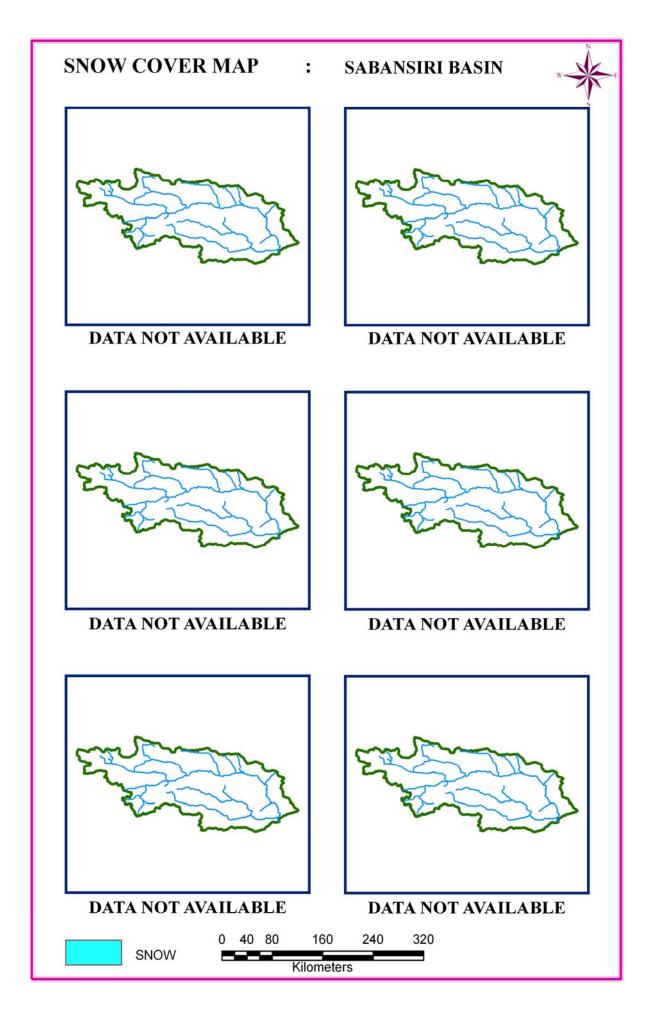
DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



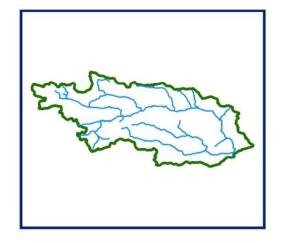




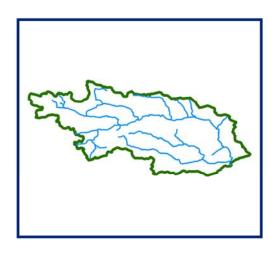




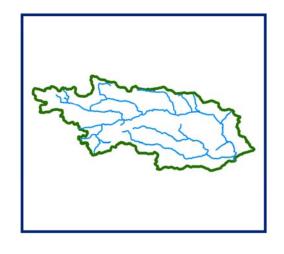




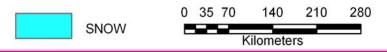
DATA NOT AVAILABLE

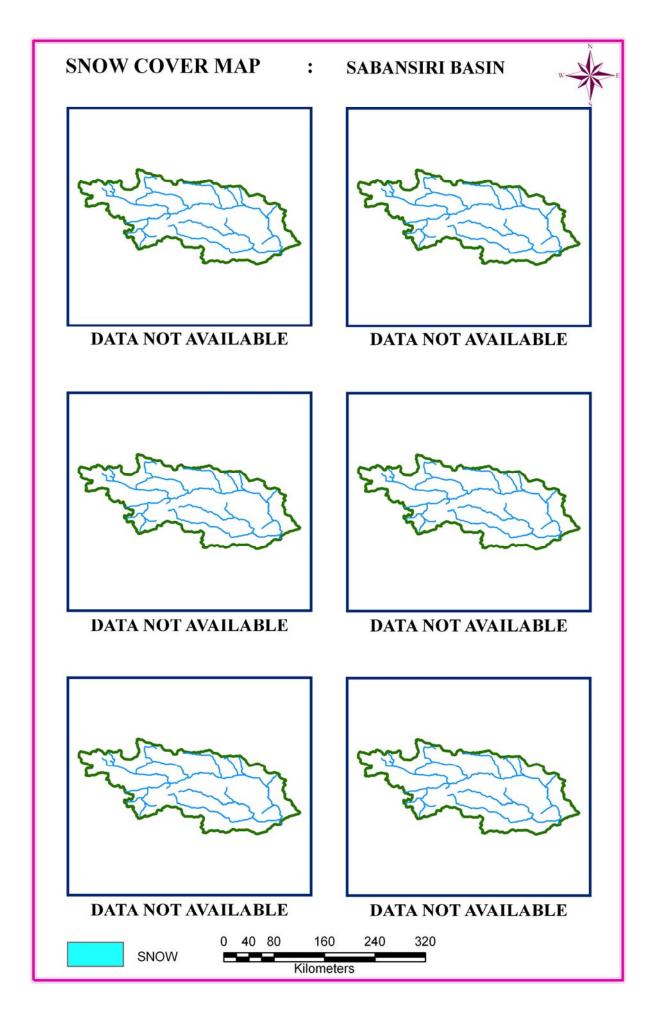


DATA NOT AVAILABLE



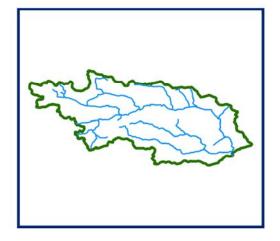
DATA NOT AVAILABLE







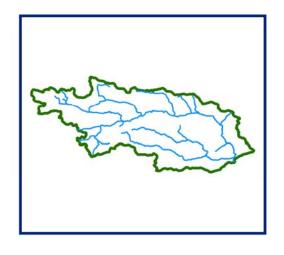




DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA NOT AVAILABLE



SNOW

0 35 70 140 210 280 Kilometers

TAWANG BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: TAWANG

S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover	
		(sq km)	(%)	2000		(sq km)	(%)	
1	11.0 + 00	515	Octobe		12.0 + 00	1516	22	
1	11-Oct-08	515	8	2	12-Oct-08	1516	23	
3	16-Oct-08	505	8	4	21-Oct-08	405	6	
5	30-Oct-08	5172	77					
November 2008								
6	9-Nov-08	4930	73	7	14-Nov-08	4642	69	
8	19-Nov-08	4384	65	9	23-Nov-08	4251	63	
10	24-Nov-08	4020	60	11	28-Nov-08	4092	61	
12	29-Nov-08	3932	58					
			Decemb	er 2008				
13	3-Dec-08	3857	57	14	8-Dec-08	3738	56	
15	17-Dec-08	3444	51	16	22-Dec-08	3141	47	
17	27-Dec-08	3125	46					
January 2009								
18	1-Jan-09	3802	57	19	6-Jan-09	3773	56	
20	10-Jan-09	3859	57	21	11-Jan-09	3143	47	
22	15-Jan-09	3445	51	23	16-Jan-09	3096	46	
24	20-Jan-09	2989	44	25	30-Jan-09	2537	38	
			Februa	ry 2009				
26	3-Feb-09	3215	48	27	4-Feb-09	2465	37	
28	8-Feb-09	2420	36	29	9-Feb-09	2241	33	
30	13-Feb-09	2273	34	31	18-Feb-09	2133	32	
32	27-Feb-09	1803	27					
			March	n 2009				
33	4-Mar-09	3270	49	34	9-Mar-09	3351	50	
35	14-Mar-09	2880	43	36	23-Mar-09	2488	37	
37	24-Mar-09	2367	35					
		l		2009	1	1	1	
38	12-Apr-09	3352	50	39	16-Apr-09	2144	32	
40	26-Apr-09	1618	24		_			
	-							

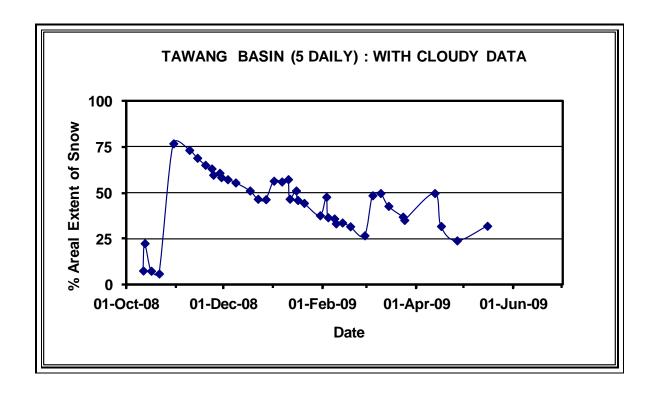
S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover			
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)			
	May 2009									
41	15-May-09	2106	31							
			June	2009						
July 2009										

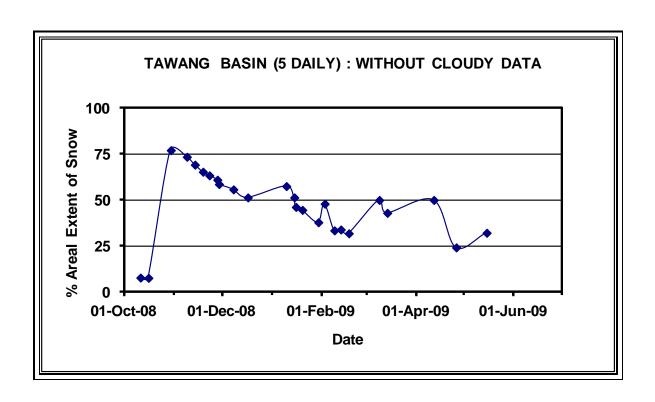
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

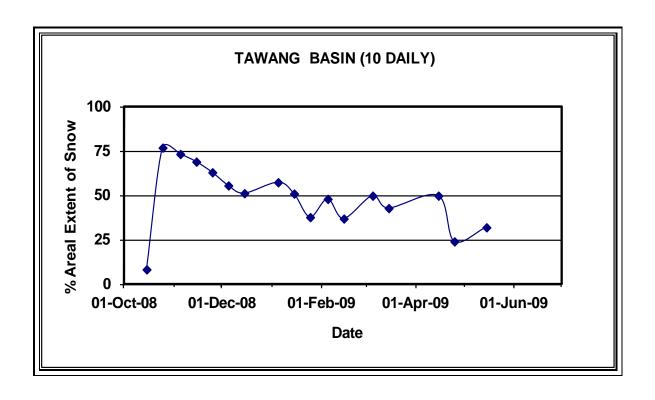
BASIN NAME: TAWANG

BASIN AREA: 6725 sq km

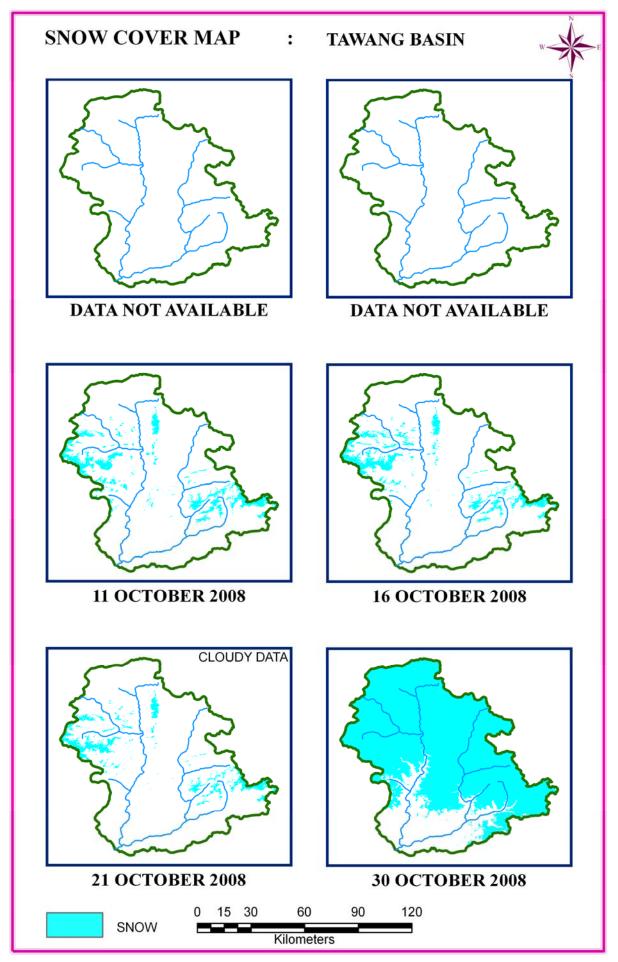
S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)	
	October 2008				Nover	nber 2008		
1	11-Oct-08	559	8	3	9-Nov-08	4930	73	
2	30-Oct-08	5172	77	4	14-Nov-08	4640	69	
				5	28-Nov-08	4237	63	
	Decei	mber 2008			Janu	ary 2009		
6	8-Dec-08	3738	56	8	10-Jan-09	3859	57	
7	17-Dec-08	3444	51	9	16-Jan-09	3430	51	
				10	30-Jan-09	2537	38	
	Febr	uary 2009		March 2009				
11	3-Feb-09	3228	48	13	9-Mar-09	3351	50	
12	13-Feb-09	2483	37	14	14-Mar-09	2880	43	
	Ap	ril 2009		May 2009				
15	12-Apr-09	3352	50	17	15-May-09	2152	32	
16	25-Apr-09	1614	24					
June 2009				July 2009				





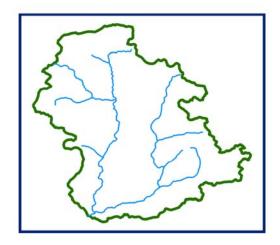


SNOW COVER MAP

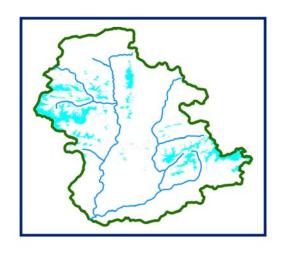


10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: TAWANG BASIN





DATA NOT AVAILABLE

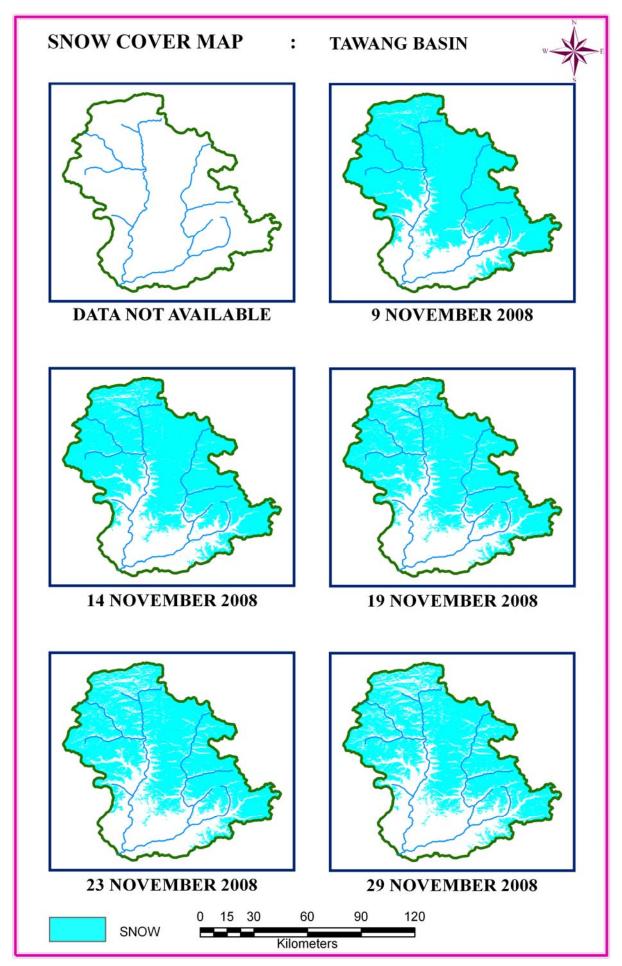


DATA USED
11 OCTOBER 2008
16 OCTOBER 2008



DATA USED **30 OCTOBER 2008**





10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: TAWANG BASIN





DATA USED **09 NOVEMBER 2008**

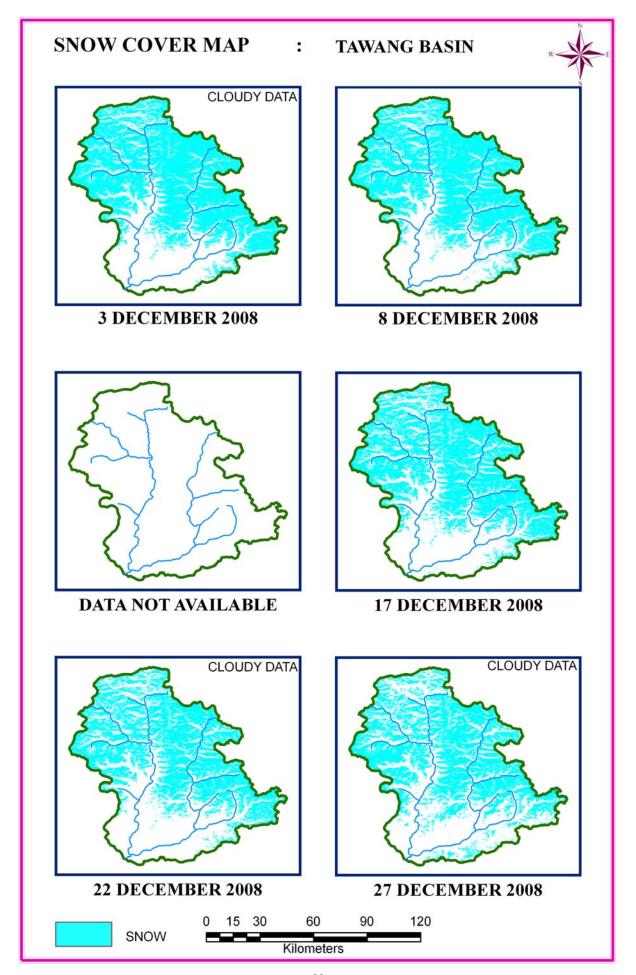


DATA USED
14 NOVEMBER 2008
19 NOVEMBER 2008

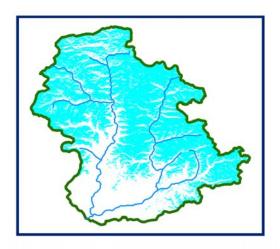


DATA USED
23 NOVEMBER 2008
28 NOVEMBER 2008
29 NOVEMBER 2008

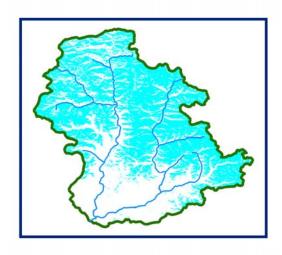




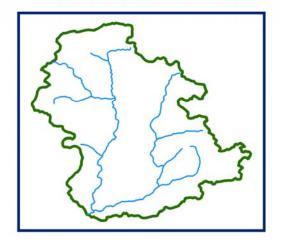




DATA USED **08 DECEMBER 2008**



DATA USED
17 DECEMBER 2008

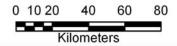


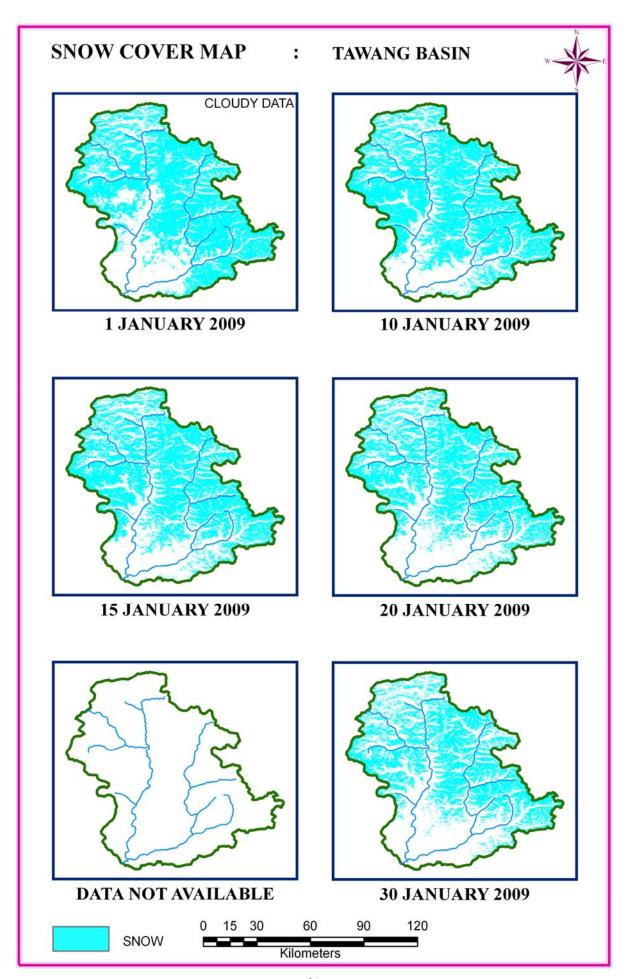
DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

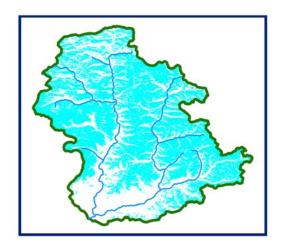


SNOW

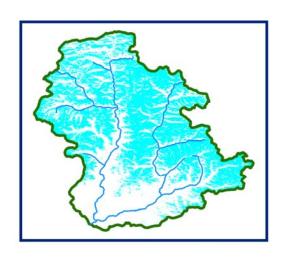








DATA USED **10 JANUARY 2009**

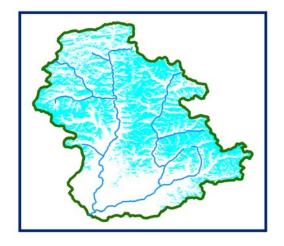


DATA USED

15 JANUARY 2009

16 JANUARY 2009

20 JANUARY 2009

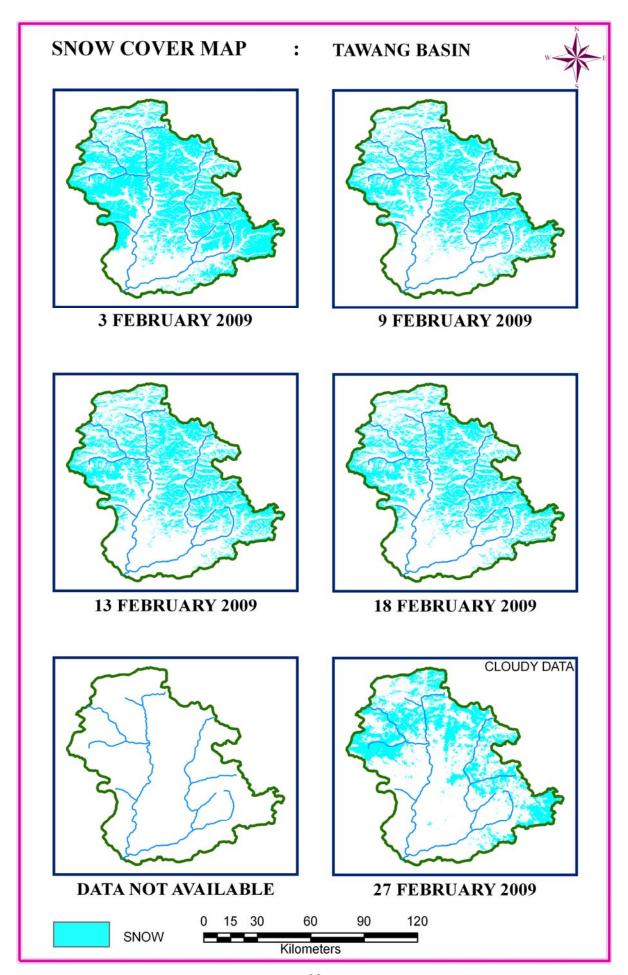


DATA USED 30 JANUARY 2009

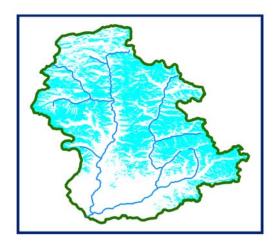


0 10 20

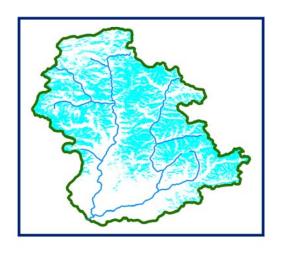
40 60 80







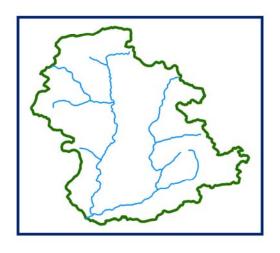
DATA USED
03 FEBRUARY 2009
09 FEBRUARY 2009



DATA USED

13 FEBRUARY 2009

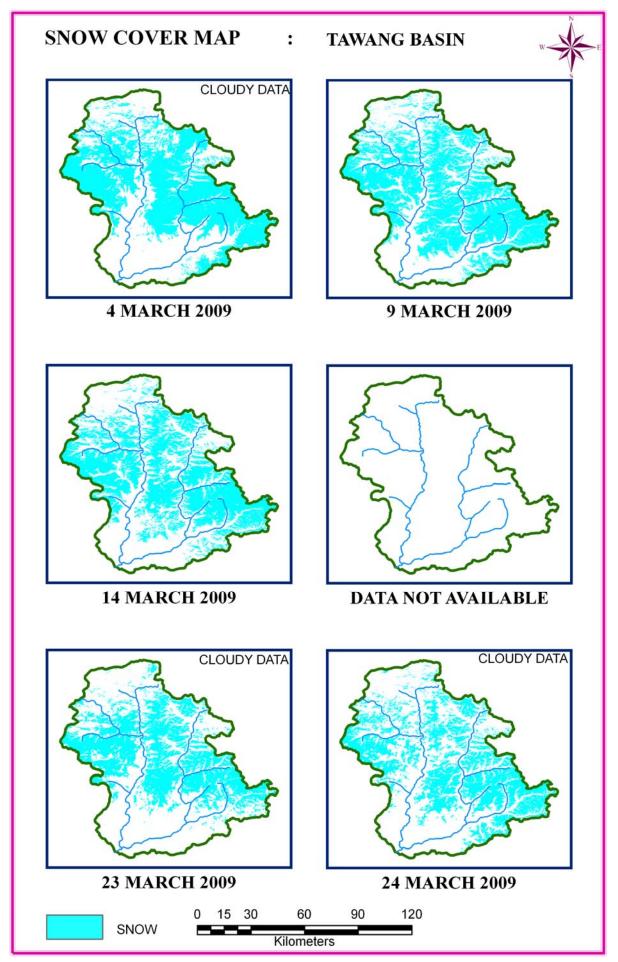
18 FEBRUARY 2009



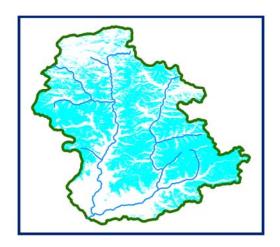
DATA NOT AVAILABLE



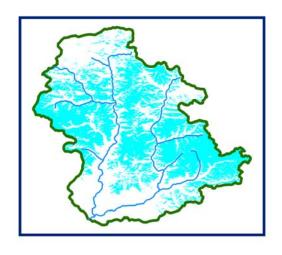
SNOW



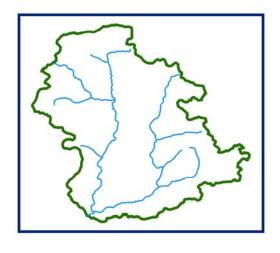




DATA USED **09 MARCH 2009**



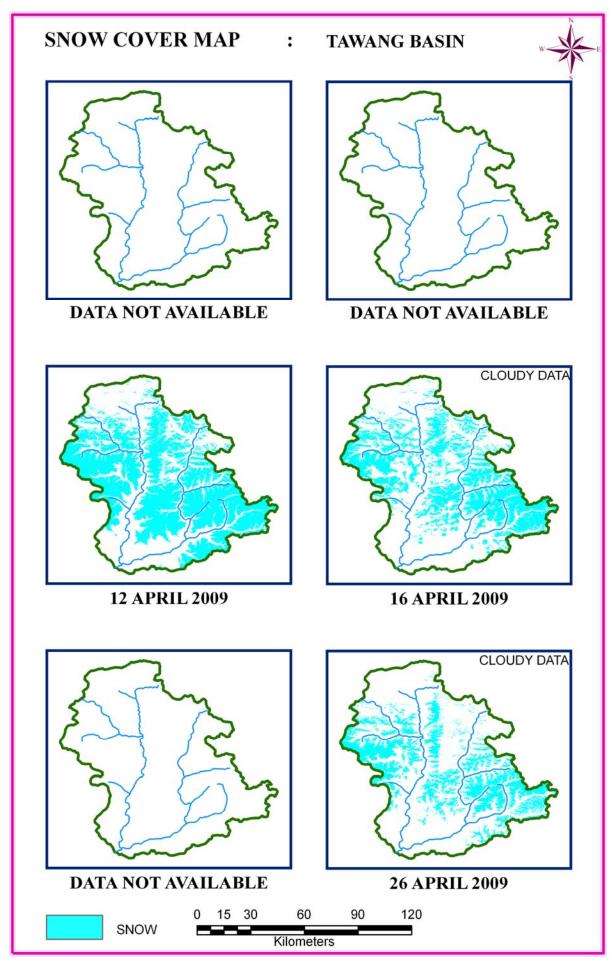
DATA USED
14 MARCH 2009



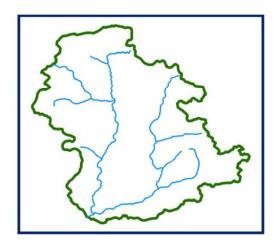
DATA NOT AVAILABLE



SNOW



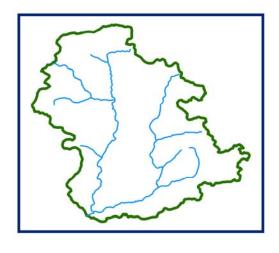




DATA NOT AVAILABLE



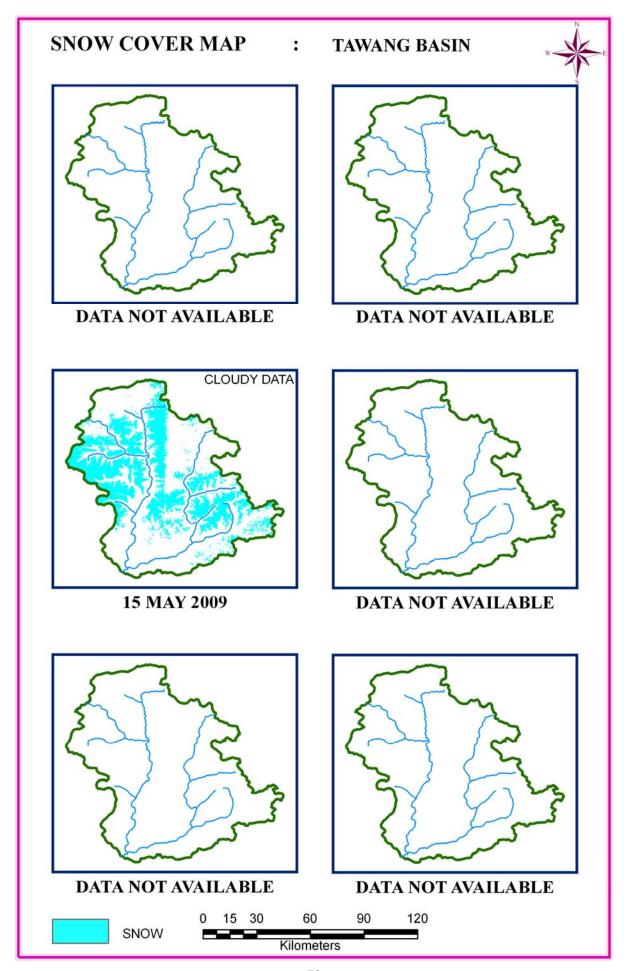
DATA USED 12 APRIL 2009



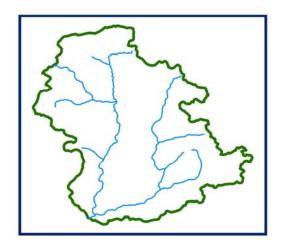
DATA NOT AVAILABLE



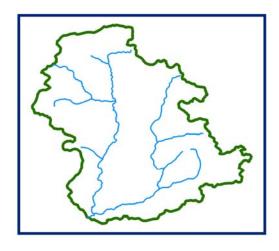
SNOW



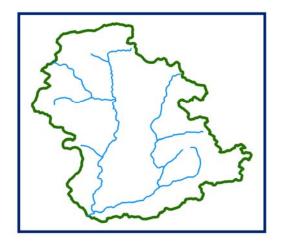




DATA NOT AVAILABLE

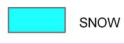


DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

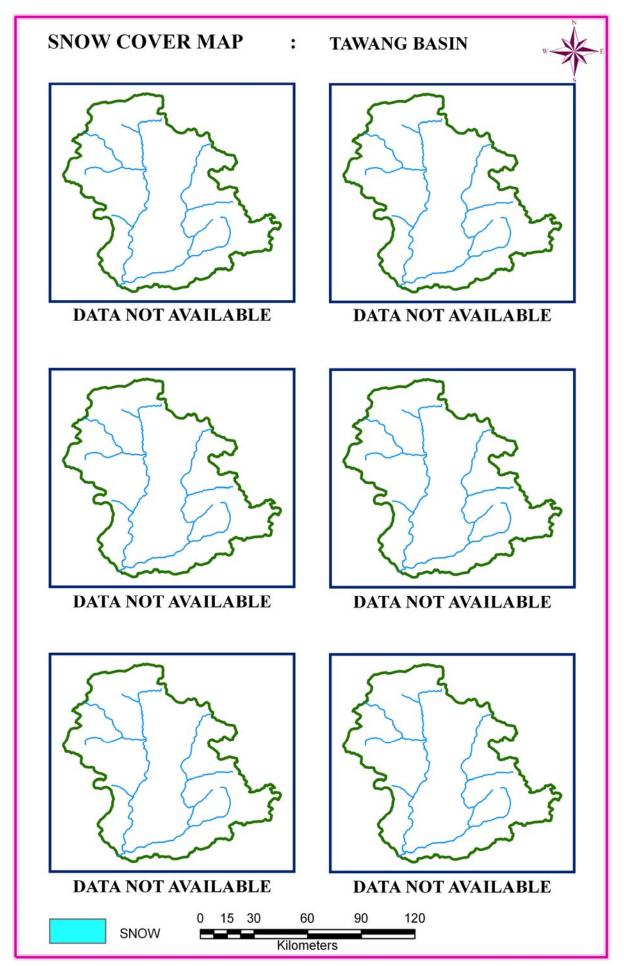


0 10 20

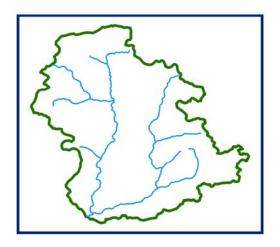
40

60 80

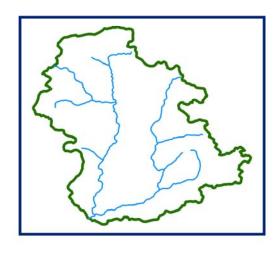
Kilometers



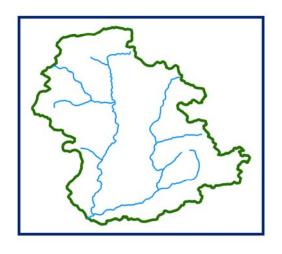




DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA NOT AVAILABLE



SNOW