

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

Working Paper

Bishnu C Parida and Parul Rishi - “Perceptual Mapping of Stakeholders of Similipal Sanctuary & National park (SSNP), Orissa for Eco-development planning”

Abstract

For effective conservation and management of Protected Area (PA), it is relevant that principal stakeholders (local communities and forest department) should be aware of the perceptions, motivations, and attitudes of each other. Based on the above background; the need for analysing the perceptions of stakeholders was felt to assess the subjective feelings of stakeholders about different dimensions of PA conservation and management. Total 123 respondents participated in the study using a mix of qualitative and quantitative tools. All the stakeholders agreed that SSNP (Similipal Sanctuary & National Park) is at the risk of severe deforestation and loss of wildlife and immediate steps should be taken to protect it however, all perceived that ecological functions and protection of wildlife are its main benefits. They accepted that SSNP had been contributing towards pollution free environment and also helped the ecological functions of rain, river water and micro-climate in the area.

Results suggested that changing the perceptions of the stakeholders and addressing various needs of local communities should be the components of the Eco-development planning for conservation of protected area and development of local communities. It will result in developing attitude of collaboration and responsibility sharing with local communities, forest department, NGOs and other stakeholders in PA management.

Key Words: Protected Area Management, Perceptual Mapping, Stakeholders, Eco-development