

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

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### A Situational Analysis of Mining & Biodiversity in Bokaro River Sub-basin

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#### Summary

Biodiversity of the whole world is under great threat. Their loss and degradation is not only an ecological concern but economic too. Large scale changes in their nature can irreversibly damage agriculture or any other source of livelihood which is directly or indirectly dependent on it. At the same time it is a fact that the biodiversity hot spots are also the ones containing precious minerals important for a vibrant economy. A visit to such places only makes the paradox clearer and starkly visible. India abounds with such examples. It becomes difficult to decide whether mankind is on the mercy of nature or is on a spree to tame nature.

This report is basically based on the work of the researcher during her Organizational Training in Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) during 1<sup>st</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Project Title was *'Micro Planning for Bokaro river sub-basin with community participation through Natural Resources Management.'* This Project was funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The aim of this project was to devise a strategy through which the values attached to biodiversity of the area in consideration could be restored and conserved giving way for a sustainable livelihood to the community. The study area included ten villages of Ramgarh district in the state of Jharkhand. It is also known as Bokaro river sub basin. It is largely a tribal belt severely affected due to mining operations. A participatory approach for the micro planning was adopted which made it necessary to involve the inhabitants or the local community.

The present research article is a situational analysis of certain important aspects of Biodiversity of the study area like land, water and forests in relation to mining operation which is being carried out since past three decades. It is an empirical research involving a comparative analysis of the present situation with the past as per the community's perception and some inputs from the researcher herself based on her observation. Administration being the arbiter and the focal point of all decisions, its view point has been given due consideration. It includes semi-structured interviews of the block development officer and a forest guard of Mandu block in Ramgarh district.