



Niyamgiri Bauxite Mine Environmental Impact Assessment

The following extracts are taken from the *Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment* report commissioned by Sterlite Industries Ltd (an Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources plc), for the planned Bauxite Mine in Niyamgiri. The full document runs to several hundred pages.

The land required for the proposed mining lease area of 1073.4 hectares is to be acquired which will entail displacement of some people. Exact number of displaced people will be available after detailed enumeration.

Executive Summary
Description of the proposed project & operations, pg 3

Ecology

The mining lease area is situated on a plateau on top of Niyamadangar hill. The steep escarpments, which ring the plateau, are covered with dense forests with variable tree density ranging from 1300 to 1400 trees per acre. The core zone forms part of the Niyamagiri hills. Almost the entire area is classified as "Reserved Forest" including Batarilima, Niyamagiri, Patragurha, Khambesi and Raula Jhimri reserve forests along with several other patches. However, the actual bauxite deposit sites characteristically have little vegetation.

Being mainly a forest area, the study area (the area within 10 km from the project site) shows wide faunal diversity and abundance. The area exhibits a well-balanced ecosystem with a poised prey-predator relationship. The secondary data identifies a variety of faunal species under categories like endangered and vulnerable as per the Zoological Survey of India's Red Data Book. However, primary survey does not show all of the mammalian species listed in the secondary data. Common Langoor, Rhesus Monkey, Palm Squirrel etc. are seen in the study area (the area within 10 km from the project site).

Executive Summary
Ecology, pg 7

Land environment

The proposed project will result in change in land use pattern. There will be reduction in the forest cover (mainly reserve forest cover). This negative impact however, shall be mitigated by proposed compensatory afforestation as per relevant regulations and directives of competent authorities. In addition, after exploitation of bauxite, the pits and trenches shall be backfilled by overburden and top-soil and plantation shall be done on the closed pits and trenches.

Also, the project shall cause population displacement. However, a Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan in compliance with the relevant Orissa Government guidelines is developed, the implementation of which will ensure minimum adverse impacts.

Executive Summary
Land environment, pg 9

The villages falling within the mining lease area are Palabir, Phuldumer and Konakadu of Kalahandi district and Lakhapadar of Rayagada district.

Chapter 1. Introduction
Section 1.4, pg 1-7