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## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

SHARAT KUMAR PALITA\*, DEBABRATA PANDA AND JAYANTA KUMAR NAYAK

Indigenous peoples around the world are essentially dependent on the environment and natural resources for their everyday survival as a result of their livelihood strategies. In India, various indigenous peoples live close to the vicinity of forests and have managed and conserved the biodiversity of their localities for a long time. In this study, the conservation of biodiversity and natural resource by the indigenous communities through their traditional belief systems, animism, and conservation of sacred groves have been analysed and a way forward has been suggested.