

Directorate of Environment

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 Collection of underground water sample from prescribed stations and analysis.
 Creating mass awareness on environment; publication and distribution of handbills and booklets etc.
 Necessary investigation and observation on the basis of application of mills/factories to be established and clearance thereof.
 Analysing sample of water/liquid waste brought by different individuals or establishments.
 Filing suits as part of controlling steps against continuously polluting establishments.
 Discharging responsibilities laid on including exchange of information regarding environment as focal point in Bangladesh of UNEP, SACEP,

ESCAP, IRPTC etc international and regional organisations.
 Providing registration for insecticide and coordinating with Plant Protection Department on its restricted use.
 Observation of air quality, EIA scrutiny and approval and intimation and advise for EIA; Consultation with FPCCO on environment acceptability of Flood Action Plan, etc.
 With gradual increase in environment awareness and need for environment conservation in the country it has become necessary to further strengthen the environment management programme. Although it is not practicable for the Directorate of Environment alone to dis-

charge the greater responsibility, but the Directorate has to play the leading role in that. Of late Environment policy and relevant practical programme have been approved and new Environment Act is awaiting approval. New appointment rule is at the final stage of approval and soon it is approved, increase in the manpower strength would be possible. To modernise the laboratories and to test air and sound side by side with water and liquid waste, the laboratories of the Directorate are being replete with such testing equipment.
 Number of transports of the Directorate has been increased to ease movement on various government duties, project inspection, complaint investiga-

tion, sample collection etc. The drawing for the Directorate's own building on its own plot at Agargaon has already been made ready. The Directorate is working towards making its sphere of activities definite, well-laid and effective and towards this end the Directorate is increasing its coordination and cooperation with other government and private bodies in discharging its various roles.
 People's participation is a must for appropriate environment management and the overall development of the country's environment is possible only through involvement of the people. The Directorate of Environment is aware of the fact and it is hoped, the reflection will be there in its future activities.

BIO-DIVERSITY

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face and now only cover to the extent of 29 million square kilometers. Every year, an average of 180,000 square kilometers of tropical forest and woodlands are cleared for shifting cultivation, permanent agriculture and also through un-sustainable logging.

The situation in Bangladesh if not worse, is in no way better. Total forest area of the country is approximately 2.45 million ha, or about 17% of the total land area but actual forest coverage has declined over the past 20 years to about 1.58 million ha, i.e. 11% of the total land. The situation is no doubt alarming. The development strategy for forest management centres around prevention of encroachment, adoption of selected felling of natural trees, development of homestead forestry and preservation of the country's reserve forest areas, special attention should be given to reverse the recent trend of clearing mangrove forest areas for shrimp cultivation — a situation which has resulted in the total destruction of the biological resources of the Chakaria Sundraban forest in Cox's Bazar district.

In order to counter all these adverse situation and there by to protect out forest the store house of biological resources, we must have explicit long term goals for national forest policy. In doing so local communities should be involved in forest management by ensuring sustainable livelihoods from the forest without damage. Let us care and share the biological diversity of our forests so that we can leave a congenial environment for our posterity.

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- * বায়ু মন্ডলের আর্দ্রতা বাড়ায়ে,
- * ভূমির উর্বরতা বৃদ্ধি করে,
- * বন্যার প্রকোপ হ্রাস করে,
- * মূর্খিভাড়া ও সাময়িক জলোচ্ছ্বাস প্রতিহত করে,
- * আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা আনে।

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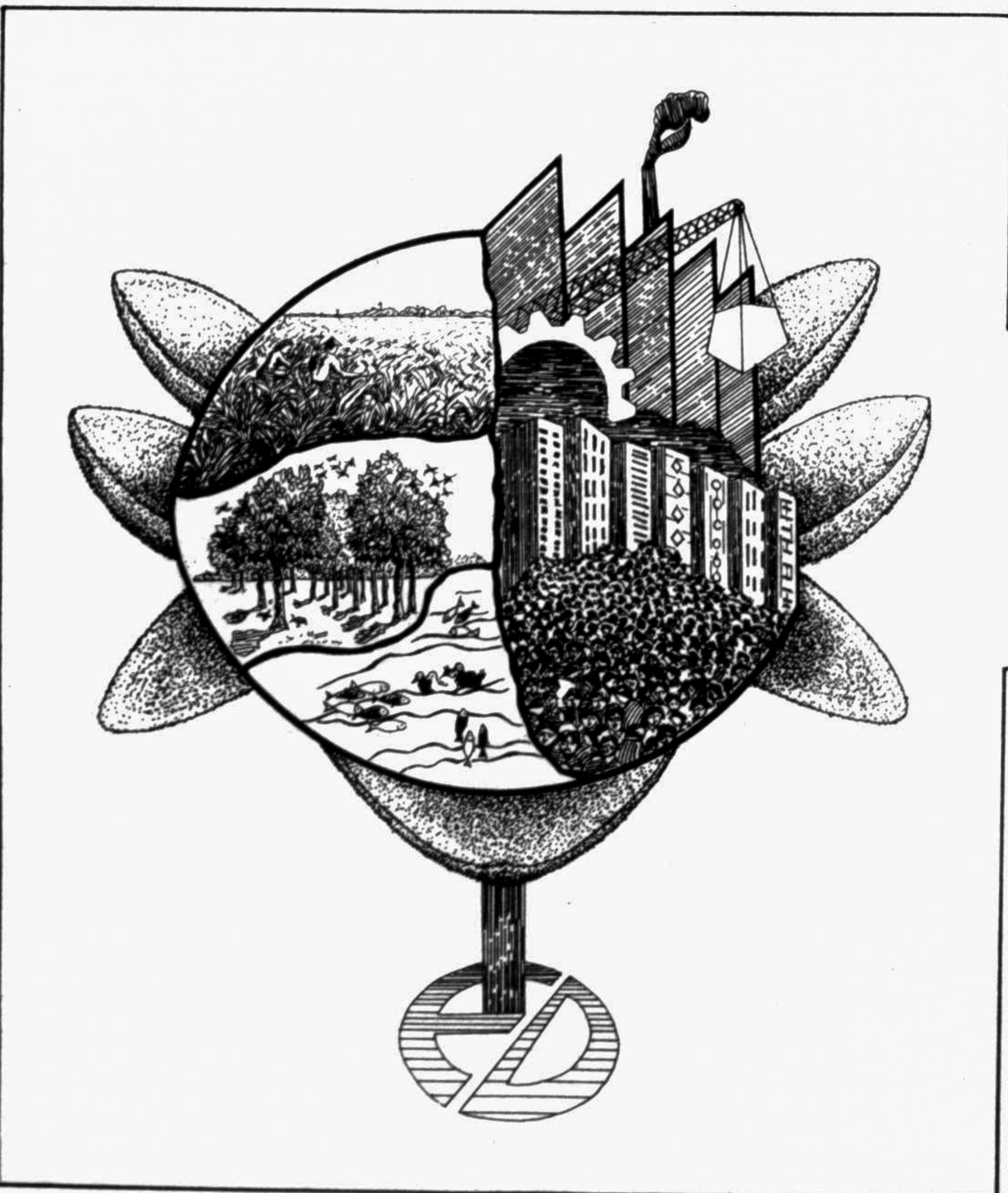
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