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**A Community's Strategy of Using an Environmental NGO :  
A Case Study of a Community Living by Mining in Minas Gerais / Brazil**

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**Abstract**

The purpose of this paper is to clarify a community's strategy of using an environmental NGO to the community's advantage. With recent movements of sustainable development in Brazil, environmental NGOs are now widely working on a regulation of mining and its attendant nature destruction. People in the community are in favor of sustaining a relationship with an environmental NGO, even though they destroy nature making a living by mining. Why do they voluntarily try to keep it around while they disregard the NGO's intended meaning?

In response, environmental activists would explain that the community gradually begins agreeing with the NGO's intention on the point of nature preservation. However, this environmental activist's explanation answers only half the question. As has been mentioned, the community has partly declined the NGO's offer of nature preservation.

In this paper, the attempt will be made to understand the community's strategy of using the NGO for community's use. In short, the paper tries to analyze which meaning the environmental NGO's presence has for those who are in the community destroying nature for a living. To clarify their strategy, the paper will look at the movement of two groups that were organized inside the community. In 2005, they all have come to be thrown into unemployment after being informed their illegal mining. The paper will focus on the logic of two groups by looking at how they come to arrive at the same conclusion of the prospects for the future. In conclusion, the paper clarifies the strategic meaning of using the environmental NGO as a reserved supporter for making the community subsist in today's wind of sustainable development.

Key words: environmental NGO, volunteer, Brazil, sustainable development