

Tata Mundra Client Stories

Patel Budha Ismail Jam

Patel (title for a leader) Budha Ismail Jam is fisherman who lives most of the year on Tragadi *bunder* (fishing harbor). Each year at the start of the fishing season, he and his family travel to Tragadi *bunder* where they live and work for 8-9 months. He and his sons go out on boats to fish in the sea around the *bunder*. The fish they bring back are laid out to dry on bamboo racks and processed by hand and sold to traders.

Tragadi *bunder* is now located directly next to the outfall channel of the Tata Mundra Plant. Construction of the plant's outfall channel destroyed many aspects of Tragadi *bunder*. Land that Tragadi residents used for their homes and for fish drying was taken over by the outfall channel, leaving less space for the residents. Mangroves and sand dunes, which are both protected under Indian law, were also destroyed, he says. "Despite what the company says, we have seen the company bulldoze the mangroves." The outfall channel also restricted access to the *bunder*, increasing the distance to the *bunder* and the costs the residents must pay to travel to and from the *bunder*.

The outfall channel discharges enormous quantities of hot water into the sea right around the *bunder*. "In the morning and at night, you can see steam coming off the outfall channel. It never feels like winter anymore, it is always warm now." The thermal pollution has significantly affected the local ecosystem, in particular, the fish stocks.

"The fish catch has been declining since 2011. The last three years have been particularly bad. In one day, I used to catch three times as much fish as I have caught in the last 7 days." They can no longer catch the more valuable fish, shrimp and other seafood. "Only the cheaper fish are still here."

"People are already saying they don't know if we will be able to come back next year. I don't know what other profession I could do to support my family."

"We used to fish on foot, too, but we can't anymore. There is no point, you won't catch anything worthwhile. We used to fish in boats closer to the shore, but now we have to fish further off the coast."

There used to be a well on the *bunder* they could use for drinking water, but now it is too salty to drink. "We have to rely on getting drinking water from the company. But they don't give us enough."

The *bunder* also has to deal with coal dust and ash from the plant, which contaminates the fish laid out to dry and makes people sick. "We didn't used to have much illness here." But now, there are respiratory problems, and the kids get skin problems when they play in the water near the outfall channel. "This didn't happen before the plant started operating."

"We are happy that through this case, our concerns will finally be heard."

Sidik Kasam Jam

Sidik Kasam Jam is a fisherman who lives most of the year with his family on Kotadi *bunder* (fishing harbor), along with about 50 other families.



Kotadi bunder is located right next to the intake channel and near the coal conveyor belt that transports coal from the port to the Plant.

He and his family used to live on “old” Kotadi bunder during the fishing season, which was located on the eastern side of where the intake channel is now located. But when construction started about 7 years ago, the residents were forced to leave and relocate to the other side of the intake channel, to what they now call “new” Kotadi bunder.

“Adani and Tata have put huge pipelines across the bunder, which they use to dredge the intake channel. The pipes go right next to our homes and where we process the fish.” He says they “frequently burst”, spreading the sludge and muck into their area.

“The fish catch has gone down around here, and it is even worse this year. We used to catch so many things, lobster, tiger prawns, Indian salmon, gol, pomfret and Bombay Duck. It isn’t the same anymore.”

“I don’t know what I will do if the fish catch doesn’t get better. I don’t know what the other residents of Kotadi will do. People will have to try to find manual labor jobs, what else can they do? We are fishermen. Worst case, our children will have to beg.”

“We can’t fish close to shore anymore because of all the ship traffic around the Adani and Tata plants. If our nets are in the water when the ships come, they cut it and destroy it. We can’t fish by foot anymore either since the intake channel was built. The channel is so deep, we can’t wade out into the water anymore.”

The coal dust is also a big problem for Sidik and the other Kotadi residents. “When the conveyor belt runs, the coal dust blows towards the bunder. People have respiratory problems now. The elderly are the worst affected. You can see the dust on the fish we lay out to dry.”

“Tata has done nothing to benefit the community here, not even CSR projects.”

Mr. Sidik Jam hopes that his losses and especially the loss of his livelihood will be mitigated through this case. But also, “through this case, we hope that IFC would be more careful in their investments in the future and that people who are affected by projects funded by the World Bank Group will be better heard at all stages of the projects.”

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