COASTAL COAL CAPITAL
STORIES FROM TAMILNADU, INDIA
SAGARMALA - CHAIN OF PORTS
PORTS AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Proposed coastal economic zones

- Major port
- Non-major port
- Proposed CEZ
COASTAL MARINE FISHERIES SUPPORT MORE THAN 10,00,000 FISHERS FROM OVER 600 FISHING VILLAGES IN TAMILNADU
EYE IMPACTS OF OUR COAL BASED ENERGY CHOICES

- Ecological Health

- Land Use Changes
  - Polluted Landscapes
  - Low Ecological Productivity

- Human Health
  - Mental Health - Stress, Anxiety, Depression
  - Physical Health - Respiratory, Cardio-Vascular, Neurological, Cancer
ENNORE
CHENNAI’S
SACRIFICE
ZONE

Ennore Creek in 1965

Map: CRC
TAMILNADU’S COAL HUB
ECOLOGICAL HEALTH CRISIS
Livelihoods Destroyed Due To High Levels of Pollution In Fish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lead (0.30 Mg/Kg)</th>
<th>Cadmium (0.05 Mg/Kg)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>50X</td>
<td>2X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prawn</td>
<td>44X</td>
<td>24X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>22X</td>
<td>18X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEPPAKKAM - A Village In Ash

Photo: Vishvaja Sambath
KEY FINDINGS

- Residents face severe illnesses - respiratory, skin
- No basic facilities - Drinking water, health care facilities or public transportation

“If we dry anything outside it will get covered with ash and dust in no time. If we go and stand on the road for even a short while, we will get covered with ash and dust”

- Resident of Sepakkam
KURUVIMEDU - The Sparrow Hill

Photo: Greg McNevin

Photo: Sajan Ponappa

Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2019 TerraMetrics
KEY FINDINGS

• Dry cough
• body pain,
• loss of appetite
• breathlessness
• skin allergies
• A SITE OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN
MINJUR - Collateral Damage

Photo: Vishvaja Sambath

Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Photo: Vishvaja Sambath
PRELIMINARY HEALTH ASSESSMENT IN MINJUR

- Residents, especially street vendors faced pollution load from trucks carrying coal and coal ash
- Respiratory illness and skin allergy was reported.
But are fossil fuel the cause of health decline in Ennore?

Case of Cheyyur

- Proposed site of 4000 MW UMPP
- Baseline health study in 13 villages - 266 people surveyed
- Only 1% reported chronic illnesses compared to more than 15% in Ennore

Only difference - no polluting industries in Cheyyur
COAL = CLIMATE EFFECTS
COAL = LOCAL EFFECTS

• Local Landscapes Transformed - Undoing Natural Climate Resilience

• Erasure of Local Economies - Livelihood Costs Externalised

• Human Costs made invisible - Health Costs Externalised

• Coal industries have only impoverished local communities instead of improving quality of life