

Defenders of Mother Earth:
Bandhaura Village
Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh, India



Local women from Bandhaura village in Singrauli doing "dharna" (sit in protest) for over a month against the Essar coal power plant's fly-ash dump invading their homes and agricultural fields.



Protesting women walking to confront the Essar Power officials. The unprotected, invading fly-ash dump is visible on their right.



The coal for Essar's [Mahan Super Thermal Power Project](#) was to be sourced from the Mahan forest. But local villagers joined forces against the clear-cut of hundreds of trees and formed the Mahan Sangharsh Samiti (MSS) in 2013. Advocate Madan Jaiswal helped the local women's struggle initially.

In March 2015, the villagers celebrated a great victory as the government stopped the auction of the Mahan coal block due to continuous protests by MSS supported by Greenpeace India: <http://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/Press/Mahan-celebrates-democracy-and-the-victory-of-peoplesrights-Villagers-protest-against-Land-Acquisition-Bill/>

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-ELcMPXRMk>

Background Information:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/Press/Forested-blocks-will-face-clearance-delays-tribal-opposition-legal-challenges-Greenpeace-cautions-coal-bidders/>

Like the organization who took action for saving the Mahan forest on Facebook and drop them a message of support:

<https://www.facebook.com/MahanSangharshSamiti>