

## **Case Brief- SEZ in India: Balancing Economic and Ecological Priorities**

The Environment Ministry had granted a conditional environmental clearance to the Adani Port & SEZ Ltd. after a PIL was filed in the Gujarat High Court by local farmers and activists, that the SEZ construction had led to a huge loss of coastal biodiversity, rendering the local inhabitations vulnerable in the face of natural disasters. The conditions were placed to ensure that the loss to local ecology such as creeks and mangroves along with the loss of livelihoods of local farmers and fishermen were to be mitigated by the Adani Group. While some of the legal issues were resolved in the Gujarat High Court, some parts of the case are ongoing in the Supreme Court.

The case looks at the complex dynamics and interests involved in the creation of SEZs in India. Focussing on the Adani Port & SEZ Ltd (APSEZ) in Mundra, Gujarat, it delves into how major industrial development affects local communities and ecosystems, and that how economic interests are often intertwined with ecological costs. The case study also aims to provide the perspective of major corporations and how they deal with environmental clearances and environmental impact assessments in the Indian context. The researchers have worked in close collaboration with local Mundra farmers, activists and representatives of the Adani Group, i.e. all stakeholders involved in legal battle for APSEZ development.