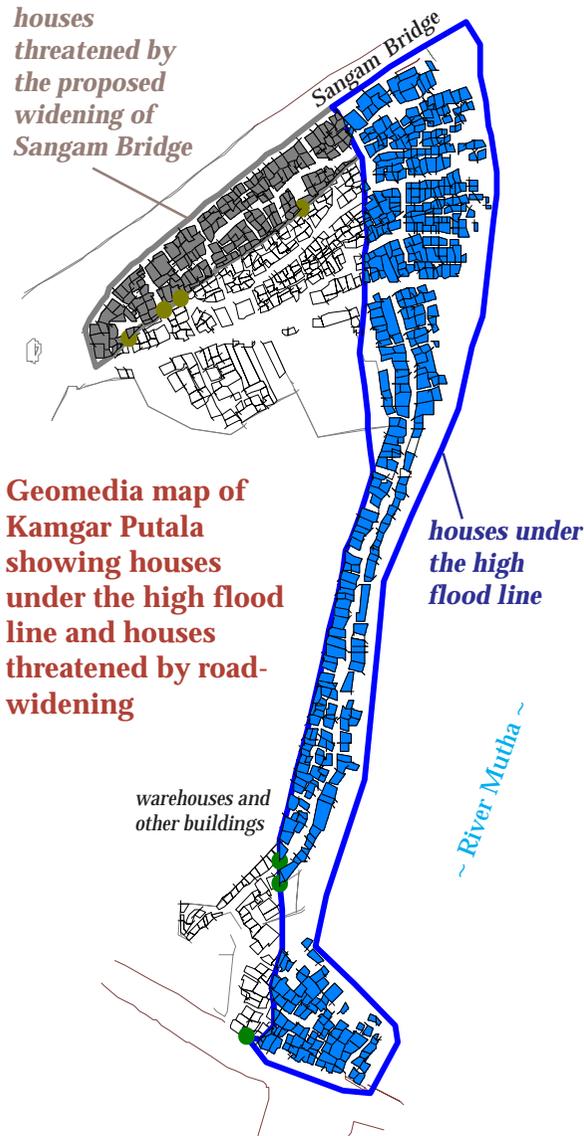


Baandhani at Kamgar Putala

The story of Baandhani at Kamgar Putala goes back to the floods in 1997. The settlement is located along the River Mutha at Shivaji Nagar. The community suffers some flooding every year, but 1997 was the worst yet: one third of the settlement went under water that year. After the floods had subsided, a massive survey of all the slums along the River Mutha was carried out by collectives of Pune slumdweller together with a federation from Mumbai (see *By The Water* for the full report). At Kamgar Putala, the women got together after the surveys; the '97 floods kick-started a new process of



motion a river improvement project, covering a whole range of aspects, with a whole crew of experts to advise. But the riverside slums, and the thousands of women and men living in them, weren't included. The River Workshop aimed to put this right. Women from several slums spoke about the hazards they face living along the river and

LEFT: 372 houses went under water in the floods of 1997
BELOW: the collectives invited prominent Pune citizens to the River Workshop

community building. The women started daily savings schemes and holding community meetings. The collective grew. In 1998, Kamgar Putala Baandhani played a key role in the River Workshop, at the Dattawadi project site. The PMC had set in



stressed that they would have to be centrally involved in any potential resettlement schemes.

Meanwhile the women set about improving their existing local environment. They started using vermiculture to decompose their wet waste and produce manure to sell.

A previous Additional Commissioner visited twice to check on their progress, and showed a lot of interest in the work of the collective.



ABOVE: A previous Additional Commissioner visited the vermiculture project

It also turned out that the municipality was planning to widen the Sangam Bridge, which runs alongside Kamgar Putala. When this proposal and the 1997 floodline are drawn on to a map of the settlement, only 25% of the settlement is not **directly** affected, although their facilities are, as well as the homes of

BELOW: the community leaders explained their resettlement ideas to a previous Municipal Commissioner

their friends and family. This means that any resettlement scheme would have to include everyone.

The collective started up housing savings, and the people are now ready to make downpayments for housing loans, if and when resettlement becomes a reality. The women are negotiating hard with the PMC.

They have held meetings with a previous Municipal Commissioner, and Additional Commissioner, to explain the difficulties they face in their current location, and their willingness and capability to work on their own resettlement scheme.



RIGHT: the community held a meeting to discuss the possibility of resettlement

SLUM INFORMATION

SURVEY NUMBER: 806
WARD NUMBER: 101
RATION WARD: K

Nearest amenities:

hospital: Sassoon
school: 10 minutes
bus stop: 10 minutes
police station: Shivaji Nagar
telephone: in slum
market: in slum/Shivaji Nagar

7 TOILET BLOCKS

person to toilet ratio:
male 52:1
female 52:1

38 WATER STAND POSTS

person to tap ratio: 13: 1
NB: 40% of households have individual water taps

paving, gutters, street lights



LEFT: the settlement is located right along the river.

