

SECURING THE FUTURE OF MANGROVES

A policy brief published by UNESCO

The Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO published in 2013 the Policy Brief [Securing the Future of Mangroves](#).

The Policy Brief, based on the [World Atlas of Mangroves](#), up-to-date information on the current status of mangrove ecosystems and their most pressing threats. Mangrove forests cover an area of around 152,000 km² in 123 tropical and sub-tropical nations and territories. Continued loss of mangrove forests will have serious ecological and socio-economic impacts. On the basis of studies demonstrating that the mangroves induce much more economic resources and services than any other alternative utilization of the spaces, the interested Countries are actually spending significant efforts in the restoration of their habitat.

A mangrove is a set of trees characterized by excellent skills in order to survive and develop itself on coastal soils and areas flooded by highly saline waters. Because of the relevant biodiversity hosted, it constitutes an unique and not replaceable ecosystem. The aerial roots of its trees capture the atmospheric oxygen and give it to the buried roots, so giving them the chances to survive in a soil characterized by high levels of salinity and absence of oxygen. The mangroves host many animal species, such as birds, fishes, molluscs, crustaceans, beyond their capability of protecting the shores against the erosion. The intensive breeding activities of the prawns and of the langoustines represent the heaviest danger of disappearance of these singular ecosystems that historically granted important food resources for the local communities.

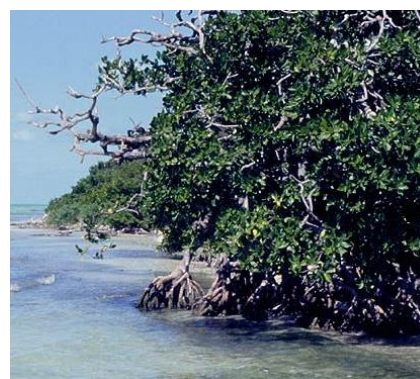
The Policy Brief *Securing the Future of Mangroves* stress that Mangrove ecosystem is valuable both economically and ecologically, offering a considerable array of ecosystem goods and services. They are vital for the wellbeing, food security, and protection of coastal communities worldwide and are also rich in biodiversity. Specifically, the mangroves are natural ecosystems characterized by high levels of primary productivity, due to their big production of organic matter: they act as nurseries for many fish and shellfish varieties, serve as living space for many species of other sea organisms and birds, protect the shore against the erosion, the heavy sea, the storms and the hurricanes, and they work as lung of the environment, since they produce oxygen through elaborating the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere.

The text describes which instruments and measures are readily available to help conserve and manage mangrove ecosystems for the future. In particular, the text presents some successful experiences realized around the world with regards to conservation, management, and policy measures for protecting mangroves.

Securing the Future of Mangroves

[UNESCO Policy Brief introduction](#)

[UNESCO Policy Brief full publication](#)



To know more

[FAO world's mangroves 1980-2005](#)

[Mangrove Atlas press release](#)

[Mangrove Atlas press release in Spanish](#)

[World Atlas of Mangroves presented by UNEP](#)

[Mangroves sustainable management in Malaysia](#)

[Inventario Nacional de Manglares de México](#)

