CAUSES OF MANGROVE DESTRUCTION AND METHODOLOGY FOR ITS RESTORATION

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ABSTRACT

As a group of plants, mangroves share several specialised adaptations that have allowed them to colonise and thrive in intertidal areas. Mangrove forests are extremely important coastal resources, which are vital to our socio-economic development. The mangroves are sources of highly valued commercial products and fishery resources and also as sites for developing a burgeoning eco-tourism. Mangrove forests continue to disappear all over the world, they were estimated to cover 18.1 million km\textsuperscript{2} area worldwide but a more recent estimate indicates that the figure may now be below 15 million km\textsuperscript{2}. Habitat destruction through human encroachment has been the primary cause of mangrove loss. The destruction is caused either knowingly or unknowingly of values of mangroves, but certainly ignoring the consequence of the loss. Mangrove restoration is the regeneration of mangrove forest ecosystems in areas where they have previously existed. The practice of mangrove restoration is grounded in the discipline of restoration ecology, which aims to assist the recovery of resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Since environmental impacts are an ongoing threat, to successfully restore an ecosystem implies not merely to recreate its former condition, but to strengthen its capacity to adapt to change over time. Mangroves are the life supporting tree for most living organisms. The three main species of mangroves discussed herein are considered to be the most abundant and each of these species has their own unique characteristics. Approximately 80 plant species have been labelled as mangroves and there is need of more research to document the variety of mangrove species throughout the world, which can provide the opportunity to learn more about the contributions that mangroves make to our environment.

KEYWORDS: plants, Mangrove forests, organisms.

References


