

Community commitment and participation in Mangrove Conservation in a Changing Climate: A Review

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Abstract

Mangrove forest is known as a blue carbon ecosystem that is capable of mitigating climate change. Community commitment and participation is important towards the sustainability of mangrove forest. This report review the approaches to community commitment and participation in Malaysia, encompassing case studies on mangrove-associated villagers in Malaysia. Data were collected from journal articles, technical papers, and active websites. Malaysia performed dismally in its support of community management for coastal management(s), especially in the case of the mangrove ecosystem. Almost all of the projects for coastal and mangrove managements are driven by the federal government. Despite community management being highlighted in the 9th National Plan, poor support and integration by community and limited agency capacity are some of the factors plaguing the sustainability of the coastal management. Maintaining the effort from participating community and agencies remain a challenge due to the simultaneous developments taking place near the river and mangrove ecosystems close to the Malaysian coastline, while the participating community and agencies are more interested in the immediate financial benefit. Based on case studies, the uncooperative group within the participating are loosely linked to the social capital, which has a major influence towards helping individuals/communities take active control of their lives, such as their environmental circumstances. In order to develop an effective intervention strategy towards mangrove conservation in climate change, there is a need to empower the community via the provision of equipment alongside fundamental education to increase the community's socio-economic status, which has the effect of closing the social gap. This is expected to lead to collection of direct information from participants, which could help the government come up with an excellent development plant, especially via the partnership approach.