

Diversity and mangrove ecosystem

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Abstract

Mangrove is a collection of plants inhabiting the land-sea interface, common in tropical and sub-tropical regions. They thrive in conditions of variable salinity, flow and ebb tides, strong winds, high temperatures, and soft muddy-to-hard substrates. They adapt and survive in these conditions due to specific morphological and physiological modifications. Mangroves form unique environments that support diverse assemblages of flora and fauna species and act as refugia and habitats for fish juveniles, with their adult counterparts occupying other habitats, e.g., seagrass beds and coral. Mangroves are commonly found near shorelines, making them susceptible to disturbances and threats from people and coastal development activities. If left to its own devices, habitat destruction via human-induced activities, which is the primary cause of mangrove loss, is most likely to continue. Malaysia's Matang mangroves, which has been around since 1910, is the world's best example of conservation and management practices on sustainable harvesting of mangrove forests.