

ROLE OF COMMUNITIES IN MANGROVE MANAGEMENT

1. Establishing Village Mangrove Action Committees (VMACs) to monitor restoration sites;
2. Creating Mangrove Reserve Producers Cooperative Societies (MRPCS) for community members to engage in alternative livelihood activities; and
3. Becoming rangers and tour guides for visitors and researchers.

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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MANGROVES



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WHAT ARE MANGROVES?

Mangroves are trees that generally grow above the average tidal level in a wet coastal environment. Mangrove forests are among the most productive ecosystems lying between the land and sea. In recent years, the gradual removal of mangrove forests by both natural events and human activities has exposed the coast to high velocity waves and wind. Guyana's coastal mangroves are therefore threatened by erosion cycles and mud bank movements. The situation is worsened because many coastal communities have been indiscriminately destroying mangroves.

WHY ARE MANGROVES IMPORTANT?

1. Mangroves help to protect the coast by taking up some of the energy from strong waves and wind, and shielding the land on one side;
2. They assist in trapping sediments and stabilizing shoreline materials on which some organisms live, grow, or obtain nutrients;
3. Fishes depend on food chains which can be traced back to mangrove forests; and
4. Mangroves support many livelihood activities for coastal and riverine communities. These activities include fisheries, honey production, and handicraft.

FACTS ABOUT GUYANA'S MANGROVES

1. Guyana has three species of mangroves. These are:
 - Black Mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*),
 - Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*),
 - White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*);
2. Most of Guyana's mangroves occupy sections of reclaimed wetland and serve as nursery habitat for many marine species; and
3. The country's sea defence system consists of approximately 145 kilometres of mangrove forests, compared to 100 kilometres of stone walls (1.3 metres high), 80 kilometres of natural sand banks, and 15 kilometres of rip-rap or granitic stone.