

ITTO Tropical Forest

UPDATE

A newsletter from the International Tropical Timber Organization to promote the conservation and sustainable development of tropical forests



Mapping mangroves

Mangroves are highly productive, biodiversity-rich forest ecosystems adapted to survive in the harsh interface between land and sea. They provide resources such as timber, firewood, thatching materials and a wide range of other products, they serve as habitat for fisheries, and they help protect coastlines from tsunamis, storm surges and erosion. But they are under threat. An estimated 35 600 km² were lost between 1980 and 2005, and the annual rate of loss between 2000 and 2005 was 0.66%.

Recognizing the importance of mangroves and the peril they face, a consortium of organizations—ITTO, ISME, FAO, UNESCO-MAB, UNEP-WCMC, UNU-INWEH and TNC¹—worked together to produce the 2010 World Atlas of Mangroves, a follow-up to an Atlas published by ITTO and ISME in 1997 and the most comprehensive worldwide study ever undertaken on mangrove ecosystems. This special edition of the TFO summarizes its main findings.

Special edition summarizing the findings of the 2010 World Atlas of Mangroves

