



Mangroves

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MANGROVES

*Diverse group of salt-tolerant plant communities found in the (tropical/subtropical) coastal intertidal zone *

CHARACTERISTICS ↴

- Survive under hostile environments (high salt, low oxygen)
- Their roots (pneumatophores) absorb oxygen from atmosphere
- Thick succulent leaves to store fresh water

MANGROVE COVER ↴

- Global: Asia > Africa > North and Central America > S America
- India (ISFR 2021): West Bengal > Gujarat > A&N Islands > Andhra Pradesh > Maharashtra

Sunderbans - World's largest single patch of Mangrove forests

SIGNIFICANCE ↴

- Stabilise the coastline and reduce soil erosion
- Protection against cyclones
- Improve water quality by absorbing nutrients
- Important carbon sink

THREATS ↴

- Commercialisation of coastal areas
- Emergence of shrimp farms
- Temperature fluctuations (Mangroves can't survive freezing temperatures)

CONSERVATION MEASURES

Global

- Inclusion of Mangroves in Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Mangroves for the Future Initiative (IUCN & UNDP)
- Mangrove Alliance for Climate (UNFCCC COP27)

India

- National Mangrove Committee (1976)
- Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) (Union Budget 2023-24)

International Day for Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem - July 26 (UNESCO)



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