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## Climate Change, Mangrove & Sustainable Management

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Title

Mangroves: A ray of hope. Mangroves are not waste, they are best.

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**Abstract** 

A mangroveis a shrub or small tree that grows in coastal saline or brackish water and also occur in the coastal intertidal zones of tropics and the sub-tropics. Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees, also called halophytes, and are adapted to life in harsh coastal conditions. They contain a complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope with salt water immersion and wave action. Mangroves are tropical species generally found on sheltered coastlines and estuaries. Till about 1960s, mangroves were largely viewed as "economically unproductive areas" and were therefore destroyed for reclaiming land for various economic activities. Gradually, however, the economic and ecological advantages of mangroves have become visible and their importance is appreciated. Every ecosystem supports human life by giving direct or indirect benefits and services. Mangrove areas are one among the most productive ecosystems on this planet.In terms of economic value, mangroves provide huge benefits. The total economic values for mangrove habitats hence range from US\$ 2,772 ha yr up to as much as US\$ 80,334 ha yr (average US\$ 28,662 ha yr ). Mangrove forests have often been seen as unproductive and smelly, and so cleared to make room for agricultural land, human settlements and infrastructure (such as harbours), and industrial areas. More than 35% of the world's mangroves are already gone. Recognizing the need and importance of mangroves, a Public Interest Litigation was filed by Mr. Debi Goenka in the Bombay High Court, seeking the Court's intervention to inhibit the destruction of Mangroves. Through the efforts of CAT, about 14500 hectares of mangroves have been notified as forest areas in the state of Maharashtra.

**Key words**: Mangrove, Halophytes, Ecosystems.

