

5 awesome facts about mangroves



In many parts of the world mangroves are considered dirty, mosquito-infested tangles of roots, however, some argue that mangroves are the most important ecosystems on Earth.

Mangroves provide habitat for fish and shellfish but also provide protection against storms, making them crucial to the livelihoods of many coastal communities.

Mangroves are hotspots of biodiversity

They form the foundation of highly productive and biologically rich ecosystems, providing a home, nursery and feeding ground for a wide range of species of fish, crustacea, birds, insects and reptiles.

Mangroves protect the shoreline against rising sea levels and storms

Mangroves buffer against rising sea levels and storms and help keep the coastline in place, protecting properties and infrastructure. Their dense root system holds soil in place and absorbs wind and wave energy.

Mangroves can live for up to 100 years

Mangroves can therefore record the effects of changing environmental conditions in their structure and composition. By monitoring these factors, information can be obtained relating to the overall health of the marine environment.

Mangroves take carbon out of the atmosphere

A patch of mangroves could absorb as much as 10 times the carbon of a similarly sized patch of terrestrial forest, helping our systems adapt to the impacts of climate change and reducing atmospheric CO₂ which drives the change.

Mangroves can tolerate salt water

Mangroves are the only species of trees in the world that can tolerate saltwater. They are halophytes, meaning they can tolerate salt and are able to live in areas where oceans and seas meet the land.

