

# What if we lost **OUR Mangroves**



## WITHOUT MANGROVES SOME FISH AND SHELLFISH WOULD BE WITHOUT SHELTER

**M**angroves provide sheltered nursery areas in which the juveniles of many marine species live and grow before moving elsewhere as adults.

## WITHOUT MANGROVES SOME FISH AND SHELLFISH WOULD BE WITHOUT FOOD

**N**utrients dissolved in water running off the land are taken up and used by mangroves.

Mangrove leaves fall and rot away to form detritus — particles of material, that provide food for many animals. These smaller animals provide food for many larger fish.

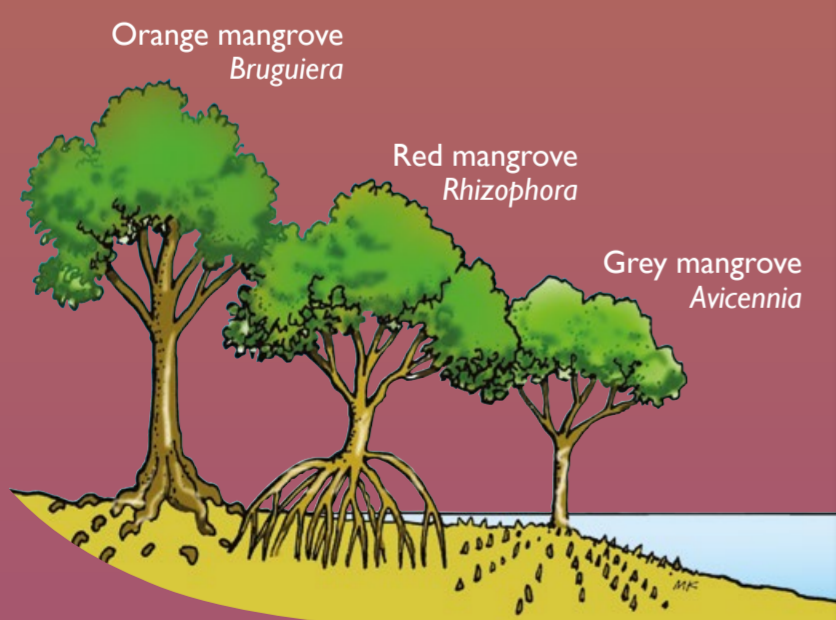
## WITHOUT MANGROVES OUR COASTS WOULD HAVE LESS PROTECTION

**T**he exposed roots of mangroves trap particles and sediments which gradually build up and protect coasts from wave action and erosion as well as from storms and cyclones which are predicted to become intense with global warming.

## WITHOUT MANGROVES OUR CORAL REEFS WOULD BE AT RISK

**M**angroves are effective at trapping sticky clumps of sediments mixed with nutrients (called flocs) that can smother small corals.

## What are MANGROVES?



About eighty different trees that live at the edge of the sea are collectively known as mangroves.

Many mangroves have evolved exposed (or aerial) roots that absorb oxygen as well as support the tree. The orange mangrove has knee roots that stick up above the silt, the red mangrove has long prop roots that grow down from the trunk, and the grey mangrove has cable roots which send up small pegs or pneumatophores.



A series information sheets has been produced by SPC ([www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int)) and LMMA ([www.lmmanetwork.org](http://www.lmmanetwork.org)), which includes a specific sheet on mangroves. This information sheet lists a few of the actions we can take to protect and manage mangroves.

For further information, or to obtain copies of this poster and the SPC/LMMA Information kit for fishing communities, contact:

