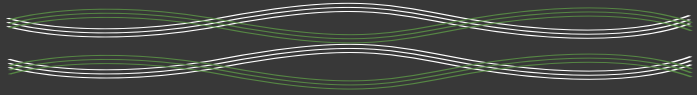


MANGROVE

IN ABU DHABI EMIRATE

FACT SHEET



MANGROVE:

Mangroves are woody plants or shrubs occupying intertidal zones. The salt-tolerant trees flourish in very harsh conditions of hypersaline water and inundation.

Mangroves are among the most productive coastal ecosystems in the world, providing a variety of ecological and economical services, making them a critical marine habitat.

Mangroves help regulate climate change by storing carbon, they provide food and shelter to many marine and bird species, and harbor high densities of juvenile fish acting as a nursery area.

Mangroves also help protect shorelines from flooding, storms, and erosion, acting as a coastline shield.

The only dominant species found in Abu Dhabi Emirate is the grey mangrove (*Avicennia marina*), locally called 'Qurm'.



STATUS:

Globally, mangroves are declining at an alarming rate. The rate of mangroves loss have been at its highest decades. The threats facing mangroves are from direct human activities, such as coastal development and land conversion, and from climate change, in particular sea-level rise.

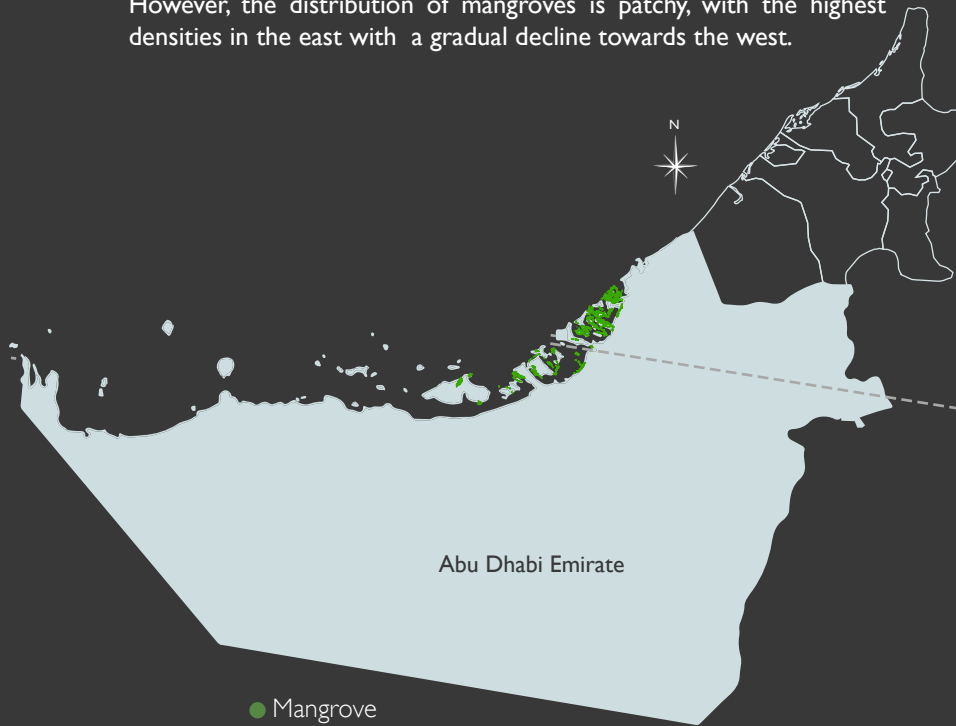
A representative sample of forest structure of Mangroves in Abu Dhabi, indicates a majority of healthy trees across the coastline. Within the sampled plots, the average height of mature mangroves reached approximately 5 metres with an average circumference of up to 40 cm, and an average height for young trees reaching up to 3 metres with a circumference of up to 20 cm.

Mangroves in Abu Dhabi are classified as one of the most critical marine habitats.

DISTRIBUTION:

Mangroves occur along the entire coastline of Abu Dhabi Emirate, they cover a total area of 76 km², and are typically associated with saltmarsh species.

However, the distribution of mangroves is patchy, with the highest densities in the east with a gradual decline towards the west.



CONSERVATION:

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi has been implementing action plans and protection of mangroves to ensure their long-term survival. Actions include comprehensive assessments, rehabilitation programmes, long-term monitoring, habitat mapping of distribution and change detection, development of conservation strategies and management plans.

Mangroves like others critical coastal habitats, are protected by federal laws 23 and 24 (1999).

RESPONSE:

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi has established marine protected areas as a tool to protect marine endangered species and their habitats. The Agency has seen an increase in mangrove coverage over the past decades due to successful rehabilitation work, plantation in lost areas, and raising public awareness.

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi is conducting new surveys in various sites to better understand the ecology, health status, and impacts on mangroves across Abu Dhabi Emirate.

