

Mehdi Almasi

Rozainah Binti Mohamad Zakaria

Pozi Anak Milow

*Institute of Biological Sciences,
University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia*

A review of methods of participatory management of mangrove forest conservation

Mangrove forests are among valuable natural resources that have been extended in the tropical areas along coastlines. Research and studies have shown that these forests are highly under stress due to various demographic and natural factors.

Nowadays, protection of mangrove forests as one of the most important habitats for various species of animals as well as a tsunami controller zone has been rapidly increasing in many countries around the world. On the other hand, destruction of sensitive habitats due to overusing and misusing of mangrove for fuel, food, timber and medicine, led to the destruction of one third of mangrove forests in the world, primarily in tropical areas during the last 50 years.

Participatory management is one of the protection methods, which harness the knowledge of local community members who are living around the mangrove habitats for planning community-based strategies in protecting mangrove forests. There are examples of using participatory management methods to protect mangroves in different countries in Southeast Asia especially in the Philippines and certain African countries as well as in Iran and India.

Malaysia has implemented management plans for its mangrove forests and Matang is a great example to study. Although certain steps have been taken to protect this area using the participatory management methods, further work is still needed.

This paper reviews various models of protecting mangrove forests through participation of local stakeholders in Malaysia and other countries. Review of official documents and research papers will assist researchers to gather required data on the approaches and procedures of participatory management plans implementation. Furthermore, this paper also attempts to categorize existing methods of management plans for protection of mangrove forests leading to improved understanding on the implementation of management systems for mangrove habitats in the past.