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Entitled

*ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES ON  
MANGROVE FORESTS*

by

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Abstract

Mangroves are one of the various types of littoral trees that mostly inhabit the sheltered coastlines within the intertidal zone of tropical and subtropical regions near the equator. Mangrove forests are of vital importance, representing a crucial part of the coastal ecosystem in the world. However, the increase of human population in the last decades has been associated with various issues that affect mangrove forests. Among these issues is the global warming which is believed to be due to human activities. Increased human activities and global warming pose major threats to mangroves and their environment, which puts mangroves at a risk of extinction. In many countries such as the United Arab Emirates, much of the human population resides in the coastal zones, with human activities jeopardizing the integrity of mangrove forests. As the population in UAE increases, human activities continue to intensify. The last 30 years have seen many mangroves lost due to urbanization and industrialization. Therefore, there is a dire need to embark on sustainability efforts aimed at protecting and preserving mangroves. The purpose of this study is to assess the local communities' environmental knowledge, attitude and practices towards mangrove forest in the country. The study also aims to analyses the local communities' level of perception and awareness on mangrove forests importance, benefits, conservation, and management. To achieve these goals, a survey was be conducted and distributed. The questions of the survey assisted to find out if age, education, income, and distance of living from mangrove forests have any correlation to people knowledge and behavior. Results of this study can serve as the basis for implementing more effective mangrove conservation program. We need to encourage, good environmental habits and behaviors among local communities to become advocates for the environment.

**Keywords:** Mangroves, UAE, knowledge, practices, behavior.