

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem is a community of plants, animals and micro-organisms that are linked and that interact with each other and with physical environments. Mangrove trees produce large amounts of organic matter that provides a constant supply of food for crabs, shrimps and other herbivores which then become food for meat eating animals, the carnivores. Other animals come to the mangrove areas to feed on the animals that live there.

MANGROVE ANIMALS

Fish:

Scientific:	English:	Samoan:
<i>Lutjanus fulvus</i>	Blackspot snapper	Tamala
<i>Kuhlia sp</i>	Flagtail	Sesele
<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	Perch/jarbua terapon	Avaava
<i>Caranx melampygus</i>	Bluefin trevally	Malauli
<i>Periophthalmus sp</i>	Mudskipper	Manoo
<i>Hemiramphus sp</i>	Halfbreak	Ise
<i>Eleotris sp</i>	Sleeper	Apofu
<i>Crenimugil sp</i>	Mullet	Aua
<i>Platax orbicularis</i>	Orbicular batfish	Koko
<i>Trachinotus blochii</i>	Snubnose dart	Lalafutu
<i>Anguilla sp</i>	Fresh-water eel	Tuna
<i>Sphyraena sp</i>	Barracuda	Sapatu
<i>Megalops cyprinoides</i>	Indo-Pacific tarpon	A'analagi

Crustaceans:

Scientific:	English:	Samoan:
<i>Cardisoma carnifex</i>	Land crab	Tupa
<i>Sesarma sp</i>	Redclaw	U'a
<i>Scylla serrata</i>	Mangrove crab	Pa'alimago
<i>Macrobrachium lar</i>	Freshwater prawn	Ula vai

Birds:

Scientific:	English:	Samoan:
<i>Foulehaio carunculata</i>	Wattle honey-eater	Lao
<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	Banded rail	Vea
<i>Halcyon recurvirostris</i>	Flat-billed kingfisher	Tiotala
<i>Aplonia atrifusca</i>	Samoan starling	Fuaia
<i>Pachycephala flavifrons</i>	Samoan whistler	Vasavasa
<i>Myzomela cardinalis</i>	Cardinal honeyeater	Segasegamu

Plants: (found in the mangrove forest)

Scientific:	English:	Samoan:
<i>Inocarpus fagifer</i>	Tahitian chestnut	Ifi
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	Beach hibiscus	Fau
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut	Niu
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>	Indian mulberry	Nonu
<i>Alpinia purpurata</i>	Red ginger	Teuila mumu
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Bird nest fern	Laugapapa
<i>Dendrobium sp</i>	Epiphytic orchids	Oketi
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Chinese orange	Molisaina



Mangroves provide three different types of habitats:

Permanent homes:

Oysters grow on the mangrove roots; mud crabs live permanently in the mangrove forest. A lot of shellfish live in areas near mangroves. A great variety of insects also live in the mangroves providing a permanent source of food for birds, which live in the mangrove canopy (top of the tree) and sometimes be seen flying around dusk. Sea birds like heron (matuu) and sooty tern (gogouli) can be seen in the mangrove forest.

Nurseries:

Young fish find mangrove roots a very safe place to grow. They live in the mangroves until they are big enough to live on reefs or deeper waters.

Feeding areas:

During high tide larger fish like mullet, snapper and trevally come there to feed on smaller fish, crabs and other animals.

Taking care of mangroves:

Creating protected mangrove areas, enforcing environmental protection laws, and raising awareness about the natural, economic and cultural values of mangroves are some initiatives. One of the most important things that we can do to conserve the BIODIVERSITY of the mangroves is to get involved.....ALL OF US: young and old and our communities can help restore and maintain our mangrove areas.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Division of Environment and Conservation
Marine Conservation Section
Private Bag, Apia, Samoa
Phone #: 31197 or 31198

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE



Children's Corner



Children aged 9-15 are invited to answer the following corner. The name of 3 students with top scores at the end of every month will be posted under the "Children's Corner" for special prizes. "Children's Environment Awareness 2007 Awards will be given to 10 students with top total scores at the end of the year.

Find the Samoan names

Find the Samoan names for these mangrove animals

- Banded rail _____
- Samoan starling _____
- Mullet _____
- Flagtail _____
- Land crab _____
- Redclaw _____
- Mudskipper _____
- Halfbeak _____
- Freshwater prawn _____
- Wattle honey-eater _____



What will happen if many mangroves are cut from the shoreline?

Find the Scientific names

Find the Scientific names for these mangrove plants.

- Coconut _____
- Red ginger _____
- Chinese orange _____

Mangrove Ecosystem Word-finder

s	p	a	a	l	i	m	a	g	o	f
e	m	a	n	u	t	l	o	u	p	v
g	m	a	t	a	e	l	e	e	l	e
a	p	a	a	m	a	g	o	l	i	o
v	e	a	n	a	e	g	m	f	n	i
a	t	i	o	t	a	l	a	g	n	m
o	t	o	l	o	a	s	s	v	f	e
t	i	o	l	u	p	e	o	s	e	g
u	l	a	u	s	e	v	a	u	l	u
m	a	s	l	m	a	l	i	e	e	f
l	u	p	u	f	i	s	v	n	i	o
s	i	s	i	s	a	g	u	o	l	i

- | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| sega vao | vea | paalimago |
| lupe | tiotala | anae |
| lulu | maso | ula |
| toloa | sisi | mataeleele |

What is a carnivore?

What are the three permanent habitats provided by the mangroves?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following companies for sponsoring our children's corner and pages

- Samoa Biscuits
- Business System Ltd
- West End Company Ltd
- McDonald's Family Restaurant

Produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Capacity Building & Human
Resource Development Section

Private Bag, Apia, SAMOA
Phone : 23800/25419/30966
Fax : 25856/23176
Email : mnre@samoa.gov.ws



Government of Samoa