

All About Mangroves in the UAE

These unique marine eco systems, mangrove forests, cover thousands of hectares along the UAE coastline and form an important and integral part of the coastal eco system in this country. The most common species in the UAE is *avicennia marina* or grey mangrove. Within the UAE there are approx 3000 hectares of mangrove forest (of which 2300 hectares are found in Abu Dhabi).

Mangroves provide a great habitat/home and safe breeding ground for some fish species, turtles and even commercially significant shrimp, snapper, grunt fish & sea bream and of course they offer a safe haven for birds nesting, migrating & egg lying. Mangrove forests are found in intertidal areas and are important in the prevention of coastline erosion caused by wave action and ocean currents. They are also a rich source of food and fuel as the wood was used historically for constructing homes and ships due to its hardness and high resistance to rot and termites.



the forest is a natural habitat for many species of birds and animals. The mangroves also play a vital role in the ecosystem by filtering pollutants and providing a natural barrier against storms and flooding.

