

TO PLANT OR NOT TO PLANT

English Version

MANGROVE PLANTING



is widely popular. But majority of planting efforts fail.

Do you know why?

*Because mangroves survive and function better when the right conditions are created for them to grow naturally. This approach which relies on natural processes is called **Ecological Mangrove Restoration***. Often, planting is no longer needed. But there are times when planting is still useful. The key is to know when to plant mangroves and when not to plant.**

RESTORE YOUR MANGROVE FORESTS THE RIGHT WAY !

ALWAYS REMEMBER
SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION RESULTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SIZEABLE, DIVERSE, FUNCTIONAL AND SELF-SUSTAINING MANGROVE FOREST THAT OFFERS BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE.

In several places along major flyways of the world, mudflats and associated habitats serve as critically important resting and feeding sites for migratory waterbirds. Sites that support tens of thousands to millions of birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway include Yellow Sea wetlands (South Korea), Mekong Delta (Vietnam), and Manila Bay (Philippines). Some of them are protected areas, Ramsar sites, and World Heritage sites. Converting these internationally important habitats through planting of mangroves can destroy vital habitat for these species and will contribute to their further decline.

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT?



- Embrace the **Ecological Mangrove Restoration** approach. Before planting, think twice!
- Invite experts and stakeholders, and link scientific to local knowledge.
- Monitor and assess your success. Identify problems early and take corrective actions if necessary.
- Spread the word and share knowledge or experience and lessons learned.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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When to plant?



WHEN NATURAL SUPPLIES OF SEEDS & PROPAGULES ARE LIMITED

When 'parent trees' or connection to water for trees is lacking which inhibits dispersal of seeds & propagules, e.g. coastlines that suffered widespread mangrove degradation.



WHEN INTRODUCING SPECIFIC VALUABLE SPECIES LOST IN AN AREA

Also called 'enrichment planting.'



TO DELAY EROSION IN SEVERELY ERODING AREAS

Mangrove planting on remaining bunds can offer short-term relief by delaying erosion of those bunds.

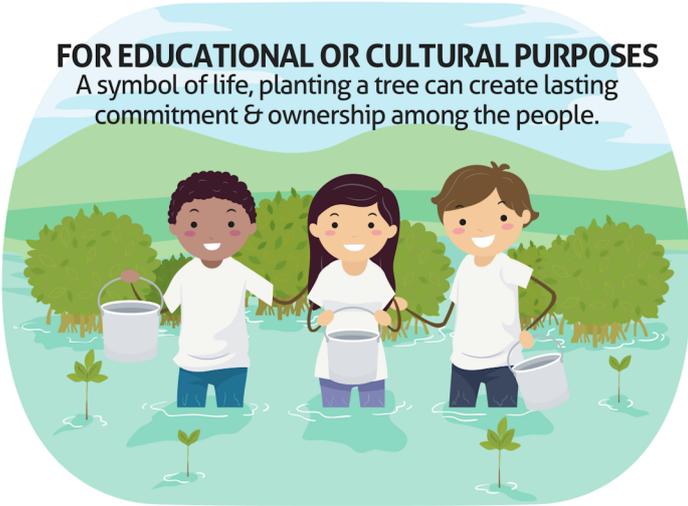
TO STABILIZE FISHPOND DIKES OR BUNDS, SHADES, AND OTHER BENEFITS

Planted mangrove trees along fishpond bunds or dikes won't produce a 'real' mangrove forest, but have other benefits like stabilization of bunds, shade, brushwood, and fodder.



FOR EDUCATIONAL OR CULTURAL PURPOSES

A symbol of life, planting a tree can create lasting commitment & ownership among the people.



When not to plant?

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ARE NOT RIGHT

When the community is not involved or there is no alternative livelihood, there is no support to conservation, like replanting mangrove trees.



THE GROWTH OF MANGROVE CAN BLOCK WATER & SEDIMENT FLOWS

It only hampers their recovery at a larger scale.

THE ORIGINAL CAUSE OF LOSS HAS NOT CHANGED

When there is altered water flow for instance.



SINGLE-SPECIES PLANTING

Planting single species leads to non-functional mangroves with limited benefits and low resilience.



SUITABLE SPECIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

Suitable places are sandy-muddy areas with connection to water - both from sea & the river. Unsuitable places are: areas underwater for many hours of the day, areas landward that are not reached by high tide, or areas that are too exposed to waves & erosion. Mangrove saplings planted on unsuitable places will die or be lost.



NO MANGROVES SETTLE NATURALLY, SUCH AS OPEN INTERTIDAL MUDFLATS, SEAGRASS BEDS, OR SANDY BEACHES

It will damage the naturally regenerating mangroves.