

Abstract

A predominant flora of the coastal villages, along the water bodies are mangroves and this was either fully or partially devastated by tsunami tidal waves in 2004. Studying the present status of mangroves is important for the ecotourism since it enables the present plant forms and by replanting the appropriate species. The aim of the study was to evaluate the present status of mangroves, in Mandativu, Jaffna which was carried out from June to December 2012. A stratified sampling technique was used to sample mangroves. Vegetation sampling was carried out within 100m² quadrates, that were regularly laid along the transects. A total of 300 quadrat samples were studied in Jaffna. During this study, two mangrove species were identified in Jaffna, namely: *Avicennia marina* and *Rhizophora mucronata*. 50% of people use mangroves only for firewoods. 25% percentage of people use mangroves for both fishery and fire woods. Yet, increased population pressures in coastal areas and lack of awareness have led to large scale conversion of mangroves to other uses. Collecting woods by women were the dominating factor for damaging mangrove species. 90% percentage of people knew that mangrove conservation is an important activity. Even though 20% Percentage of people believe no one can damage the mangrove community. The study concludes that better information on both the extent and the condition of mangroves is needed as an aid to policy and decision making aimed at the conservation, management and sustainable use of remaining mangrove ecosystems. Thus, on site basis, a planned re plantation of mangroves is necessary to uplift the socio-economic life in Jaffna, perhaps ecotourism.

Key words: Mangroves, restoration, conservation, : *Avicennia marina*, *Rhizophora mucronata*