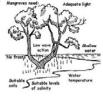
LANDSCAPE PATTERNS IN MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM

BACKGROUND

What are mangroves

- Assemblage of woody halophytes
- Foundational species of intertidal forest and shrubland ecosystems
- Along tropical and subtropical coastlines
- Total global coverage -180,000 square km.
- 112 countries and territories.
- 80 species throughout the world









BACKGROUND

Contribute US\$25,000 billion annually to the global economy through ecosystem services (Nellemann, et al., 2009)

- Provision of salts and food products
- Filtration of pollutants and retention of flood waters
- Shielding of juvenile aquatic organisms
- Support biodiversity
- Supporting aquatic food-chains
- Sequestration green house gases
-



STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

- Climate change efforts aimed at reduction of CO_2
- Conservation and restoration of efficient carbon sinks
- Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics





STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

"The most crucial, climate combating coastal ecosystems are disappearing faster than anything on land and much may be lost in a couple of decades..... If the world is to decisively deal with climate change, every source of emissions and every option for reducing these should be scientifically evaluated and brought to the international community's attention."

(Achim Steiner UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UNEP)



OBJECTIVES

- Map the current spatial dimension of mangrove forests.
- Detect changes in historical land cover pattern to help estimate the rate of degradation.
- Predict/model future trajectory based on current and perceived threats.
- Description of the landscape pattern of the two mangrove forests.
- Explore the relationship between grain size and landscape metrics

