World Atlas of Mangroves
Launching ceremony at
CBD COP 10, Nagoya
Why are mangroves important?

- Mangroves are growing in 123 tropical and subtropical countries; 73 species recognized as “true” mangroves
- 20% decline in last 25 years due mainly to conversion and coastal development, 3-4 times faster than terrestrial forest types, lengthy recovery periods required
- High economic values and benefits, especially to coastal people
  - Estimated economic value of US$2,000-9,000/ha/year where mangroves are extensive
  - Forest products (timber, charcoal, firewood, etc.) and non-timber products
  - Sustaining fishery resource
  - Coastal protection
  - Providing recreation and environmental education sites
  - Reducing carbon emissions
Details of project implementation

- Funded by ITTO (Japanese Government grant; in-kind contributions from partners)
- Implemented by ISME
- 5 partner organizations
  - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
  - UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)
  - UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
  - United Nations University-International Network on Water, Environment & Health (UNU-INWEH)
  - With support of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Authors
  - Dr. Mark Spalding (TNC)
  - Dr. Mami Kainuma (ISME)
  - Lorna Collins (TNC)
- Map preparation
  - FAO (Geospatial Unit of the Land and Water Division (NRL); support from Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS))
  - UNEP-WCMC
- Contributions and inputs by more than 100 mangrove experts from around the world
Importance of the Atlas

- **First recent global assessment** of mangrove status (extent and management)
- Accurate data from satellite imagery analysis compiled to serve as a **baseline for the future gain/loss assessment**
- Recent reliable coverage of 99% of world mangroves
- Besides distribution maps, assessment for use, threats, management, etc. in each country

[Shrimp ponds in Ecuador]
## Contents of the Atlas

- **Introduction**
  - Mangrove Ecosystems
  - Mangroves and People
  - Mapping Mangroves
- **Regional chapters**
  - Eastern and Southern Africa
  - The Middle East
  - South Asia
  - Southeast Asia
  - East Asia
  - Australia and New Zealand
  - Pacific Islands
  - North and Central America and the Caribbean
  - South America
  - West and Central Africa
- **Annexes**
  - Species descriptions and range maps
  - National species lists
  - National statistics
- **Index**

- **Case studies:** 10 case studies covering regional issues usages and sustainable managements
- **Maps:** 129 full colored maps including 65 full page maps
- **Photos:** over 200 photos
- **Length:** total 319 pages
Mangrove distribution by region

World Mangrove Distribution
Total 150,000 km²

North and Central America
22402 km² 14.7%

South America
23883 km² 15.7%

West and Central Africa
20040 km² 13.2%

South East Asia
51049 km² 33.5%

South Asia
10344 km² 6.8%

East Asia
215 km² 0.1%

Australia/New Zealand
10171 km² 6.7%

East and South Africa
7917 km² 5.2%

Middle East
624 km² 0.4%

Pacific Ocean
5717 km² 3.8%
Diversity of mangrove species

South-east Asia is most diverse mangrove region
Example of distribution map: Borneo Island
Future work

• to produce French and Spanish versions for wider dissemination of the information; possible publication of policy brief and website for updates; funds required

• to produce Atlas summary through special issue of ITTO Tropical Forest Update (TFU)
www.itto.int