

## Mangrove Afforestation Program in the Coastal Area, Oman

(Period of the study: 48 months from March, 2000    Our assignments: Mangrove Afforestation)

### Background of the Study

The government of Oman is aiming at the mutual prosperity of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development under the effective environmental conservation policy. Mangrove forest is regarded as precious natural resource to be protected together with Arabian Oryx and some bird species. The government of Oman also formulated the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in 1996. Under such circumstances, the government of Oman requested the government of Japan the dispatch of expert for conservation and restoration of mangrove especially in the field of the selection of suitable afforestation site, nursery construction for seedling production and actual afforestation.

### Outline of the Study

Nursery construction was initiated at the surrounding area of mangrove forest in the capital Muscat. It was then expanded to Salalah in the south and also to Sur in the east. The production capacity of seedlings finally became 51,000 seedlings/year. Afforestation activities were conducted in the creeks at Sawadi, Sur and Salalah. The total planted area became 46,000 m<sup>2</sup> and all the plantation activities were carried out under the participation of local communities. Furthermore, various surveys on the relation between the growth of mangrove and environmental conditions such as soil and water quality were also carried out in all the planted areas. Such activities were implemented as technical transfer activities to the Omani engineers through training courses.

### Our Assignments

- Nursery construction (Muscat, Salalah and Sur),
- Seedling production and technology transfer,
- Selection of suitable transplanting site and transplanting trials,
- Accumulation of baseline data for existing mangrove forest, and
- Advice and suggestion to the Ministry of Environment on conservation activity of natural environment.

