

The Master Plan Study on Restoration, Conservation and Management of Mangrove, Oman

(Period of the study: 24 months from June, 2002 Our assignments: Soil, Water and GIS)

Background of the Study

There is total 3,000Km of coastline in Oman and it is said that many mangrove forests were distributed. The area of mangrove forest has been decreased due to the damages by the inhabitant to be used as fuel wood and overgrazing during long period of time. The total area covered by *Avicenia marina* is now estimated about 1,100 ha. The mangrove forests play important roles such as prevention of coastal erosion, supply of fuel wood and NTFP (non timber forest products), conservation of marine resources and biodiversity, utilization as tourism resources. Furthermore, the government of Oman formulated the coastal zone management plan in 1991 and the socio-economic importance and vulnerability of mangrove ecosystem were pointed out along with coral reef in this plan. The special protection plan was also mentioned in this plan. The expansion and sustainable utilization of mangrove forest that can grow even in brackish water are regarded important in the country where the majority of land belongs to desert with very limited fresh water supply. The government of Japan dispatched an expert of mangrove afforestation to the Ministry of Regional Municipality, Environment and Water Resources. The master plan study was requested from the same ministry through the expert dispatched.

Outline of the Study

The objective of this study is to formulate the master plan consists of development plan for each mangrove site based on the results of natural and socio-economic survey, capacity building program for related staff and awareness promoting program.

Our Assignments

- Field survey and data analysis of soil and water in the mangrove forests,
- Vegetation distribution survey in the mangrove forests,
- Field survey of damages on mangrove forests such as overgrazing and illegal disposal,
- Estimation and distribution analysis of target area for mangrove afforestation,
- Preparation of GIS database on vegetation, soil water, flora, fauna and others, and
- Supervision to the counterparts for the operation of donated equipment.

