

Desolation of the mangroves forest: a case study of Indus River Delta, Pakistan

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Abstract

Degradation of river Mangroves forest of Indus delta is constantly rising since last two decades. Covered area of the mangroves forest is reducing. Fishes and wood of Mangroves forest are economic sources of the Delta. An average annual production of Mangroves trees, agriculture commodity and fruit are gradually reduced. An acre of delta mangroves is three times more economical than an acre of agricultural land. Coastal Mangroves forests are protective wall from *soil erosion, tropical Cyclones, Tides, Waves* and *Tsunamis*. According to a research that Salinity at the mangrove forest has reached 3.8 to 4.2, percent but on the contrary Salinity of Arabian Sea is 3.6 percent. Salinity of water near the coastal area of the Karachi is at 35,500-to -36,900 Parts per Million (PPM) and has increased to 41,000-to-42,000 PPM in back waters and tidal creeks. More than 1,200,000 acres of the delta is now under threat the of brackish water intrusion. Currently about 550,000 acres of fertile land of both coastal districts are under affect of saline water. About 38% area of Indus river mangroves forest has been reduced.

But now situation is entirely change. Due to climate change sea level of Arabian Sea is continually rising; the brackish water of Arabian Sea is increasing on surface and sub-surface area of the delta. So the fertile soil of the Delta is converting onto infertile soil. Construction of different water reserve projects on the River Indus are main cause of the shortage in River Indus. People are migrating from the area, the study shows that availability of fresh water in the River Indus may push backward to the intrusion of brackish water of Arabian Sea and will helps for the survival of the fruit plants, agriculture land, natural fishing hatchery and mangrove forests.

Keywords

desolation, mangroves forest, Indus River delta, Pakistan