



WHAT'S THREATENING OUR MANGROVES?



As mangroves do so much for people, you would think that people would do everything possible to protect mangroves — but for a long time they've done the opposite. From industrial prawn farming to urban development, pollution to agriculture, mangroves around the world face many threats from human activity.





ACTIVITY 1

Read the profiles of some important stakeholders of mangroves below. Complete the descriptions by writing down how each stakeholder is connected to mangroves, and how their actions may affect one another.

What is a stakeholder? A stakeholder is someone who is affected by or can affect the state of something.



The first profile has been completed as an example.

<p>Local Community </p> <p><i>Have lived in mangrove forest for generations and relies on catching and selling fish, crabs, clams, and other wildlife to make a living.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depends on healthy Mangrove Trees and Mangrove Wildlife for raw materials, food, medicine, recreation, and coastal protection. • Affected by water and noise pollution from Commercial Prawn Farm, affecting livelihoods and water quality. 	<p>Mangrove Trees </p> <p><i>Have lived here for centuries, providing food and shelter for wildlife and people, sequestering carbon, filtering water, and protecting coastlines.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____
<p>Biological Scientist </p> <p><i>Researchers who are interested in studying mangroves and the animals, plants, and fungi that live in them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ 	<p>Tourist </p> <p><i>Travels for a holiday to visit the mangroves and spends money on hotels, transportation, food, and services.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____



City Dwellers



Live in the city far from the mangroves but consumes food products and medicines that come from mangroves.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Commercial Prawn Farm



Produces prawns for local market and export; also continuously seeks more lands and waters to increase production and profits.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Mangrove Wildlife



Have lived in and maintained the balance of the ecosystem for many generations, long before people settled in the mangrove forests.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Government



Responsible for social and economic well-being of its citizens (e.g. by ensuring enough food supply, protecting recreational spaces, creating jobs.)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

ACTIVITY 2

If a patch of mangroves were at risk of being cut down, drained, and developed, how would these eight stakeholders reach a decision that serves everyone's interests? Discuss with your friends, or role play for a healthy debate using the points above!



Dive Deeper: Stakeholders will differ depending on multiple factors such as where the site is located and what its history is. In the 1800s, 13% of Singapore's rivers and coasts were covered with mangroves. Today, only 5% of that remains (which means less than 1% of Singapore's rivers and coasts still have mangroves).

Visit a mangrove park or reserve near you. Can you tell who the stakeholders were for that patch of mangroves? Make guesses about who they may be and conduct research to investigate the history of the mangroves there, and if some decisions have been made in the past to protect it or leave it unprotected.