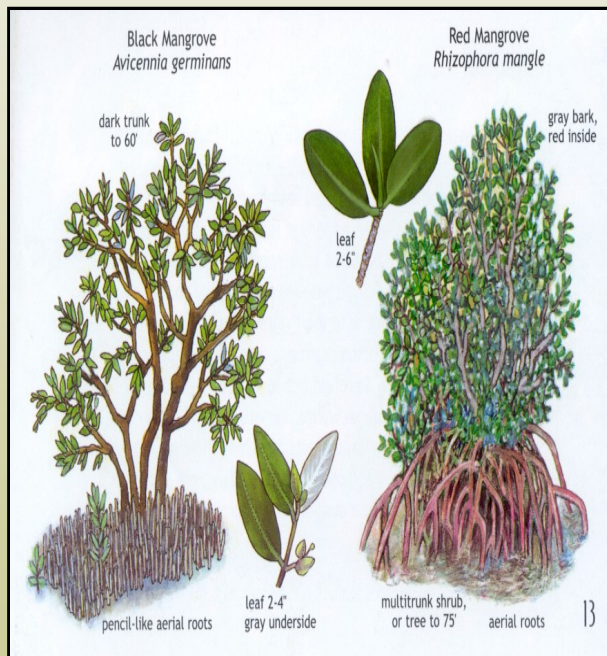


MANGROVES are a varied group of salt-tolerant shrubs and trees that form one of the most productive ecosystems in the Bahamas. There are four main mangrove species on Grand Bahama namely the red, white, black and buttonwood.



The Mangroves are important because they;

- Provide a habitat for many different species of animals, including fish, crabs, bats, lobsters, manatees, and birds.
- Serve as a storm buffer for the island.
- Provide structure and stabilization to the island's shoreline, thereby preventing erosion.
- Have roots and branches which provide an ideal site for animals to feed, mate and give birth. It is therefore considered a nursery.

Mangroves provide protection from storms



- Purify the water from human wastes and pollutants, and in doing so, coral reefs are less effected.
- Replenish ground water by holding water on land and allowing it to soak through the ground.



Threats to Mangroves

Urbanization - *Excessive sediment from development smothers mangroves and encourages flooding.*

Invasive Species - *(Non -native plants and animals) alter the natural community of the mangroves and disturbs the balance of the ecosystem.*

Community Indifference - *They may be seen as muddy areas which are unattractive and used for dumping.*



What can be done?

- **Education and Awareness**
- **Proper Planning for developments**
- **Community appreciation**
- **Implementation of policy to protect them.**

For more information
Email info@bahamasecoventures.com
www.BahamasEcoventures.com



Mangroves

photo by Tansey Louis



Why do we need them?