



# IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group Quarterly Newsletter September 2018

It has been another exciting quarter with new research papers being published, articles appearing in numerous media outlets, community outreach, training and government engagement around the world to name but a few. Of course, challenges remain but it is encouraging to see so much happening both within and outside the group and the momentum increasing for the protection of mangroves.

## In Memory of Roy R. "Robin" Lewis III

We are all saddened to hear of the passing of our member and regular contributor, Roy R. "Robin" Lewis III. He worked very closely with a number of our members and especially the Mangrove Action Project, being one of their first board members. He regularly offered significant technical expertise and shared his knowledge and understanding of mangrove restoration for the benefit of everyone he met - both in and out of the Specialist Group.

## In the Media

Our very own Aldrie Amir had three newspaper articles appear in the New Straits Times focusing on the issues surrounding Malaysia's mangroves.

"Land reclamation, urban expansion and coastal development are identified as the primary anthropogenic factors contributing to the loss and the degradation of our mangroves and seagrasses. Coupled with extreme climatic conditions, the future of Malaysia's mangroves and seagrasses seems vague."

The links to the articles can be found here: [Article 1](#). [Article 2](#). [Article 3](#).

Aldrie also appeared on a national radio interview for BFM in Malaysia - the interview can be found by following this [link](#) and is also available for download.



**"There are many dedicated local communities, researchers, NGOs and government representatives working towards the better protection of this important ecosystem." - Dan Friess.**

Jurgenne H. Primavera, PhD was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the prestigious National Academy of Science and Technology for ZSL's manual on Community-based Mangrove Rehabilitation which can be found [here](#).

Dr. Primavera also advised local officials, environmentalists and decision makers in Puerto Princesa, Palawan that their choice mangrove species for a replanting project was incorrect and was not suitable for the environment in which they were planting. Her comments were [featured in this article](#).

Several our members were featured in a [widely circulated article](#) on why mangroves matter. The question posed was 'What does the disappearance of this special forest ecosystem mean for our planet?'

There was a fascinating article, [recently published by LSU](#) on the importance

of location and soil type for mangroves to store carbon.



Martin Zimmer will be presenting at the Windsurf World Cup in Sylt, Germany as [part of the 'Blue Life' initiative](#). Act Agency, the founding member of Blue Life, will finance the planting of one mangrove at Thor Heyerdahl Climate Park in Myanmar for each participant and kilometer surfed. The event, which takes place between 28th



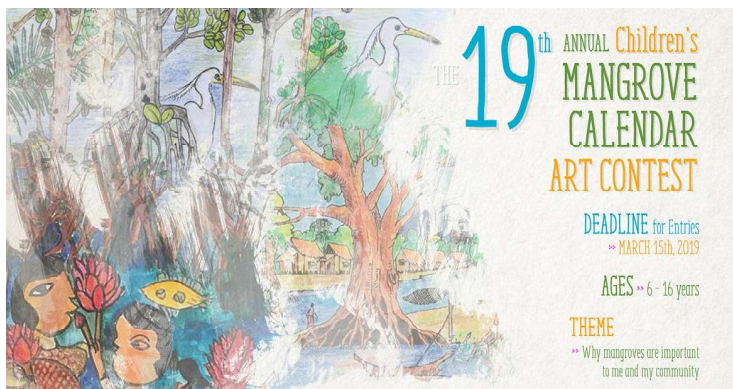
September and 7th October 2028, is the largest windsurfing event in the world and is expected to result in the planting of up to 7,000 mangroves by swapping kilometers into mangroves.

A team of remote sensing specialists and mangrove experts in Africa have developed the highest quality and most accurate mangrove maps ever produced for Africa. These maps were created by Mangrove Watch Africa as part of the 10-year Mangrove Capital Africa programme by Wetlands International. These maps can be found [here](#) and more information on Mangrove Capital Africa can be found [here](#). Wetland International's discussion paper on planting vs natural mangrove restoration that was released last year is now available in multiple languages available for download [here](#).

### On the Ground

The Mangrove Action Project have been hard at work on a number of different initiatives:

- Started canvassing for their wonderful 2020 [Children's Art Calendar Competition](#). This will be the 19th contest and last year nearly 3,000 children from 13 nations entered the contest. **Deadline for entries is 15th March 2020.**
- Established the Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) Yahoo e-group to share information amongst mangrove restoration practitioners. To learn more about the CBEMR group and to **request to join** please go the CBEMR group's home page [here](#).
- Collaborated with the village of Ban Nai Nang to [generate new income from](#)



[beekeeping while restoring their mangrove forests](#). The community are now producing honey from mangrove flowers, and value-added products such as hand soaps, shampoos and balms. 10% of honey product sales goes into a Conservation Fund that is put back into restoring mangroves in the area.

ZSL Philippines and the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Organisation undertook bird surveys in February and August of this year which aimed to identify bird species occurring in three mangrove Eco parks during the migratory (September to March) and non-migratory (April-August) seasons. Since bird watching may also be an additional activity in these eco parks, an orientation to local government staff and community members were conducted prior the survey.

- Natunggan Eco park in Leganes, Iloilo has the greatest number of species of the three parks, with 40 bird species. The Chinese Egret and Philippine Duck were the threatened

species found. Pedada Mangrove Eco park has 39 species and Katunggan It Ibajay has 32 species.



ZSL's Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation Training programme continues to go from strength to strength. The most recent 'Training of the Trainers' was conducted between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 with 23 individuals from various national and local government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and internship schemes graduating from the programme.