

EVERGREEN FORESTS

NST-20
24110

Shrinking PD mangroves threaten biodiversity and livelihoods

MANGROVE areas should be better protected. A study by the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation said the environmental and economic damage caused by the “alarming” loss of mangroves in many countries should be addressed.

Mangroves are salt-tolerant evergreen forests found along coastlines, lagoons, rivers or deltas in 124 tropical and subtropical countries and areas around the world, providing protection against erosion, and wind.

Staying and growing up in Port Dickson, it’s really sad for me to see the mangrove forests here getting smaller. Shrinking mangrove forests can lead to severe loss of biodiversity and livelihoods, in addition to saltwater

intrusion in coastal areas and causing siltation of coral reefs and sea grass.

They act as buffer zones between the land and sea.

They absorb pollutants and host threatened or endangered species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds and provide spawning grounds to fish and shellfish.

I remember snorkelling in and around the mangroves to witness small fishes, jellyfish, and sea urchins swimming. But, all that is history now.

The water around Port Dickson is no more what it was during the 1970s and 1980s.

LIONEL PERERA

Port Dickson, Negri Sembilan



Mangrove swamps act as buffer zones between the land and sea. FILE PIC