

What is it like to live on a mangrove shore?

Sunlight exposure

The mangroves' dense cover make it cool & dark

Out on the mudflats there is full sun exposure & high temperatures when tide is out.

Soil

Dense mud is mixed with sand

These sediments are 'anerobic' (no oxygen) so plants & animals need special adaptations for breathing

Mangroves drop vast quantities of leaf litter, providing nutrients for the many organisms.

Stability

Mudflats exposed to wind and water movement

Mangroves' complex root systems control erosion.

Shelter

Mangroves provide shelter for many creatures: birds, insects & reptiles in the branches; crabs, worms & molluscs in the tangled root systems

Beyond the shelter of the mangroves, many creatures live under the surface of the mudflats.

Water

No fresh water.

Salinity

Covered twice daily by seawater

Plants & animals need adaptations to exclude or remove salt.

What plants and animals can you find on a mangrove shore?

Plants

Orange Mangrove *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*
Grey Mangrove *Avicennia marina*
Cottonwood *Hibiscus Tiliaceus*
Warrigal Greens *Tetragonia tetragonoides*
Eel Grass *Zostera capricorni*
Dugong Grass *Halophila ovalis*

Invertebrates

Mangrove Cicada *Arunta interclusa*
Hibiscus Harlequin Bug *Tectocoris diophthalmus*
Bloodworm *Marphysa sanguinea*
Sydney Rock Oyster *Saccostrea glomerata*
Soldier Crab *Mictyris longicarpus*
Yabby *Callinassa australiensis*
Orange-clawed Fiddler Crab *Uca coarctata*
Hercules Club Mud Whelk *Pyrazus ebeninus*

Vertebrates

Mangrove Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fasciocularis*
Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*
Mangrove Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*
Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*
Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*
Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*
Water Mouse *Xeromys myoides*
Dugong *Dugong dugon*