Food webs in mangroves of the Colombian Pacific coast and their role in explaining fisheries productivity and resource use

Aims of the project

The MAKOPA project is aimed at promoting the scientific exchange between Colombian (Universidad del Valle) and German (Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research-ZMT) researchers working with mangrove ecosystems. We are especially interested in understanding the role that mangroves play in sustaining fisheries productivity in the Colombian Pacific coast, and also in understanding how social-ecological systems in mangroves function in Colombia.

MAKOPA is also trying to support the Colombian Network of Mangroves and Estuaries (SEMANGLARES), which is an effort from various Colombian and international institutions to bring together researchers working on different aspects of mangrove ecosystems.

First results

The cooperation between ZMT and the Colombian institutions has been able to synthesize biological and ecological information on mangrove ecosystems into a trophic model of a representative system of the Colombian Pacific coast.

At the moment the different members of the project are compiling an historical database on mangrove research done in Colombia since 1900. This analysis will help prioritizing research activities by the SEMANGLARES Network.

KEY FACTS

ZMT contacts: Prof. Dr. Matthias Wolff, Dr. Gustavo Castellanos-Galindo (WG Resource Management)
Cooperation partners: INCIMAR, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia and Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia
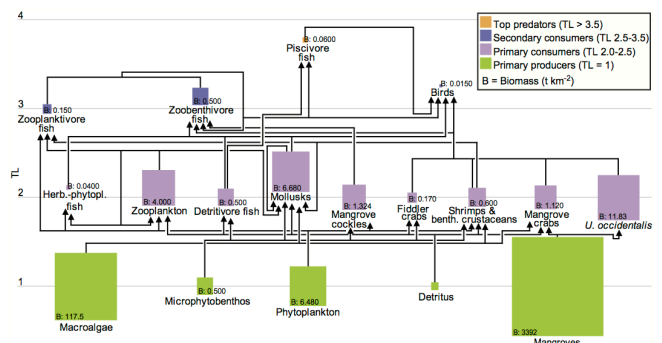**Partner countries**: Colombia
Research Locations: Mangroves of Colombia with emphasis on those in the Pacific coast
Project duration: June 2018 – May 2020
Funding: BMBF
Status: ZMT is coordinator of the project

Schematic food web of a mangrove system in the Colombian Pacific. Model constructed with the Ecopath with Ecosim software

More info about MAKOPA can be found here: https://makopaen.wordpress.com/

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