

The Qurm Environmental Information Center Project, Oman

(Period of the Project: 24 months from January 2012, Assignments: Mangrove plantation, Environmental education, and Data analysis)

Background of the Project

Mangrove forests are particularly important in Oman as they provide habitats for various animal species, coastal protection function, green landscape and so on. Hence, the Government of Oman is working actively on the conservation, restoration and management of mangrove ecosystem. Upon the request of GoO, JICA dispatched an expert on mangrove reforestation from 2000-2004, and implemented the JICA Master Plan Study from 2002-2003, which proposed the establishment of "Qurm Environmental Information Center (QEIC)" as a center for mangrove conservation in Oman and the region. The GoO then requested the GoJ to provide technical cooperation for the strengthening of operation capacity and facilities of QEIC.

Outline of the Project

The Project implementation body consisted of staffs of Marine Environment Conservation Department (MECD) of MECA and JICA Expert Team, under the overall supervision of the Project director (Director General of Nature Conservation). The JICA Expert team consisted of leader/training, monitoring (natural and social conditions), plantation, environmental education, and data analysis. The Project activities were carried out to promote capacity of future QEIC staffs in the relevant fields, so that QEIC is prepared as the center of promoting sustainable mangrove ecosystem management in Oman. The Project also produced guidelines of training, monitoring, plantation and environmental education as technical documents.

Activities

- Training: Identifying training needs through CUDBAS workshop, producing training materials, implementing training courses, and compiling training guideline.
- Plantation: Studying on site selection for plantation, improvement of plantation methods, compiling plantation guideline.
- Environmental education: Improvement of existing EE programs, producing education materials, proposing program evaluation methods, and compiling guideline for environmental education program.
- Exhibition plan: Producing an exhibition plan, including various subjects of exhibition with floor plans and proposing effective learning systems for QEIC visitors.
- Data analysis: Establishment of databases of mangrove forests and animals of mangrove ecosystem in Oman.
- Others: Publication of project brochure and newsletter, proposing QEIC web site contents.



Identifying training needs through CUDBAS workshop



Training on monitoring method of mangrove seedling



Mangrove seedling plantation by school children



Nature game to learn about mangrove