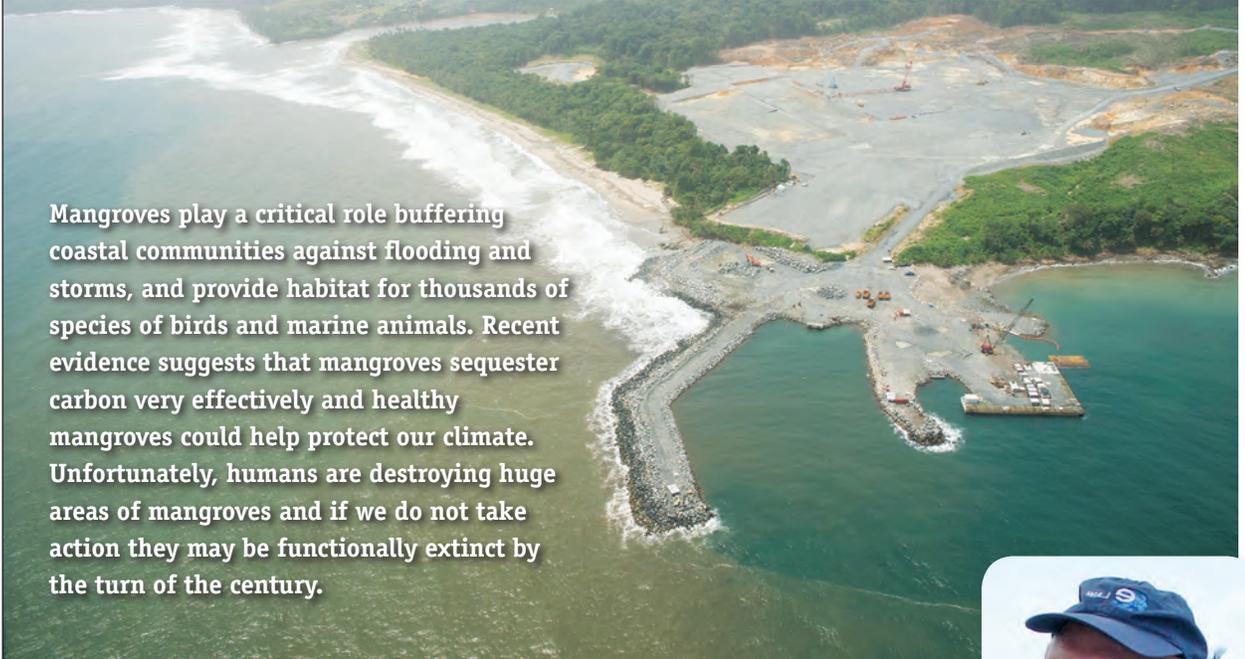




Protecting Mangroves in Panama & Around the World



Mangroves play a critical role buffering coastal communities against flooding and storms, and provide habitat for thousands of species of birds and marine animals. Recent evidence suggests that mangroves sequester carbon very effectively and healthy mangroves could help protect our climate. Unfortunately, humans are destroying huge areas of mangroves and if we do not take action they may be functionally extinct by the turn of the century.

The footprint of the Cerro Quema Mine mine upstream extends to the coast, with sediment plumes covering coral reefs.

Central America is home to breathtaking beaches, islands, mountains, and forests. Unfortunately, proposed mining threatens many of these natural treasures.

ELAW Board Member and mining expert Glenn Miller traveled to Panama and Honduras in July to collaborate with ELAW partners at the Environmental Advocacy Center (Centro de Incidencia Ambiental, CIAM) and the Environmental Law Institute (Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras, IDAMHO).

In Panama, mangroves are threatened by runoff from copper and gold mines. Glenn flew over the area by helicopter to see the destruction first hand.

"We followed the erosion to the coast and saw a large plume of sediment that was being sent to the coral reef. . . We also saw a reportedly bankrupt gold mine that had ponds that were near overflowing and no real management of the excess water," said Glenn.

Glenn met with regulators, public health experts, NGO staff, and community members interested in learning about the real impact of mining operations.



Glenn Miller

Mangrove Science Database

ELAW's Mangrove Science Database is a valuable new resource for communities around the world working to protect mangroves.

Heidi Weiskel, ELAW Staff Scientist, worked closely with David Pugh, ELAW Web Designer, to ensure that key research on mangroves, published by more than 75 scientists, is included in this comprehensive resource for citizens worldwide.

Each scientific study in the Mangrove Science Database is summarized in English and Spanish. Research on specific mangrove forests is plotted on a world map. As new studies are completed, they will add them to the database. The user-friendly tool will help communities and grassroots advocates around the world make the case to protect mangroves.



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