



Mangroves of southwestern Madagascar : a complex dynamic during the last 70 years under natural and anthropogenic control

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Mots-clés	Dynamic [5], Mangrove [6], Remote sensing [7], southwest madagascar [8]
Résumé en anglais	<p>The semi-arid southwestern Madagascan region is characterized by mangroves part of the Indo-Pacific phytochorie domain, providing numerous ecological, economical, social and cultural functions and values.</p> <p>These mangroves are under great anthropogenic pressures (salt production, shrimp farming, wood collection ...), enhanced by climate change driving a catena of changes of the three rivers (Onilahy, Fiherenana and Manombo) hydrological and sedimentological functioning and of the coastal dunes of the region.</p> <p>The recent changes of mangroves are often only considered as degradation phenomena, ignoring the resilience capacity of these environments and of the socio-economic and cultural component in the associated landscape construction.</p> <p>In order to assess the much more complex contemporary dynamics and recent evolution of mangrove ecosystems and coastal dunes, we have used a retrospective diachronic aerial photography (1949) and satellite images (SPOT dated 1987 and 2014) processing of 5 different mangrove sites of the region of Toliara. This remote sensing monitoring have been combined with field surveys (2013 and 2014) consisting of transects for floristic identification (<i>Avicennia marina</i>, <i>Sonneratia alba</i>, <i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i>, <i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i>, <i>Ceriops tagal</i>, <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>, <i>Xylocarpus granatum</i>), trunk diameter measures at Breast Height (DBH), counting of dead feet, cut trees and juveniles, complemented with the characterization of the environment (hydrography, siol, anthropization ...).</p> <p>The results reveal contrasted evolutions of the mangrove communities of Toliara region between development (Manombo-Fitsitike and Toliara I), stability (Mouth of the Onilahy) and regression (Ambondrolava and Ankiembe), related to a complex combination of anthropogenic (cutting pressure, clearing, reforestation ...) and natural (silt, sedimentary accretion ...) factors.</p>
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