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### **Recovering mangrove cover in Mahahual, Mexico**

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In 2007 Hurricane Dean devastated extended mangrove area in the coastal area of Mahahual, Southern Quintana Roo, Mexico. From the beginning of 2010, biological characteristics and ecological processes have been studied in a mangrove forest in that coastal area. Variables such as biological production, hydro period, temperature and salinity have been recorded and downloaded into data bases to be analyzed and then characterize the ecosystem, in order to identify its vulnerability to changes in sea level due to climate change. This work relies heavily on the enthusiasm, knowledge and experience of a working team of ten local students and relevant people in the community of Mahahual. At this moment, still four field trips to collect information and sampling remain to be carried out, to complete an annual sampling program in January 2011. However, joint actions among academic, students and community regarding this project are in progress. At one sampling point, a small surface freshwater current was cleaned from roots, branches and garbage to allow water to flow directly to the sea. The students, leaded by a University's professor, are helping a family that owns 16 hectares in the south of the community to develop a plan to manage resources; the plan is part of a legal figure called Wildlife Conservation and Management Unit (UMA as Spanish acronym). Students are also participating in short campaigns to clean beaches up and to separate organic from inorganic sub products. Final results from the sampling program will be ready at the beginning of 2011, but joint experiences and conservation activities will be carried out until the project is due. All these experiences are the ones that we would like to show in the conference through a video.