

## Project Update: September 2017

Despite a challenging start, we have completed all rounds of questionnaire administration and focus group discussions to explore local ecological knowledge and mangrove valuation. Currently, data analyses and educational campaigns are being carried out.



Left: Local people were generally very enthusiastic in responding to the questionnaires administered to explore local ecological knowledge and to assess their valuation of the mangroves. Right: Mangrove wood cut into timber poles for construction (of houses, bridges) (observed from a study site).



Artisanal fishing in the mangroves is practised by the local people of most study sites.



Encroachment by local people into the mangroves for building residential homes. In this picture, a satellite dish could even be seen mounted on a mangrove tree branch (rear) and a lot of mangrove wood poles (front) harvested for use by local people.