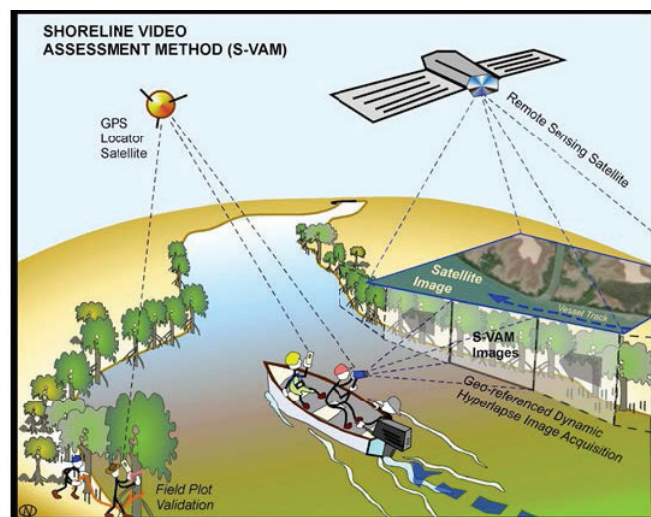


# Benefits of Shoreline Video Assessment Method

The Shoreline Video Assessment Method (SVAM) used for MangroveWatch is the perfect tool for citizen science. The advantages of SVAM are that it is:

- **Easy to do** - Only limited technological skills are required to operate a video camera, handheld GPS and digital still camera.
- **Scientifically valid** - No objective decision making is required by community participants as all imagery is assessed remotely by mangrove experts. Video data enables data quality control. The GPS track ensures repeatability. Video image assessment is backed up by ground truthing and accuracy assessments.
- **Rapid** - Video imagery can be collected quickly, allowing large areas to be assessed with minimal time commitment from MangroveWatch community participants. On average, 10km of shoreline only requires one hour of filming.
- **A permanent visual record** - Video imagery data provides a permanent visual record from which to assess future change and overcomes variation between different observers. Our intention in the near future is to make all video image data available via the MangroveWatch website.
- **A whole ecosystem assessment** - A continuous collection of geo-tagged shoreline images allows for the quantification of data across entire estuaries, rather than from a collection of random points along the bank or within the forest. This allows shoreline habitat features and processes to be seen within the context of the whole system that better informs estuary and coastal management.



Partnering scientists with local people greatly improves our understanding of shoreline habitats and is one of the major advantages of the MangroveWatch approach. Working with local people enables:

- **Local knowledge input** - Local people provide locally relevant information that enhances scientific assessment and provides local context to shoreline habitat assessment. Local observations of change, historical information and knowledge of local values are highly valuable insights.
- **Large spatial coverage** - There are very few mangrove scientists and many keen local mangrove enthusiasts. Working with local people means that more information can be gathered from more places to improve our understanding of shoreline habitats.
- **Community education, empowerment and environmental stewardship** - When local communities are informed they are empowered. By working with scientists, local people can gain more information on the value of their local mangroves and the issues that affect them, empowering them to take action at the local scale.