



novitasari ST.,MT. <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

Fwd: [JDR] Before accepting your submission RE: Manuscript for Journal of Disaster Research

Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>
Kepada: "novitasari ST.,MT." <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

2 Agustus 2018 pukul 17.37

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JDR** <disaster@fujipress.jp>
Date: Thu, 2 Aug 2018, 16:28
Subject: [JDR] Before accepting your submission RE: Manuscript for Journal of Disaster Research
To: Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>

Dear Dr. Joko Sujono,

Thank you for submitting your paper entitled

Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon
by
Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

to the Journal of Disaster Research.

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We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

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Aya Kamata (Ms.)
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Fuji Technology Press Ltd.

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Phone: +81-3-5577-3851
Fax: +81-3-5577-3861
E-mail: disaster@fujipress.jp
*Our e-mail address remains unchanged.

From: Joko Sujono [mailto:jsujono@ugm.ac.id]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 5:23 PM
To: disaster@fujipress.jp
Subject: Manuscript for Journal of Disaster Research

Dear Shinya Wakai (Mr.).
JDR Editorial

We send you a manuscript of our research about wildfire in tropical peatland with the title "DROUGHT INDEX FOR PEATLAND WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA DURING EL NIÑO PHENOMENON". We hope this paper could be published at JDR journal.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards,
Joko Sujono

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40K

Journal of Disaster Research

Submission Form

Title	Drought Index on Peatland Wildfires Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, during El Niño Phenomenon		
Language	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English		
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Development Report <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Note <input type="checkbox"/> News <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion		
Issue No.	Vol.	No.	

Name	Affiliation	Address	E-mail
Novitasari Novitasari	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada	Jl. Grafika No 2, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia	novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id
Joko Sujono	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada	Jl. Grafika No 2, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia	jsujono@ugm.ac.id
Sri Harto	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada	Jl. Grafika No 2, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia	sri.harto.b@ugm.ac.id
Azwar Maas	Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Gadjah Mada	Jl. Flora, Bulak Sumur, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia	azwarmaas@ugm.ac.id
Rachmad Jayadi	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada	Jl. Grafika No 2, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia	rjayadi@ugm.ac.id

Zip code	55281	
Address	Jl. Grafika No 2, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia	
Affiliation	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada	TEL: +62 274 545675
Liaison person	Prof. Ir. Joko Sujono, M.Eng., Ph.D.	FAX: +62 274 545676 E-mail: jsujono@ugm.ac.id

- E-mail communication: possible not possible
- galley proof copy in Acrobat PDF format: acceptable impossible

Please use following checklist for preparation of a paper.

- title abstract (about 300 words) keyword (within 5 words) text references
- figures



novitasari ST.,MT. <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

Fwd: Notification of receipt: Dr9565

Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>
Kepada: "novitasari ST.,MT." <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

10 Oktober 2018 pukul 17.39

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JDR** <disaster@fujipress.jp>
Date: Wed, 8 Aug 2018 at 08:19
Subject: Notification of receipt: Dr9565
To: Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>

Dear Dr. Joko Sujono

Thank you for your reply.
Now we accept your submission

Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon
by
Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

to the Journal of Disaster Research.
Your manuscript ID is Dr9565.

Your paper is going to be reviewed.
You will be notified as soon as we receive the review results.

Sincerely yours,

Aya Kamata
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From: Joko Sujono [mailto:jsujono@ugm.ac.id]
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 10:20 AM
To: JDR <disaster@fujipress.jp>

Subject: Re: [JDR] Before accepting your submission RE: Manuscript for Journal of Disaster Research

Dear Ms. Aya Kamata,

Thank you very much for the quick response of my email.

Enclosed the file needed for submission:

1. A copy of a submission form.
2. We like to submit as regular paper and agree to pay the page charges.
3. We have revised our manuscript, and include 3 paper in JDR publications in references, with the similar research area in tropical peatland.

I thank you for your kindness.

Best regards,
Joko Sujono

On 2 August 2018 at 16:28, JDR <disaster@fujipress.jp> wrote:

Dear Dr. Joko Sujono,

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Aya Kamata (Ms.)
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E-mail: disaster@fujipress.jp

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Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 5:23 PM

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Thanks for your time.

Best regards,
Joko Sujono

Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari*1, Joko Sujono*1,†, Sri Harto*1, Azwar Maas*2, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

_____ ACCEPT provided that all typographic errors and minor recommendations are corrected in the final draft.

X _____ CONDITIONALLY ACCEPT provided that minor revisions are made as indicated in the “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

_____ REVISE AND RESUBMIT “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

_____ REJECT THE PAPER (R) (Future submissions of this work to the Journal will be treated as substantially new papers. Depending on circumstances, the editors may choose to include previous reviews of the rejected paper in any subsequent review of revised versions.)

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

Major comments:

Comment #1:

The repetitive text in Introduction, KBDI Index and some modifications, and Data sections in Lines 66-98, 154-196, 297-315, and 363-391 have similar information. The essential information should be greatly condensed to 1-2 sentences or moved to the discussion section. However, the introduction of various drought types is rather limited, see Line 114-127, and should be expanded especially in relation to groundwater levels. The authors should describe their drought using commonly drought terminology in peer-reviewed literature when referring to investigated drought types: meteorological (lack of precipitation), agricultural (lack of soil moisture), hydrological (lack of river discharge and dam inflows) and socio-economic (lack of water supply to meet water

demand) (Gusyev et al., 2015, 2016), which should be included. In addition, the authors could include WMO (2012; 2016) about various existing and new drought indices in Lines 128-153.

Comment #2:

The current structure of the manuscript has repetitive equations and text. Equation (1) is repeated by Equations (4)-(7), which have different coefficients of w_c , a and b and should be removed. Instead, these coefficients should be given in new Table including computed evaporation time, $t_{6.7}$, with annual rainfall values. Instead, the authors should add the formula of computing evaporation time. Therefore, I suggest to remove equations (4)-(7) by introducing values of coefficients in a new Table.

References:

Gusyev M.A., Hasegawa A., Magome J., Sanchez P., Sugiura A., Umino, H., Sawano H. and Y. Tokunaga (2016). Evaluation of water cycle components with standardized indices under climate change in the Pampanga, Solo and Chao Phraya basins. *Journal of Disaster Research* 11(6): 1091-1102, doi: 10.20965/jdr.2016.p1091

Gusyev M.A., Hasegawa A., Magome J., Kuribayashi D. and H. Sawano (2015). Drought assessment in the Pampanga River basin, the Philippines - Part 1: Characterizing a role of dams in historical droughts with standardized indices. In Weber, T., McPhee, M.J. and Anderssen, R.S. (eds) MODSIM2015, 21st International Congress on Modelling and Simulation. Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand, December 2015: 1586-1592 pp. ISBN: 978-0-9872143-5-5.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (2012). Standardized Precipitation Index User Guide (M. Svoboda, M. Hayes, and D. Wood). WMO-No. 1090, Geneva.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (2016). Handbook of Drought Indicators and Indices. WMO-No. 1173, Geneva, 52 p.

Minor comments:

Line 40: Please clarify “other water table reference”?

Line 106: delete “Singapore”, which is not a country.

Lines 87-88: Do you fire? Smoke does not cause the loss of lives and property.

Lines 114-127: see my major comment #1 to include all drought definitions.

Line 131: change “its impact” to “its impacts”

Line 134: Did you mean aridity index by Thornthwaite (1948)? Please include WMO (2012; 2017) references, see my comment #1.

Line 189: since it is now use, please remove the “WTF” acronym.

Line 212 Equation 1: “ $KBDIt = KBDIt +$ ” should be “ $KBDIt = KBDIt-1 +$ ”

Line 238: Incorrect replace style and change to “[38]”

Line 255: Add reference [38].

Line 260: Remove “n” in “coefficient an”

Line 262: Incorrect style and change to “[38]”

Line 270: Incorrect style and change to “[43]”

Line 276: Incorrect style and change to “[38]”

Line 287: Incorrect style and change to “[43]”

Line 361: Re-name “Data” to “Study area and Data” Section

Line 362: Remove sub-section title.

Lines 392-411, Figure 1. Could you enlarge insets? It is very difficult to see details of canals.

Line 431: Remove sub-section title.

Line 448: Move “Methods” sub-section to “Methods” section.

Figure 2 & 3: This figures should be merged giving the same time-scale. Legends should be placed within figure

Line 673: References formatting is shifted and needs to be fixed to [].

Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

_____ ACCEPT provided that all typographic errors and minor recommendations are corrected in the final draft.

_____ CONDITIONALLY ACCEPT provided that minor revisions are made as indicated in the “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

_____ REVISE AND RESUBMIT “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

_____ REJECT THE PAPER (R) (Future submissions of this work to the Journal will be treated as substantially new papers. Depending on circumstances, the editors may choose to include previous reviews of the rejected paper in any subsequent review of revised versions.)

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

Thank you for the paper discussing on KBDI and NFA relationships for mainly 2015.

My comment is as follows.

It is better to re-structure your paper. For example, you use 3. Data, 3.2 Data, 4.1 Rainfall Data, 4.2 Number of fire alerts data even the chapter 4 is Results and discussion.

Figure 2 and 3 ; Because we can know these figures for 2015, write horizontal axis simply.

Figure 3 and 4 ; Show vertical gridlines indicating months.

L207, 338 and 463 $R_0 \rightarrow R_0$

L212 check equation (1).

L225 write as “5.1 mm/day”

L240 replace x with space, $a. \rightarrow a$ and $-0.001736. \rightarrow -0.001736$

L260 coefficient $an \rightarrow$ coefficient a

L265,285,293 and 345 $KBDI^{t-1} \rightarrow KBDI_{t-1}$ replace x with space

L338 and 463 You wrote “ $R_0 = 65$ ” inches while you defined R_0 in mm/year in line 249.

L392-406 These pictures are very small and readers don't find what you want to show.

L421-426 “This image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected unusually warm surface temperatures associated with fires, and gray smoke indicates the landfill condition [53]” looks to show the explanation of Figure 1.b. But I cannot find “red line” in Figure 1.b.

L461-463 You showed “annual rainfall of 1600 mm”. You discussed on the drought from September to November using 1600mm which include rainfall occurred after drought. Is it better take annual rainfall before dry season such as Oct to Sep?

L488 Show legend more clearly. Readers cannot distinguish them.

L587-588 You wrote “the extreme index level at the value of 375 and continues to rise to the maximum value of 400 starting on September 12, 2015 ”, but I cannot find 375 and 400 in Figure 3 and 4. Could you explain more about it.

L563 $R_0 \rightarrow R_0$

L564-566 “high to extreme drought level was obtained starting from September to November 2015 as much as 51 indices” \rightarrow “extreme drought level was obtained starting from September to November 2015 as much as 51 indices”

L632-634 Could you explain from which you derived this knowledge.

Result and discussion ; Your analysis based on number of monthly events while you have daily base data. If you analyze in daily or weekly base, you may get more detail result.



Novitasari Novitasari <novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id>

Fwd: Notification of review result: Dr9565

Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>

Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 7:44 AM

To: "novitasari ST.,MT." <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>, Novitasari Novitasari <novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id>

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From: **JDR Editorial Office** <disaster@fujipress.jp>

Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2019 at 15:57

Subject: Notification of review result: Dr9565

To: <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>

Dear Dr. Joko Sujono,

We have just received the reports on your paper entitled

Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon
by
Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad JayadiIn view of the reviewers' comments,
some changes are necessary for acceptance.
Please revise your manuscript based on the attached
reviewers' comments and send it to us by April 2.

Please note that revised sentences should be indicated by color characters or color highlights in the revised manuscript.

We look forward to receiving your answer to reviewers
and revised manuscript (electronic file).

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Thank you

Sincerely yours,

Aya Kamata
JDR Editorial Office

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3 attachments

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Paper :

Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Novitasari Novitasari^{*1}, Joko Sujono^{*1,†}, Sri Harto^{*1}, Azwar Maas^{*2}, and Rachmad Jayadi^{*1}

^{*1}Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jl. Grafika No 2, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia

[†]Corresponding author. Tel.: +62 274 545675; Fax: +62 274 545676, E-mail address: jsujono@ugm.ac.id

^{*2}Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jl. Flora, Bulak Sumur, Yogyakarta, 55281, Indonesia

1 Peatland wildfires, especially in tropical ecosystems
2 are due to drought and have caused smoke and
3 other related problems in all aspects of community
4 life in Indonesia, especially in Central Kalimantan.
5 Drought is worsened by the number of drying days
6 in the dry season, El Niño phenomenon, and
7 drainage system in a peatland. Drought decreases
8 the water table and triggers wildfire in a peatland.
9 This research aims to modify numerical formula of
10 drought factor (DFt) in the Keetch–Byram Drought
11 Index (KBDI) of tropical peatland wildfire
12 condition in Central Kalimantan during El Niño
13 phenomenon in 2015 and to apply peatland water
14 table reference are about 400 mm below the ground
15 surface based on previous research and the
16 Government regulation on peatland ecosystem
17 protection and management in Indonesia. This El
18 Niño conditions caused about 30% rain decline in
19 Block A, Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP),
20 Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central
21 Kalimantan Province. The modified KBDI is
22 compared with the Number of Fire Alerts (NFA) by
23 using NASA's active Fire Data in 2015. The analysis
24 results show that modified DFt under tropical
25 peatland conditions leads to an increase in the
26 drought index value, which begins on the
27 predominant drying day in July to October 2015.
28 The extreme KBDI drought index increased from
29 375 to 400 from September to November 2015 as
30 much as 51 extreme drought indices became an
31 indicator for peatland wildfire risk assessment. The
32 extreme KBDI is directly proportional to the
33 number of NFA recorded during 2015, and the
34 highest number of fire occurred in October 2015,
35 with as much as 1746 hot spots with 25 days
36 extreme drought indices from 27 drying days.
37 Hence, the modified formula is suitable for this
38 peatland wildfire condition in Central Kalimantan.
39 Overall, the modified DFt could be applied to El
40 Niño phenomenon and other water table reference
41 under different land conditions.

42 **Keywords:** Keetch–Byram drought index, Drought
43 factor, Number of Fire Alerts, El Niño, peatland
44 wildfire

45 1. Introduction

46 The forest wildfire in Indonesia in 2015 is the
47 largest wildfire in the last ten years in terms of the
48 amounts of trace gases, and aerosols released [1]. The
49 severity of this wildfire is similar to the disaster that
50 occurred in 1997 [2]. Forest wildfires in Indonesia not
51 only occur in upland but also in wetlands [3]. These
52 forest wildfires mainly occur in tropical peatlands [4].
53 Wildfires in tropical peatland occupy an area
54 equivalent to 10.8% of the Indonesia's land area [5].
55 Among tropical countries, Indonesia has the largest
56 tropical peatland, which is about 14 million ha and
57 mainly spreads in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua [6].
58 Indonesia's peatland is a part of the tropical peatland
59 in Southeast Asia [7]. Tropical peat comprises
60 accumulated organic materials in a wetland ecosystem
61 [8]. A tropical peat is formed in forests under wetland
62 conditions with the production of large quantities of
63 organic materials [9, 10]. Organic materials include
64 trees in tropical forests [7].

65 Indonesia's peatland is developed by building a
66 drainage system. Canals are intended to decrease the
67 water table in the peatland. These canals are utilized to
68 support the cultivation of crops, such as oil palm and
69 acacia. The decrease in the water table can cause the
70 peat to become over drained and more flammable,
71 thereby damaging the ecological balance and
72 eliminating forest and peatland biodiversity [10].
73 Peatland is commonly burned by people to minimize
74 production cost, but this practice may cause
75 uncontrolled peatland wildfires [11]. In addition to
76 human-caused fires, peatland wildfires are caused by
77 meteorological drought factors, such as lack of rainfall
78 and high evaporation rate [12]. The water table also
79 decreases due to drain and causes wildfire risk. Dry
80 peatland, which is fundamentally unstable, will lose
81 water from the pores of the soil, allowing oxygen to
82 penetrate into the pores and oxidize the peat through
83 biological and chemical processes [13]. Peatland
84 wildfires not only cause rainforest degradation [14]
85 and affect biodiversity [15] but also release smoke
86 from carbon emissions to the atmosphere; smoke
87 harms the human body and leads to loss of lives and
88 property [16]. Peatland wildfires spread slowly
89 through the surface, and those classified as smoldering
90 type are absorbed by subsurface and organic layers

91 [17]. This type of fire is difficult to be detected [18].
 92 Smoldering wildfire causes the lateral spread of flames
 93 under different moisture and wind conditions [19] and
 94 creates strong smoke that spreads over extensive areas
 95 [20]. Drought and fires are important components for
 96 the dynamics assessment of tropical peat forests [21].

97 The risk of wildfires increases due to frequency and
 98 duration of drought [22]. Drought is a condition that
 99 cannot be managed [23] and has affected millions of
 100 square kilometers of land in many areas, such as North
 101 America, West Africa, and East Asia [24]. In
 102 Indonesia, drought in peatlands causes wildfires as
 103 sub-surface fires all around the ecosystem. These
 104 wildfires cause smoke to spread to other countries,
 105 such as Malaysia [25] and Singapore. Fires occur
 106 almost every year in Indonesia during the dry season.
 107 Wildfires usually occur between June and September
 108 and will intensify during El Niño [26]. El Niño is a
 109 natural phenomenon characterized by the warming of
 110 temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and causes drought
 111 in the Asian region [27]. El Niño decreases the amount
 112 of rainfall in Indonesia [16].

113 A situation with less than normal water availability
 114 due to climate variability may cause drought [28].
 115 Decreased amount of rainfall is also one of the causes
 116 of drought, namely, meteorological drought [29]. This
 117 type of drought appears in various components of the
 118 hydrological cycle [30]. In Indonesia, meteorological
 119 drought is accompanied by dry peatland caused by the
 120 decline in the water table and changes in the physical
 121 properties of peat due to the drainage system. Drainage
 122 system forces water to fall from the land to the drains
 123 and continue to the water body. Internal factors cause
 124 the land to become drought and flammable. Some fires
 125 are also caused by human activities, such as land
 126 clearing.

127 Drought causes wildfires in a complex process, and
 128 drought index cannot be easily specified. No index can
 129 explain the complexity of drought and its impact [31].
 130 In a previous meteorological drought analysis, the ratio
 131 between the amount of available water, especially rain,
 132 and the amount of water loss due to evaporation
 133 process is called drought index. Furthermore, the
 134 drought index can be used as indicator to determine the
 135 classification of the drought level of a particular region
 136 or area [28]. Many drought indices have been
 137 expanded to appraise the scale, type, and impact of
 138 drought [32]. In forestry, many drought indices are
 139 designed for fire risk assessment [33]. The most widely
 140 used drought indices are the Nesterov index, the
 141 Zhdanko index [34], the Angstrom Index [35], the
 142 Baumgartner index [36], the McArthur forest fire
 143 danger index [37], and the Keetch–Byram Drought
 144 Index (KBDI) [38]. KBDI is one of the most widely
 145 used indices for forest fire control management under
 146 various climatic conditions [31]. KBDI was first
 147 developed for forest fire control management in the
 148 sub-tropical Florida region in USA [38]. KBDI was
 149 also developed to be suitable under Mediterranean
 150 conditions. This study provides accurate results in

151 forestry and fire risk management in Thessaloniki,
 152 Northern Greece [39].

153 A previous study of Petros, et al (2011) obtained a
 154 high response between the modified KBDI in a
 155 Mediterranean climate to the data of real moisture in
 156 the region. The modified KBDI used under rainfall
 157 conditions in Mediterranean takes on higher values
 158 during summer months to estimated fire risk in that
 159 study area [39]. The modified index in Mediterranean
 160 climate was verified by testing the KBDI of pine
 161 forests in the southwestern province of Valencia, Spain
 162 under sub-tropical and Mediterranean climate
 163 conditions in terms of tree growth density and water
 164 balance for forest fire control [40]. The application of
 165 KBDI in the Hawaiian Islands under sub-tropical and
 166 Mediterranean climate conditions shows that it can
 167 represent fire activity in the region. This research
 168 concludes the strong relationship between KBDI and
 169 total burned area in Oahu, Maui and Hawaii islands
 170 [41]. KBDI was also tested on four rain stations in
 171 Malaysia, namely, Kota Bharu Station (Kelantan),
 172 Kuching (Sarawak), Sandakan (Sabah), and Subang
 173 (Selangor). The KBDI scores obtained in these stations
 174 were used to present trends that can be used in forest
 175 fire management in Malaysia that has tropical climate
 176 [42]. The KBDI in Indonesia was also applied to
 177 wetlands in Ogan Komering Ilir, South Sumatra and
 178 lead to more accurate results in predicting fire hazards
 179 in wetland areas by adding water table factor (WTF).
 180 The critical water table to achieve the maximum fire
 181 hazard is 0.85 m for the wetland forest area in the area
 182 [43]. KBDI was also used by the International Forest
 183 Fire Management Project for forest fire control in East
 184 Kalimantan and exhibited more accurate result than the
 185 Nesterov index [44]. Evaluation of the performance of
 186 KBDI under some climatic conditions, ranging from
 187 sub-tropical climate, Mediterranean climate, and
 188 tropical climate, reports that KBDI is a flexible
 189 drought index for almost all climatic conditions and
 190 may represent forest fire control. Therefore, this study
 191 aims to test the behavior of KBDI for peatland
 192 wildfires in Central Kalimantan under tropical climate
 193 conditions affected by the El Niño disaster in 2015.
 194 This El Niño conditions caused significant rainfall
 195 decline in most parts of Indonesia.

196 2. KBDI Index and some modification

197 2.1 KBDI and wildfire risk assessment

198 KBDI was first introduced to manage forest fire
 199 control under sub-tropical climate. This index
 200 represents the net effect of evapotranspiration and
 201 precipitation on cumulative moisture deficiency in
 202 deep duff or upper soil layers and is related to the
 203 flammability of organic materials in the ground [38].
 204 KBDI is applied to human activity-caused fire and sub-
 205 surface fire. Under sub-tropical climate, the average
 206 annual rainfall R_0 is 1270 mm/year, the maximum
 207 temperature (T_m) is 26.7 °C, and the corresponding

208 field capacity of available water in the layer (w_c) is 203
 209 mm. KBDI is determined using Equation (1).

$$211 \quad KBDI_t = KBDI_t + DF_t - RF_t \quad (1)$$

212 where:

- 214 DF_t = drought factor (mm)
- 215 RF_t = rainfall factor (mm)
- 216 t = time (day)

217
 218 The value of rainfall factor (RF_t) is determined by
 219 meteorological data in the form of annual rainfall and
 220 daily rainfall. RF_t more than 5.1 mm/day is considered
 221 a reduction in the drought index and determined with
 222 the following equation [38].

$$224 \quad RF_t = \begin{cases} (R_t - 5.1), R_t \geq 5.1 \frac{mm}{day}, 1st \text{ rainy day} \\ R_t, R_{t-1} \geq \frac{5.1mm}{day}, 2nd \text{ and the next rainy day} \\ 0, R_t < 5.1mm/day \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

225
 226 Drought factor (DF_t) was determined based on the
 227 basic theory of soil moisture degradation in the forest
 228 area for fire control by assuming the following: (1) the
 229 field capacity of the organic layer is taken as 203 mm of
 230 water in excess of moisture hold by the layer at the
 231 wilting point; (2) the organic soil layer obtains moisture
 232 from rainfall and loses moisture from
 233 evapotranspiration, and the lowest moisture level is
 234 detected at the wilting point; (3) the rate of
 235 evapotranspiration is a function of meteorological
 236 variables and vegetation density, and (4) the vegetation
 237 density is a function of the mean annual rainfall (Keetch
 238 & Byram, 1968) as follows:

$$240 \quad DF_t = (w_c - KBDI_{t-1}) \times \frac{(a \cdot e^{(b \cdot T_m + 1.5552)} - c) \cdot x 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88 \cdot e^{(-0.001736 \cdot R_0)}} \quad (3)$$

241 where:

- 243 DF_t = drought factor (mm)
- 244 w_c = the corresponding field capacity of available
 245 water in the layer (mm)
- 246 $KBDI_{t-1}$ = moisture deficiency (KBDI at t-1)
- 247 T_m = daily maximum air temperature (°C)
- 248 t = time increment (day)
- 249 R_0 = average annual rainfall (mm/year)
- 250 a and c = coefficient influenced by the mean annual
 251 rainfall (R_0)
- 252 b = coefficient influenced by evapotranspiration

253
 254 Based on calculations in the Forest Service
 255 Research paper SE-38, the evaporation time for 26.7
 256 °C and the annual rainfall of 1270 mm/year ($t_{26.7;1270}$)
 257 is 56.41 days; this value is only affected by
 258 temperature. The evaporation time for the temperature
 259 of 26.7 °C and the annual rainfall of ∞ mm/year ($t_{26.7;\infty}$)
 260 is 0.4545. $t_{26.7;1} = 25.64$ days. The coefficient a in
 261 Equation (3) become 0.968, and the coefficient c
 262 become 8.3 (Keetch & Byram, 1968); thus, Equation
 263 (3) becomes Equation (4).

264

$$265 \quad DF_t = \frac{(203 - KBDI^{t-1}) (0.968 e^{(0.0875 \cdot T_m + 1.5552)} - 8.3) \cdot x 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88 e^{(-0.001736 \cdot R_0)}} \quad (4)$$

266 2.2 KBDI index modification in tropical 267 climate

268 2.2.1 KBDI index modification in tropical wetland 269 conditions

270 Taufik et al. (2015) modified DF_t affected by
 271 annual rainfall and evapotranspiration in a tropical
 272 climate through changing the values of the coefficients
 273 a and c in Equation (3) adjusted to the annual rainfall
 274 (R_0) in tropical climate. The mean annual rainfall in
 275 tropical climate is 2500 mm [43]. The evaporation time
 276 for the same temperature used by Keetch & Byram
 277 (1968) is 26.7 °C, and the annual rainfall for the
 278 tropical climate of 2500 mm/year ($t_{26.7;2500}$) is 56.41
 279 days. The evaporation time for 26.7 °C with an annual
 280 rainfall of ∞ mm/year ($t_{26.7;\infty}$) is equal to
 281 0.8831. $t_{26.7;2500} = 49.8$ days. The coefficient a becomes
 282 0.4982, and the coefficient c becomes 4.268. Equation
 283 (4) becomes Equation (5).

$$285 \quad DF_t = \frac{(203 - KBDI^{t-1}) (0.4982 e^{(0.0905 \cdot T_m + 1.5552)} - 4.268) \cdot x 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88 e^{(-0.001736 \cdot R_0)}} \quad (5)$$

286
 287 Taufik et al. (2015) concluded that the loss of
 288 evapotranspiration in tropical climate is higher than
 289 15% relative to that in sub-tropical climate; thus, the
 290 coefficient b in Equation (5) becomes 0.0905 as in
 291 Equation (6).

$$293 \quad DF_t = \frac{(203 - KBDI^{t-1}) (0.4982 e^{(0.0905 \cdot T_m + 1.5552)} - 4.268) \cdot x 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88 e^{(-0.001736 \cdot R_0)}} \quad (6)$$

295 2.2.1 KBDI modified under tropical conditions 296 followed by El Niño

297 The formula of DF_t [Equation (6)] has been
 298 developed to represent the average rainfall conditions
 299 in wildfire risk control for tropical wetland
 300 ecosystems. However, wildfires in tropical forests,
 301 especially those in Indonesia's tropical forests, are also
 302 affected by El Niño phenomenon, which causes
 303 extreme warming to the equatorial Pacific. El Niño
 304 causes severe droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India,
 305 and South Africa, and the amount of rainfall is below
 306 the normal conditions [27]. In 2009, in the Southern
 307 part of Kalimantan shows low precipitation, which
 308 causes peatland drying and easy spread of fires [45].
 309 Analysis of rainfall from three stations in the study
 310 area indicates that when El Niño happened in 2015,
 311 rainfall decreased by approximately 30% of the annual
 312 average rainfall in tropical climate. The annual rainfall
 313 at the study area was 1600 mm in 2015. The decrease
 314 in rainfall affects the values of the coefficients a and c
 315 on DF_t in Equation (6).

316 In addition to the changes in the coefficients a and
 317 c on DF_t , w_c was also modified. In the initial equation
 318 of KBDI, the w_c value is assumed to be 203 of soil
 319 water available for evapotranspiration and expressed

320 in hundredths of a millimeter [38]. The w_c value was
 321 on the scale from 0 to 203, where 0 shows no moisture
 322 depletion and 203 indicate the highest depletion [43].
 323 The w_c value is influenced by the depth of the reference
 324 water table. This value was based on a peatland
 325 research in the Netherlands that 400 mm depth of
 326 reference water table to avoid peat subsidence [11].
 327 Peat dryness correlated with wildfire and reduction of
 328 groundwater level [46]. The Government Regulation
 329 of the Republic of Indonesia No. 71 of 2014 [47] on
 330 peat ecosystem protection and management of clause
 331 23 point 3, that was revised into regulation No. 57 of
 332 2016, stating that peat ecosystem with cultivation
 333 function could be damaging if water table depth is
 334 more than 400 mm below the peat surface [48].

335 Based on the average rainfall data of 2015 and
 336 water table data, the evaporation time at 26.7 °C and
 337 the annual rainfall of ∞ mm/year ($t_{26.7; \infty}$) is
 338 $0.6175 \cdot t_{26.7; 1600} = 68.6$ days for $R_0 = 65$ (1600 mm).
 339 Based on the values the coefficient a become 0.3614
 340 and the coefficient c become 3.1027. The w_c value used
 341 is 400 mm, which is according to the criterion of the
 342 water table reference for peat conditions. Equation (6)
 343 becomes Equation (7).

344
 345
$$DF_t = \frac{(400 - KBDI^{t-1})(0.3614e^{(0.0905xTm+1.6096)} - 3.1027) \times 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88e^{(-0.001736xR_0)}} \quad (7)$$

346
 347 The new value of w_c causes a change in KBDI
 348 classes. The water table ranges from 0 to 400 mm. The
 349 water table at 400 mm below the surface is considered
 350 to cause the maximum drought index and cause a fire
 351 risk in peat ecosystem. A water table of 0 mm, where
 352 water is on the surface of the land, is expressed as an
 353 ideal peat condition that is always inundated. Based on
 354 the result of the correction of DF_t as in Equation (7),
 355 the value of KBDI classes that adjusts to the change of
 356 w_c value is corrected. Drought index classes are
 357 divided into four levels as in Table (1).

358
 359 Table 1. Drought index classes of KBDI modified for tropical
 360 peatland conditions

KBDI index in tropical peatland conditions	classes
0 – 200	low
201-300	moderate
301-350	high
>350	extreme

361 **3. Data**

362 **3.1 Description of the study area**

363 The Mega Rice Project of one million hectares of
 364 peatland in Central Kalimantan damaged the tropical
 365 peat forest [49]. The present study was conducted in
 366 Block A, the Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP) located in
 367 Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central
 368 Kalimantan Province (Figure 1). The area undergoes
 369 land clearing, which causes the peatland to become dry
 370 and flammable. Drought index for peat wildfire risk
 371 assessment was evaluated under peat wildfires

372 conditions in 2015. The largest wildfires occur in
 373 tropical peatlands, one of which is in a tropical
 374 peatland in Indonesia. Peat wildfires also occur in the
 375 EMRP area in Central Kalimantan [50]. The Mega
 376 Rice Project was opened in 1996 until 2009 and caused
 377 400 thousand ha of tropical rainforest to be opened.
 378 EMRP is a program that considerably fails to conserve
 379 peatland in Indonesia [49]. The exploitation of forest
 380 and peatland in EMRP land occurs with the
 381 construction of drainage networks systems [49]. The
 382 drainage network systems divide peat domes, causing
 383 massive damage to peat dome, resulting in its loss of
 384 function as field reservoirs, land subsidence, and
 385 decreased water table [51]. This phenomenon causes
 386 irreversible drying peat, which triggers forest and
 387 peatland wildfires [52]. In addition to decreased water
 388 table, peatland wildfires are due to rainfall reduction
 389 (the number of drying day) due to the El Niño
 390 phenomenon, which usually occurs from September to
 391 October.



407 Figure 1. a. Study area on Block A of Ex-Mega Rice Project, b.
 408 The conditions of peatland wildfires was found on October 19,
 409 2015, c. post-wildfire conditions in peatlands around canal C,
 410 d. Canal D post-wildfire, and e. Canal E post-wildfire in
 411 November 2015

412
 413 Figure (1.a) shows the location of present research
 414 on the Block A of the EMRP in Mantangai sub-
 415 District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan
 416 Province. The areas studied include C, D, and E canal.
 417 The highest number of fire alert (NFA) was found on
 418 October 19, 2015. The conditions of peatland wildfires
 419 in Kalimantan captured by the Moderate Resolution
 420 Imaging SpectroRadiometer (MODIS) from the
 421 NASA Aqua satellite are presented in Figure 1.b. This
 422 image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line
 423 indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected
 424 unusually warm surface temperatures associated with
 425 fires, and gray smoke indicates the landfill condition
 426 [53]. Figure 1.c shows some post-wildfires conditions
 427 in the peatland around C canal. Figure 1.d shows post-
 428 wildfires around D canal and Figure 1.e shows around
 429 E canal in the Block A of EMRP in Mantangai sub-
 430 District on November 2015.

431 **3.2 Data**

432 Rainfall data were recorded near the study area,
 433 such as in Tjilik Riwut, Beringin, and Sanggu Rain
 434 Station (<http://dataonline.bmkg.go.id>). Rainfall data
 435 were analyzed from 01 January 2015 to 31 December
 436 2015, and the total dry days were 263 days, which are
 437 more than 70% from the total in 2015. The NFA in the
 438 form of hotspots was obtained from
 439 <http://fires.globalforestwatch.org> by using NASA's
 440 Active Fire Data to determine the possible location of
 441 fires on earth. The system uses NASA MODIS
 442 satellites, which survey the entire earth every 1–2 days.
 443 The sensors on these satellites detect hot marks in
 444 infrared spectral waves. During processing of the
 445 satellite imagery, the algorithm looks for a heat sign
 446 and detects it as a fire sign. The system can indicate
 447 where a fire occurred and can give warning [54].

448 **3.3 Methods**

449 In this study, a modified KBDI was developed for
 450 wildfire risk assessment under tropical peatland
 451 conditions influenced by El Niño; modification to
 452 baseline groundwater conditions for peatland affects
 453 the w_c value. The modified index was compared with
 454 KBDI under tropical wetland conditions [43]. The
 455 results of two index modifications were compared
 456 against NFA recorded in peat forest, Block A,
 457 Mantangai Sub-district, Central Kalimantan Province,
 458 on 2015.

459 **4. Results and discussion**

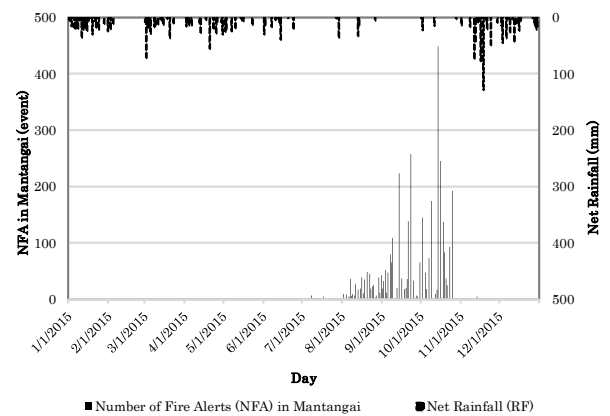
460 **4.1 Rainfall Data**

461 Based on observations, rainfall from the three rain
 462 stations is almost uniform, with an average annual
 463 rainfall of 1600 mm ($R_0 = 65$ in). This rainfall value is
 464 below the average annual rainfall of areas with tropical
 465 climate. The mean annual rainfall under tropical
 466 climate ranges from 2000 mm to 3000 mm [43]. The
 467 decrease in rainfall is caused by El Niño in Indonesia.
 468 The average monthly rainfall at the three stations in the
 469 study site is the highest (134 mm) on November 2015.
 470 The net rainfall or rainfall factor (RF) is calculated
 471 with Equation (2) to determine the number of drying
 472 days (Figure 2). Drying day conditions in July as much
 473 as 30 days, 28 days in August, 30 days in September
 474 and 27 days in October 2015.

475 **4.2 Number of fire alerts data**

476 NFA data during 2015 in Mantangai, Central
 477 Kalimantan is shown in Figure 2. On that year, the
 478 NFA reaches as many as 30,121 events in Central
 479 Kalimantan Province and 3,544 events in Mantangai
 480 sub District. The NFA event in Mantangai is 3525
 481 events from July to November 2015, as much 12.1%
 482 from 29171 events in Central Kalimantan. NFA began
 483 to increase from July to November 2015, and the
 484 largest number of NFA on October 2015 is as many as

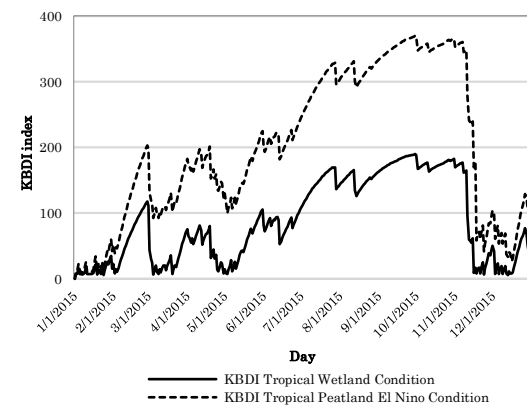
485 1741 events in Mantangai. These data show that the
 486 number of hotspots in October represents half of the
 487 NFA over the year 2015.



488
 489 Figure 2. Net rainfall/rainfall factor (RF) and number of fire
 490 alerts (NFA) in 2015

491 **4.3 Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)**
 492 **analysis**

493 Based on the results of the analysis using DF_t under
 494 tropical wetland conditions [43] and under tropical
 495 peatland conditions influenced by El Niño
 496 phenomenon, the change in the w_c value is shown in
 497 Figure 3.



498
 499 Figure 3. Comparison of KBDI tropical wetland conditions
 500 and modified KBDI of tropical peatland conditions influenced
 501 by El Niño phenomenon

502
 503 The KBDI level with DF_t formula under tropical
 504 wetland conditions of low-drought index level was 222
 505 data, the medium drought index was 43 data, the high
 506 drought index as much as 65 data, and the extreme
 507 drought index was 35 data. In the calculation of KBDI
 508 with modified DF_t formula under tropical peatland
 509 conditions, which was influenced by El Niño
 510 phenomenon, the extreme drought conditions increase
 511 to 51 occurrences, which started in September until
 512 November 2015. The extreme conditions are presented
 513 in Table 2.

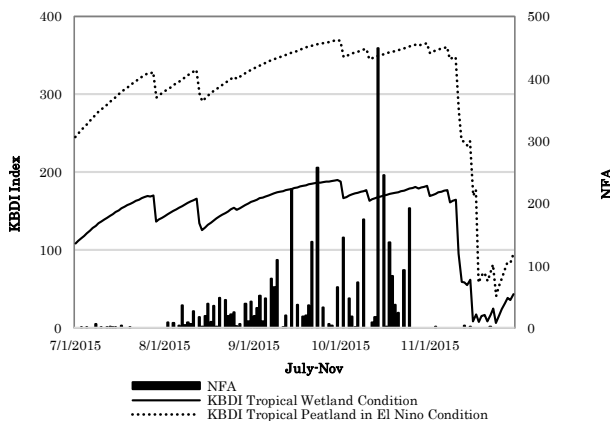
514
 515
 516
 517 Table 2. Extreme drought level conditions

	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
--	------	--------	------	-----	-----

KBDI tropical wetland conditions	High	13	16	10	18	8
	Extreme	0	0	20	13	2
KBDI modified in tropical peatland conditions due to El Niño	High	13	27	11	6	3
	Extreme	0	0	19	25	7
Number of Fire Alerts (NFA)	event	19	488	1272	1746	10

518

519 Based on the 30% reduction in rainfall occurring at
 520 the study area in 2015 due to El Niño and the change
 521 in w_c caused by groundwater table change, the extreme
 522 drought index increased. In calculating KBDI with DF_t
 523 formula under tropical wetland conditions and tropical
 524 peatland conditions, extreme drought levels began to
 525 occur in early September 2015. KBDI response with a
 526 formula under tropical wetland conditions with KBDI
 527 with DF_t under tropical peatland conditions was
 528 affected by El Niño against fire risk assessment
 529 represented by some fire points (NFA). The
 530 association of KBDI with DF_t formula under tropical
 531 wetland conditions and the DF_t formula correction of
 532 tropical climate affected by El Niño compared with
 533 NFA in the study area is shown in Figure 4.



534

535 Figure 4. KBDI modification in tropical climate with NFA
 536 events in dry months (July to November 2015)

537

538 Figure 4 shows the high to the extreme drought
 539 index from the beginning of July to November 2015,
 540 representing the occurrence of a starting point of fire
 541 beginning in July 2015 from KBDI modification under
 542 tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland
 543 conditions.

544 1. Index response with DF_t formula under tropical
 545 wetland conditions

546 Based on the analysis of KBDI with DF_t formula on
 547 tropical wetland conditions, no extreme drought
 548 occurred at the beginning of July and August.
 549 Extreme drought indices occurred in September
 550 2015 as many as 20 events, October 2015 as many
 551 as 13 events, and November 2015 as much as two
 552 events. Based on NFA data recorded in July, the
 553 study site has 19 hotspots, followed in August 2015
 554 (488 hotspots) and September 2015 (1272
 555 hotspots); most events as many as 1746 hotspots
 556 occurred in October. The highest level of extreme

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index occurred in September 2015 is not equal to
 the highest NFA on October 2015.

2. KBDI responds with corrected DF_t under tropical
 peatland conditions

In the corrected DF_t formula for tropical peatland
 conditions affected by El Niño with rainfall
 reduction of 30% with $R_0 = 1600$ mm and
 groundwater level 400 mm, high to extreme
 drought level was obtained starting from September
 to November 2015 as much as 51 indices. The
 results are extreme drought index of 19 events in
 September, 25 events in October, and seven events
 in November 2015. This finding is consistent with
 the presence of NFA data, where the starting point
 of fire in July to the highest fire spots in October
 2015 as many as 1746 hot spots. Those hot spot
 conditions in October 2015 are represented by
 extreme drought conditions that covers 25 days of
 the month.

576 **4.4 Discussion**

577 Based on KBDI analysis in 2015 between corrected
 578 DF_t modification under tropical wetland conditions
 579 and tropical peatland conditions compared with the
 580 number of fire alerts in Mantangai sub-District, the
 581 results show that:

- 582 1. The faster response of KBDI modification index
 583 under tropical peatland conditions adequately
 584 represents real fire risk assessment recorded in
 585 2015. KBDI modification under tropical peatland
 586 conditions increases from the high index level to
 587 the extreme index level at the value of 375 and
 588 continues to rise to the maximum value of 400
 589 starting on September 12, 2015, representing NFAs
 590 of as much as 20 events that day. KBDI
 591 modification under tropical wetland conditions
 592 increases from high index level to extreme index
 593 level on September 11, 2015, with only represented
 594 by 1 NFA data. That extreme level of KBDI
 595 modification under tropical peatland conditions
 596 could potentially trigger wildfires in peatland.
- 597 2. In October 2015, the NFA events in Mantangai are
 598 as many as 1746 events with the KBDI
 599 modification under tropical peatland conditions
 600 shown by 25 extreme indices while in KBDI
 601 wetland modification only indicated by 13 extreme
 602 indices.
- 603 3. According to the modified DF_t under tropical
 604 peatland conditions, the estimated fire danger is
 605 higher than 16 indices in September to November
 606 2015 in the study area with the corrected water table
 607 into 400 mm.

608 Modified KBDI under tropical peatland conditions
 609 seems to perform better in wildfire risk assessment of
 610 the peatland during El Niño in 2015 compared with
 611 other empirical KBDI parameters. The results are
 612 accordance with those of previous Kalimantan Forests
 613 and Climate Partnership (KFCP) observations. Based
 614 on a study of KFCP from 2004 to 2013 in the study
 615 area, daily wildfires indicated fire at the same location

616 and month. Fires occur in late July to early November.
 617 The peak of the fire occurred in September [55].
 618 Previous research on the smoke hazard posed by forest
 619 wildfires from 2001 to 2010 showed a large landfill
 620 trend occurring from mid-August to end of October
 621 [56]. Thus, by consideration the drought index formula
 622 under tropical peatland conditions have several general
 623 principles about the use of any empirical drought
 624 indices are:

- 625 1. The KBDI formula should be based on the net
 626 rainfall factor set by the R threshold. This threshold
 627 for tropical conditions still uses the same threshold
 628 in the previous KBDI formula defined under sub-
 629 tropical conditions.
- 630 2. Peatland wildfires are not just caused by
 631 meteorological conditions but also by many
 632 internal factors in the soil, such as peat
 633 decomposition, physical properties, water holding
 634 capacity, and capillarity rise.
- 635 3. Peatland wildfires are also affected by peatland
 636 unwise management, similar to building drain canal
 637 in the peat dome that changes water table.

638 5. Conclusion

639 KBDI modification by correcting DF_t formula
 640 against the referenced water table level for peatland
 641 and influenced by rainfall reduction due to the El Niño
 642 phenomenon can represent NFA in peatland. The
 643 analysis results show the behavior of the KBDI of
 644 drought correction (DF_t) under tropical peatland
 645 conditions already represented by some drying days
 646 dominant occurring from July to October 2015. The
 647 extreme index increasing from 375 to reach a
 648 maximum value of drought index of 400 occurred from
 649 September to October 2015 become the indication of
 650 peatland wildfires risk assessment. 25 days extreme
 651 index from 27 drying days in October 2015 that
 652 represented as many as 1746 hotspots of peatland
 653 wildfires occurred in the research area. It indicates that
 654 formula modification is suitable for this condition.
 655 Finally, based on this research, the modified DF_t can
 656 be applied to El Niño phenomenon and other water
 657 table reference under different land conditions. In
 658 addition to meteorological and water table factors that
 659 affect drought management in peatland, several
 660 supporting factors must be considered, such as peat
 661 decomposition, physical characteristics, water holding
 662 capacity, and capillarity rise. The lower physical
 663 properties of peatland lead to larger wildfires with the
 664 same number of drying days.

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 670 Technology, and High Education – the Republic of Indonesia
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672

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Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari*1, Joko Sujono*1,†, Sri Harto*1, Azwar Maas*2, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

_____ ACCEPT provided that all typographic errors and minor recommendations are corrected in the final draft.

X _____ CONDITIONALLY ACCEPT provided that minor revisions are made as indicated in the “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

_____ REVISE AND RESUBMIT “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

Major comments:

Comment #1:

The repetitive text in Introduction, KBDI Index and some modifications, and Data sections in Lines 66-98, 154-196, 297-315, and 363-391 have similar information. The essential information should be greatly condensed to 1-2 sentences or moved to the discussion section. However, the introduction of various drought types is rather limited, see Line 114-127, and should be expanded especially in relation to groundwater levels. The authors should describe their drought using commonly drought terminology in peer-reviewed literature when referring to investigated drought types: meteorological (lack of precipitation), agricultural (lack of soil moisture), hydrological (lack of river discharge and dam inflows) and socio-economic (lack of water supply to meet water

demand) (Gusyev et al., 2015, 2016), which should be included. In addition, the authors could include WMO (2012; 2016) about various existing and new drought indices in Lines 128-153.

Comment #2:

The current structure of the manuscript has repetitive equations and text. Equation (1) is repeated by Equations (4)-(7), which have different coefficients of w_c , a and b and should be removed. Instead, these coefficients should be given in new Table including computed evaporation time, $t_{26.7}$, with annual rainfall values. Instead, the authors should add the formula of computing evaporation time. Therefore, I suggest to remove equations (4)-(7) by introducing values of coefficients in a new Table.

References:

Gusyev M.A., Hasegawa A., Magome J., Sanchez P., Sugiura A., Umino, H., Sawano H. and Y. Tokunaga (2016). Evaluation of water cycle components with standardized indices under climate change in the Pampanga, Solo and Chao Phraya basins. *Journal of Disaster Research* 11(6): 1091-1102, doi: 10.20965/jdr.2016.p1091

Gusyev M.A., Hasegawa A., Magome J., Kuribayashi D. and H. Sawano (2015). Drought assessment in the Pampanga River basin, the Philippines - Part 1: Characterizing a role of dams in historical droughts with standardized indices. In Weber, T., McPhee, M.J. and Anderssen, R.S. (eds) MODSIM2015, 21st International Congress on Modelling and Simulation. Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand, December 2015: 1586-1592 pp. ISBN: 978-0-9872143-5-5.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (2012). Standardized Precipitation Index User Guide (M. Svoboda, M. Hayes, and D. Wood). WMO-No. 1090, Geneva.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (2016). Handbook of Drought Indicators and Indices. WMO-No. 1173, Geneva, 52 p.

Minor comments:

Line 40: Please clarify “other water table reference”?

Line 106: delete “Singapore”, which is not a country.

Lines 87-88: Do you fire? Smoke does not cause the loss of lives and property.

Lines 114-127: see my major comment #1 to include all drought definitions.

Line 131: change “its impact” to “its impacts”

Line 134: Did you mean aridity index by Thornthwaite (1948)? Please include WMO (2012; 2017) references, see my comment #1.

Line 189: since it is now use, please remove the “WTF” acronym.

Line 212 Equation 1: “ $KBDIt = KBDIt +$ ” should be “ $KBDIt = KBDIt-1 +$ ”

Line 238: Incorrect replace style and change to “[38]”

Line 255: Add reference [38].

Line 260: Remove “n” in “coefficient an”

Line 262: Incorrect style and change to “[38]”

Line 270: Incorrect style and change to “[43]”

Line 276: Incorrect style and change to “[38]”

Line 287: Incorrect style and change to “[43]”

Line 361: Re-name “Data” to “Study area and Data” Section

Line 362: Remove sub-section title.

Lines 392-411, Figure 1. Could you enlarge insets? It is very difficult to see details of canals.

Line 431: Remove sub-section title.

Line 448: Move “Methods” sub-section to “Methods” section.

Figure 2 & 3: This figures should be merged giving the same time-scale. Legends should be placed within figure

Line 673: References formatting is shifted and needs to be fixed to [].

Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

Thank you for the paper discussing on KBDI and NFA relationships for mainly 2015.

My comment is as follows.

It is better to re-structure your paper. For example, you use 3. Data, 3.2 Data, 4.1 Rainfall Data, 4.2 Number of fire alerts data even the chapter 4 is Results and discussion.

Figure 2 and 3 ; Because we can know these figures for 2015, write horizontal axis simply.

Figure 3 and 4 ; Show vertical gridlines indicating months.

L207, 338 and 463 $R_0 \rightarrow R_0$

L212 check equation (1).

L225 write as “5.1 mm/day”

L240 replace x with space, $a. \rightarrow a$ and $-0.001736. \rightarrow -0.001736$

L260 coefficient $an \rightarrow$ coefficient a

L265,285,293 and 345 $KBDI^{t-1} \rightarrow KBDI_{t-1}$ replace x with space

L338 and 463 You wrote “ $R_0 = 65$ ” inches while you defined R_0 in mm/year in line 249.

L392-406 These pictures are very small and readers don't find what you want to show.

L421-426 “This image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected unusually warm surface temperatures associated with fires, and gray smoke indicates the landfill condition [53]” looks to show the explanation of Figure 1.b. But I cannot find “red line” in Figure 1.b.

L461-463 You showed “annual rainfall of 1600 mm”. You discussed on the drought from September to November using 1600mm which include rainfall occurred after drought. Is it better take annual rainfall before dry season such as Oct to Sep?

L488 Show legend more clearly. Readers cannot distinguish them.

L587-588 You wrote “the extreme index level at the value of 375 and continues to rise to the maximum value of 400 starting on September 12, 2015 ”, but I cannot find 375 and 400 in Figure 3 and 4. Could you explain more about it.

L563 $R_0 \rightarrow R_0$

L564-566 “high to extreme drought level was obtained starting from September to November 2015 as much as 51 indices” \rightarrow “extreme drought level was obtained starting from September to November 2015 as much as 51 indices”

L632-634 Could you explain from which you derived this knowledge.

Result and discussion ; Your analysis based on number of monthly events while you have daily base data. If you analyze in daily or weekly base, you may get more detail result.



novitasari ST.,MT. <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

Fwd: Notification of receipt: Dr9565 Re: Notification of review result: Dr9565

Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>
 Kepada: "novitasari ST.,MT." <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

16 Juli 2019 pukul 11.44

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From: **JDR Editorial Office** <disaster@fujipress.jp>
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Dear Dr. Joko Sujono,

Thank you for submitting the revised version of your paper entitled

Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan,
Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

by

Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad
Jayadi.

Your paper has been sent to the corresponding reviewers.
 You will be notified as soon as we receive the re-review results.

Sincerely yours,

Aya Kamata
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> Thank you very much for your kindness.
>
> Best regards,
> joko sujono
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> Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon
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> Jayadi
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> some changes are necessary for acceptance.
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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

I thank for the opportunity to review the revised manuscript by Noitsasari et al. “Drought Index for Peatland Wildfires Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, El Nino Phenomenon”. Although the authors address my previous comments, the English grammar and readability still need to be improved. In addition, I identified one critical concern regarding time calculation in the revised manuscript. My major and minor comments are listed below.

Critical concern:

I found the fundamental error in the authors calculation presented in Lines 231-257 and 318-322 and suggest to remove the text. If the authors want to keep the text, these calculations need to be checked and recalculated.

In Line 235, the authors statement about time increment is incorrect and equation (4)

description should be replaced by “The equation of evapotranspiration timelag t with daily maximum temperature (T_m) and annual average rainfall (R_o) as follows”, see the Keetch, J.J. and Byram, G.M. (1968). Drought Index for Forest Fire Control. Res. Pap. SE-38. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station. 35 p., https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/rp/rp_se038.pdf
In Line 237-239, the authors reported 56.41 days obtained from Equation (4) while I obtain $t(T_m, R_o) = 3212$ days with $T_m = 26.7$ °C and $w_c = 203$ mm and this implies that authors’ calculation in Lines 246-247, 255-256 and 319-321 are incorrect.

Minor comments:

Line 27: Replace “in” by “from”

Line 28: Add replace “extreme” by “extreme values of”

Line 34: Replace “fire” by “fire alerts”

Line 46: Rewrite “in Indonesia in 2015 is” by “of 2015 in Indonesia has been”

Line 48: Clarify “trace gases”

Lines 63-64: Remove the sentence “Organic materials ...”

Line 70: Replace “and more” by “making it”

Lines 78-79: Remove sentence “The water table ...”

Line 98: Replace “Drought” by “Natural drought”

Lines 131-134: Remove sentence – redundant

Lines 143-146: Remove sentence – this is incorrect definition of index.

Lines 170: Combine two sentence by replacing “... conditions proving ...”

Line 173: Move to the previous paragraph.

Line 226: Replace “mm/year” by “mm”

Lines 235-257: Remove the text, see my critical comment above.

Line 272: Replace “This formula” by “These coefficients”

Line 346: Rename “Study area and Data” by “Study area and Methods”

Line 350: Replace “found” by recorded”

Line 412: Replace “to be opened” by “cutting”

Line 415: Replace “with” by “due to”

Line 488-494: Replace “the change in w_c ” by KDBI and RF of 2015 are shown”, because the w_c is not shown in Figure 3.

Lines 495-506: Replace “data” by “values”.

Line 520: Replace “some fire points (NFA)” by the number of fire alerts (NFA)”

Line 522: Replace figure caption with “Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KDBI) values and

number of fire alert”.

Line 529: Add “Two important findings are:”

Line 567-571: Rewrite by making two sentences.

Line 610: What is “large landfill trend”?

Line 660: Remove “dominant”

Line 662: Remove “of drought index”

Line 664: Replace “wildfires” by “wildfire”

Line 671: Replace “land” by “land-use”

Line 629-646: Remove text as it is not a discussion and is redundant.

Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

_____ ACCEPT provided that all typographic errors and minor recommendations are corrected in the final draft.

_____ CONDITIONALLY ACCEPT provided that minor revisions are made as indicated in the “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

_____ REVISE AND RESUBMIT “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

Thank you for the paper discussing on KBDI and NFA relationships for mainly 2015.

My comments are as follows.

Your analysis is just for 2015 and fire alerts concentrate in August to October. I don't think that rainfall in November and December affects fire alerts in the preceding duration. Further, why do you set 1600 mm as R_0 , while your definition of R_0 is average annual rainfall (mm/year)?

L202, You use R_t without definition.

L217 replace period which showing multiplication with space or multiplication sign.

L237 equation (4) is for T in Fahrenheit.

L242 replace x with space or multiplication sign.

L242 equation (5) is for rainfall in inches.

L250-255 You wrote “tropical annual rainfall (R_0) as 2500 mm/year” but equation in L255 is the result

using 100 inches(2540 mm).

L252 203 -> 203 mm

L299 203 -> 203 mm

L301 in hundredths of a millimeter -> in millimeter

L316 What do you mean with “two”?

L327 and 330 Nino -> Niño

L339 You wrote “Equation (7)”, but I cannot find Equation (7).

L342 Table (3) -> Table 3

L405 I cannot find Canal E in figure which include two Canal Cs.

L516-520 It is difficult for me to understand this sentence. Could you explain easier.

L584-586 In this paper, you show just the relationship between KBDI modification and wildfires but not cause and effect.

L39-41 You show just a good relationship in 2015. You’d better write after checking another El Niño years.



Novitasari Novitasari <novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id>

Fwd: Notification of review result: Dr9565

Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>
To: Novitasari Novitasari <novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id>

Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 2:03 PM

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Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan,
Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

by

Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad
Jayadi

In view of the reviewers' comments,
some changes are necessary for acceptance.
Please revise your manuscript based on the attached
reviewers' comments and send it to us by ****August 30****.

Please note that revised sentences should be indicated by color
characters or color highlights in the revised manuscript.

We look forward to receiving your answer to reviewers
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Title of paper: Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

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 X CONDITIONALLY ACCEPT provided that minor revisions are made as indicated in the “Comments to Authors” on the next page.

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_____ REJECT THE PAPER (R) (Future submissions of this work to the Journal will be treated as substantially new papers. Depending on circumstances, the editors may choose to include previous reviews of the rejected paper in any subsequent review of revised versions.)

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

The authors did a good job implementing minor comments and fixing grammatical errors that have improved the readability of the revised manuscript. However, I find that the Equations presented in section 2.1 are still not fixed. In Line 211, Equation (3) is adopted from Eq. (1) in [37] and the reference [43] should be changed to [37]. Equation (4) is missing a bracket in the denominator and the origin of this equation is

unknown. On page 31 of [43], the equation is given as by an empirical relationship of daily potential evapotranspiration and daily temperature in degrees of Fahrenheit (see Equation (13) of [43]):

$$t_{T, 50} = \frac{w_c}{.352 \exp(.0486T) - 3.015}$$

In Lines 235-245, the time step of 56.41 days and 24.54 days was estimated by [43] and equation (5) of this paper was adopted from Equation (16) of [43] in inches to mm:

$$\frac{t_{T, R}}{t_{T, R_0}} = \frac{f_2(R_0)}{f_2(R)} = \frac{1 + 10.88 \exp(-.04409R)}{1 + 10.88 \exp(-.04409R_0)} \quad (16)$$

These values should be referenced and modification in equation clearly stated.

In Lines 250-254, the time step of 49.9 days was estimated by [37] and not from equations (4) and (5) as claimed by the authors. The reference should also be provided.

In summary, I find that the lack of attention to details by authors makes the credibility of presented work questionable and the authors should carefully check previously published equations and newly estimated coefficients prior to publication.

Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

Thank you for the paper discussing on KBDI and NFA relationships for mainly 2015.

My comments are as follows.

Your analysis is just for 2015. Your definition of R_0 is average annual rainfall (mm/year). How many years annual rainfall data should be used for R_0 .

After detailed analysis of 2015 alone, you concluded “Finally, based on this research, the modified DFt can be applied to the El Niño phenomenon”(L662-664). Readers cannot understand why you can say “the modified DFt can be applied to the El Niño phenomenon”. You should show evidence, otherwise you cannot say above.

For any variate through the paper, you should use italic font.

You have changed parameters of DFt from previous manuscript but Table 5 is the same as previous one. Is it OK.

Check arrangement of Table 5(November).



Novitasari Novitasari <novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id>

Fwd: Request for submission of your accepted paper Dr14-8-9565

Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>
 To: "novitasari ST.,MT." <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>
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Wed, Sep 4, 2019 at 7:27 PM

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Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan,
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by

Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad
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Manuscript ID: Dr14-8-9565

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Sincerely yours,

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Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS (Please use additional sheet if necessary)

The authors implemented requested changes and the revised manuscript is ready for publication after fixing grammatical errors, see attached pdf file with my edits.

205 wilting point; (2) the organic soil layer obtains moisture
 206 from rainfall and loses moisture from evapotranspiration,
 207 and the lowest moisture level is detected at the wilting
 208 point; (3) the rate of evapotranspiration is a function of
 209 meteorological variables and vegetation density, and (4)
 210 the vegetation density is a function of the mean annual
 211 rainfall [43]. **The Basic formula of DF_t from Equation**
 212 **(18) of [43] is modified in Equation (4) of [37], and be**
 213 **re-written in a , b , and c coefficients in Equation (10) of**
 214 **[45] as follows:**

$$216 DF_t = (w_c - KBDI_{t-1}) \frac{(ae^{(bT_m+1.5552)} - c) 10^{-3}}{1+10.88 e^{(-0.001736 R_0)}} \quad (3)$$

217 where:

- 219 DF_t = drought factor (mm)
- 220 w_c = the corresponding field capacity of
 221 available water in the layer (mm)
- 222 $KBDI_{t-1}$ = moisture deficiency (KBDI at $t-1$)
- 223 T_m = daily maximum air temperature (°C)
- 224 t = time increment (day)
- 225 R_0 = average annual rainfall (mm)
- 226 a and c = coefficient influenced by the mean annual
 227 rainfall (R_0)
- 228 b = coefficient influenced by evapotranspiration

230 Under sub-tropical climate, the average annual
 231 rainfall R_0 is 1270 mm, the maximum temperature (T_m)
 232 is 26.67 °C, and the corresponding field capacity of
 233 available water in the layer (w_c) is 203 mm [43].
 234 **Equation (13) of [43] gives $t_{26.67, R_0} = 56.41$ days. If R**
 235 **$= \infty$ and $R_0 = 270$ mm for sub tropical climate,**
 236 **Equation (16) of [43] gives $t_{26.67, \infty} = 0.4545 t_{26.67, 1270}$**
 237 **$= 25.64$ days.**

238 Reference [37] modified the drought-factor formula
 239 (DF_t) affected by tropical annual rainfall (R_0) as 2540
 240 mm, w_c , and temperature used the same as [43] is
 241 26.67°C. w_c is 203 mm. **Reference [37] adjustment the**
 242 **constants $t_{26.67, \infty}$ for tropical wetland climate as $t_{26.67,$**
 243 **$\infty = 0.8831 t_{26.67, 2540} = 49.87$ days.**

244 The coefficient a , b , and c for the subtropical
 245 condition [43] and tropical condition [37] can be seen
 246 in Table 1.

247

248 **Table 1. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor**

Variable	Subtropical	Tropical
T_m (°C)	26.67	26.67
R_0 (mm)	1270	2540
a	0.9667	0.4982
b	0.0875	0.0875
c	8.30	4.27
w_c	203	203

249

250 2.2 KBDI index modification in the tropical 251 climate

252 2.2.1 KBDI index modification in tropical wetland

253 Reference [37] modified DF_t affected not only by
 254 annual rainfall and evapotranspiration in a tropical

255 climate through changing the values of the coefficients
 256 a and c . It concluded that the loss of evapotranspiration
 257 in the tropical climate is higher than 15% relative to
 258 that in the sub-tropical climate; thus, the coefficient b
 259 in Table 2 become 0.0905 [37]. These coefficients used
 260 as modification one in tropical wetland condition in
 261 this paper.

263 2.2.1 KBDI modified under tropical peatland 264 followed by El Niño

265 The formula of DF_t [Equation (3)] has been
 266 developed to represent the average rainfall conditions
 267 in wildfire risk control for tropical wetland ecosystems.
 268 However, wildfires in tropical forests, especially those
 269 in Indonesia's tropical forests, are also affected by the
 270 El Niño phenomenon, which causes extreme warming
 271 to the equatorial Pacific. El Niño causes severe
 272 droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India, and South
 273 Africa, and the amount of rainfall is below the normal
 274 conditions [27]. In 2009, in the Southern part of
 275 Kalimantan shows low precipitation, which causes
 276 peatland drying and easy spread of fires [46]. Analysis
 277 of rainfall from three stations in the study area
 278 indicates that when El Niño happened in 2015, rainfall
 279 decreased by approximately 35% of the annual average
 280 rainfall in the tropical climate. The annual rainfall in
 281 2015 at the study area was 1650 mm. The evaporation
 282 time for the same temperature used by [43] is 26.67°C.

283 In addition to the changes in the coefficients a and
 284 c on DF_t , w_c was also modified. In the initial equation
 285 of KBDI, the w_c value is assumed to be 203 mm of soil
 286 water available for evapotranspiration [43]. The w_c
 287 value was on the scale from 0 to 203, where 0 shows
 288 no moisture depletion, and 203 indicate the highest
 289 depletion [37]. The w_c value is influenced by the depth
 290 of the reference water table. This value was based on
 291 peatland research in the Netherlands that 400 mm
 292 depth of reference water table to avoid peat subsidence
 293 [11]. Peat dryness correlated with wildfire and
 294 reduction of groundwater level [47]. The Government
 295 Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 71 of
 296 2014 [48] on peat ecosystem protection and
 297 management of clause 23 point 3, that was revised into
 298 regulation No. 57 of 2016, stating that peat ecosystem
 299 with cultivation function could be damaging if water
 300 table depth is more than 400 mm below the peat
 301 surface [49]. So in El Niño modified in this paper, R_0
 302 is set as 1650 mm, T_m is 26.67 and w_c is 400. Based on
 303 the above concept, adjustment constants from
 304 Equation (13) of [43] **in tropical peatland gives $t_{26.67,$**
 305 **$1650 = 111.17$ days and from Equation (16) of [43] $t_{26.67,$**
 306 **$\infty = 0.6175 t_{26.67, 1650} = 68.65$ days.**

307 The decrease in rainfall affects the values of the
 308 coefficients a and c on DF_t in Equation (3) for
 309 modification 1 in tropical wetland condition [37], and
 310 modification 2 in tropical peatland condition due to El
 311 Niño in 2015 can be seen in Table 2. The coefficient b
 312 used is 0.0905 [37].

313

コメントの追加 [NN1]: a3: Line 211 Reference [37] for tropical condition and reference [45] for a, b and c coefficient

コメントの追加 [NN2]: a3: $t_{26.67, R_0}$ from Equation (13) [43]

コメントの追加 [NN3]: a3: $t_{26.67, \infty}$ from Equation (16) [43]

コメントの追加 [NN4]: a3: $t_{26.67, \infty}$ for tropical condition from [37]

コメントの追加 [NN5]: a3: using Equation (13) and Equation (16) of [43]

Journal of Disaster Research (JDR) Review form

Title of paper : Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

Authors: Novitasari Novitasari, Joko Sujono, Sri Harto, Azwar Maas, and Rachmad Jayadi

Recommendations

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_____ REJECT THE PAPER (R) (Future submissions of this work to the Journal will be treated as substantially new papers. Depending on circumstances, the editors may choose to include previous reviews of the rejected paper in any subsequent review of revised versions.)

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for your correction.

I noticed that there still remain typographic errors.

1) Through the paper, Be careful to use Italic font for variate, such as R_0 , R

2) L235 270 -> 1270



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Dr. Joko Sujono
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IDN

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Manuscript ID: Dr14-8-9565

Received date: August 1, 2018

Accepted date: September 4, 2019

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novitasari ST.,MT. <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>

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Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>
Kepada: "novitasari ST.,MT." <novitasari.st.mt@gmail.com>
Cc: Novitasari Novitasari <novitasari.st.mt@mail.ugm.ac.id>

4 September 2019 pukul 19.27

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Date: Wed, 4 Sep 2019, 17:23
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To: Joko Sujono <jsujono@ugm.ac.id>

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Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia during El Niño Phenomenon

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Peatland wildfires, especially in tropical ecosystems, are often due caused by drought, and lead to have caused smoke and other related problems in all aspects of community life in Indonesia, especially in Central Kalimantan. Drought is worsened by the number of drying days in the dry season, known as the El Niño phenomenon, and the drainage system in a peatland. Additionally, drought decreases the water table and increases the probability of triggers occurrence of wildfires in a peatland areas. This research study aims to modify the numerical formula of the drought factor (DF_i) in the Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) of based on tropical peatland wildfire conditions in Central Kalimantan during the El Niño phenomenon in 2015. Furthermore, it and to apply a revised peatland water table reference of are about 400 mm below the ground surface, based on previous research and the Government regulation on peatland ecosystem protection and management in Indonesia. These El Niño conditions caused a rain decline of approximately about 35% rain decline in Block A, Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP), Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province. The modified KBDI is compared with the Number of Fire Alerts (NFA) by using NASA's Active Fire Data in 2015. The analysis results show demonstrate that the modified DF_i under tropical peatland conditions leads to an increase in the drought index value, beginning which begins on the driest days the predominant drying day between from July and to November 2015. The extreme value of the KBDI drought index increased from the high to the extreme index from September to November 2015, when as many as 61 extreme drought indices became an indicators for peatland wildfire risk assessment. The extreme KBDI is directly proportional to the NFA recorded during 2015, and the highest number of fire alerts occurred is observed for in October 2015, with as much as 1746 hot spots within 31 days and extreme drought indices from 27 drying days. Hence, this modified formula is suitable for wildfire conditions on this peatland wildfire condition in Central Kalimantan. Overall, the modified DF_i could can be successfully applied to the El Niño phenomenon in 2015.

Keywords: Keetch-Byram drought index, Number of Fire Alerts, El Niño, peatland water table reference, peatland wildfire

1. Introduction

The forest wildfires of 2015 were in Indonesia has been the largest wildfires in Indonesia for in the last ten years in terms of the amounts of trace gases, and aerosols released, which have been that had been monitored in several previous studies [1]. The severity of these wildfires was similar to the disaster that occurred in 1997 [2]. Forest wildfires in Indonesia not only occur in upland environments but also in wetlands [3]. These forest wildfires mainly occur in tropical peatlands [4]. Wildfires in tropical peatlands occupy an area equivalent to 10.8% of Indonesia's land area [5]. Among tropical countries, Indonesia has the largest area of tropical peatland, which is about approximately 14 million ha and is mainly found spreads in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua [6]. Indonesia's peatland is a part of the wider tropical peatland habitat in Southeast Asia [7]. Tropical peat comprises accumulated organic materials in a wetland ecosystem [8]. Tropical peat is formed in forests under wetland conditions with the production of large quantities of organic materials [9][10].

Indonesia's peatland has been developed by the building a drainage systems. Canals are intended to decrease the water table in the peatland. These canals are utilized to support the cultivation of crops, such as oil palm and acacia. The resulting decrease in the water table can cause the peat to become over-drained and thereby making it flammable, thereby damaging the ecological balance and eliminating forest and peatland biodiversity [10]. Peatland is commonly burned by people to minimize production cost; however, but this practice may cause uncontrolled peatland wildfires [11]. In addition to human-caused fires, peatland wildfires are caused by meteorological drought factors, such as a lack of rainfall and high evaporation rate [12]. Dry peatland, which is fundamentally unstable, will lose water from the pores of the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate the pores and oxidize the peat through biological and chemical processes [13]. Peatland wildfires not only cause rainforest degradation [14] and affect

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biodiversity [15], but also release smoke and from carbon emissions to the atmosphere; fire harms nearby communities the human body and leads to the loss of lives and property [16]. Peatland wildfires slowly spread slowly through the surface, and those classified as a smoldering fire type are absorbed by the subsurface and organic layers [17]. This type of fire is difficult to be detected [18]. Smoldering wildfire causes the lateral spread of flames under different moisture and wind conditions [19] and creates strong smoke that spreads over extensive areas [20]. Drought and fires are important components for the assessment of the dynamics of tropical peat forests [21].

The risk of wildfires increases as due to the increased frequency and duration of drought increases [22]. Natural drought is a condition that cannot be managed [23] and has affected millions of square kilometers of land in many areas, such as North America, West Africa, and East Asia [24]. In Indonesia, drought in peatlands causes leads to wildfires as sub-surface wildfires all around the ecosystem. These wildfires cause smoke to spread to other countries, such as Malaysia [25]. Fires occur almost every year in Indonesia during the dry season. Wildfires usually occur between June and September and will intensify during El Niño [26]. El Niño is a natural phenomenon characterized by the warming of temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and causes drought in the Asian region [27]. El Niño decreases the amount of rainfall in Indonesia [16].

A situation with lower than average less than normal water availability due to climate variability may cause drought [28]. The limitations for drought have not yet been widely agreed upon, which. This shows indicates that drought is a region specific event in a region. However, there are several types of drought that can will be shown to be used as a reference. A decreased amount of rainfall is also one of the causes of drought, namely, meteorological drought [29]. This type of drought appears in various components of the hydrological cycle [30]. Drought is not only caused by meteorological factors (lack of precipitation), but also can be caused by agricultural (lack of soil moisture), hydrological (lack of river discharge and dam inflows), and socio-economic (lack of water supply to meet water demand) factors [29] [31].

In Indonesia, meteorological drought is often accompanied by dry peatland caused by the decline in the water table and changes in the physical properties of peat due to the drainage system. Some fires are also caused by human activities, such as land clearing. The blocking of the canals can be recommended to reduce the degradation of peatlands to a larger scale extent [32]. Additionally, it can also help to maintain the water table [33] to prevent drought on peatlands.

The process by which drought leads to causes wildfires is a complex process, and a drought index cannot be easily specified. No index can fully explain the complexity of drought and its impacts [34]. Furthermore, the A drought index can be used as an

indicator to determine the classification of the drought level of a particular region or area [28]. Many drought indices have been expanded to appraise the scale, type, and impact of drought [35]. Many drought indices are built and easy to build and to use, based on meteorology data, soil moisture, hydrology, and remote sensing [36]. One Some formula that used meteorological data is the standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) [29] and the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) [37].

Some of the drought indices are built for the specific uses and environments. In forestry, many drought indices are designed for fire risk assessment [38]. The most widely used drought indices are the Nesterov index, the Zhdanko index [39], the Angstrom index [40], the Baumgartner index [41], the McArthur forest fire danger index [42], and the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) [43]. KBDI is one of the most widely used indices for forest fire control management under various climatic conditions [34] [2]. KBDI was first developed for forest fire control management in the sub-tropical Florida region in the USA [3]. KBDI was also developed to be suitable under Mediterranean conditions, providing accurate results for forestry and fire risk management in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece [44]. Therefore, this study aims to test the behavior of KBDI, modified for peatland wildfires in Central Kalimantan under tropical climate conditions affected by the El Niño disaster in 2015, when the El Niño conditions caused a significant rainfall decline in most parts of Indonesia.

2. KBDI Index Modification

2.1 KBDI and wildfire risk assessment

KBDI was first introduced to manage forest fire control under a sub-tropical climate. This index represents the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation on cumulative moisture deficiency in deep duff or upper soil layers, and is related to the flammability of organic materials in the ground [43]. KBDI is applied to human activity-caused fire and sub-surface fire, and KBDI is determined using Equation (1).

$$KBDI_t = KBDI_{t-1} + DF_t - RF_t \quad (1)$$

where:

DF_t = drought factor (mm)

RF_t = rainfall factor (mm)

t = time (day)

The value of the rainfall factor (RF_t) is determined by using meteorological data, in the form of annual rainfall and daily rainfall. An RF_t of more than 5.1 mm/day is considered a reduction in the drought index and is determined with using the following equation [43].

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$$DF_t = \begin{cases} (R_t - 5.1), R_t \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day, 1st rainy day} \\ R_t, R_{t-1} \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day, 2nd and the next rainy day.} \\ 0, R_t < 5.1 \text{ mm/day} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where:
 R_t = daily rainfall at t
 R_{t-1} = daily rainfall at $t-1$

The drought factor (DF_t) was determined based on the basic theory of soil moisture degradation in the forest area for fire control by assuming the following: (1) the field capacity of the organic layer is taken-considered as 203 mm of water in excess of moisture held by the layer at the wilting point; (2) the organic soil layer obtains moisture from rainfall and loses moisture from evapotranspiration, and the lowest moisture level is detected at the wilting point; (3) the rate of evapotranspiration is a function of meteorological variables and vegetation density, and (4) the vegetation density is a function of the mean annual rainfall [43]. The basic formula of DF_t from Equation (18) of [43] is modified with Reference [37] for tropical condition, and Reference [45] for the a , b , and c coefficients as follows:

$$DF_t = (w_c - KBDI_{t-1}) \frac{(ae^{(bT_m+1.5552)} - c) 10^{-3}}{1+10.88 e^{(-0.001736 R_0)}} \quad (3)$$

where:
 DF_t = drought factor (mm)
 w_c = the corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (mm)
 $KBDI_{t-1}$ = moisture deficiency (KBDI at $t-1$)
 T_m = daily maximum air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 t = time increment (day)
 R_0 = average annual rainfall (mm)
 a and c = coefficient influenced by the mean annual rainfall (R_0)
 b = coefficient influenced by evapotranspiration

In a sub-tropical climate, the average annual rainfall R_0 is 1270 mm, the maximum temperature (T_m) is 26.67°C , and the corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (w_c) is 203 mm [43]. $t_{26.67, R_0}$ from Equation (13) of [43] gives $t_{26.67, R_0} = 56.41$ days. If $R = \infty$ and $R_0 = 1270$ mm for a subtropical climate, $t_{26.67, \infty}$ from Equation (16) of [43] gives $t_{26.67, \infty} = 0.4545 t_{26.67, 1270} = 25.64$ days.

Reference [37] modified the drought-factor formula (DF_t) affected by tropical annual rainfall (R_0) as 2540 mm, w_c , and the temperature used is the same as that in [43], which is 26.67°C . w_c is 203 mm. Reference [37] adjustment the constants $t_{26.67, \infty}$ for a tropical condition from [37] as $t_{26.67, \infty} = 0.8831 t_{26.67, 2540} = 49.87$ days.

The coefficients a , b , and c for the sub-tropical condition [43] and tropical condition [37] are listed and be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor

Variable	Subtropical	Tropical
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T_m ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	26.67	26.67
R_0 (mm)	1270	2540
a	0.9667	0.4982
b	0.0875	0.0875
c	8.30	4.27
w_c	203	203

2.2 KBDI index modification for the tropical climate

2.2.1 KBDI index modification for tropical wetland

Reference [37] modified DF_t is affected not only by annual rainfall and evapotranspiration in a tropical climate through changing the values of the coefficients a and c . It was concluded that it concluded that the loss of evapotranspiration in the tropical climate is higher than 15% higher relative to that in the sub-tropical climate; thus, the coefficient b in Table 2 become 0.0905 [37]. These coefficients are used as the modifications one in for the tropical wetland conditions in this paper.

2.2.1 KBDI modified for under tropical peatlands followed by El Niño

The formula of DF_t [Equation (3)] has been developed to represent the average rainfall conditions for wildfire risk control in tropical wetland ecosystems. However, wildfires in tropical forests, especially those in Indonesia's tropical forests, are also affected by the El Niño phenomenon, which causes extreme warming to the equatorial Pacific. El Niño causes severe droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India, and South Africa, as well a reduction in average rainfall and the amount of rainfall is below the normal conditions [27]. In 2009, in the Southern part of Kalimantan received shows low precipitation, which caused peatland drying and the easy spread of fires [46]. Analysis of rainfall from three stations in the study area indicates that when El Niño happened occurred in 2015, rainfall decreased by approximately 35% from of the annual average rainfall in the tropical climate. The annual rainfall in 2015 at the study area was 1650 mm. The evaporation time for the same temperature used by [43] was 26.67°C .

In addition to the changes in the coefficients a and c on DF_t , w_c was also modified. In the initial equation of KBDI, the w_c value is assumed to be 203 mm of the soil water available for evapotranspiration [43]. The w_c value was on the scale from 0 to 203, where 0 shows denotes no moisture depletion, and 203 indicates the highest depletion [37]. The w_c value is influenced by the depth of the reference water table. This value was based on peatland research in the Netherlands that used a 400 mm depth for the reference water table to avoid peat subsidence [11]. Peat dryness correlated with wildfire frequency and the and reduction of groundwater level [47]. The Government Regulation

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of the Republic of Indonesia No. 71 of 2014 [48] on peat ecosystem protection and management, of clause 23 point 3, which that was revised into regulation No. 57 of 2016, stating that peat ecosystems with a cultivation function could be damaged if the water table depth is more than 400 mm below the peat surface [49]. So—Thus, for the in El Niño modification in this paper, R_o is set as 1650 mm, T_m is 26.67, and w_c is 400. Based on the above concept, adjustment constants using Equation (13) and Equation (16) of [43] in tropical peatland gives $t_{26.67; 1650} = 111.17$ days and $t_{26.67, \infty} = 0.617 t_{26.67; 1650} = 68.6$ days.

The decrease in rainfall affects the values of the coefficients a and c on DF_t in Equation (3) for modification 1 in (tropical wetland conditions [37]) and modification 2 in (tropical peatland conditions due to El Niño) in 2015 can be seen in Table 2. The coefficient b used is 0.0905 [37].

Table 2. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor for tropical wetland and peatland condition

Parameter	Tropical wetland	Tropical peatland due to El Niño
T_m (°C)	26.67	26.67
R_o (mm)	2540	1650
a	0.4982	0.3614
b	0.0905	0.0905
c	4.27	3.10
w_c	203	400

In the previous study, they used four fire danger classes were used, from 0 to 203 mm [37]. In the present study, the new value of w_c causes a change in the KBDI classes. The water table ranges from 0 to 400 mm. The water table at 400 mm below the surface is considered to cause the maximum drought index and cause a potential fire risk in the peat ecosystem. A water table of 0 mm, where water is on the surface of the land, is expressed as an ideal peat condition that is always inundated. Based on the new w_c value for the peatland condition, the value of the KBDI classes is corrected. Drought index classes are divided-classified into four levels, as presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Drought index classes of KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions

classes	KBDI index	KBDI index in tropical peatland
low	0 – 100	0 – 200
moderate	101-150	201-300
high	151-175	301-350
extreme	>175	>350

3. Study Area and Methods

3.1 Study area

The Mega Rice Project consists of one million hectares of peatland in Central Kalimantan and caused

damage to the tropical peat forest [50]. It caused the large wildfire in 2015. The highest number of fire alerts (NFA) was recorded on October 19, 2015. The conditions of peatland wildfires in Kalimantan captured by the Moderate Resolution Imaging SpectroRadiometer (MODIS) from the NASA Aqua satellite are presented-illustrated in Figure 1. This image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected unusually warm surface temperatures associated with fires, and gray smoke signals the conditions indicates the landfill condition [51].

The present study was conducted in Block A, the Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP) located in Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province, which is shown-illustrated in Figure 2a [52]. Figure 2b showed-depicts some post-wildfires conditions in the peatland around Block A in November 2015. This area underwent land clearing, which caused the peatland to become dry and flammable. A drought index for peat wildfire risk assessment was evaluated under peat wildfire conditions in 2015.

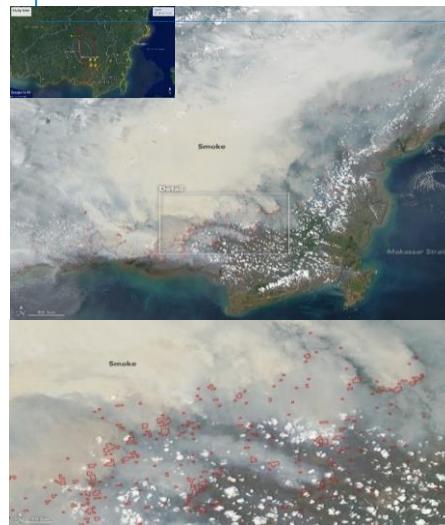


Figure 1. Wildfires hazard was found on October 19, 2015



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Figure 2. (a) Study area on Block A of Ex-Mega Rice Project and (b) post-wildfire conditions in peatlands around canal C (b1), Canal D post-wildfire (b2), and Canal E post-wildfire (b3) in November 2015

The largest wildfires occur in tropical peatlands, including one of which is in the tropical peatland in Indonesia. Peat wildfires have previously also occurred in the EMRP area in Central Kalimantan [53]. The Mega Rice Project was opened in 1996 until 2009 and caused 400 thousand ha of tropical rainforest cutting. EMRP was a program that failed considerably to conserve the peatlands in Indonesia [50]. The exploitation of forest and peatland in EMRP land occurs due to the construction of drainage networks systems [50]. The drainage network systems divide peat domes, causing massive damage and to peat dome, resulting in the loss of function as field reservoirs, land subsidence, and a decreased water table [54]. This phenomenon causes irreversible drying peat, which triggers forest and peatland wildfires [55]. In addition to the decreased water table, peatland wildfires are due to the rainfall reduction (the number of drying days), known as due to the El Niño phenomenon, which usually occurs from September to October.

Rainfall data were recorded near the study area, such as in Tjilik Riwt, Beringin, and Sanggu Rain Station [56]. Rainfall data were analyzed from 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, and there were a total of 263 dry days were 263 days, which are more than 70% from of the total in 2015. The NFA in the form of hotspots were obtained by using NASA's Active Fire Data to determine the possible location of fires on earth. The system uses NASA MODIS satellites, which survey the entire earth every 1–2 days. The sensors on these satellites detect hot marks in infrared spectral waves. During the processing of the satellite imagery, the algorithm looks for a heat sign and detects it as a fire sign. The system can indicate where a fire occurred and can give provide a warning of high risk areas [57].

3.2 Methods

In this study, a modified KBDI was developed for wildfire risk assessment under tropical peatland conditions influenced by El Niño, with modification to the baseline groundwater conditions for peatland affecting the w_c value. The modified index was compared with KBDI under tropical wetland conditions [37]. The results of the two index modifications were compared against NFA recorded in

the peat forest, Block A, Mantangai Sub-district, Central Kalimantan Province, in 2015.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Rainfall data

Based on the observations, rainfall from the three rain stations was almost uniform, with an average annual rainfall of 1650 mm in 2015. This rainfall value was below the average annual rainfall of areas with the tropical climate. The mean annual rainfall for areas with a tropical climate ranged from 2000 to 3000 mm [37]. This decrease in rainfall was caused by the El Niño in Indonesia. The average monthly rainfall at the three stations in the study site was the highest (134 mm) in November 2015. The net rainfall or rainfall factor (RF_i) was calculated with using Equation (2) to determine the number of dry days (Table 4). Dry day conditions were found on July as much as 29 days in July, 28 days in August, 30 days in September and 27 days in October 2015.

4.2 Number of fire alerts data

NFA data during 2015 in Mantangai, Central Kalimantan. In 2015, that year, there were NFA reaches as many as 30,121 NFA events in the Central Kalimantan Province and 3,544 events in the Mantangai Sub-District. There were NFA event in Mantangai is 3525 NFA events in Mantangai from July to November 2015, as much as 12.1% from the 29171 events in Central Kalimantan. NFA began to increase from July to November 2015, and the largest number of NFA was observed in October 2015, with as many as 1741 events. These data show indicates that the number of hotspots in October represents half of the NFA for the year 2015, as presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Number of dry day and fire alerts

	Number of the dry day	Number of fire alerts
Jan	9	1
Feb	26	0
Mar	17	0
Apr	17	3
May	23	1
Jun	21	1
Jul	29	19
Aug	28	488
Sep	30	1272
Oct	27	1746
Nov	18	10
Dec	16	3

4.3 Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) analysis

Based on the results of the analysis using DF_i under tropical wetland conditions [37] and under tropical peatland conditions influenced by the El Niño phenomenon are shown depicted in Figure 3.

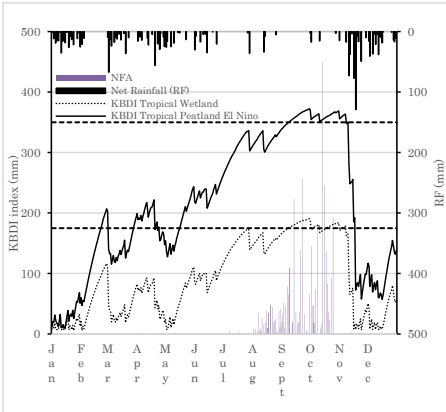


Figure 3. Comparison of KBDI for tropical wetland and the modified KBDI for tropical peatland with due to the El Niño phenomenon

In Figure 3 depicts an added line for the beginning of the extreme index, at 175 mm for KBDI modified for the tropical wetland condition, and at 350 mm for KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions. The KBDI level, with DF_i formula for under tropical wetland conditions, for a low index level from 0–100 was 218 values, the moderate index from 101–150 was 42 values, the high drought index from 151–175 was as much as 56 values, and the extreme drought index of that more than 175 was 49 values. In the calculation of KBDI, with the modified DF_i formula for under tropical peatland conditions including, which was influenced by El Niño phenomenon, from high level there were 59 values from the high level, and the extreme drought conditions increased to 61 occurrences, from which started in July until November 2015. The class index is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Drought level conditions

	Wetland conditions				Peatland conditions due to El Niño			
	Low	Mod	High	Extreme	Low	Mod	High	Extreme
Jan	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
Feb	23	5	0	0	26	2	0	0
Mar	30	1	0	0	30	1	0	0
Apr	30	0	0	0	21	9	0	0
May	28	3	0	0	20	11	0	0
Jun	25	5	0	0	0	30	0	0
Jul	0	16	15	0	0	12	19	0
Aug	0	12	19	0	0	1	30	0
Sep	0	0	7	23	0	0	8	22
Oct	0	0	9	22	0	0	0	31
Nov	20	0	6	4	15	5	2	8
Dec	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0

Based on Owing to the 35% reduction in rainfall occurring in the study area in 2015 due to El Niño, and the change in w_c caused by groundwater table change, the extreme drought index increased. High and extreme class results started at the beginning of the dry season from July. In calculating KBDI, with DF_i

formula under tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions, high drought levels began to occur in early July 2015. Extreme drought levels began to occur in September 2015. Figure 4 shows the high and extreme classes in KBDI response (with the formula for under tropical wetland conditions shown as modification 1, and with KBDI with DF_i under tropical peatland conditions including were affected by El Niño as modification 2) against fire risk assessment represented by the number of fire alerts (NFA) shown in Figure 4.

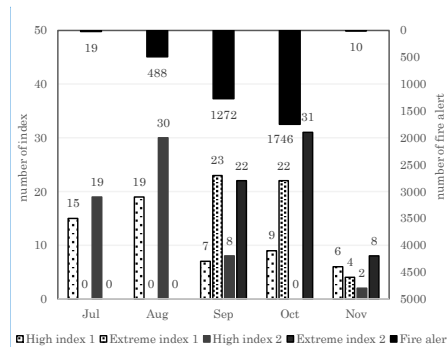


Figure 4. Correlation between Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values and number of fire alerts (NFA)

Figure 4 shows the high and to the extreme drought index results from the beginning of July to November 2015, representing the occurrence of a starting point of fires beginning in July 2015, from KBDI modification for under tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions. Two important findings are:

- Index response with the DF_i formula for under tropical wetland conditions**
Based on the analysis of KBDI with the DF_i formula for on tropical wetland conditions, no extreme drought occurred at the beginning of July and August. Extreme drought indices occurred in September 2015 in as many as 23 events, October 2015 in as many as 22 events, and November 2015 in as much as four events. Based on NFA data recorded in July, the study site had 19 hotspots, followed by in August 2015 (488 hotspots in August), and September 2015 (1272 hotspots in September), and most events as many as 1746 hotspots occurred in October. The highest level of extreme index results occurred in September 2015 as many as 23 days were not equal to the highest NFA in October 2015.
- KBDI response to ads with corrected DF_i for under tropical peatland conditions**

In the corrected DF_i formula for tropical peatland conditions affected by El Niño, with a rainfall reduction of 35% with $R_0 = 1650$ mm and groundwater level 400 mm, high to extreme drought levels were observed was obtained starting

コメントの追加 [A11]: Please make the following changes
"Number of indices"
"Number of fire alerts"

コメントの追加 [A10]: Please check if this revision is in line with your intended meaning.

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from September to November 2015, as much as with 61 indices. The results for the extreme drought index were of 22 events in September, 31 events in October, and eight events in November 2015. This finding is consistent with the presence of NFA data, where the starting point of fire is in July and to the highest number of hot fire spots are in October, with 2015 as many as 1746 hot spots. These hot spot conditions in October 2015 are predicted by extreme drought conditions that cover the whole 31 days of the month.

4.4 Discussion

This study was conducted on a peat fire situation in 2015 in Central Kalimantan. This study conducted analysis based on KBDI analysis results for data collected in 2015, comparing between corrected DF_i modifications for under tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions and compared with the number of fire alerts in Mantangai Sub-District, with the results show demonstrating that:

1. The faster modifications of the response of KBDI modification index for under tropical peatland conditions adequately represents the real fire risk assessment data recorded in 2015. KBDI modification for under tropical peatland conditions increases from the high index level to the extreme index level to at the value of 350 and continues to rise to the maximum value of 400 starting on September 9, 2015, representing 109 NFA events that days of as much as 109 events that day. KBDI modification for under tropical wetland conditions increased from the high index level to the extreme index level on September 9, 2015, with only represented by 65 hot spots. These extreme level of modifications of the KBDI for under the conditions of tropical peatlands can demonstrate show the potential for fire disasters in the study area.
2. In October 2015, there were 1746 NFA events in Mantangai, were as many as 1746 events with the KBDI modification for under tropical peatland conditions resulting in shown by 31 days of extreme indices, while the in KBDI wetland modification only indicated by resulted in 22 days with extreme indices. According to the modified DF_i for under tropical peatland conditions, the extreme classes is 12 points higher than KBDI modified for tropical wetland conditions. It rises from September to November 2015 in the study area, with the corrected water table of into 400 mm.
3. The highest number of NFA was on October 14, 2015, with as many as 449 hotspot events represented by the extreme value in KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions, while in the KBDI modified for wetland conditions only resulted in represented by high index results, as shown in Figure 3.

4. Based on the statistical parameter for extreme classes compared against the number of fires from July to November using linear regression for modification 1 gave have R^2 as 0.828 with p-value 0.03. Modification 2 for under tropical peatlands formula gave R^2 as 0.829 with p-value 0.03. It has been shown that both modifications give a good statistical result.

The modified KBDI under for tropical peatland conditions seems to perform better in wildfire risk assessment in the Central Kalimantan during El Niño in 2015 compared with other KBDI formulas. The results are following with those of previous Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP) observations. Based on a study by of KFCP from 2004 to 2013 in the same study area showed daily wildfire patterns indicating fires at the same locations and in the same months. Fires occurred in from late July to early November. The peak of the fires occurred in September [52]. Previous research from 2001 to 2010 found showed large-scale land management practices using with fire, which caused smoke hazards from mid-August to late October [53]. Thus, by consideration we can consider the use of the empirical drought index formula for under tropical peatland conditions to have several general principles, which about the use of any empirical drought indices are as follows:

1. The KBDI formula should must be based on the net rainfall factor set by the R threshold. This threshold for tropical conditions still uses the same threshold as in the previous KBDI formula defined under sub-tropical conditions.
 2. Peatland wildfires are not just caused by meteorological conditions but also by many internal factors in the soil, such as peat decomposition, physical properties, water holding capacity [33], and capillarity rise.
 3. Peatland wildfires are also affected by unwise peatland unwise management, such as similar to building drainage canals in the peat dome, which results in a that change in the water table.
- Evaluation of the performance of KBDI under a range of some climatic conditions, ranging including from a sub-tropical climate, Mediterranean climate, and tropical climate, reports that KBDI is a flexible drought index for almost all climatic conditions and may represent an important tool for forest fire control.

5. Conclusion

KBDI modification, by correcting the DF_i formula for against the referenced water table level for peatland and with the influence of fed by rainfall reduction due to the El Niño phenomenon, in 2015 can accurately represent NFA in peatland. The analysis results shows the results behavior of the KBDI of drought correction (DF_i) for under tropical peatland conditions, already gave an represented by extreme index from (375 to 400

コメントの追加 [A12]: There is a lot of changing between the terms 'NFA' and 'hot spot'. It would be better to make this more consistent.

mm) occurring from September 9, 2015. Twenty-seven dry days caused 31 days of extreme index, represented by as many as 1746 hotspots in October 2015. The highest NFA number was on October 14, 2015 with as many as 449 hotspot events represented better with this formula as an extreme value. Therefore, although this formula provided satisfactory results in the El Niño conditions of 2015. Further testing is still needed to prove the formula for other El Niño events. In addition to the meteorological and water table factors in the KBDI formula, that which affect drought management in peatland, several supporting factors must be considered, such as peat decomposition, physical characteristics, water holding capacity, and capillarity rise. The degraded lower physical properties of peatlands also lead to larger wildfires with the same number of drying days.

Acknowledgments

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Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia During El Niño Phenomenon

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Peatland wildfires, especially in tropical ecosystems, are often caused by drought, and lead to smoke and other related problems in all aspects of community life in Indonesia, especially in Central Kalimantan. Drought is worsened by the number of dry days in the dry season, known as the El Niño phenomenon, and the drainage system in a peatland. Additionally, drought decreases the water table and increases the probability of occurrence of wildfires in peatland areas. This study aims to modify the numerical formula of the drought factor (DF_t) in the Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI) based on tropical peatland wildfire conditions in Central Kalimantan during the El Niño phenomenon in 2015. Furthermore, it applies a revised peatland water table reference of 400 mm below the ground surface, based on previous research and the Government regulation on peatland ecosystem protection and management in Indonesia. These El Niño conditions caused a rain decline of approximately 35% in Block A, Ex-Mega Rice Project, Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province. The modified KBDI is compared with the Number of Fire Alerts (NFA) using NASA's Active Fire Data in 2015. The analysis results demonstrate that the modified DF_t under tropical peatland conditions leads to an increase in the drought index value, beginning on the driest days between July and November 2015. The value of the KBDI drought index increases from the high to the extreme index from September to November 2015, when as many as 61 extreme drought indices became indicators for peatland wildfire risk assessment. The extreme KBDI is directly proportional to the NFA recorded during 2015, and the highest number of fire alerts is observed for October 2015, with 1746 fire alerts within 31 days and extreme drought indices from 27 days. Hence, this modified formula is suitable for wildfire conditions on this peatland in Central Kalimantan. Overall, the modified DF_t can be successfully applied to the El Niño phenomenon in 2015.

Keywords: Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI), number of fire alerts, El Niño, water table, peatland wildfire

1. Introduction

The forest wildfires of 2015 were the largest wildfires in Indonesia for the last ten years in terms of the amounts of trace gases and aerosols released, which have been monitored in several previous studies [1]. The severity of these wildfires was similar to the disaster that occurred in 1997 [2]. Forest wildfires in Indonesia not only occur in upland environments but also in wetlands [3]. These forest wildfires mainly occur in tropical peatlands [4]. Wildfires in tropical peatlands occupy an area equivalent to 10.8% of Indonesia's land area [5]. Among tropical countries, Indonesia has the largest area of tropical peatland, which is approximately 14 million ha and is mainly found in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua [6]. Indonesia's peatland is a part of the wider tropical peatland habitat in Southeast Asia [7]. Tropical peat comprises accumulated organic materials in a wetland ecosystem [8]. Tropical peat is formed in forests under wetland conditions with the production of large quantities of organic materials [9, 10].

Indonesia's peatland has been developed by the building drainage systems. Canals are intended to decrease the water table in the peatland. These canals are utilized to support the cultivation of crops, such as oil palm and acacia. The resulting decrease in the water table can cause the peat to become overdrained and thereby make it flammable, damaging the ecological balance and eliminating forest and peatland biodiversity [10]. Peatland is commonly burned to minimize production cost; however, this practice may cause uncontrolled peatland wildfires [11]. In addition to human-caused fires, peatland wildfires are caused by meteorological drought factors, such as a lack of rainfall and high evaporation rate [12]. Dry peatland, which is fundamentally unstable, loses water from the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate the pores and oxidize the peat through biological and chemical processes [13]. Peatland wildfires not only cause rainforest degradation [14] and affect biodiversity [15], but also release smoke and carbon emissions to the atmosphere; fire harms nearby communities and leads to the loss of lives and property [16]. Peatland wildfires slowly spread through the surface, and those classified as smoldering fires are absorbed by the subsurface and organic lay-

ers [17]. This type of fire is difficult to detect [18]. Smoldering wildfire causes the lateral spread of flames under different moisture and wind conditions [19] and creates strong smoke that spreads over extensive areas [20]. Drought and fires are important components for the assessment of the dynamics of tropical peat forests [21].

The risk of wildfires increases as the frequency and duration of drought increases [22]. Natural drought is a condition that cannot be managed [23] and has affected millions of square kilometers of land in many areas, such as North America, West Africa, and East Asia [24]. In Indonesia, drought in peatlands leads to sub-surface wildfires all around the ecosystem. These wildfires cause smoke to spread to other countries, such as Malaysia [25]. Fires occur almost every year in Indonesia during the dry season. Wildfires usually occur between June and September and intensify during El Niño [26]. El Niño is a natural phenomenon characterized by the warming of temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and causes drought in the Asian region [27]. El Niño decreases the amount of rainfall in Indonesia [16].

A situation with lower than average water availability due to climate variability may cause drought [28]. The limitations for drought have not yet been widely agreed upon, which indicates that drought is a region specific event. However, there are several types of drought that can be used as reference. A decreased amount of rainfall is also one of the causes of drought, namely, meteorological drought [29]. This type of drought appears in various components of the hydrological cycle [30]. Drought is not only caused by meteorological factors (lack of precipitation), but also by agricultural (lack of soil moisture), hydrological (lack of river discharge and dam inflows), and socio-economic (lack of water supply to meet water demand) factors [29, 31].

In Indonesia, meteorological drought is often accompanied by dry peatland caused by the decline in the water table and changes in the physical properties of peat due to the drainage system. Some fires are also caused by human activities, such as land clearing. The blocking of canals can reduce the degradation of peatlands to a larger extent [32]. Additionally, it can also help to maintain the water table [33] to prevent drought on peatlands.

The process by which drought leads to wildfires is a complex process, and a drought index cannot be easily specified. No index can fully explain the complexity of drought and its impacts [34]. A drought index can be used as an indicator to determine the classification of the drought level of a particular region or area [28]. Many drought indices have been expanded to appraise the scale, type, and impact of drought [35]. Many drought indices are easy to build and use, based on meteorology data, soil moisture, hydrology, and remote sensing [36]. One formula that uses meteorological data is the standardized precipitation index (SPI) [29] and the Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI) [37].

Some drought indices are built for specific uses and environments. In forestry, many drought indices are designed for fire risk assessment [38]. The most widely

used drought indices are the Nesterov index, Zhdanko index [39], Angstrom index [40], Baumgartner index [41], McArthur forest fire danger index [42], and KBDI [43]. KBDI is one of the most widely used indices for forest fire management under various climatic conditions [2, 34]. KBDI was first developed for forest fire management in the sub-tropical Florida region in USA [3]. KBDI was also developed to be suitable under Mediterranean conditions, providing accurate results for forestry and fire risk management in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece [44]. Therefore, this study aims to test the behavior of KBDI, modified for peatland wildfires in Central Kalimantan under tropical climate conditions affected by the El Niño disaster in 2015, when the El Niño conditions caused a significant rainfall decline in most parts of Indonesia.

2. KBDI Index Modification

2.1. KBDI and Wildfire Risk Assessment

KBDI was first introduced to manage forest fire control under a sub-tropical climate. This index represents the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation on cumulative moisture deficiency in deep duff or upper soil layers, and is related to the flammability of organic materials in the ground [43]. KBDI is applied to human activity-caused fire and sub-surface fire, and is determined using Eq. (1).

$$KBDI_t = KBDI_{t-1} + DF_t - RF_t, \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

where DF_t is drought factor (mm), RF_t is rainfall factor (mm), t is time (day).

The value of the rainfall factor (RF_t) is determined using meteorological data, in the form of annual rainfall and daily rainfall. An RF_t of more than 5.1 mm/day is considered a reduction in the drought index and is determined using the following equation [43].

$$RF_t = \begin{cases} (R_t - 5.1), & R_t \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day, 1st rainy day,} \\ R_t, & R_{t-1} \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day,} \\ & \text{2nd and the next rainy day,} \\ 0, & R_t < 5.1 \text{ mm/day,} \end{cases} (2)$$

where R_t is daily rainfall at t and R_{t-1} is daily rainfall at $t - 1$.

The drought factor (DF_t) was determined based on the basic theory of soil moisture degradation in the forest area by assuming the following: (1) the field capacity of the organic layer is considered as 203 mm of water in excess of moisture held by the layer at the wilting point; (2) the organic soil layer obtains moisture from rainfall and loses moisture from evapotranspiration, and the lowest moisture level is detected at the wilting point; (3) the rate of evapotranspiration is a function of meteorological variables and vegetation density, and (4) the vegetation density is a function of the mean annual rainfall [43]. The basic formula of DF_t from Eq. (18) of [43] is modified

Table 1. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor.

Variable	Subtropical	Tropical
T_m [°C]	26.67	26.67
R_0 [mm]	1270	2540
a	0.9667	0.4982
b	0.0875	0.0875
c	8.30	4.27
w_c	203	203

with [37] for tropical condition, and [45] for the a , b , and c coefficients as follows:

$$DF_t = (w_c - KBDI_{t-1}) \frac{(ae^{(bT_m+1.5552)} - c) 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88e^{(-0.001736R_0)}}, \quad (3)$$

where DF_t is drought factor (mm), w_c is corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (mm), $KBDI_{t-1}$ is moisture deficiency (KBDI at $t - 1$), T_m is daily maximum air temperature (°C), t is time increment (day), R_0 is average annual rainfall (mm), a and c are coefficients influenced by the mean annual rainfall (R_0), and b is coefficient influenced by evapotranspiration.

In a sub-tropical climate, the average annual rainfall R_0 is 1270 mm, maximum temperature (T_m) is 26.67°C, and corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (w_c) is 203 mm [43]. $t_{26.67;R_0}$ from Eq. (13) of [43] gives $t_{26.67;R_0} = 56.41$ days. If $R = \infty$ and $R_0 = 1270$ mm for a subtropical climate, $t_{26.67,\infty}$ from Eq. (16) of [43] gives $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.4545 t_{26.67;1270} = 25.64$ days.

[37] modifies the drought-factor formula (DF_t) affected by tropical annual rainfall (R_0) as 2540 mm, w_c , and the temperature used is the same as that in [43], which is 26.67°C. w_c is 203 mm. [37] adjusts the constants $t_{26.67,\infty}$ for a tropical condition from [37] as $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.8831 t_{26.67;2540} = 49.87$ days.

The coefficients a , b , and c for the sub-tropical condition [43] and tropical condition [37] are listed in **Table 1**.

2.2. KBDI Index Modification for the Tropical Climate

2.2.1. KBDI Index Modification for Tropical Wetland

[37] modified DF_t is affected by annual rainfall and evapotranspiration in a tropical climate through changing the values of the coefficients a and c . It was concluded that the loss of evapotranspiration in the tropical climate is 15% higher relative to that in the sub-tropical climate; thus, the coefficient b in **Table 2** become 0.0905 [37]. These coefficients are used as the modifications for the tropical wetland conditions in this paper.

2.2.2. KBDI Modified for Tropical Peatlands Followed by El Niño

The formula of DF_t (Eq. (3)) has been developed to represent the average rainfall conditions for wildfire risk

Table 2. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor for tropical wetland and peatland condition.

Parameter	Tropical wetland	Tropical peatland due to El Niño
T_m [°C]	26.67	26.67
R_0 [mm]	2540	1650
a	0.4982	0.3614
b	0.0905	0.0905
c	4.27	3.10
w_c	203	400

control in tropical wetland ecosystems. However, wildfires in tropical forests, especially those in Indonesia's tropical forests, are also affected by the El Niño phenomenon, which causes extreme warming to the equatorial Pacific. El Niño causes severe droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India, and South Africa, as well a reduction in average rainfall [27]. In 2009, the Southern part of Kalimantan received low precipitation, which caused peatland drying and the easy spread of fires [46]. Analysis of rainfall from three stations in the study area indicates that when El Niño occurred in 2015, rainfall decreased by approximately 35% from the annual average rainfall. The annual rainfall in 2015 at the study area was 1650 mm. The evaporation time for the same temperature used by [43] was 26.67°C.

In addition to the changes in the coefficients a and c on DF_t , w_c was also modified. In the initial equation of KBDI, the w_c value is assumed to be 203 mm of the soil water available for evapotranspiration [43]. The w_c value was on the scale from 0 to 203, where 0 denotes no moisture depletion, and 203 indicates the highest depletion [37]. The w_c value is influenced by the depth of the reference water table. This value was based on peatland research in the Netherlands that used a 400 mm depth for the reference water table to avoid peat subsidence [11]. Peat dryness correlated with wildfire frequency and the reduction of groundwater level [47]. The Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 57 of 2016 on peat ecosystem protection and management, clause 23 point 3, states that peat ecosystems with a cultivation function could be damaged if the water table depth is more than 400 mm below the peat surface [48]. Thus, for the El Niño modifications in this paper, R_0 is set as 1650 mm, T_m is 26.67, and w_c is 400. Based on the above concept, adjustment constants using Eqs. (13) and (16) of [43] in tropical peatland gives $t_{26.67;1650} = 111.17$ days and $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.617 t_{26.67;1650} = 68.6$ days.

The decrease in rainfall affects the values of the coefficients a and c on DF_t in Eq. (3). The coefficient b used is 0.0905 [37]. **Table 2** shown climate variables for modification 1 (tropical wetland conditions [37]) and modification 2 (tropical peatland conditions due to El Niño) in 2015.

In the previous study, four fire danger classes were used, from 0 to 203 mm [37]. In the present study, the

Table 3. Drought index classes of KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions.

Classes	KBDI index	KBDI index in tropical peatland
low	0–100	0–200
moderate	101–150	201–300
high	151–175	301–350
extreme	> 175	> 350

new value of w_c causes a change in the KBDI classes. The water table ranges from 0 to 400 mm. The water table at 400 mm below the surface is considered to cause the maximum drought index and a potential fire risk in the peat ecosystem. A water table of 0 mm, where water is on the surface of the land, is expressed as an ideal peat condition that is always inundated. Based on the new w_c value for the peatland condition, the value of the KBDI classes is corrected. Drought index classes are classified into four levels, as presented in **Table 3**.

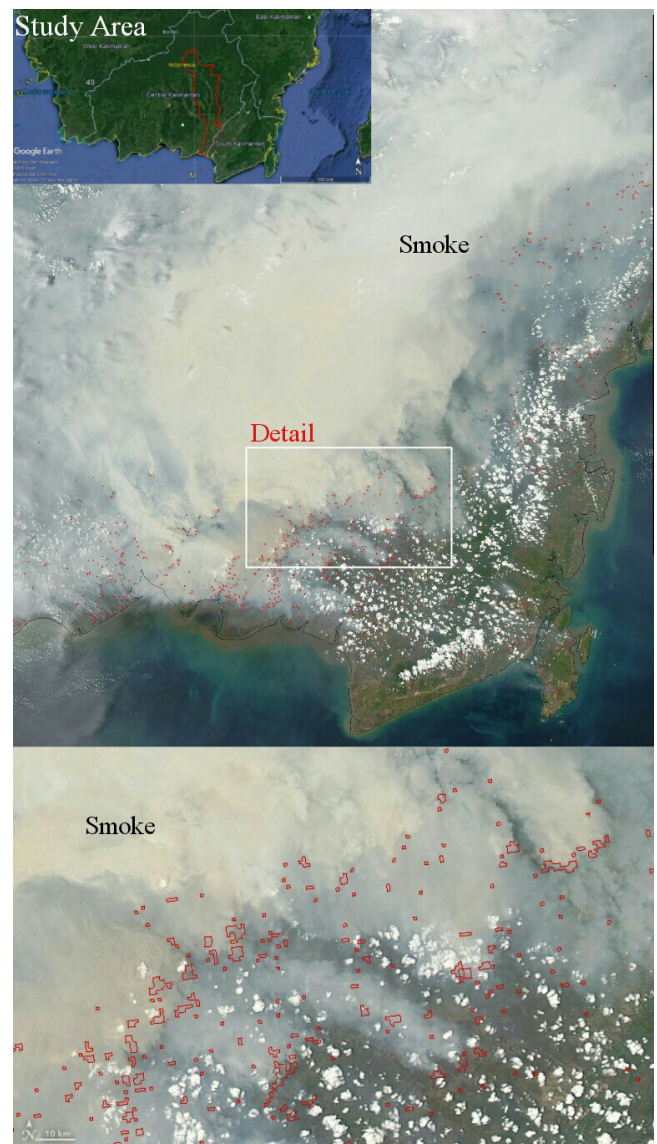
3. Study Area and Methods

3.1. Study Area

The Mega Rice Project consists of one million hectares of peatland in Central Kalimantan and caused damage to the tropical peat forest [49]. It caused the large wildfire in 2015. The highest number of fire alerts (NFA) was recorded on October 19, 2015. The conditions of peatland wildfires in Kalimantan captured by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) from the NASA Aqua satellite are illustrated in **Fig. 1**. This image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected unusually warm surface temperatures associated with fires, and gray smoke signals the conditions [50].

The present study was conducted in Block A, the Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP) located in Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province, which is illustrated in **Fig. 2(a)** [51]. **Fig. 2(b)** depicts some post-wildfire conditions in the peatland around Block A in November 2015. This area underwent land clearing, which caused the peatland to become dry and flammable. A drought index for peat wildfire risk assessment was evaluated under peat wildfire conditions in 2015.

The largest wildfires occur in tropical peatlands, including the tropical peatland in Indonesia. Peat wildfires have previously occurred in the EMRP area in Central Kalimantan [52]. The Mega Rice Project was started legally on a Presidential decree 82/1995. The project caused 400 thousand ha of tropical rainforest cutting. EMRP was a program that failed considerably to conserve the peatlands in Indonesia [49]. The exploitation of forest and peatland in EMRP land occurred due to the construction of drainage network systems [49]. The drainage net-

**Fig. 1.** Wildfires hazard was found on October 19, 2015.

work systems divide peat domes, causing massive damage and resulting in the loss of function as field reservoirs, land subsidence, and a decreased water table [53]. This phenomenon causes irreversible peat drying, which triggers forest and peatland wildfires [54]. In addition to the decreased water table, peatland wildfires are caused by the rainfall reduction (the number of dry days), known as the El Niño phenomenon, which usually occurs from September to October.

Rainfall data was recorded near the study area, such as in Tjilik Riwt, Beringin, and Sanggu Rain Station [55]. Rainfall data was analyzed from 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, and there were a total of 263 dry days, which is more than 70% of the total in 2015. The NFA in the form of hotspots were obtained by using NASA's Active Fire Data to determine the possible location of fires. The system uses NASA MODIS satellites, which survey the entire earth every 1–2 days. The sensors on these satellites detect hot marks in infrared spectral waves. Dur-

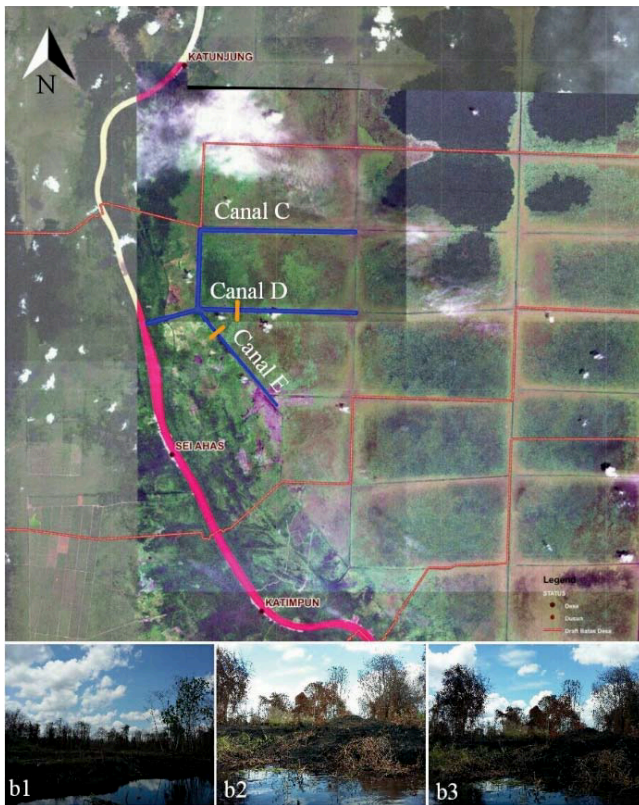


Fig. 2. (a) Study area on Block A of Ex-Mega Rice Project and (b) post-wildfire conditions in peatlands around canal C (b1), Canal D post-wildfire (b2), and Canal E post-wildfire (b3) in November 2015.

ing the processing of the satellite imagery, the algorithm looks for a heat sign and detects it as a fire sign. The system can indicate where a fire occurred and can provide a warning of high risk areas [56].

3.2. Methods

In this study, a modified KBDI was developed for wildfire risk assessment under tropical peatland conditions influenced by El Niño, with modification to the baseline groundwater conditions for peatland affecting the w_c value. The modified index was compared with KBDI under tropical wetland conditions [37]. The results of the two index modifications were compared against NFA recorded in the peat forest, Block A, Mantangai Sub-district, Central Kalimantan Province, in 2015.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Rainfall Data

Based on the observations, rainfall from the three rain stations was almost uniform, with an average annual rainfall of 1650 mm in 2015. This rainfall value was below the average annual rainfall of areas with a tropical climate. The mean annual rainfall for areas with a tropical climate

Table 4. Number of dry day and fire alerts.

	Number of the dry day	Number of fire alerts
Jan	9	1
Feb	26	0
Mar	17	0
Apr	17	3
May	23	1
Jun	21	1
Jul	29	19
Aug	28	488
Sep	30	1272
Oct	27	1746
Nov	18	10
Dec	16	3

ranged from 2000 to 3000 mm [37]. This decrease in rainfall was caused by the El Niño in Indonesia. The average monthly rainfall at the three stations in the study site was the highest (134 mm) in November 2015. The net rainfall or rainfall factor (RF_t) was calculated using Eq. (2) to determine the number of dry days (Table 4). Dry day conditions were found on 29 days in July, 28 days in August, 30 days in September and 27 days in October 2015.

4.2. Number of Fire Alerts Data

In 2015, there were 30,121 NFA events in the Central Kalimantan Province and 3,544 events in the Mantangai Sub-district. There were 3525 NFA events in Mantangai from July to November 2015, as much as 12.1% from the 29,171 events in Central Kalimantan. NFA increased from July to November 2015, and the largest number of NFA was observed in October 2015, with 1,741 events. This data indicates that the number of fire alerts in October represents half of the NFA for the year 2015, as presented in Table 4.

4.3. Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) Analysis

The results of the analysis using DF_t , under tropical wetland conditions [37] and under tropical peatland conditions influenced by the El Niño phenomenon are depicted in Fig. 3.

Figure 3 depicts an added line for the beginning of the extreme index, at 175 mm for KBDI modified for the tropical wetland condition, and at 350 mm for KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions. The KBDI level, with DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions, for a low index level from 0–100 was 218 values, the moderate index from 101–150 was 42 values, the high drought index from 151–175 was as much as 56 values, and the extreme drought index of more than 175 was 49 values. In the calculation of KBDI, with the modified DF_t formula for tropical peatland conditions including El Niño phenomenon, there were 59 values from the high level,

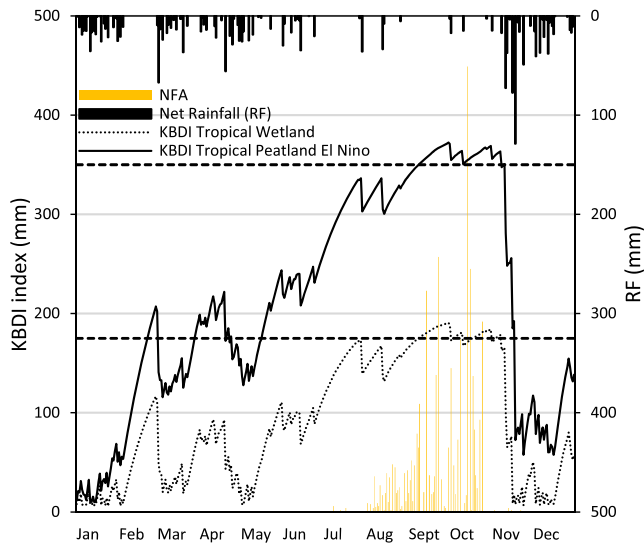


Fig. 3. Comparison of KBDI for tropical wetland and the modified KBDI for tropical peatland with the El Niño phenomenon.

Table 5. Drought level conditions.

	Wetland conditions				Peatland conditions due to El Niño			
	Low	Mod	High	Extreme	Low	Mod	High	Extreme
Jan	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
Feb	23	5	0	0	26	2	0	0
Mar	30	1	0	0	30	1	0	0
Apr	30	0	0	0	21	9	0	0
May	28	3	0	0	20	11	0	0
Jun	25	5	0	0	0	30	0	0
Jul	0	16	15	0	0	12	19	0
Aug	0	12	19	0	0	1	30	0
Sep	0	0	7	23	0	0	8	22
Oct	0	0	9	22	0	0	0	31
Nov	20	0	6	4	15	5	2	8
Dec	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0

and the extreme drought conditions increased to 61 occurrences, from July until November 2015. The class index is presented in **Table 5**.

Owing to the 35% reduction in rainfall occurring in the study area in 2015 due to El Niño, and the change in w_c caused by groundwater table change, the extreme drought index increased. High and extreme class results started at the beginning of the dry season from July. In calculating KBDI, with DF_t formula under tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions, high drought levels began to occur in early July 2015. Extreme drought levels began to occur in September 2015. **Fig. 4** shows the high and extreme classes in KBDI response (with the formula for tropical wetland conditions shown as modification 1, and KBDI with DF_t under tropical peatland conditions including El Niño as modification 2) against fire risk assessment represented by the number of fire alerts.

Figure 4 shows the high and extreme drought index re-

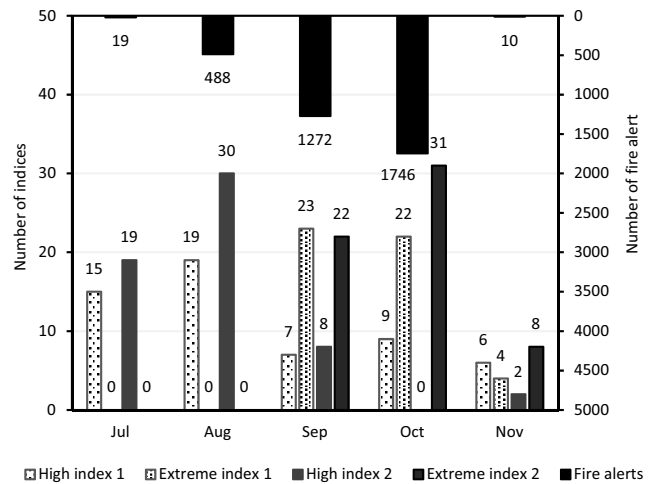


Fig. 4. Correlation between Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) values and number of fire alerts (NFA).

sults from the beginning of July to November 2015, representing the occurrence of fires beginning in July 2015, from KBDI modification for tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions. Two important findings are:

1. Index response with the DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions

Based on the analysis of KBDI with the DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions, no extreme drought occurred at the beginning of July and August. Extreme drought indices occurred in September 2015 in 23 events, October 2015 in 22 events, and November 2015 in four events. Based on NFA data recorded in July, the study site had 19 fire alerts, followed by 488 fire alerts in August, 1272 fire alerts in September, and 1746 fire alerts in October. The highest level of extreme index results occurred in September 2015.

2. KBDI response to a corrected DF_t for tropical peatland conditions

In the corrected DF_t formula for tropical peatland conditions affected by El Niño, with a rainfall reduction of 35% with $R_0 = 1650$ mm and groundwater level 400 mm, high to extreme drought levels were observed from September to November 2015, with 61 indices. The results for the extreme drought index were 22 events in September, 31 events in October, and eight events in November 2015. This finding is consistent with the NFA data, where the starting point of fire is in July and the highest number of fire alerts are in October, with 1746 fire alerts. These fire alerts conditions in October 2015 are predicted by extreme drought conditions that cover the whole 31 days of the month.

4.4. Discussion

This study was conducted on a peat fire situation in 2015 in Central Kalimantan. This study conducted anal-

ysis on KBDI results for data collected in 2015, comparing corrected DF_t modifications for tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions and the number of fire alerts in Mantangai Sub-district, with the results demonstrating that:

1. The modifications of the KBDI index for tropical peatland conditions adequately represents the real fire risk assessment data recorded in 2015. KBDI modification for tropical peatland conditions increases from the high index level to the extreme index level to the value of 350 and continues to rise to the maximum value of 400 starting on September 9, 2015, representing 109 NFA events that day. KBDI modification for tropical wetland conditions increased from the high index level to the extreme index level on September 9, 2015, represented by 65 fire alerts. These modifications of the KBDI for the conditions of tropical peatlands can demonstrate the potential for fire disasters in the study area.
2. In October 2015, there were 1746 NFA events in Mantangai, with the KBDI modification for tropical peatland conditions resulting in 31 days of extreme indices, while the KBDI wetland modification only resulted in 22 days with extreme indices. According to the modified DF_t for tropical peatland conditions, the extreme class is 12 points higher than KBDI modified for tropical wetland conditions. It rises from September to November 2015 in the study area, with the corrected water table of 400 mm.
3. The highest number of NFA was on October 14, 2015, with 449 fire alerts events represented by the extreme value in KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions, while the KBDI modified for wetland conditions only resulted in high index results, as shown in **Fig. 3**.
4. The statistical parameter for extreme classes compared against the number of fires from July to November using linear regression for modification 1 gave R^2 as 0.828 with p -value 0.03. Modification 2 for tropical peatlands gave R^2 as 0.829 with p -value 0.03. It has been shown that both modifications give a good statistical result.

The modified KBDI for tropical peatland conditions seems to perform better in wildfire risk assessment in the Central Kalimantan during El Niño in 2015 compared with other KBDI formulas. The results follow those of previous Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP) observations. A study by KFCP from 2004 to 2013 in the same study area showed daily wildfire patterns indicating fires at the same locations and in the same months. Fires occurred from late July to early November. The peak of the fires occurred in September [51]. Previous research from 2001 to 2010 found large-scale land management practices using fire, which caused smoke hazards from mid-August to late October [52]. We can consider the use of the empirical drought index formula for tropical peatland conditions to have several general principles, which are as follows:

1. The KBDI formula must be based on the net rain-

fall factor set by the R threshold. This threshold for tropical conditions still uses the same threshold as in the previous KBDI formula defined under sub-tropical conditions.

2. Peatland wildfires are not just caused by meteorological conditions but also by many internal factors in the soil, such as peat decomposition, physical properties, water holding capacity [52], and capillarity rise.
3. Peatland wildfires are also affected by unwise peatland management, such as building drainage canals in the peat dome, which results in a change in the water table.

Evaluation of the performance of KBDI under a range of climatic conditions, including a sub-tropical climate, Mediterranean climate, and tropical climate, reports that KBDI is a flexible drought index for almost all climatic conditions and may represent an important tool for forest fire control.

5. Conclusion

KBDI modification, by correcting the DF_t formula for the referenced water table level for peatland and with the influence of rainfall reduction due to the El Niño phenomenon, can accurately represent NFA in peatland. The analysis shows the results of the KBDI; drought factor (DF_t) correction for tropical peatland conditions, gave an extreme index (375 to 400 mm) occurring from September 9, 2015. Twenty-seven dry days caused 31 days of extreme index, represented by 1746 fire alerts in October 2015. The highest NFA number was on October 14, 2015 with 449 fire alerts events represented with this formula as an extreme value. Therefore, this formula provided satisfactory results in the El Niño conditions of 2015. Further testing is still needed to prove the formula for other El Niño events. In addition to the meteorological and water table factors in the KBDI formula, which affect drought management in peatland, several supporting factors must be considered, such as peat decomposition, physical characteristics, water holding capacity, and capillarity rise. The degraded physical properties of peatlands also lead to larger wildfires with the same number of dry days.

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Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia During El Niño Phenomenon

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Peatland wildfires, especially in tropical ecosystems, are often caused by drought, and lead to smoke and other related problems in all aspects of community life in Indonesia, especially in Central Kalimantan. Drought is worsened by the number of dry days in the dry season, known as the El Niño phenomenon, and the drainage system in a peatland. Additionally, drought decreases the water table and increases the probability of occurrence of wildfires in peatland areas. This study aims to modify the numerical formula of the drought factor (DF_t) in the Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI) based on tropical peatland wildfire conditions in Central Kalimantan during the El Niño phenomenon in 2015. Furthermore, it applies a revised peatland water table reference of 400 mm below the ground surface, based on previous research and the Government regulation on peatland ecosystem protection and management in Indonesia. These El Niño conditions caused a rain decline of approximately 35% in Block A, Ex-Mega Rice Project, Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province. The modified KBDI is compared with the Number of Fire Alerts (NFA) using NASA's Active Fire Data in 2015. The analysis results demonstrate that the modified DF_t under tropical peatland conditions leads to an increase in the drought index value, beginning on the driest days between July and November 2015. The value of the KBDI drought index increases from the high to the extreme index from September to November 2015, when as many as 61 extreme drought indices became indicators for peatland wildfire risk assessment. The extreme KBDI is directly proportional to the NFA recorded during 2015, and the highest number of fire alerts is observed for October 2015, with 1746 fire alerts within 31 days and extreme drought indices from 27 days. Hence, this modified formula is suitable for wildfire conditions on this peatland in Central Kalimantan. Overall, the modified DF_t can be successfully applied to the El Niño phenomenon in 2015.

Keywords: Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI), number of fire alerts, El Niño, water table, peatland wildfire

1. Introduction

The forest wildfires of 2015 were the largest wildfires in Indonesia for the last ten years in terms of the amounts of trace gases and aerosols released, which have been monitored in several previous studies [1]. The severity of these wildfires was similar to the disaster that occurred in 1997 [2]. Forest wildfires in Indonesia not only occur in upland environments but also in wetlands [3]. These forest wildfires mainly occur in tropical peatlands [4]. Wildfires in tropical peatlands occupy an area equivalent to 10.8% of Indonesia's land area [5]. Among tropical countries, Indonesia has the largest area of tropical peatland, which is approximately 14 million ha and is mainly found in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua [6]. Indonesia's peatland is a part of the wider tropical peatland habitat in Southeast Asia [7]. Tropical peat comprises accumulated organic materials in a wetland ecosystem [8]. Tropical peat is formed in forests under wetland conditions with the production of large quantities of organic materials [9, 10].

Indonesia's peatland has been developed by the building drainage systems. Canals are intended to decrease the water table in the peatland. These canals are utilized to support the cultivation of crops, such as oil palm and acacia. The resulting decrease in the water table can cause the peat to become overdrained and thereby make it flammable, damaging the ecological balance and eliminating forest and peatland biodiversity [10]. Peatland is commonly burned to minimize production cost; however, this practice may cause uncontrolled peatland wildfires [11]. In addition to human-caused fires, peatland wildfires are caused by meteorological drought factors, such as a lack of rainfall and high evaporation rate [12]. Dry peatland, which is fundamentally unstable, loses water from the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate the pores and oxidize the peat through biological and chemical processes [13]. Peatland wildfires not only cause rainforest degradation [14] and affect biodiversity [15], but also release smoke and carbon emissions to the atmosphere; fire harms nearby communities and leads to the loss of lives and property [16]. Peatland wildfires slowly spread through the surface, and those classified as smoldering fires are absorbed by the subsurface and organic lay-

ers [17]. This type of fire is difficult to detect [18]. Smoldering wildfire causes the lateral spread of flames under different moisture and wind conditions [19] and creates strong smoke that spreads over extensive areas [20]. Drought and fires are important components for the assessment of the dynamics of tropical peat forests [21].

The risk of wildfires increases as the frequency and duration of drought increases [22]. Natural drought is a condition that cannot be managed [23] and has affected millions of square kilometers of land in many areas, such as North America, West Africa, and East Asia [24]. In Indonesia, drought in peatlands leads to sub-surface wildfires all around the ecosystem. These wildfires cause smoke to spread to other countries, such as Malaysia [25]. Fires occur almost every year in Indonesia during the dry season. Wildfires usually occur between June and September and intensify during El Niño [26]. El Niño is a natural phenomenon characterized by the warming of temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and causes drought in the Asian region [27]. El Niño decreases the amount of rainfall in Indonesia [16].

A situation with lower than average water availability due to climate variability may cause drought [28]. The limitations for drought have not yet been widely agreed upon, which indicates that drought is a region specific event. However, there are several types of drought that can be used as reference. A decreased amount of rainfall is also one of the causes of drought, namely, meteorological drought [29]. This type of drought appears in various components of the hydrological cycle [30]. Drought is not only caused by meteorological factors (lack of precipitation), but also by agricultural (lack of soil moisture), hydrological (lack of river discharge and dam inflows), and socio-economic (lack of water supply to meet water demand) factors [29, 31].

In Indonesia, meteorological drought is often accompanied by dry peatland caused by the decline in the water table and changes in the physical properties of peat due to the drainage system. Some fires are also caused by human activities, such as land clearing. The blocking of canals can reduce the degradation of peatlands to a larger extent [32]. Additionally, it can also help to maintain the water table [33] to prevent drought on peatlands.

The process by which drought leads to wildfires is a complex process, and a drought index cannot be easily specified. No index can fully explain the complexity of drought and its impacts [34]. A drought index can be used as an indicator to determine the classification of the drought level of a particular region or area [28]. Many drought indices have been expanded to appraise the scale, type, and impact of drought [35]. Many drought indices are easy to build and use, based on meteorology data, soil moisture, hydrology, and remote sensing [36]. One formula that uses meteorological data is the standardized precipitation index (SPI) [29] and the Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI) [37].

Some drought indices are built for specific uses and environments. In forestry, many drought indices are designed for fire risk assessment [38]. The most widely

used drought indices are the Nesterov index, Zhdanko index [39], Angstrom index [40], Baumgartner index [41], McArthur forest fire danger index [42], and KBDI [43]. KBDI is one of the most widely used indices for forest fire management under various climatic conditions [2, 34]. KBDI was first developed for forest fire management in the sub-tropical Florida region in USA [3]. KBDI was also developed to be suitable under Mediterranean conditions, providing accurate results for forestry and fire risk management in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece [44]. Therefore, this study aims to test the behavior of KBDI, modified for peatland wildfires in Central Kalimantan under tropical climate conditions affected by the El Niño disaster in 2015, when the El Niño conditions caused a significant rainfall decline in most parts of Indonesia.

2. KBDI Index Modification

2.1. KBDI and Wildfire Risk Assessment

KBDI was first introduced to manage forest fire control under a sub-tropical climate. This index represents the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation on cumulative moisture deficiency in deep duff or upper soil layers, and is related to the flammability of organic materials in the ground [43]. KBDI is applied to human activity-caused fire and sub-surface fire, and is determined using Eq. (1).

$$KBDI_t = KBDI_{t-1} + DF_t - RF_t, \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

where DF_t is drought factor (mm), RF_t is rainfall factor (mm), t is time (day).

The value of the rainfall factor (RF_t) is determined using meteorological data, in the form of annual rainfall and daily rainfall. An RF_t of more than 5.1 mm/day is considered a reduction in the drought index and is determined using the following equation [43].

$$RF_t = \begin{cases} (R_t - 5.1), & R_t \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day, 1st rainy day,} \\ R_t, & R_{t-1} \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day,} \\ & \text{2nd and the next rainy day,} \\ 0, & R_t < 5.1 \text{ mm/day,} \end{cases} (2)$$

where R_t is daily rainfall at t and R_{t-1} is daily rainfall at $t - 1$.

The drought factor (DF_t) was determined based on the basic theory of soil moisture degradation in the forest area by assuming the following: (1) the field capacity of the organic layer is considered as 203 mm of water in excess of moisture held by the layer at the wilting point; (2) the organic soil layer obtains moisture from rainfall and loses moisture from evapotranspiration, and the lowest moisture level is detected at the wilting point; (3) the rate of evapotranspiration is a function of meteorological variables and vegetation density, and (4) the vegetation density is a function of the mean annual rainfall [43]. The basic formula of DF_t from Eq. (18) of [43] is modified

Table 1. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor.

Variable	Subtropical	Tropical
T_m [°C]	26.67	26.67
R_0 [mm]	1270	2540
a	0.9667	0.4982
b	0.0875	0.0875
c	8.30	4.27
w_c	203	203

with [37] for tropical condition, and [45] for the a , b , and c coefficients as follows:

$$DF_t = (w_c - KBDI_{t-1}) \frac{(ae^{(bT_m+1.5552)} - c) 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88e^{(-0.001736R_0)}}, \quad (3)$$

where DF_t is drought factor (mm), w_c is corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (mm), $KBDI_{t-1}$ is moisture deficiency (KBDI at $t - 1$), T_m is daily maximum air temperature (°C), t is time increment (day), R_0 is average annual rainfall (mm), a and c are coefficients influenced by the mean annual rainfall (R_0), and b is coefficient influenced by evapotranspiration.

In a sub-tropical climate, the average annual rainfall R_0 is 1270 mm, maximum temperature (T_m) is 26.67°C, and corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (w_c) is 203 mm [43]. $t_{26.67;R_0}$ from Eq. (13) of [43] gives $t_{26.67;R_0} = 56.41$ days. If $R = \infty$ and $R_0 = 1270$ mm for a subtropical climate, $t_{26.67,\infty}$ from Eq. (16) of [43] gives $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.4545 t_{26.67;1270} = 25.64$ days.

[37] modifies the drought-factor formula (DF_t) affected by tropical annual rainfall (R_0) as 2540 mm, w_c , and the temperature used is the same as that in [43], which is 26.67°C. w_c is 203 mm. [37] adjusts the constants $t_{26.67,\infty}$ for a tropical condition from [37] as $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.8831 t_{26.67;2540} = 49.87$ days.

The coefficients a , b , and c for the sub-tropical condition [43] and tropical condition [37] are listed in **Table 1**.

2.2. KBDI Index Modification for the Tropical Climate

2.2.1. KBDI Index Modification for Tropical Wetland

[37] modified DF_t is affected by annual rainfall and evapotranspiration in a tropical climate through changing the values of the coefficients a and c . It was concluded that the loss of evapotranspiration in the tropical climate is 15% higher relative to that in the sub-tropical climate; thus, the coefficient b in **Table 2** become 0.0905 [37]. These coefficients are used as the modifications for the tropical wetland conditions in this paper.

2.2.2. KBDI Modified for Tropical Peatlands Followed by El Niño

The formula of DF_t (Eq. (3)) has been developed to represent the average rainfall conditions for wildfire risk

Table 2. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor for tropical wetland and peatland condition.

Parameter	Tropical wetland	Tropical peatland due to El Niño
T_m [°C]	26.67	26.67
R_0 [mm]	2540	1650
a	0.4982	0.3614
b	0.0905	0.0905
c	4.27	3.10
w_c	203	400

control in tropical wetland ecosystems. However, wildfires in tropical forests, especially those in Indonesia's tropical forests, are also affected by the El Niño phenomenon, which causes extreme warming to the equatorial Pacific. El Niño causes severe droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India, and South Africa, as well a reduction in average rainfall [27]. In 2009, the Southern part of Kalimantan received low precipitation, which caused peatland drying and the easy spread of fires [46]. Analysis of rainfall from three stations in the study area indicates that when El Niño occurred in 2015, rainfall decreased by approximately 35% from the annual average rainfall. The annual rainfall in 2015 at the study area was 1650 mm. The evaporation time for the same temperature used by [43] was 26.67°C.

In addition to the changes in the coefficients a and c on DF_t , w_c was also modified. In the initial equation of KBDI, the w_c value is assumed to be 203 mm of the soil water available for evapotranspiration [43]. The w_c value was on the scale from 0 to 203, where 0 denotes no moisture depletion, and 203 indicates the highest depletion [37]. The w_c value is influenced by the depth of the reference water table. This value was based on peatland research in the Netherlands that used a 400 mm depth for the reference water table to avoid peat subsidence [11]. Peat dryness correlated with wildfire frequency and the reduction of groundwater level [47]. The Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 57 of 2016 on peat ecosystem protection and management, clause 23 point 3, states that peat ecosystems with a cultivation function could be damaged if the water table depth is more than 400 mm below the peat surface [48]. Thus, for the El Niño modifications in this paper, R_0 is set as 1650 mm, T_m is 26.67, and w_c is 400. Based on the above concept, adjustment constants using Eqs. (13) and (16) of [43] in tropical peatland gives $t_{26.67;1650} = 111.17$ days and $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.617 t_{26.67;1650} = 68.6$ days.

The decrease in rainfall affects the values of the coefficients a and c on DF_t in Eq. (3). The coefficient b used is 0.0905 [37]. **Table 2** shown climate variables for modification 1 (tropical wetland conditions [37]) and modification 2 (tropical peatland conditions due to El Niño) in 2015.

In the previous study, four fire danger classes were used, from 0 to 203 mm [37]. In the present study, the

Table 3. Drought index classes of KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions.

Classes	KBDI index	KBDI index in tropical peatland
low	0–100	0–200
moderate	101–150	201–300
high	151–175	301–350
extreme	> 175	> 350

new value of w_c causes a change in the KBDI classes. The water table ranges from 0 to 400 mm. The water table at 400 mm below the surface is considered to cause the maximum drought index and a potential fire risk in the peat ecosystem. A water table of 0 mm, where water is on the surface of the land, is expressed as an ideal peat condition that is always inundated. Based on the new w_c value for the peatland condition, the value of the KBDI classes is corrected. Drought index classes are classified into four levels, as presented in **Table 3**.

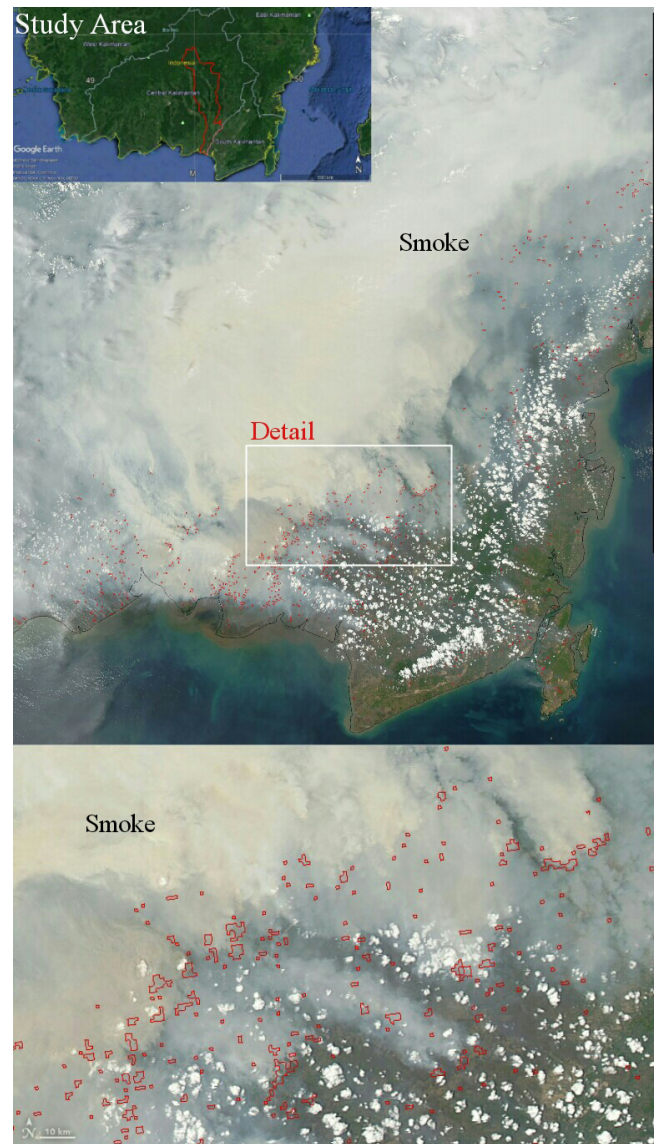
3. Study Area and Methods

3.1. Study Area

The Mega Rice Project consists of one million hectares of peatland in Central Kalimantan and caused damage to the tropical peat forest [49]. It caused the large wildfire in 2015. The highest number of fire alerts (NFA) was recorded on October 19, 2015. The conditions of peatland wildfires in Kalimantan captured by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) from the NASA Aqua satellite are illustrated in **Fig. 1**. This image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected unusually warm surface temperatures associated with fires, and gray smoke signals the conditions [50].

The present study was conducted in Block A, the Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP) located in Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province, which is illustrated in **Fig. 2(a)** [51]. **Fig. 2(b)** depicts some post-wildfire conditions in the peatland around Block A in November 2015. This area underwent land clearing, which caused the peatland to become dry and flammable. A drought index for peat wildfire risk assessment was evaluated under peat wildfire conditions in 2015.

The largest wildfires occur in tropical peatlands, including the tropical peatland in Indonesia. Peat wildfires have previously occurred in the EMRP area in Central Kalimantan [52]. The Mega Rice Project was started legally on a Presidential decree 82/1995. The project caused 400 thousand ha of tropical rainforest cutting. EMRP was a program that failed considerably to conserve the peatlands in Indonesia [49]. The exploitation of forest and peatland in EMRP land occurred due to the construction of drainage network systems [49]. The drainage net-

**Fig. 1.** Wildfires hazard was found on October 19, 2015.

work systems divide peat domes, causing massive damage and resulting in the loss of function as field reservoirs, land subsidence, and a decreased water table [53]. This phenomenon causes irreversible peat drying, which triggers forest and peatland wildfires [54]. In addition to the decreased water table, peatland wildfires are caused by the rainfall reduction (the number of dry days), known as the El Niño phenomenon, which usually occurs from September to October.

Rainfall data was recorded near the study area, such as in Tjilik Riwt, Beringin, and Sanggu Rain Station [55]. Rainfall data was analyzed from 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, and there were a total of 263 dry days, which is more than 70% of the total in 2015. The NFA in the form of hotspots were obtained by using NASA's Active Fire Data to determine the possible location of fires. The system uses NASA MODIS satellites, which survey the entire earth every 1–2 days. The sensors on these satellites detect hot marks in infrared spectral waves. Dur-

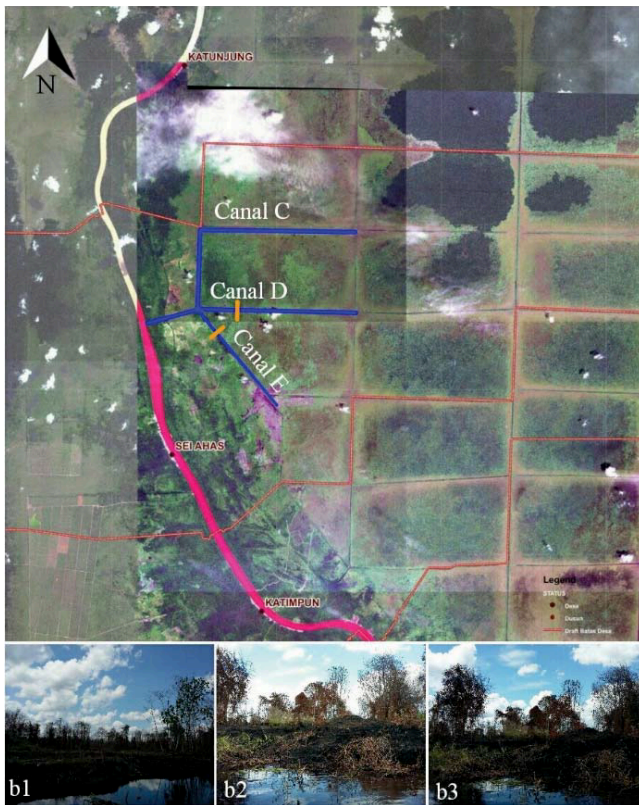


Fig. 2. (a) Study area on Block A of Ex-Mega Rice Project and (b) post-wildfire conditions in peatlands around canal C (b1), Canal D post-wildfire (b2), and Canal E post-wildfire (b3) in November 2015.

ing the processing of the satellite imagery, the algorithm looks for a heat sign and detects it as a fire sign. The system can indicate where a fire occurred and can provide a warning of high risk areas [56].

3.2. Methods

In this study, a modified KBDI was developed for wildfire risk assessment under tropical peatland conditions influenced by El Niño, with modification to the baseline groundwater conditions for peatland affecting the w_c value. The modified index was compared with KBDI under tropical wetland conditions [37]. The results of the two index modifications were compared against NFA recorded in the peat forest, Block A, Mantangai Sub-district, Central Kalimantan Province, in 2015.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Rainfall Data

Based on the observations, rainfall from the three rain stations was almost uniform, with an average annual rainfall of 1650 mm in 2015. This rainfall value was below the average annual rainfall of areas with a tropical climate. The mean annual rainfall for areas with a tropical climate

Table 4. Number of dry day and fire alerts.

	Number of the dry day	Number of fire alerts
Jan	9	1
Feb	26	0
Mar	17	0
Apr	17	3
May	23	1
Jun	21	1
Jul	29	19
Aug	28	488
Sep	30	1272
Oct	27	1746
Nov	18	10
Dec	16	3

ranged from 2000 to 3000 mm [37]. This decrease in rainfall was caused by the El Niño in Indonesia. The average monthly rainfall at the three stations in the study site was the highest (134 mm) in November 2015. The net rainfall or rainfall factor (RF_t) was calculated using Eq. (2) to determine the number of dry days (Table 4). Dry day conditions were found on 29 days in July, 28 days in August, 30 days in September and 27 days in October 2015.

4.2. Number of Fire Alerts Data

In 2015, there were 30,121 NFA events in the Central Kalimantan Province and 3,544 events in the Mantangai Sub-district. There were 3525 NFA events in Mantangai from July to November 2015, as much as 12.1% from the 29,171 events in Central Kalimantan. NFA increased from July to November 2015, and the largest number of NFA was observed in October 2015, with 1,741 events. This data indicates that the number of fire alerts in October represents half of the NFA for the year 2015, as presented in Table 4.

4.3. Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) Analysis

The results of the analysis using DF_t , under tropical wetland conditions [37] and under tropical peatland conditions influenced by the El Niño phenomenon are depicted in Fig. 3.

Figure 3 depicts an added line for the beginning of the extreme index, at 175 mm for KBDI modified for the tropical wetland condition, and at 350 mm for KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions. The KBDI level, with DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions, for a low index level from 0–100 was 218 values, the moderate index from 101–150 was 42 values, the high drought index from 151–175 was as much as 56 values, and the extreme drought index of more than 175 was 49 values. In the calculation of KBDI, with the modified DF_t formula for tropical peatland conditions including El Niño phenomenon, there were 59 values from the high level,

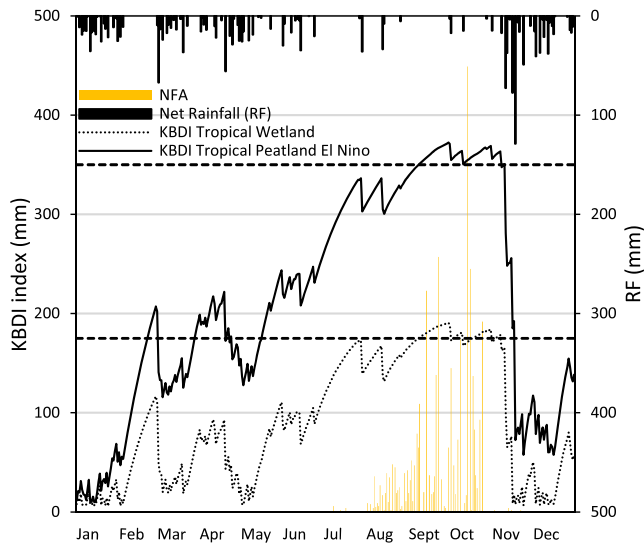


Fig. 3. Comparison of KBDI for tropical wetland and the modified KBDI for tropical peatland with the El Niño phenomenon.

Table 5. Drought level conditions.

	Wetland conditions				Peatland conditions due to El Niño			
	Low	Mod	High	Extreme	Low	Mod	High	Extreme
Jan	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
Feb	23	5	0	0	26	2	0	0
Mar	30	1	0	0	30	1	0	0
Apr	30	0	0	0	21	9	0	0
May	28	3	0	0	20	11	0	0
Jun	25	5	0	0	0	30	0	0
Jul	0	16	15	0	0	12	19	0
Aug	0	12	19	0	0	1	30	0
Sep	0	0	7	23	0	0	8	22
Oct	0	0	9	22	0	0	0	31
Nov	20	0	6	4	15	5	2	8
Dec	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0

and the extreme drought conditions increased to 61 occurrences, from July until November 2015. The class index is presented in **Table 5**.

Owing to the 35% reduction in rainfall occurring in the study area in 2015 due to El Niño, and the change in w_c caused by groundwater table change, the extreme drought index increased. High and extreme class results started at the beginning of the dry season from July. In calculating KBDI, with DF_t formula under tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions, high drought levels began to occur in early July 2015. Extreme drought levels began to occur in September 2015. **Fig. 4** shows the high and extreme classes in KBDI response (with the formula for tropical wetland conditions shown as modification 1, and KBDI with DF_t under tropical peatland conditions including El Niño as modification 2) against fire risk assessment represented by the number of fire alerts.

Figure 4 shows the high and extreme drought index re-

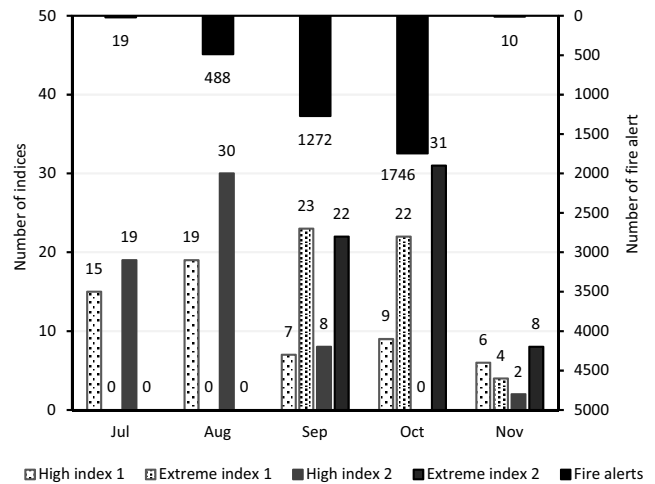


Fig. 4. Correlation between Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) values and number of fire alerts (NFA).

sults from the beginning of July to November 2015, representing the occurrence of fires beginning in July 2015, from KBDI modification for tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions. Two important findings are:

1. Index response with the DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions

Based on the analysis of KBDI with the DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions, no extreme drought occurred at the beginning of July and August. Extreme drought indices occurred in September 2015 in 23 events, October 2015 in 22 events, and November 2015 in four events. Based on NFA data recorded in July, the study site had 19 fire alerts, followed by 488 fire alerts in August, 1272 fire alerts in September, and 1746 fire alerts in October. The highest level of extreme index results occurred in September 2015.

2. KBDI response to a corrected DF_t for tropical peatland conditions

In the corrected DF_t formula for tropical peatland conditions affected by El Niño, with a rainfall reduction of 35% with $R_0 = 1650$ mm and groundwater level 400 mm, high to extreme drought levels were observed from September to November 2015, with 61 indices. The results for the extreme drought index were 22 events in September, 31 events in October, and eight events in November 2015. This finding is consistent with the NFA data, where the starting point of fire is in July and the highest number of fire alerts are in October, with 1746 fire alerts. These fire alerts conditions in October 2015 are predicted by extreme drought conditions that cover the whole 31 days of the month.

4.4. Discussion

This study was conducted on a peat fire situation in 2015 in Central Kalimantan. This study conducted anal-

ysis on KBDI results for data collected in 2015, comparing corrected DF_t modifications for tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions and the number of fire alerts in Mantangai Sub-district, with the results demonstrating that:

1. The modifications of the KBDI index for tropical peatland conditions adequately represents the real fire risk assessment data recorded in 2015. KBDI modification for tropical peatland conditions increases from the high index level to the extreme index level to the value of 350 and continues to rise to the maximum value of 400 starting on September 9, 2015, representing 109 NFA events that day. KBDI modification for tropical wetland conditions increased from the high index level to the extreme index level on September 9, 2015, represented by 65 fire alerts. These modifications of the KBDI for the conditions of tropical peatlands can demonstrate the potential for fire disasters in the study area.
2. In October 2015, there were 1746 NFA events in Mantangai, with the KBDI modification for tropical peatland conditions resulting in 31 days of extreme indices, while the KBDI wetland modification only resulted in 22 days with extreme indices. According to the modified DF_t for tropical peatland conditions, the extreme class is 12 points higher than KBDI modified for tropical wetland conditions. It rises from September to November 2015 in the study area, with the corrected water table of 400 mm.
3. The highest number of NFA was on October 14, 2015, with 449 fire alerts events represented by the extreme value in KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions, while the KBDI modified for wetland conditions only resulted in high index results, as shown in **Fig. 3**.
4. The statistical parameter for extreme classes compared against the number of fires from July to November using linear regression for modification 1 gave R^2 as 0.828 with p -value 0.03. Modification 2 for tropical peatlands gave R^2 as 0.829 with p -value 0.03. It has been shown that both modifications give a good statistical result.

The modified KBDI for tropical peatland conditions seems to perform better in wildfire risk assessment in the Central Kalimantan during El Niño in 2015 compared with other KBDI formulas. The results follow those of previous Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP) observations. A study by KFCP from 2004 to 2013 in the same study area showed daily wildfire patterns indicating fires at the same locations and in the same months. Fires occurred from late July to early November. The peak of the fires occurred in September [51]. Previous research from 2001 to 2010 found large-scale land management practices using fire, which caused smoke hazards from mid-August to late October [52]. We can consider the use of the empirical drought index formula for tropical peatland conditions to have several general principles, which are as follows:

1. The KBDI formula must be based on the net rain-

fall factor set by the R threshold. This threshold for tropical conditions still uses the same threshold as in the previous KBDI formula defined under sub-tropical conditions.

2. Peatland wildfires are not just caused by meteorological conditions but also by many internal factors in the soil, such as peat decomposition, physical properties, water holding capacity [52], and capillarity rise.
3. Peatland wildfires are also affected by unwise peatland management, such as building drainage canals in the peat dome, which results in a change in the water table.

Evaluation of the performance of KBDI under a range of climatic conditions, including a sub-tropical climate, Mediterranean climate, and tropical climate, reports that KBDI is a flexible drought index for almost all climatic conditions and may represent an important tool for forest fire control.

5. Conclusion

KBDI modification, by correcting the DF_t formula for the referenced water table level for peatland and with the influence of rainfall reduction due to the El Niño phenomenon, can accurately represent NFA in peatland. The analysis shows the results of the KBDI; drought factor (DF_t) correction for tropical peatland conditions, gave an extreme index (375 to 400 mm) occurring from September 9, 2015. Twenty-seven dry days caused 31 days of extreme index, represented by 1746 fire alerts in October 2015. The highest NFA number was on October 14, 2015 with 449 fire alerts events represented with this formula as an extreme value. Therefore, this formula provided satisfactory results in the El Niño conditions of 2015. Further testing is still needed to prove the formula for other El Niño events. In addition to the meteorological and water table factors in the KBDI formula, which affect drought management in peatland, several supporting factors must be considered, such as peat decomposition, physical characteristics, water holding capacity, and capillarity rise. The degraded physical properties of peatlands also lead to larger wildfires with the same number of dry days.

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Drought Index for Peatland Wildfire Management in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia During El Niño Phenomenon

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Peatland wildfires, especially in tropical ecosystems, are often caused by drought, and lead to smoke and other related problems in all aspects of community life in Indonesia, especially in Central Kalimantan. Drought is worsened by the number of dry days in the dry season, known as the El Niño phenomenon, and the drainage system in a peatland. Additionally, drought decreases the water table and increases the probability of occurrence of wildfires in peatland areas. This study aims to modify the numerical formula of the drought factor (DF_t) in the Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI) based on tropical peatland wildfire conditions in Central Kalimantan during the El Niño phenomenon in 2015. Furthermore, it applies a revised peatland water table reference of 400 mm below the ground surface, based on previous research and the Government regulation on peatland ecosystem protection and management in Indonesia. These El Niño conditions caused a rain decline of approximately 35% in Block A, Ex-Mega Rice Project, Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province. The modified KBDI is compared with the Number of Fire Alerts (NFA) using NASA's Active Fire Data in 2015. The analysis results demonstrate that the modified DF_t under tropical peatland conditions leads to an increase in the drought index value, beginning on the driest days between July and November 2015. The value of the KBDI drought index increases from the high to the extreme index from September to November 2015, when as many as 61 extreme drought indices became indicators for peatland wildfire risk assessment. The extreme KBDI is directly proportional to the NFA recorded during 2015, and the highest number of fire alerts is observed for October 2015, with 1746 fire alerts within 31 days and extreme drought indices from 27 days. Hence, this modified formula is suitable for wildfire conditions on this peatland in Central Kalimantan. Overall, the modified DF_t can be successfully applied to the El Niño phenomenon in 2015.

Keywords: Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI), number of fire alerts, El Niño, water table, peatland wildfire

1. Introduction

The forest wildfires of 2015 were the largest wildfires in Indonesia for the last ten years in terms of the amounts of trace gases and aerosols released, which have been monitored in several previous studies [1]. The severity of these wildfires was similar to the disaster that occurred in 1997 [2]. Forest wildfires in Indonesia not only occur in upland environments but also in wetlands [3]. These forest wildfires mainly occur in tropical peatlands [4]. Wildfires in tropical peatlands occupy an area equivalent to 10.8% of Indonesia's land area [5]. Among tropical countries, Indonesia has the largest area of tropical peatland, which is approximately 14 million ha and is mainly found in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua [6]. Indonesia's peatland is a part of the wider tropical peatland habitat in Southeast Asia [7]. Tropical peat comprises accumulated organic materials in a wetland ecosystem [8]. Tropical peat is formed in forests under wetland conditions with the production of large quantities of organic materials [9, 10].

Indonesia's peatland has been developed by the building drainage systems. Canals are intended to decrease the water table in the peatland. These canals are utilized to support the cultivation of crops, such as oil palm and acacia. The resulting decrease in the water table can cause the peat to become overdrained and thereby make it flammable, damaging the ecological balance and eliminating forest and peatland biodiversity [10]. Peatland is commonly burned to minimize production cost; however, this practice may cause uncontrolled peatland wildfires [11]. In addition to human-caused fires, peatland wildfires are caused by meteorological drought factors, such as a lack of rainfall and high evaporation rate [12]. Dry peatland, which is fundamentally unstable, loses water from the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate the pores and oxidize the peat through biological and chemical processes [13]. Peatland wildfires not only cause rainforest degradation [14] and affect biodiversity [15], but also release smoke and carbon emissions to the atmosphere; fire harms nearby communities and leads to the loss of lives and property [16]. Peatland wildfires slowly spread through the surface, and those classified as smoldering fires are absorbed by the subsurface and organic lay-

ers [17]. This type of fire is difficult to detect [18]. Smoldering wildfire causes the lateral spread of flames under different moisture and wind conditions [19] and creates strong smoke that spreads over extensive areas [20]. Drought and fires are important components for the assessment of the dynamics of tropical peat forests [21].

The risk of wildfires increases as the frequency and duration of drought increases [22]. Natural drought is a condition that cannot be managed [23] and has affected millions of square kilometers of land in many areas, such as North America, West Africa, and East Asia [24]. In Indonesia, drought in peatlands leads to sub-surface wildfires all around the ecosystem. These wildfires cause smoke to spread to other countries, such as Malaysia [25]. Fires occur almost every year in Indonesia during the dry season. Wildfires usually occur between June and September and intensify during El Niño [26]. El Niño is a natural phenomenon characterized by the warming of temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and causes drought in the Asian region [27]. El Niño decreases the amount of rainfall in Indonesia [16].

A situation with lower than average water availability due to climate variability may cause drought [28]. The limitations for drought have not yet been widely agreed upon, which indicates that drought is a region specific event. However, there are several types of drought that can be used as reference. A decreased amount of rainfall is also one of the causes of drought, namely, meteorological drought [29]. This type of drought appears in various components of the hydrological cycle [30]. Drought is not only caused by meteorological factors (lack of precipitation), but also by agricultural (lack of soil moisture), hydrological (lack of river discharge and dam inflows), and socio-economic (lack of water supply to meet water demand) factors [29, 31].

In Indonesia, meteorological drought is often accompanied by dry peatland caused by the decline in the water table and changes in the physical properties of peat due to the drainage system. Some fires are also caused by human activities, such as land clearing. The blocking of canals can reduce the degradation of peatlands to a larger extent [32]. Additionally, it can also help to maintain the water table [33] to prevent drought on peatlands.

The process by which drought leads to wildfires is a complex process, and a drought index cannot be easily specified. No index can fully explain the complexity of drought and its impacts [34]. A drought index can be used as an indicator to determine the classification of the drought level of a particular region or area [28]. Many drought indices have been expanded to appraise the scale, type, and impact of drought [35]. Many drought indices are easy to build and use, based on meteorology data, soil moisture, hydrology, and remote sensing [36]. One formula that uses meteorological data is the standardized precipitation index (SPI) [29] and the Keetch–Byram drought index (KBDI) [37].

Some drought indices are built for specific uses and environments. In forestry, many drought indices are designed for fire risk assessment [38]. The most widely

used drought indices are the Nesterov index, Zhdanko index [39], Angstrom index [40], Baumgartner index [41], McArthur forest fire danger index [42], and KBDI [43]. KBDI is one of the most widely used indices for forest fire management under various climatic conditions [2, 34]. KBDI was first developed for forest fire management in the sub-tropical Florida region in USA [3]. KBDI was also developed to be suitable under Mediterranean conditions, providing accurate results for forestry and fire risk management in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece [44]. Therefore, this study aims to test the behavior of KBDI, modified for peatland wildfires in Central Kalimantan under tropical climate conditions affected by the El Niño disaster in 2015, when the El Niño conditions caused a significant rainfall decline in most parts of Indonesia.

2. KBDI Index Modification

2.1. KBDI and Wildfire Risk Assessment

KBDI was first introduced to manage forest fire control under a sub-tropical climate. This index represents the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation on cumulative moisture deficiency in deep duff or upper soil layers, and is related to the flammability of organic materials in the ground [43]. KBDI is applied to human activity-caused fire and sub-surface fire, and is determined using Eq. (1).

$$KBDI_t = KBDI_{t-1} + DF_t - RF_t, \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

where

- DF_t = drought factor (mm),
- RF_t = rainfall factor (mm),
- t = time (day).

The value of the rainfall factor (RF_t) is determined using meteorological data, in the form of annual rainfall and daily rainfall. An RF_t of more than 5.1 mm/day is considered a reduction in the drought index and is determined using the following equation [43].

$$RF_t = \begin{cases} (R_t - 5.1), & R_t \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day, 1st rainy day,} \\ R_t, & R_{t-1} \geq 5.1 \text{ mm/day,} \\ & \text{2nd and the next rainy day,} \\ 0, & R_t < 5.1 \text{ mm/day,} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where

- R_t = daily rainfall at t ,
- R_{t-1} = daily rainfall at $t - 1$.

The drought factor (DF_t) was determined based on the basic theory of soil moisture degradation in the forest area by assuming the following: (1) the field capacity of the organic layer is considered as 203 mm of water in excess of moisture held by the layer at the wilting point; (2) the organic soil layer obtains moisture from rainfall

and loses moisture from evapotranspiration, and the lowest moisture level is detected at the wilting point; (3) the rate of evapotranspiration is a function of meteorological variables and vegetation density, and (4) the vegetation density is a function of the mean annual rainfall [43]. The basic formula of DF_t from Eq. (18) of [43] is modified with [37] for tropical condition, and [45] for the a , b , and c coefficients as follows:

$$DF_t = (w_c - KBDI_{t-1}) \frac{(ae^{(bT_m+1.5552)} - c) 10^{-3}}{1 + 10.88e^{(-0.001736R_0)}}, \quad (3)$$

where

- DF_t = drought factor (mm),
- w_c = corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (mm),
- $KBDI_{t-1}$ = moisture deficiency (KBDI at $t - 1$),
- T_m = daily maximum air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$),
- t = time increment (day),
- R_0 = average annual rainfall (mm),
- a and c = coefficient influenced by the mean annual rainfall (R_0),
- b = coefficient influenced by evapotranspiration.

In a sub-tropical climate, the average annual rainfall R_0 is 1270 mm, maximum temperature (T_m) is 26.67°C , and corresponding field capacity of available water in the layer (w_c) is 203 mm [43]. $t_{26.67;R_0}$ from Eq. (13) of [43] gives $t_{26.67;R_0} = 56.41$ days. If $R = \infty$ and $R_0 = 1270$ mm for a subtropical climate, $t_{26.67,\infty}$ from Eq. (16) of [43] gives $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.4545 t_{26.67;1270} = 25.64$ days.

[37] modifies the drought-factor formula (DF_t) affected by tropical annual rainfall (R_0) as 2540 mm, w_c , and the temperature used is the same as that in [43], which is 26.67°C . w_c is 203 mm. [37] adjusts the constants $t_{26.67,\infty}$ for a tropical condition from [37] as $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.8831 t_{26.67;2540} = 49.87$ days.

The coefficients a , b , and c for the sub-tropical condition [43] and tropical condition [37] are listed in **Table 1**.

2.2. KBDI Index Modification for the Tropical Climate

2.2.1. KBDI Index Modification for Tropical Wetland

[37] modified DF_t is affected by annual rainfall and evapotranspiration in a tropical climate through changing the values of the coefficients a and c . It was concluded that the loss of evapotranspiration in the tropical climate is 15% higher relative to that in the sub-tropical climate; thus, the coefficient b in **Table 2** become 0.0905 [37]. These coefficients are used as the modifications for the tropical wetland conditions in this paper.

Table 1. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor.

Variable	Subtropical	Tropical
T_m [$^{\circ}\text{C}$]	26.67	26.67
R_0 [mm]	1270	2540
a	0.9667	0.4982
b	0.0875	0.0875
c	8.30	4.27
w_c	203	203

Table 2. Climate variables and the coefficient drought factor for tropical wetland and peatland condition.

Parameter	Tropical wetland	Tropical peatland due to El Niño
T_m [$^{\circ}\text{C}$]	26.67	26.67
R_0 [mm]	2540	1650
a	0.4982	0.3614
b	0.0905	0.0905
c	4.27	3.10
w_c	203	400

2.2.2. KBDI Modified for Tropical Peatlands Followed by El Niño

The formula of DF_t (Eq. (3)) has been developed to represent the average rainfall conditions for wildfire risk control in tropical wetland ecosystems. However, wildfires in tropical forests, especially those in Indonesia's tropical forests, are also affected by the El Niño phenomenon, which causes extreme warming to the equatorial Pacific. El Niño causes severe droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India, and South Africa, as well a reduction in average rainfall [27]. In 2009, the Southern part of Kalimantan received low precipitation, which caused peatland drying and the easy spread of fires [46]. Analysis of rainfall from three stations in the study area indicates that when El Niño occurred in 2015, rainfall decreased by approximately 35% from the annual average rainfall. The annual rainfall in 2015 at the study area was 1650 mm. The evaporation time for the same temperature used by [43] was 26.67°C .

In addition to the changes in the coefficients a and c on DF_t , w_c was also modified. In the initial equation of KBDI, the w_c value is assumed to be 203 mm of the soil water available for evapotranspiration [43]. The w_c value was on the scale from 0 to 203, where 0 denotes no moisture depletion, and 203 indicates the highest depletion [37]. The w_c value is influenced by the depth of the reference water table. This value was based on peatland research in the Netherlands that used a 400 mm depth for the reference water table to avoid peat subsidence [11]. Peat dryness correlated with wildfire frequency and the reduction of groundwater level [47]. The Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 57 of 2016 on peat ecosystem protection and management, clause 23

Table 3. Drought index classes of KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions.

Classes	KBDI index	KBDI index in tropical peatland
low	0–100	0–200
moderate	101–150	201–300
high	151–175	301–350
extreme	> 175	> 350

point 3, states that peat ecosystems with a cultivation function could be damaged if the water table depth is more than 400 mm below the peat surface [48]. Thus, for the El Niño modifications in this paper, R_o is set as 1650 mm, T_m is 26.67, and w_c is 400. Based on the above concept, adjustment constants using Eqs. (13) and (16) of [43] in tropical peatland gives $t_{26.67;1650} = 111.17$ days and $t_{26.67,\infty} = 0.617 t_{26.67;1650} = 68.6$ days.

The decrease in rainfall affects the values of the coefficients a and c on DF_t in Eq. (3). The coefficient b used is 0.0905 [37]. **Table 2** shown climate variables for modification 1 (tropical wetland conditions [37]) and modification 2 (tropical peatland conditions due to El Niño) in 2015.

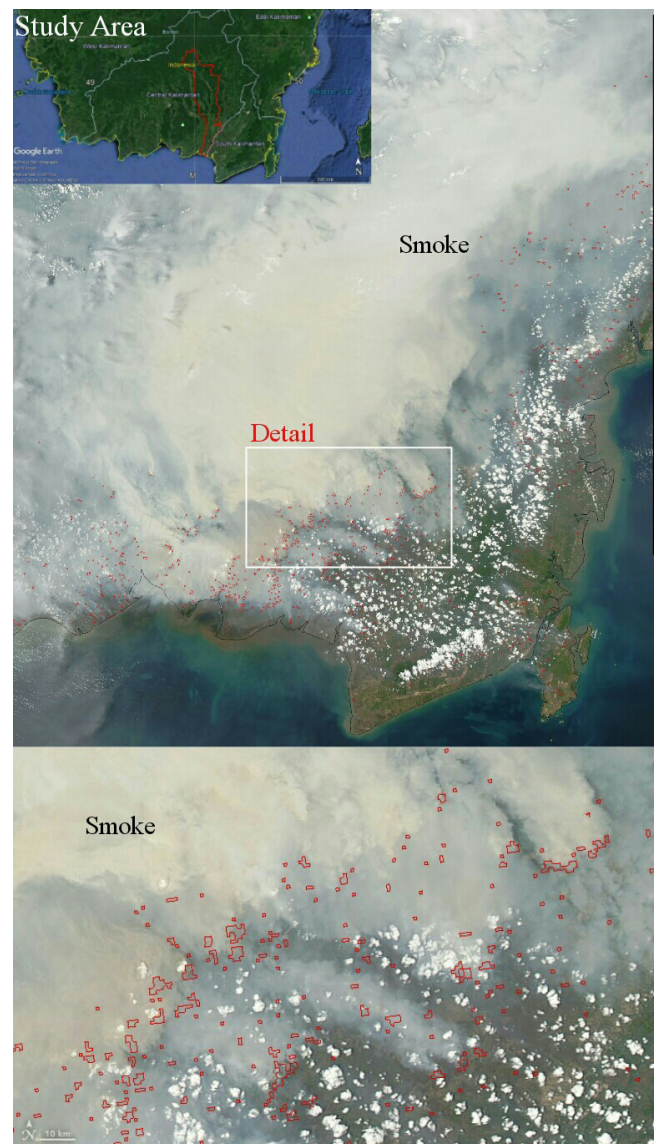
In the previous study, four fire danger classes were used, from 0 to 203 mm [37]. In the present study, the new value of w_c causes a change in the KBDI classes. The water table ranges from 0 to 400 mm. The water table at 400 mm below the surface is considered to cause the maximum drought index and a potential fire risk in the peat ecosystem. A water table of 0 mm, where water is on the surface of the land, is expressed as an ideal peat condition that is always inundated. Based on the new w_c value for the peatland condition, the value of the KBDI classes is corrected. Drought index classes are classified into four levels, as presented in **Table 3**.

3. Study Area and Methods

3.1. Study Area

The Mega Rice Project consists of one million hectares of peatland in Central Kalimantan and caused damage to the tropical peat forest [49]. It caused the large wildfire in 2015. The highest number of fire alerts (NFA) was recorded on October 19, 2015. The conditions of peatland wildfires in Kalimantan captured by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) from the NASA Aqua satellite are illustrated in **Fig. 1**. This image was taken on October 19, 2015; the red line indicates a hot spot where the sensors detected unusually warm surface temperatures associated with fires, and gray smoke signals the conditions [50].

The present study was conducted in Block A, the Ex-Mega Rice Project (EMRP) located in Mantangai sub-District, Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan Province, which is illustrated in **Fig. 2(a)** [51]. **Fig. 2(b)** de-

**Fig. 1.** Wildfires hazard was found on October 19, 2015.

picts some post-wildfire conditions in the peatland around Block A in November 2015. This area underwent land clearing, which caused the peatland to become dry and flammable. A drought index for peat wildfire risk assessment was evaluated under peat wildfire conditions in 2015.

The largest wildfires occur in tropical peatlands, including the tropical peatland in Indonesia. Peat wildfires have previously occurred in the EMRP area in Central Kalimantan [52]. The Mega Rice Project was started legally on a Presidential decree 82/1995. The project caused 400 thousand ha of tropical rainforest cutting. EMRP was a program that failed considerably to conserve the peatlands in Indonesia [49]. The exploitation of forest and peatland in EMRP land occurred due to the construction of drainage network systems [49]. The drainage network systems divide peat domes, causing massive damage and resulting in the loss of function as field reservoirs, land subsidence, and a decreased water table [53]. This

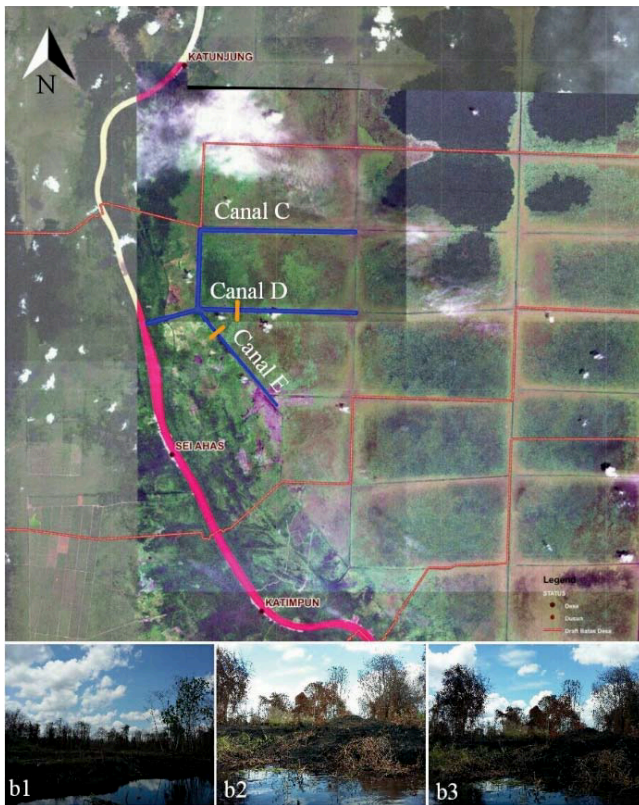


Fig. 2. (a) Study area on Block A of Ex-Mega Rice Project and (b) post-wildfire conditions in peatlands around canal C (b1), Canal D post-wildfire (b2), and Canal E post-wildfire (b3) in November 2015.

phenomenon causes irreversible peat drying, which triggers forest and peatland wildfires [54]. In addition to the decreased water table, peatland wildfires are caused by the rainfall reduction (the number of dry days), known as the El Niño phenomenon, which usually occurs from September to October.

Rainfall data was recorded near the study area, such as in Tjilik Riwt, Beringin, and Sanggu Rain Station [55]. Rainfall data was analyzed from 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, and there were a total of 263 dry days, which is more than 70% of the total in 2015. The NFA in the form of hotspots were obtained by using NASA's Active Fire Data to determine the possible location of fires. The system uses NASA MODIS satellites, which survey the entire earth every 1–2 days. The sensors on these satellites detect hot marks in infrared spectral waves. During the processing of the satellite imagery, the algorithm looks for a heat sign and detects it as a fire sign. The system can indicate where a fire occurred and can provide a warning of high risk areas [56].

3.2. Methods

In this study, a modified KBDI was developed for wildfire risk assessment under tropical peatland conditions influenced by El Niño, with modification to the baseline groundwater conditions for peatland affecting the

Table 4. Number of dry day and fire alerts.

	Number of the dry day	Number of fire alerts
Jan	9	1
Feb	26	0
Mar	17	0
Apr	17	3
May	23	1
Jun	21	1
Jul	29	19
Aug	28	488
Sep	30	1272
Oct	27	1746
Nov	18	10
Dec	16	3

w_c value. The modified index was compared with KBDI under tropical wetland conditions [37]. The results of the two index modifications were compared against NFA recorded in the peat forest, Block A, Mantangai Sub-district, Central Kalimantan Province, in 2015.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Rainfall Data

Based on the observations, rainfall from the three rain stations was almost uniform, with an average annual rainfall of 1650 mm in 2015. This rainfall value was below the average annual rainfall of areas with a tropical climate. The mean annual rainfall for areas with a tropical climate ranged from 2000 to 3000 mm [37]. This decrease in rainfall was caused by the El Niño in Indonesia. The average monthly rainfall at the three stations in the study site was the highest (134 mm) in November 2015. The net rainfall or rainfall factor (RF_t) was calculated using Eq. (2) to determine the number of dry days (Table 4). Dry day conditions were found on 29 days in July, 28 days in August, 30 days in September and 27 days in October 2015.

4.2. Number of Fire Alerts Data

In 2015, there were 30,121 NFA events in the Central Kalimantan Province and 3,544 events in the Mantangai Sub-district. There were 3525 NFA events in Mantangai from July to November 2015, as much as 12.1% from the 29,171 events in Central Kalimantan. NFA increased from July to November 2015, and the largest number of NFA was observed in October 2015, with 1,741 events. This data indicates that the number of fire alerts in October represents half of the NFA for the year 2015, as presented in Table 4.

4.3. Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) Analysis

The results of the analysis using DF_t , under tropical wetland conditions [37] and under tropical peatland con-

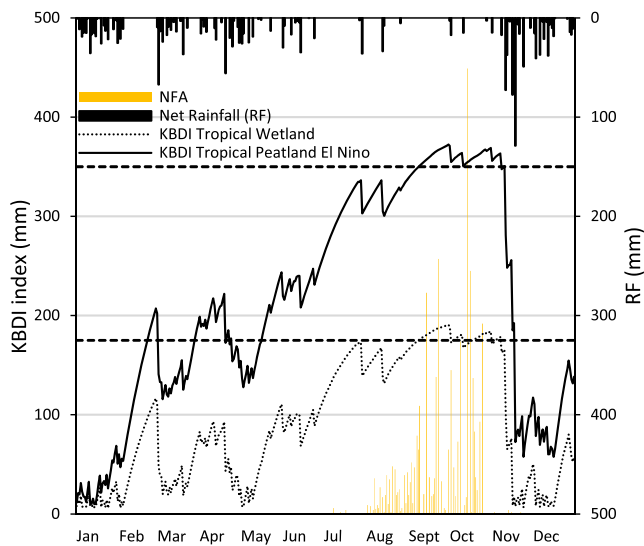


Fig. 3. Comparison of KBDI for tropical wetland and the modified KBDI for tropical peatland with the El Niño phenomenon.

Table 5. Drought level conditions.

	Wetland conditions				Peatland conditions due to El Niño			
	Low	Mod	High	Extreme	Low	Mod	High	Extreme
Jan	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
Feb	23	5	0	0	26	2	0	0
Mar	30	1	0	0	30	1	0	0
Apr	30	0	0	0	21	9	0	0
May	28	3	0	0	20	11	0	0
Jun	25	5	0	0	0	30	0	0
Jul	0	16	15	0	0	12	19	0
Aug	0	12	19	0	0	1	30	0
Sep	0	0	7	23	0	0	8	22
Oct	0	0	9	22	0	0	0	31
Nov	20	0	6	4	15	5	2	8
Dec	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0

ditions influenced by the El Niño phenomenon are depicted in Fig. 3.

Figure 3 depicts an added line for the beginning of the extreme index, at 175 mm for KBDI modified for the tropical wetland condition, and at 350 mm for KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions. The KBDI level, with DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions, for a low index level from 0–100 was 218 values, the moderate index from 101–150 was 42 values, the high drought index from 151–175 was as much as 56 values, and the extreme drought index of more than 175 was 49 values. In the calculation of KBDI, with the modified DF_t formula for tropical peatland conditions including El Niño phenomenon, there were 59 values from the high level, and the extreme drought conditions increased to 61 occurrences, from July until November 2015. The class index is presented in Table 5.

Owing to the 35% reduction in rainfall occurring in the

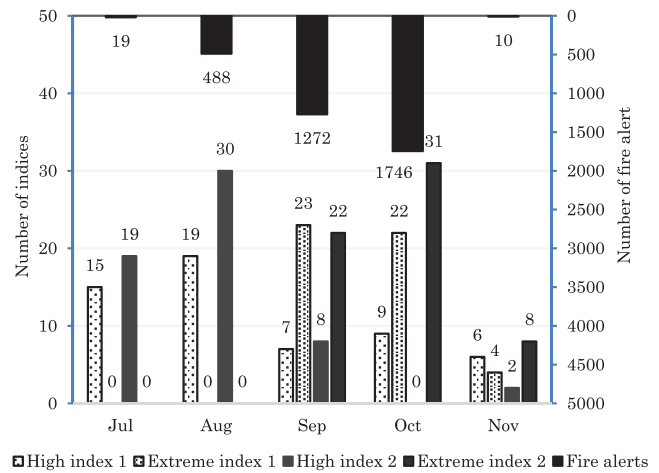


Fig. 4. Correlation between Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) values and number of fire alerts (NFA).

study area in 2015 due to El Niño, and the change in w_c caused by groundwater table change, the extreme drought index increased. High and extreme class results started at the beginning of the dry season from July. In calculating KBDI, with DF_t formula under tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions, high drought levels began to occur in early July 2015. Extreme drought levels began to occur in September 2015. Figure 4 shows the high and extreme classes in KBDI response (with the formula for tropical wetland conditions shown as modification 1, and KBDI with DF_t under tropical peatland conditions including El Niño as modification 2) against fire risk assessment represented by the number of fire alerts.

Figure 4 shows the high and extreme drought index results from the beginning of July to November 2015, representing the occurrence of fires beginning in July 2015, from KBDI modification for tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions. Two important findings are:

1. Index response with the DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions

Based on the analysis of KBDI with the DF_t formula for tropical wetland conditions, no extreme drought occurred at the beginning of July and August. Extreme drought indices occurred in September 2015 in 23 events, October 2015 in 22 events, and November 2015 in four events. Based on NFA data recorded in July, the study site had 19 fire alerts, followed by 488 fire alerts in August, 1272 fire alerts in September, and 1746 fire alerts in October. The highest level of extreme index results occurred in September 2015.

2. KBDI response to a corrected DF_t for tropical peatland conditions

In the corrected DF_t formula for tropical peatland conditions affected by El Niño, with a rainfall reduction of 35% with $R_0 = 1650$ mm and groundwater level 400 mm, high to extreme drought levels were ob-

served from September to November 2015, with 61 indices. The results for the extreme drought index were 22 events in September, 31 events in October, and eight events in November 2015. This finding is consistent with the NFA data, where the starting point of fire is in July and the highest number of fire alerts are in October, with 1746 fire alerts. These fire alerts conditions in October 2015 are predicted by extreme drought conditions that cover the whole 31 days of the month.

4.4. Discussion

This study was conducted on a peat fire situation in 2015 in Central Kalimantan. This study conducted analysis on KBDI results for data collected in 2015, comparing corrected DF_t modifications for tropical wetland conditions and tropical peatland conditions and the number of fire alerts in Mantangai Sub-district, with the results demonstrating that:

1. The modifications of the KBDI index for tropical peatland conditions adequately represents the real fire risk assessment data recorded in 2015. KBDI modification for tropical peatland conditions increases from the high index level to the extreme index level to the value of 350 and continues to rise to the maximum value of 400 starting on September 9, 2015, representing 109 NFA events that day. KBDI modification for tropical wetland conditions increased from the high index level to the extreme index level on September 9, 2015, represented by 65 fire alerts. These modifications of the KBDI for the conditions of tropical peatlands can demonstrate the potential for fire disasters in the study area.
2. In October 2015, there were 1746 NFA events in Mantangai, with the KBDI modification for tropical peatland conditions resulting in 31 days of extreme indices, while the KBDI wetland modification only resulted in 22 days with extreme indices. According to the modified DF_t for tropical peatland conditions, the extreme class is 12 points higher than KBDI modified for tropical wetland conditions. It rises from September to November 2015 in the study area, with the corrected water table of 400 mm.
3. The highest number of NFA was on October 14, 2015, with 449 fire alerts events represented by the extreme value in KBDI modified for tropical peatland conditions, while the KBDI modified for wetland conditions only resulted in high index results, as shown in **Fig. 3**.
4. The statistical parameter for extreme classes compared against the number of fires from July to November using linear regression for modification 1 gave R^2 as 0.828 with p -value 0.03. Modification 2 for tropical peatlands gave R^2 as 0.829 with p -value 0.03. It has been shown that both modifications give a good statistical result.

The modified KBDI for tropical peatland conditions seems to perform better in wildfire risk assessment in the Central Kalimantan during El Niño in 2015 compared with other KBDI formulas. The results follow those

of previous Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP) observations. A study by KFCP from 2004 to 2013 in the same study area showed daily wildfire patterns indicating fires at the same locations and in the same months. Fires occurred from late July to early November. The peak of the fires occurred in September [51]. Previous research from 2001 to 2010 found large-scale land management practices using fire, which caused smoke hazards from mid-August to late October [52]. We can consider the use of the empirical drought index formula for tropical peatland conditions to have several general principles, which are as follows:

1. The KBDI formula must be based on the net rainfall factor set by the R threshold. This threshold for tropical conditions still uses the same threshold as in the previous KBDI formula defined under sub-tropical conditions.
2. Peatland wildfires are not just caused by meteorological conditions but also by many internal factors in the soil, such as peat decomposition, physical properties, water holding capacity [52], and capillarity rise.
3. Peatland wildfires are also affected by unwise peatland management, such as building drainage canals in the peat dome, which results in a change in the water table.

Evaluation of the performance of KBDI under a range of climatic conditions, including a sub-tropical climate, Mediterranean climate, and tropical climate, reports that KBDI is a flexible drought index for almost all climatic conditions and may represent an important tool for forest fire control.

5. Conclusion

KBDI modification, by correcting the DF_t formula for the referenced water table level for peatland and with the influence of rainfall reduction due to the El Niño phenomenon, can accurately represent NFA in peatland. The analysis shows the results of the KBDI; drought factor (DF_t) correction for tropical peatland conditions, gave an extreme index (375 to 400 mm) occurring from September 9, 2015. Twenty-seven dry days caused 31 days of extreme index, represented by 1746 fire alerts in October 2015. The highest NFA number was on October 14, 2015 with 449 fire alerts events represented with this formula as an extreme value. Therefore, this formula provided satisfactory results in the El Niño conditions of 2015. Further testing is still needed to prove the formula for other El Niño events. In addition to the meteorological and water table factors in the KBDI formula, which affect drought management in peatland, several supporting factors must be considered, such as peat decomposition, physical characteristics, water holding capacity, and capillarity rise. The degraded physical properties of peatlands also lead to larger wildfires with the same number of dry days.

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