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COVERING LETTER

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I herewith enclosed a research article,

Title:

Vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan

Author(s) name:

Yusanto Nugroho, Suyanto, Dindin Makinudin, Silvyna Aditia, Dinda Dewi Yulimasita, Ahmad Yusuf Afandi, Moehar Maraghiy Harahap, Syamsu Alam, Jeriels Matatula, Pandu Yudha Adi Putra Wirabuana

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This study found the number of species in three forest ecosystems was relatively different. The highest species presence was recorded in Heath Forest (22 species), followed by Beach Forest (18 species) and Mangrove Forest (7 species). These results were also followed by the degree of richness, heterogeneity, and evenness wherein Heath Forest indicated a better condition than other types of forests around coastal ecosytems. Interestingly, the species abundance gradually declined from seedling to tree, except in Mangrove Forest. Our study also recorded the greatest importance value index in every forest was possessed by different species at each life stage. The vegetation composition in Mangrove Forest was relatively more similar to Beach Forest than Heath Forest with a similarity index of 47.1%. Overall, this study concluded there are high variation of species from three forest ecosystems around Angsana coastal area.

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Sincerely yours,

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Vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan

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14 Abstract. Vegetation communities around the coastal ecosystem play essential contributions in supporting disaster management and climate 15 change mitigation. However, the available information about vegetation structure from coastal areas is still limited even though it is highly 16 required as a fundamental consideration to determine the alternative strategies for environmental preservation. This study investigated the 17 vegetation characteristics from three forest ecosystems around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan, i.e., heath forests (HF), beach 18 forests (BF), and mangrove forests (MF). A field survey was conducted using transect-line methods with every sampling plot size of 10×10 19 m and an interval from 20 m. The vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems was assessed using species abundance, plant diversity, 20 21 importance value index (IVI), and similarity level. Results demonstrated the number of species from three types of forests was relatively different, wherein the highest species abundance was observed in HF (22 species), followed by BF (18 species) and MF (7 species). This 22 finding was also followed by the trend of vegetation diversity in which HF had the most outstanding richness (Dmg = 4.52), heterogeneity 23 (H' = 2.86), and evenness (J' = 0.94). The highest IVI in BF for every vegetation stage was noted in Hibiscus tiliaceus, while Rhizophora 24 mucronata consistently had the greatest IVI in MF for every life form. Interestingly, the highest IVI in HF from seedlings to trees were 25 possessed by the different species, i.e., seedling (Adina minutiflora), sapling (Rhodedomia tomentosa and Premna serratifolia), poles 26 (Tristania maingavi), and trees (Vitex ovata). Moreover, our study also observed that species abundance in forest ecosystems gradually 27 declined from seedlings to trees, except in MF. The vegetation composition in MF was more similar to BF than HF, with a similarity level 28 of 47.1%. Based on these results, this study concluded the vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems in the Angsana coastal area is 29 highly diverse, wherein every type of forest had specific characteristics as its entity.

30 Key words: coastal ecosystems, environmental preservation, plant diversity, species abundance, vegetation characteristics

Abbreviations: HF (Heath Forests), BF (Beach Forests), MF (Mangrove Forests), IVI (Importance Value Index), Dmg (Margalef Index), H' (Shannon-Wiener Index), J' (Pielou Evenness Index).

33 **Running title:** Vegetation structure in coastal ecosystems

34

INTRODUCTION

35 The vegetation around coastal ecosystems currently becomes an interesting issue in the tropics since it has a strategic position in disaster management, climate change mitigation, and rural development. Besides preventing abrasion (Matatula 36 37 et al. 2021), the vegetation communities in the coastal area also play an essential role as a windbreak to protect the local 38 settlement around it (Sadono et al. 2020a). Several studies also report that the presence of vegetation in coastal ecosystems 39 contributes to reducing carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Purwanto et al. 2022) and minimizing the rate of sea-water intrusion into the land (Sadono et al. 2020b). Meanwhile, other references record that the canopy of coastal vegetation is 40 41 suitable as a habitat for some bird species (Purwanto et al. 2021). Moreover, their root system, particularly for mangroves, 42 provides an excellent environmental condition to facilitate the breeding process of sea organisms like shrimps, fish, and 43 crab (Matatula et al. 2019). On another side, the vegetation landscape in the coastal zone is also prospective to develop as 44 an area for ecotourism wherein it can provide additional benefits for the local community welfare (Sánchez-Prieto et al. 2021). These explanations indicate that the sustainability of vegetation in the coastal ecosystem is required to maintain the 45 area's stability in the future. Therefore, it is essential to implement the effort of sustainable coastal management (SCM) for 46

supporting biodiversity conservation in coastal ecosystems. To achieve this goal, understanding the vegetation structure
 becomes a fundamental requirement to determine the alternatives strategies for SCM.

The vegetation structure in the coastal zone is naturally unique since it consists of different types of forest ecosystems. 49 There are two types of forests located in coastal areas, namely beach and mangrove forests (Kusmana et al. 2017). Beach 50 forests (BF) are a type of forest-grown in the sand area, while mangrove forests (MF) are commonly found in the tidal 51 52 zone (Lillo et al. 2019). The plant dimensions between BF and MF are considerably different, wherein most species in MF 53 have unique root systems such as Bruguiera sp., Rhizophora sp., and Avicennia sp. (Srikanth et al. 2015). On another side, 54 the vegetation formation in BF is predominantly by *Ipomoea pescaprae* and *Baringtonia sp.* (Wardhani and Poedjirahajoe 2020). However, in a specific circumstance, the coastal ecosystems may also have the third type of forest, generally known 55 as heath forests (HF). This forest exists in the coastal area due to the quartz sand deposits carried by rivers (Syuharni et al. 56 57 2014). In Indonesia, HF is only found in certain locations such as Borneo and Bangka Belitung Islands (Maimunah et al. 58 2019). Thus, the presence of HF in the coastal ecosystem will provide more challenges for coastal managers to maintain 59 the sustainability of coastal vegetation.

This study aimed to identify the vegetation characteristics from three forest ecosystems around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan. The study site is one of the coastal zones with HF as part of forest ecosystems besides BF and MF. Unfortunately, the information about vegetation structure in this location is not available even though this site has a high potential to manage as the center of biodiversity conservation for coastal ecosystems. Nevertheless, the results will provide adequate information for managers regarding potential biodiversity in Angsana coastal areas as primary considerations to determine the alternative strategies for environmental preservation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

67 Study area

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This investigation was undertaken around Angsana coastal area located in South Kalimantan. The geographic position of this site is situated in S3°45'-3°46' and E115°35'- E115°36' (Figure 1). It has 94.81 hectares and consists of several land cover types: shrubs, forests, roads, settlements, oil palm plantation, and bare land. Nevertheless, more than 70% landscape in the study area is dominated by forest ecosystems with a coverage of 69.11 ha. There are three types of forests in this area, namely mangrove forests (MF), beach forests (BF), and heath forests (HF). Among them, the most extensive forest cover was found in HF (32.79 ha), followed by MF (30.34 ha) and BF (5.98 ha). The circumstance indicates high potential biodiversity in Angsana coastal ecosystems, particularly from the forest vegetation.

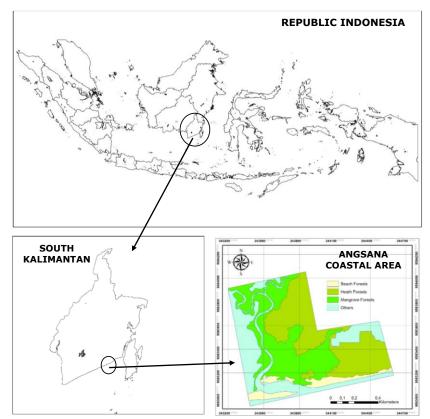


Figure 1. Location of Angsana coastal ecosystems in South Kalimantan. The different color in the map indicates land cover variations.

The Angsana coastal area is a unique ecosystem near the coal mining concession site. In the early beginning, this area was not well-managed and almost became a degraded coastal ecosystem due to the high rate of vegetation loss. However, stakeholders have made many efforts to accelerate the recovery of the ecosystem, particularly from PT Borneo Indobara as a primary company that had legal permission for mining exploration around this site. By collaborating with the local community living around the area, The Division of Corporate Social Responsibility from PT Borneo Indobara (CSR-BIB) has conducted reforestation programs intensively in this location since 2017. The activity of reforestation was not only worked for MF but also to rehabilitate the ecosystem condition in BF and MF.





Before Reforestation

After Reforestation

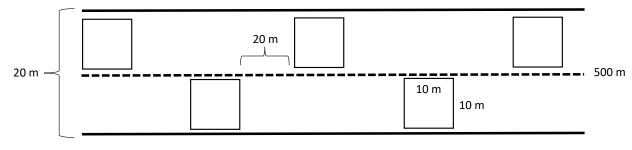
Figure 2. Comparison of landscape conditions in Angsana coastal ecosystems before and after reforestation program managed by collaboration between the local community and CSR-BIB based on Google Earth satellite imagery. The brown color indicated degraded land without vegetation cover.

Furthermore, to increase the community awareness for conserving coastal biodiversity, CSR-BIB also held training and supervising to develop ecotourism in Angsana coastal area. It aimed to improve the knowledge of local community wherein the effort of environmental preservation in the coastal zone had the potential to improve community welfare. In a short period from 2017 to 2021, these initiatives have demonstrated an excellent contribution to increasing the forest covers in Angsana coastal area (Figure 2).

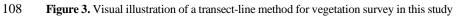
94 Procedures

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95 Data were collected from August to December 2021. Vegetation survey was conducted using a transect-line method 96 with every sampling plot size of 10×10 m and interval from each 20 m. The transect length had 500 m with 20 m wide 97 (Figure 3). The number of transects in this study was nine units and evenly distributed in every forest ecosystem. The 98 distance between transects ranged from 1 to 2 km depending on the coverage area of forest ecosystems. To support the 99 observation process, the sampling plot was divided into several sub-plots for facilitating the vegetation measurement based on their life stage, i.e., 2×2 m (seedlings), 5×5 m (saplings), and 10×10 m (poles and trees) (Matatula et al. 2021). Several 100 parameters were observed from this survey, like the type of species, number of species, and their growth performance. In 101 this context, the growth performance of every species was only measured in poles and trees and just focused on diameter. 102 As one of the essential variables in forest mensuration, the diameter had a strong correlation with other parameters like 103 height (Barbosa et al. 2019), volume (Wirabuana et al. 2021a), and biomass (Setiahadi 2021). The size of diameter could 104 105 also describe the competitive position of individual trees at a stand-level (Maleki et al. 2015).



106 107



109 Data analysis

110 Descriptive analysis was conducted to understand the vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems in the Angsana 111 coastal area. First, data from vegetation surveys were analyzed to calculate species density, species dominance, and

frequency distribution (Eddy et al. 2019). Then, that information was used to quantify the relative abundance, relative

dominance, and relative frequency from every species (Kasim et al. 2019). Finally, to identify the strategic position of species in each forest ecosystem, the importance value index (IVI) was determined by summing these three indicators (Yuliana et al. 2019). However, the IVI for seedlings and saplings was only counted using relative abundance and frequency.

117 Meanwhile, the diversity of vegetation from three forest ecosystems was assessed using three fundamental parameters: 118 richness, heterogeneity, and evenness (Singh 2020). First, species richness was assessed by Margalef Index (Dmg), while 119 species heterogeneity was estimated by Shannon-Winner Index (H') (Li et al. 2018). Afterward, species evenness was 120 reviewed by Pielou-Evenness Index (J') (Wirabuana et al. 2021c). This study also quantified the Sorensen similarity index 121 to determine a similarity degree of vegetation composition among three forest ecosystems in the Angsana coastal area (Lv122 et al. 2021). Furthermore, we also evaluated the existence of species in every life form of vegetation, from seedlings to 123 trees, in assessing the regeneration capacity of species in the study area.

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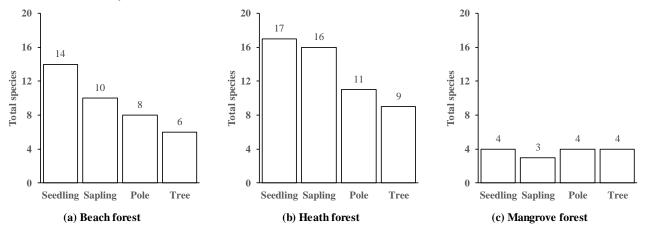
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

125 Species distribution and importance value index

Results found that the number of species in MF is substantially lower than other forest ecosystems for each vegetation 126 127 life form (Figure 4). In contrast, the highest species abundance in every life stage was recorded in HF. Interestingly, total 128 species in BF and HF gradually declined along with the increasing life form. However, a similar trend did not find in MF 129 wherein the number of species from seedlings to trees looked almost equal. The occurrence of species declining and 130 vegetation growth was naturally discovered in most forest ecosystems since there was high competition among plants to 131 obtain adequate resources like water, nutrients, light, and space (Looney et al. 2016). This process caused natural mortality for weaker plants because they could not get resources optimally (Wirabuana et al. 2021b). Meanwhile, the more robust 132 133 species would survive and still grow well.

In a forest ecosystem, the plant competition was classified into two groups, namely intraspecific and interspecific. The intraspecific competition was a competition between individuals from the same species, while interspecific competition was a competition between individuals from different species (Barabás et al. 2016). Every plant in forest ecosystems would face both types of competition if it did not grow in a monoculture stand. In addition, the occurrence of plant competition in the forest was also a part of the nutrient cycle since when the dead trees decompose, they will release many nutrients into the soil layer.



141 **Figure 4.** The number of species in every life form at three different forest ecosystems in the Angsana coastal area

142 MF had a lower number of species since the environmental condition of this forest had a lot of limiting factors, and only certain 143 species could survive this situation. This ecosystem is situated in a tidal area with high salinity (Matatula et al. 2019). The substrate of 144 mangroves was also dominated by mud; thus, only a few species having unique root systems can survive in mangroves (Srikanth et al. 145 2015). Results demonstrated seven species found in MF, including Acrosticum aereum, Brugueiera cylindrica, Brugueiera gymnoriza, 146 Lumnitzera littorea, Nypa fruticans, Rhizophora mucronata, and Rhizophora apiculata (Table 1). Unlike BF and HF, the reforestation 147 activity in MF was conducted more intensively from 2017 to 2021. More than 3,000 seedlings have been planted every year. Therefore, 148 the number of species from seedlings to MF trees was almost balanced and equal. Our study also found no species that were evenly 149 distributed in three forest ecosystems (Table 1). It indicated that each species had specific habitat requirements to support its growth and 150 development. However, some species were also observed in different types of forests, such as Chrysobalanus icaco in BF and HF, as 151 well as Rhizophora apiculata in MF and BF. Moreover, the highest IVI of species from every forest ecosystem was relatively different. 152 For example, hibiscus tiliaceus became the most important species in BF for every life form based on its IVI, while Rhizophora 153 mucronata was the essential species in MF. Attractively, the highest IVI of species in HF was noted in some different species, i.e., Adina 154 minutiflora (seedlings), Premna serratifolia, Rhodedomia tomentosa (saplings), Tristania maingayi (poles), and Vitex ovata (trees). 155 Results also noted that from 37 species distributed in Angsana coastal area, only a few species had good regeneration. These were 156 indicated by their distribution from seedlings to trees (Khan et al. 2018), like Adina minutiflora, Artocarpus rafscens, Casuarina 157 equisetifolia, Garcinia sp., Litsea firma, Podocarpus letifolius, Rhizophora mucronata, Rhizophora apiculata, and Tristania maingayi.

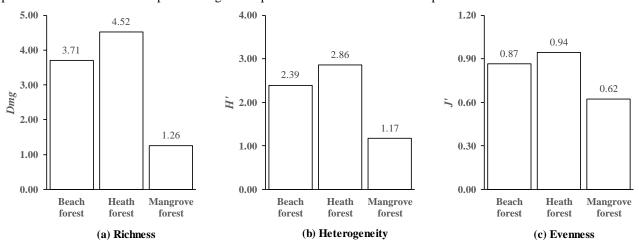
1	Table 1. Importance value index of s	species in every life form	vegetation at three forest ecosyst	tems in Angsana coastal area
-	Tuble It importance value much of a	peeres in every me rorm	regetation at three forest ceosyst	terns in ringstand coustar area

No.	Species	Beach forests				Heath for	est		Mangrove forest				
INO.	Species	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree
1	Acrosticum aereum	8.55								22.02			
2	Adina minutiflora					29.18	17.09	36.00	18.69				
3	Artocarpus rafscens					5.70	8.55	20.87	26.95				
4	Avicennia marina	26.18	26.53	18.54									
5	Brugueiera cylindrica				24.24							42.38	33.22
6	Brugueiera gymnoriza		9.26	20.17							22.23		
7	Calamus erinaceus						8.55	19.15	17.12				
8	Calophyllum inophylum			23.06	34.12								
9	Casuarina equisetifolia	12.55	18.53	20.17	30.23								
10	Chrysobalanus icaco	18.82	18.53				8.55						
11	Diospyrus buxifolio						8.55	21.81					
12	Evodia aromatica					5.70		19.15	20.04				
13	Excoecaria agallocha	10.82											
14	Flagellaria indica					5.70							
15	Garcinia sp					21.35	8.55	20.87	23.77				
16	Hibiscus tiliaceus	42.73	58.32	142.83	87.82								
17	Ixora coccinea					17.78							
18	Litsea firma					17.10	12.55	39.63	40.22				
19	Lumnitzera littorea											25.35	16.01
20	Macaranga triloba					5.70							
21	Mangifer sp						8.55						
22	Melastoma malabatricum	8.55				14.21	8.55						
23	Morinda citrifolia	12.55	18.53										
24	Nypa Fruticans									12.93			
25	Podocarpus letifolius					13.53	8.55	38.20	29.41				
26	Pandanus Tectorius	6.27											
27	Peltophorum pterocarpum						8.55	19.15					
28	Peronema canescens					5.70							
29	Premna serratifolia	17.09	18.53			5.70	21.09						
30	Rhizophora mucronata	6.27	13.26		46.06					88.08	105.56	171.60	142.0
31	Rhodedomia tomentosa	8.55				5.70	21.09						
32	Rizophora apiculata	6.27	9.26	23.06	77.53					76.98	72.22	60.67	108.7
33	Schima noronhoe					16.34	17.09						
34	Terminalia catappa			17.12									
35	Tristania maingayi					5.70	17.09	46.03	41.05				
36	Vismia cayennensis					19.22	17.09						
37	Vitex ovata	14.82	9.26	35.05		5.70		19.15	82.76				
	Importance value index	200	200	300	300	200	200	300	300	200	200	300	300

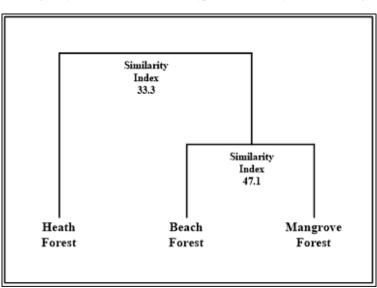
2 Note: The bold value indicated the highest importance value index of species in every life form

Vegetation diversity and similarity level among forest ecosystems

Results showed the highest richness, heterogeneity, and evenness of vegetation were discovered in HF, while the lowest diversity index was recorded in MF (Figure 5). Interestingly, the vegetation communities in MF were more similar to BF than HF, with a similarity level of 47.1%. It was also supported by the results wherein most species in MF were also found in BF. From seven species that existed in MF, approximately five species were also observed in BF. These findings signified that some schemes of biodiversity strategies in MF also had the potential to conduct in BF. The reverse was also applied wherein the alternative plan for vegetation preservation in BF could be adopted in MF.



9 Figure 5. The trend of richness, heterogeneity, and evenness from three types of forest ecosystems in the Angsana coastal area 10



11

12 Figure 6. Similarity index of vegetation communities among three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area

13 In ecosystems management, vegetation diversity becomes one of the most important parameters to assess 14 environmental stability (De Boeck et al. 2018). Higher diversity indicates better environmental health (Zhang et al. 2018), 15 even though it is not generally applied in every type of forest, especially in mangroves. Unlike other ecosystems, mangroves have many limitations for supporting plant growth like substrate condition, flooding, and wind speed (Froilan 16 17 et al. 2020). Therefore, there are only few species that can grow well in mangroves that can grow well in mangroves. This 18 explanation confirms why the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness in MF was considerably lower than BF and MF. It 19 also indicated that the resistance of mangroves to the disturbance was relatively weaker than other forests in Angsana 20 coastal area.

Referring to the results, the vegetation communities in MF were almost similar to BF, but it was considerably different from the plant communities in HF. On another side, a part of the vegetation community in BF was also discovered in HF. This finding indicated that the environmental condition in BF was situated in the transition phase between HF and MF. In addition, the similarity of vegetation between forests can also occur due to the tolerance level of species into site conditions. For example, most mangrove species could also survive in beach areas even though the soil condition was dominated by sand. It is caused by sea waves that stimulate salinity conditions in the soil.

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27 Implication Results

This study concluded that the vegetation structure among three forest ecosystems was highly varied, wherein the highest diversity was observed in HF. Every type of forest had specific characteristics that became its unique entity. This fact indicated a high potential to develop the Angsana coastal area as the center of biodiversity conservation for coastal ecosystems. However, our study also realized that only nine species had good regeneration capacity from 37 species observed in Angsana coastal area. This circumstance should be anticipated as soon as possible to minimize the risk of species extinction. In this case, we recommend that managers conduct enrichment planting to accelerate the effort of landscape conservation in the study area. This activity can focus on the other species that still no have good regeneration.

Furthermore, it is essential to develop more efficient monitoring systems for measuring the dynamics of land cover in Angsana coastal area since the challenge of reforestation in coastal ecosystems is substantially more complex than terrestrial ecosystems. Therefore, the monitoring method should provide accurate information rapidly to minimize the risk of vegetation losses. In this context, using an unmanned aerial vehicle can become a better solution than satellite imagery since it can accelerate the data acquisition process (Hsu et al. 2020). Furthermore, this instrument can also estimate the potential of blue carbon storage in Angsana coastal ecosystems (Peciña et al. 2021). These efforts will provide more comprehensive information regarding the essential contribution of Angsana coastal ecosystems for supporting biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

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SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Ensure that the following items are present:

The first corresponding author must be accompanied with contact details:	Give mark (X)
E-mail address	Х
• Full postal address (incl street name and number (location), city, postal code, state/province, country)	Х
Phone and facsimile numbers (incl country phone code)	Х
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All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:	Х
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All tables (incl title and note/description)	Х
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Further considerations	Х
• Manuscript has been "spell & grammar-checked" Better, if it is revised by a professional science editor or a native English speaker	Х
References are in the correct format for this journal	Х
• All references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa	Х
• Colored figures are only used if the information in the text may be losing without those images	Х
• Charts (graphs and diagrams) are drawn in black and white images; use shading to differentiate	Х

BUKTI EDITOR DECISION 26 APRIL 2022 – REVISION

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 All Mail More 	We have reached a decision regarding your submission to Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity, "Vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems a Our decision is: Revisions Required	around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan".
	Reviewer A:	
	Dear Editor and Author,	
	Please find attached is the reviews and suggested edits for the manucript entitled "Vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems around Angsana coas	tal area in South Kalimantan".
Chat +	This paper presents a unique context of study in term of study area and ecosystem types focused in which it integrated three ecosystem types into one ana articulated in the text thus undermining the study like other studies of vegetation analysis. To improve the manuscript, I would suggest following points:	lysis. Nonetheless, these strenghs were not boldly
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Vegetation <u>diversity</u>, structure <u>and composition</u> of three forest ecosystems <u>inaround</u> Angsana coastal area, in South Kalimantan, Indonesia

15 Abstract. Vegetation communities around coastal ecosystems play important roles in mitigating natural disaster and support disaster 16 and climate change mitigation. However, available information about vegetation structurecommunities in coastal areas is still 17 limited despite being a requirement in developing-alternative strategies for environmental preservation. Angsana coastal area in South 18 Kalimantan, Indonesia has unique characteristics in which it has three different forest ecosystems, namely heath forest (HF), beach forest 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 (BF), and mangrove forest (MF). This study aimed to identify the vegetation diversity, structure and composition of the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area. In this study, vegetation characteristics were determined for three forest ecosystems around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan, i.e., heath forest (HF), beach forest (BF), and mangrove forest (MF). A field survey was conducted using transect line methods with a sampling plot size of 10×10 m and an interval of 20 m. Vegetation structure communities wereas assessed using species abundance, plant diversity, importance value index (IVI), and similarity level. Results showed that approximately 37 species from 25 families have been discovered were recorded in the study site. The highest species abundance observed in HF (22 species), followed by BF (18 species) and MF (7 species). The same trend was found for vegetation diversity, in which HF had the most outstanding highest richness (Dmg = 4.52), heterogeneity (H' = 2.86), and evenness (J' = 0.94). Hibiscus tiliaceus had the highest IVI in BF infor allevery vegetation stages, and *Rhizophora mucronata* consistently had the greatest IVI in MF for every life formin all stages. The following sSpecies from seedlings to trees exhibited the highest IVI in HF were *Adina minutiflora* (: seedlings) (*Adina minutiflora*), *Rhodedomia* tomentosa and *Premna serratifolia* (saplings) (*Rhodedomia tomentosa* and *Premna serratifolia*), *Tristania maingayi* (poles) (*Tristania*) maingayi), and <u>Vitex ovata (trees) (Vitex ovata</u>). Our study also observed that species abundance in forest ecosystems gradually declined from seedlings to trees, except in MF. Among the three forest types, vegetation composition was highly similar between MF and BF with a 31 32 similarity level of 47.1%. On the basis of these results, this study concluded that the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area exhibit 33 a highly diverse vegetation structure, and each type of forest has specific characteristics as its entity.

34 Key words: coastal ecosystems, environmental preservation, plant diversity, species abundance, vegetation characteristics

Abbreviations: HF (Heath Forests), BF (Beach Forests), MF (Mangrove Forests), IVI (Importance Value Index), *Dmg* (Margalef
 Index), *H'* (Shannon-Wiener Index), *J'* (Pielou–Evenness Index)

37 Running title: Vegetation structure in coastal ecosystems

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INTRODUCTION

39The-Vvegetation of-around coastal ecosystems is an emerging research topic eurrently an interesting issue in tropie40research because of its strategic positionroles in disaster andmanagement, climate change mitigation, and rural41development. In addition to preventing abrasion (Matatula et al. 2021), vegetation communities in coastal areas play an42essential functionrole as a windbreak to protect the surrounding local settlement (Sadono et al. 2020a). The presence of43vegetation in coastal ecosystems also contributes to reducing carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Purwanto et al. 2022)44and minimizing the rate of sea water intrusion into the land (Sadono et al. 2020b). The canopy of coastal vegetation is a45suitable habitat for some bird species (Purwanto et al. 2021), and their root system, particularly those of mangroves,

46 provides an excellent environmental condition to facilitate the breeding of sea organisms such as shrimps, fish, and crab

Commented [AR1]: The Introduction is too short to provide complete background information regarding the study. In particular, there is limited information regarding the study area and why this area is important. (Matatula et al. 2019). The vegetation landscape in coastal zones also shows prospectshas the potentials to be developed as
 an area for ecotourism_<u>and thus provide additional benefits for to improve the welfare of the local community welfare</u>
 (Sánchez-Prieto et al. 2021). Therefore, the sustainability of vegetation in coastal ecosystems must be conserved and
 sustainably managed to ensure its long-term benefitsd to maintain the area's stability in the future.

51 In term of biodiversity conservation, understanding the vegetation structure becomes a fundamental requirement to 52 develop alternatives strategies for Ssustainable coastal management (SCM). must be implemented to support biodiversity 53 conservation in coastal ecosystems. For this goal, understanding the vegetation structure becomes a fundamental 54 requirement to develop alternatives strategies for SCM.

55 The vegetation structure in coastal zones is naturally unique because it consists of different types of forest ecosystems. 56 There are two common types of forests located in coastal areas, namely-are beach forest (BF) and mangrove forest (MF) 57 (Kusmana et al. 2017) in which - the former grows in the sandy area, and the latter is commonly found in the tidal zone 58 (Lillo et al. 2019). Plant habitus and characteristicsdimensions considerably differ between BF and MF. On the one 59 andFor example, most species in MF have unique root systems such as Bruguiera sp., Rhizophora sp., and Avicennia sp. 60 (Srikanth et al. 2015). On the other hand, the vegetation formation in BF is predominated by plants such as Ipomoea 61 pescaprae and Barringtonia spp. (Wardhani and Poedjirahajoe 2020). Under specific circumstances, coastal ecosystems 62 may also exhibit a third type of vegetation generally known as heath forest (HF). This forest exists in the coastal area due 63 to the quartz sand deposits carried by rivers (Syuharni et al. 2014). In Indonesia, HF is only found in certain 64 regionslocations such as Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) and Bangka Belitung Islands (Maimunah et al. 2019). The 65 presence of this forest type in coastal ecosystems brought challenges for coastal managersstakeholders to maintain the 66 sustainability of coastal vegetation.

67 <u>BEFORE JUMPING INTO THE AIM OF THE STUDY, PLEASE ADD HERE ONE PARAGRAPGH DESCRIBING</u>
68 THE CONTEXT OF STUDY AREA, I.E. ANGSANA COASTAL AREA. ASPECTS NEED TO EXPLAIN FOR
69 EXAMPLE THE LOCATION (DISTRICT AND SUBDISTRICT), HISTORY OF LAND USE AND CURRENT
70 CONDITION, ETC.

This study aimed to identify the vegetation <u>diversity</u>, <u>structure and composition characteristics</u> of the three forest ecosystems (i.e., <u>mangrove forest</u>, <u>beach forest and heath forest</u>) around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan. The study site is one of the coastal zones comprising HF, BF, and MF as parts of the forest ecosystem. Despite the high potentialimportance of this area to becomeas thea center of biodiversity conservation for coastal ecosystems in Kalimantan region, information about its vegetation structure is not available. <u>NeverthelessWe expected</u>, the results will provide adequate information for <u>stakeholdersmanagers</u> regarding the <u>potential</u> biodiversity in Angsana coastal areas as primary

77 consideration to develop alternative strategies for environmental preservation.

78

MATERIALS AND METHODS

79 Study area

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 This investigationstudy was conducted inaround Angsana coastal area located in South Kalimantan with geographic

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 position of S3°45'-3°46' and E115°35' E115°36' (Figure 1). The study site has an area of 94.81 ha and consists of several

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 land cover types: shrubs, forests, roads, settlements, oil palm plantation, and bare land. Annual rainfall ranges 3,000 mm

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 year⁻¹ with a mean daily temperature of 29°C. More than 70% of the landscape in the study area_wa-is dominated by forest

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 ecosystems with aextent-coverage of 69.11 ha. Three types of forests exist in this area, namely- mangrove forest (MF).

ecosystems with <u>aextent-coverage</u> of 69.11 ha. Three types of forests exist in this area, namely₇ mangrove forest (MF),
 beach forest (BF), and heath forest (HF). Among them, the most extensive forest coverage was attributed to HF (32.79 ha),
 followed by MF (30.34 ha) and BF (5.98 ha). This circumstance indicated the high importance of potential biodiversity in

87 Angsana coastal ecosystems, particularly from in term of forest vegetation.

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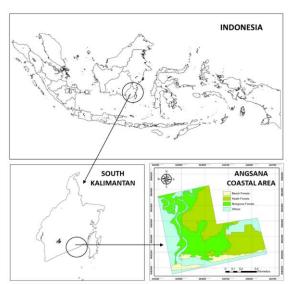


Figure 1. Location of Angsana coastal ecosystems in South Kalimantan. Different colors in the map indicate land cover variations.

90 The Angsana coastal area is a unique ecosystem located near athe coal mining concession site. Initially, this area was not well managed and almost became a degraded coastal ecosystemarea due to the high rate of vegetation loss. However, stakeholders including a coal mining company have putdirected efforts to accelerate the recovery of this ecosystem through 93 corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. , particularly PT Borneo Indobara as a prima npany that btained lega permission for mining exploration around this site. By collaborating with the local community living around the area, the 95 Corporate Social Responsibility Division of PT Borneo Indoba ara (CSR-BIB)mining company has intensively conducted 96 reforestation programs in this location since 2017. Such This activities wereas not only directed conducted in to the mangrove

97 forestMF_but also aimed to rehabilitate the ecosystem condition in the beach forest BF-and MFheath forest.





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Also, it is uncommon to mention explicitly a private entity in a scientific journal to avoid conflict of interest and to broaden readership. Thus, I would suggest to remove the name of the company, instead it can be put in the Acknowledgement.

Before Reforestation

After Reforestation

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100 boration between the local community and CSR-BIB based on Google Earth satellite imagery. The brown color indicates 101 degraded land without vegetation cover.

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103 The CSR program -BIB-also held training and supervising activities to develop ecotourism in Angsana coastal area, 104 increase community awareness for conserving coastal biodiversity, and inform the local community that efforts for 105 environmental preservation in coastal zones can also improve their welfare. In a short period from 2017 to 2021, these 106 initiatives have contributed to the increase in forest covers in Angsana coastal area (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Comparison of landscape conditions in Angsana coastal ecosystems, South Kalimantan before and after reforestation program

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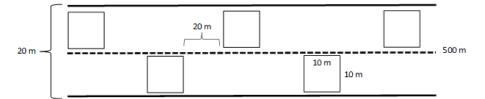
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107 Procedures

Data were collected from August to December 2021. Vegetation survey was conducted using a transect line method 108 109 with a sampling plot size of 10×10 m and an interval from each 20 m. The transect line was 500 m long and 20 m wide 110 (Figure 3). Nine transects were evenly distributed in eachevery forest ecosystem, and the distance between transects 111ranged from 1 km to 2 km depending on the coverage area of the forest ecosystem. Vegetation measurementinventory was 112 conducted by establishing nested plots (sub-plots) within the sampling plot based on life stage, i.e., 2×2 m (seedlings), 5 113 \times 5 m (saplings), and 10 \times 10 m (poles and trees) was also conducted by dividing the sampling plot into several sub-plots to support the observation results (Matatula et al. 2021). The following parameters were recorded and measured: name of 114 115 type of species, number of species, and growth performancediameter (for poles and trees only). For ever growth 116 performance was only measured in poles and trees by focusing on the diameter. As one of the essential variables in forest 117 mensurationinventory, diameter has a strong correlation with other parameters such as height (Barbosa et al. 2019), 118 volume (Wirabuana et al. 2021a), and biomass (Setiahadi 2021) and could also describe the competitive position of 119 individual trees at a stand level (Maleki et al. 2015).







122 123

124 Figure 3. Visual illustration of a transect line method for vegetation survey

125 Data analysis

Descriptive analysis was conducted to understand the vegetation structure of the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area. First, data from vegetation surveys were analyzed to calculate species density, species dominance, and frequency distribution (Eddy et al. 2019). The obtained valued were then used to quantify the relative abundance, relative dominance, and relative frequency for every species (Kasim et al. 2019). Finally, importance value index (IVI) was determined by summing up these three indicators to identify the strategic position of species in each forest ecosystem (Yuliana et al. 2019). However, the IVI for seedlings and saplings was only counted using relative abundance and frequency. The equations for calculating those parameters were presented below:

$Species \ density = \frac{Numbe \ of \ individual}{Size \ of \ sampling \ plot}$	[1
Species dominance = Total basal area of species Size of sampling plot	[2
$Species \ frequency = \frac{Number \ of \ plot \ where in species \ existing}{Total \ sampling \ plot}$	[3
Relative density = $\frac{Species \ density}{Total \ species \ density} \ x \ 100$	[4
Relative dominance = $\frac{Species \ dominance}{Total \ species \ dominance} x \ 100$	[5
Relative frequency = $\frac{Species frequency}{Total species frequency} x 100$	[6
Important value index = Relative density + Relative dominance + Relative frequency	[7

133 Vegetation diversity in the three forest ecosystems was assessed using three fundamental parameters: i.e., species 134 richness calculated usingby Margalef Index (Dmg) (Singh 2020), species heterogeneity estimated usingby Shannon-135 Winner Index (H') (Li et al. 2018), and species evenness evaluated usingby Pielou-Evenness Index (J') (Wirabuana et al. 136 2021c). Sorensen similarity index (SC) was also calculated to determine the similarity degree of vegetation composition 137 among the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area (Lv et al. 2021). The existence structure of species in everyeach 138 vegetation life formstage from seedlings to trees was also examined to assess the regeneration capacity of species in the 139 study area (Nagel et al. 2010). The equations for computing richness, evenness, heterogeneity, and similarity index were 140 expressed below:

-	
Dung -	S-1
Dmg =	ln(N)

[8]

$$H' = -\sum \left(\frac{n_i}{N} \times \ln \frac{n_i}{N}\right)$$
[9]
$$J' = \frac{H'}{\ln(S)}$$
[10]
$$SC = \frac{2W}{(A+B)}$$
[11]

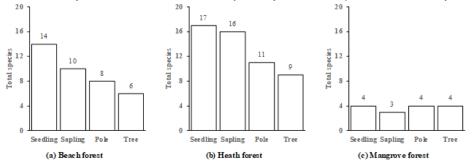
wherein *S* was the number of species, *N* represented total tree population, n_i described the sum of trees for each species, *W* was the number of common species between two forest types, *A* indicated the number of species only found in first forest, and *B* represented the number of species only discovered in second forest.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

145 Species distribution and IVI

146 The results showed that-around 37 species from 25 families were found in the studied areaaround Angsana coastal area. The number of species in MF was substantially lower than that in other forest ecosystems for each vegetation life form 147 148 (Figure 4). Meanwhile, the highest species abundance in <u>eachevery</u> life stage was recorded in HF. The number of total 149 species in BF and HF gradually declined with the progressionas of the life form grew to adult stages. However, this trend 150 was not observed in MF, in which the number of species from seedlings to trees was almost equal. Decline in Sspecies 151 number decline and abundance vegetation growth were naturally discovered in most forest ecosystems due to the high 152 competition among plants to obtain adequate resources, such as water, nutrients, light, and space (Looney et al. 2016). This 153 process caused natural mortality for weak plants because they could not optimally acquire resources (Wirabuana et al. 154 2021b). Meanwhile, the robust species would survive and grow well.

Plant competition in a forest ecosystem is classified into two groups, namely, intraspecific and interspecific. Intraspecific competition occurs <u>amongbetween</u> individuals <u>withinfrom</u> the same species, and interspecific competition occurs <u>amongbetween</u> individuals <u>acrossfrom</u> different species (Barabás et al. 2016). Every plant in forest ecosystems would face both types of competition if it doesid not grow in a monoculture stand. Plant competition in the forest is also a part of the nutrient cycle because when the dead trees decomposed, they will release <u>many</u>-nutrients into the soil layer.



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161 Figure 4. Number of species in every life form at three different forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area 162

163 Among the forest types, MF had a lower number of species because its environmental conditions had many limiting 164 factors in which only certain species that can only be survived by certain species. This ecosystem is situated in a tidal area 165 with high salinity (Matatula et al. 2019). The substrate of mangrove ecosystems iswas also dominated by mud; thus, only a 166 few species with unique root systems can survive in these forests (Srikanth et al. 2015). In the studied areais work, seven 167 species were found in MF, namely, Acrostichum auereum, Brugueiera cylindrica, Brugueiera gymnorriza, Lumnitzera 168 littorea, Nypa fruticans, Rhizophora mucronata, and Rhizophora apiculata (Table 1). Different from that in BF and HF, 169 the reforestation activity in MF was conducted more intensively from 2017 to 2021. More than 3,000 seedlings were 170 planted every year. Therefore, the number of species from seedlings to -MF-trees in MF was almost balanced and equal.

Our study also found that none of the species was evenly distributed in the three forest ecosystems (Table 1), indicating that each species had specific habitat requirements to support its growth and development. However, some species were also-observed in different types of forests, such as *Chrysobalanus icacc* in BF and HF and *R. apiculata* in MF and BF. Moreover, the highest IVI of species relatively differed for everyacross the three forest ecosystems. For example, *Hibiscus tiliaceus* was the most important species in BF for everyat all life forms based on theirs IVI, and *R. mucronata* was the essential species in MF. In HF, the highest IVI was noted in some differentseveral species, i.e., *Adina minutiflora* (seedlings), *Premna serratifolia*, *Rhodedomia tomentosa* (saplings), *Tristania maingayi* (poles), and *Vitex ovata* (trees).

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Among the 37 species distributed recorded in Angsana coastal area, only the following species showed good regeneration
 as indicated by their distribution from seedlings to trees (Khan et al. 2018): *A. minutiflora, Artocarpus rafscens, Casuarina equisetifolia, Garcinia sp., Litsea firma, Podocarpus laetifolius, R. mucronata, R. apiculata, and T. maingayi.*

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No.	Species	Family		Beach forests				Heath forest				Mangrove forest			
NO.			Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Commented [AR9]: Please check the accuracy of the la names.
1	Acrostic <u>h</u> um a <u>u</u> ereum	Pteridaceae	8.55								22.02				names.
2	Adina minutiflora	Rubiaceae					29.18	17.09	36.00	18.69					
3	Artocarpus rafscens	Moraceae					5.70	8.55	20.87	26.95					
4	Avicennia marina	Acanthaceae	26.18	26.53	18.54										
5	Brugu e iera cylindrica	Rhizophoraceae				24.24							42.38	33.22	
6	Brugu e iera gymnor <u>h</u> iza	Rhizophoraceae		9.26	20.17							22.23			
7	Calamus erinaceus	Arecaceae						8.55	19.15	17.12					
8	Calophyllum inophyllum	Clusiaceae			23.06	34.12									
9	Casuarina equisetifolia	Casuarinaceae	12.55	18.53	20.17	30.23									
10	Chrysobalanus icaco	Chrysobalanaceae	18.82	18.53				8.55							
11	Diospyros buxifoli <u>a</u> o	Ebenaceae						8.55	21.81						
12	Evodia aromatica	Lauraceae					5.70		19.15	20.04					
13	Excoecaria agallocha	Euphorbiaceae	10.82												
14	Flagellaria indica	Flagellariaceae					5.70								
15	Garcinia sp	Clusiaceae					21.35	8.55	20.87	23.77					
16	Hibiscus tiliaceus	Malvaceae	42.73	58.32	142.83	87.82									
17	Ixora coccinea	Rubiaceae					17.78								
18	Litsea firma	Lauraceae					17.10	12.55	39.63	40.22					
19	Lumnitzera littorea	Combretaceae											25.35	16.01	
20	Macaranga triloba	Euphorbiaceae					5.70								
21	Mangifera sp.	Anacardiaceae						8.55							
22	Melastoma malabatricum	Melastomataceae	8.55				14.21	8.55							
23	Morinda citrifolia	Cicadellidae	12.55	18.53											
24	Nypa Fruticans	Arecaceae									12.93				
25	Podocarpus latifolius	Podocarpaceae					13.53	8.55	38.20	29.41					
26	Pandanus tectorius	Pandanaceae	6.27												
27	Peltophorum pterocarpum	Fabaceae						8.55	19.15						
28	Peronema canescens	Lamiaceae					5.70								
29	Premna serratifolia	Lamiaceae	17.09	18.53			5.70	21.09							
30	Rhizophora mucronata	Rhizophoraceae	6.27	13.26		46.06					88.08	105.56	171.60	142.02	
31	Rhodedomia tomentosa	Myrtaceae	8.55				5.70	21.09							
32	Rizophora apiculata	Rhizophoraceae	6.27	9.26	23.06	77.53					76.98	72.22	60.67	108.75	
33	Schima noronhoe	Theaceae					16.34	17.09							
34	Terminalia catappa	Combretaceae			17.12										
35	Tristania maingayi	Myrtaceae					5.70	17.09	46.03	41.05					
36	Vismia cayennensis	Hypericaceae					19.22	17.09							
37	Vitex ovata	Lamiaceae	14.82	9.26	35.05		5.70		19.15	82.76					
	Importance value index		200	200	300	300	200	200	300	300	200	200	300	300	

181 Table 1. Importance value index of species in each-every growth stage in the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area, South Kalimantan

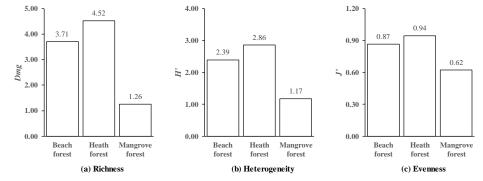
182 Note: The bold value indicates the highest importance value index of species in every life form

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Vegetation diversity and similarity level among forest ecosystems

The highest richness, heterogeneity, and evenness of vegetation were discovered in HF, and the lowest diversity index was recorded in MF (Figure 5). Compared with that between MF and HF, the similarity in vegetation communities between MF and BF was higher with a similarity level of 47.1%. This result was supported by the observation that most species in MF were also found in BF. Five out of the seven species in MF were also found in BF. These findings signified 6 that some biodiversity strategies in MF can also be applied in BF and vice versa.



8 9 Figure 5. Biodiversity indices in term of Trend of richness, heterogeneity, and evenness in the three types of forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area

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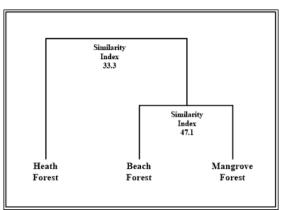
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12 Figure 6. Similarity index of vegetation communities in the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area

13 In ecosystem management, vegetation diversity is one of the most important parameters to assess environmental 14 stability (De Boeck et al. 2018). High diversity indicates good environmental health (Zhang et al. 2018), even though this 15 relationship does is not generally applyied in every type of forest, especially in mangroves. Different from other 16 ecosystems, mangroves have many limitations for supporting plant growth, such as substrate condition, flooding, and wind 17 speed (Froilan et al. 2020). Therefore, only a few species can grow well in mangroves. This finding explained why the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness in MF were considerably lower than those in BF and MF and why the resistance of mangroves to disturbance was relatively weaker compared with that of other forest types in Angsana coastal area.

18 19 20 21 22 23 According to the results, the vegetation communities in MF were almost similar to those in BF but were considerably different from those in HF. Meanwhile, a part of the vegetation community in BF was also discovered in HF. This finding indicated that the environmental condition in BF was situated in the transition phase between HF and MF. Similarities in vegetation between forests can also occur due to the tolerance level of species to site conditions. For example, most 24 25 mangrove species could survive in beach areas, even though the soil was predominantly sand and its salinity was simulated by sea waves.

26 Implication results

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27 This study concluded that vegetation structure highly varied among the three forest ecosystems, with the highest 28 diversity observed in HF. EachEvery type of forest had specific characteristics that became its unique entity. Therefore, 29 Angsana coastal area shows high potential to be established as a site developed as the center offor biodiversity 30 conservation especially representingfor coastal ecosystems of Borneo. However, only nine out of the 37 species observed 31 in Angsana coastal area exhibited good regeneration capacity. This circumstance should be anticipated as soon as possible 32 to minimize the risk of species extinction. We recommend that managers conduct enrichment planting to accelerate the 33 effort of landscape conservation in the study area. This activity must be focused on other species that lack good 34 regeneration. This program can be only implemented by collaborating with the local community around site.

35 Furthermore, additional efficient monitoring systems must be developed for measuring the dynamics of land cover in 36 Angsana coastal area because the challenge of reforestation in coastal ecosystems is substantially more complex than in 37 terrestrial ecosystems. Therefore, the monitoring method should provide rapid and accurate information to minimize the 38 risk of vegetation losses. In this context, using an unmanned aerial vehicle can-is a better solution than satellite imagery 39 because the former can accelerate the data acquisition process (Hsu et al. 2020). Furthermore, this instrument can also 40 estimate the potential of blue carbon storage in Angsana coastal ecosystems (Peciña et al. 2021). With these efforts, 41 comprehensive information regarding the essential contribution of Angsana coastal ecosystems can be obtained and used 42 to support biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

44 We deliver our gratitude to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Division of PT Borneo Indobara for allowing us to conduct this study in their coal mining concession area. We also declare our appreciation to Lambung Mangkurat 45 46 University students who become surveyors in this research collaboration.

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April 29, 2022

Subject: Revision and re-submission manuscript ID 10848

Dear Editor Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity,

Thank you for your decision e-mail and the opportunity to revise our article entitled "Vegetation structure from three forest ecosystems around Angsana Coastal Area in South Kalimantan". The suggestions provided by the reviewer have been immensely helpful to revise several aspects in our article. Our response to reviewer's comment have been enclosed below. We hope the revised article will be better suit to the Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity.

Sincerely yours, Pandu Yudha Adi Putra Wirabuana

Department of Forest Management Faculty of Forestry Universitas Gadjah Mada Jln. Agro No.1 Kampus UGM, Bulaksumur, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia e-mail: <u>pandu.yudha.a.p@ugm.ac.id</u>

Part of Article	Reviewer's Comment	Author's Response
Introduction	 The Introduction is too short to provide complete background information regarding the study. In particular, there is limited information regarding the study area and why this area is important (Line 38) Before jumping into the aim of the study, please add here one paragrapgh describing the context of study area, i.e. angsana coastal area. aspects need to explain for example the location (district and subdistrict), history of land use and current 	- Several sentences have been added to strenghten the study background (Line 58-64)
Materials and Methods	 condition, etc. (Line 67-70) This might be better to be put in the Introduction to highlight the importance of the studied area as per comment above. Also, it is uncommon to mention explicitly a private entity in a scientific journal to avoid conflict of interest and to broaden readership. Thus, I would suggest to remove the name of the company, instead it can be put in the Acknowledgement. What year is the google image taken before the reforestation program? (Line 99-100) What year is the google image taken after the reforestation program? (Line 99-100) 	 We think it will be better to place here and not to move in introduction. We have added other sentences to improve the introduction Author thinks the private entity is part of historical management in Angsana coastal area. Moreover, a letter of permittance have been also obtained for publish this research. The company also become a sponsor to conduct this study The google image before reforestation is taken in 2015 (Line 85-86) The google image after reforestation is obtained in 2021 (Line 85-86)
Results and Discussions	 Throughout the text, please check the accuracy of the latin name of each species. You can check in taxonomical databases such as POWO or IPNI. (Line 167-168) Please check the latin name (Line 179) Please check the accuracy of the latin names. (Line 181) 	We have checked taxonomical database and revised the botanical name

Response to Reviewer's Comment

Vegetation diversity, structure and composition of three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area, South Kalimantan, Indonesia

14 Abstract. Vegetation communities around coastal ecosystems play important roles in mitigating natural disaster and climate change. 15 However, available information about vegetation communities in coastal areas is still limited despite being a requirement in developing 16 strategies for environmental preservation. Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan, Indonesia has unique characteristics in which it has 17 three different forest ecosystems, namely heath forest (HF), beach forest (BF), and mangrove forest (MF). This study aimed to identify the 18 vegetation diversity, structure and composition of the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area. A field survey was conducted using 19 transect line methods with a sampling plot size of 10×10 m and an interval of 20 m. Vegetation communities were assessed using species 20 21 abundance, plant diversity, importance value index (IVI), and similarity level. Results showed that 37 species from 25 families were recorded in the study site. The highest species abundance observed in HF (22 species), followed by BF (18 species) and MF (7 species). The 22 same trend was found for vegetation diversity, in which HF had the highest richness (Dmg = 4.52), heterogeneity (H' = 2.86), and evenness 23 (J' = 0.94). Hibiscus tiliaceus had the highest IVI in BF in all vegetation stages, and Rhizophora mucronata consistently had the greatest IVI 24 in MF in all stages. Species exhibited the highest IVI in HF were Adina minutiflora (seedlings), Rhodedomia tomentosa and Premna 25 serratifolia (saplings), Tristania maingavi (poles), and Vitex ovata (trees). Our study also observed that species abundance in forest 26 ecosystems gradually declined from seedlings to trees, except in MF. Among the three forest types, vegetation composition was highly 27 similar between MF and BF with a similarity level of 47.1%. On the basis of these results, this study concluded that the three forest 28 ecosystems in Angsana coastal area exhibit a highly diverse vegetation structure, and each type of forest has specific characteristics as its 29 entity.

30 Key words: coastal ecosystems, environmental preservation, plant diversity, species abundance, vegetation characteristics

Abbreviations: HF (Heath Forests), BF (Beach Forests), MF (Mangrove Forests), IVI (Importance Value Index), Dmg (Margalef
 Index), H' (Shannon-Wiener Index), J' (Pielou-Evenness Index)

33 **Running title:** Vegetation structure in coastal ecosystems

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INTRODUCTION

35 Vegetation of coastal ecosystems is an emerging research topic because of its strategic roles in disaster and climate change mitigation, and rural development. In addition to preventing abrasion (Matatula et al. 2021), vegetation 36 37 communities in coastal areas play an essential function as a windbreak to protect the surrounding local settlement (Sadono 38 et al. 2020a). The presence of vegetation in coastal ecosystems also contributes to reducing carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Purwanto et al. 2022) and minimizing the rate of sea water intrusion into the land (Sadono et al. 2020b). The 39 canopy of coastal vegetation is a suitable habitat for some bird species (Purwanto et al. 2021), and their root system, 40 41 particularly those of mangroves, provides an excellent environmental condition to facilitate the breeding of sea organisms 42 such as shrimps, fish, and crab (Matatula et al. 2019). The vegetation landscape in coastal zones also has the potentials to 43 be developed as an area for ecotourism to improve the local community welfare (Sánchez-Prieto et al. 2021). Therefore, 44 the vegetation in coastal ecosystems must be conserved and sustainably managed to ensure its long-term benefits.

In term of biodiversity conservation, understanding the vegetation structure becomes a fundamental requirement to develop alternatives strategies for sustainable coastal management (SCM). The vegetation structure in coastal zones is naturally unique because it consists of different types of forest ecosystems. There are two common types of forests located 48 in coastal areas, namely beach forest (BF) and mangrove forest (MF) (Kusmana et al. 2017) in which the former grows in the sandy area, and the latter is commonly found in the tidal zone (Lillo et al. 2019). Plant habitus and characteristics 49 considerably differ between BF and MF. For example, most species in MF have unique root systems such as Bruguiera 50 sp., Rhizophora sp., and Avicennia sp. (Srikanth et al. 2015). On the other hand, the vegetation formation in BF is 51 dominated by plants such as Ipomoea pescaprae and Barringtonia spp. (Wardhani and Poedjirahajoe 2020). Under 52 specific circumstances, coastal ecosystems may also exhibit a third type of vegetation generally known as heath forest 53 (HF). This forest exists in the coastal area due to the quartz sand deposits carried by rivers (Syuharni et al. 2014). In 54 55 Indonesia, HF is only found in certain regions such as Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) and Bangka Belitung Islands (Maimunah et al. 2019). The presence of this forest type in coastal ecosystems brought challenges for stakeholders to 56 57 maintain the sustainability of coastal vegetation.

As one of the coastal area in South Kalimantan, Angsana beach is an unique coastal ecosystems with three different types of forests, including mangrove forest, beach forest and heath forest. However, the information about vegetation characteristics in this site is still not clearly documented eventhough it has a high potential to become the center of biodiversity conservation in coastal zone. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the vegetation diversity, structure and composition of three forest ecosystems (i.e., mangrove forest, beach forest and heath forest) around Angsana coastal area in South Kalimantan. We expected, the results will provide information for stakeholders regarding the biodiversity in Angsana coastal areas as primary consideration to develop alternative strategies for environmental preservation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

66 Study area

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This study was conducted in Angsana coastal area located in South Kalimantan with geographic position of 67 S3°45'-3°46' and E115°35'-E115°36' (Figure 1). The study site has an area of 94.81 ha and consists of several land cover 68 types: shrubs, forests, roads, settlements, oil palm plantation, and bare land. Annual rainfall ranges 3,000 mm year⁻¹ with a 69 mean daily temperature of 29°C. More than 70% of the landscape in the study area was dominated by forest ecosystems 70 71 with extent of 69.11 ha. Three types of forests exist in this area, namely mangrove forest (MF), beach forest (BF), and heath forest (HF). Among them, the most extensive forest coverage was attributed to HF (32.79 ha), followed by MF 72 (30.34 ha) and BF (5.98 ha). This circumstance indicated the high importance of biodiversity in Angsana coastal 73 74 ecosystems, particularly in term of forest vegetation.

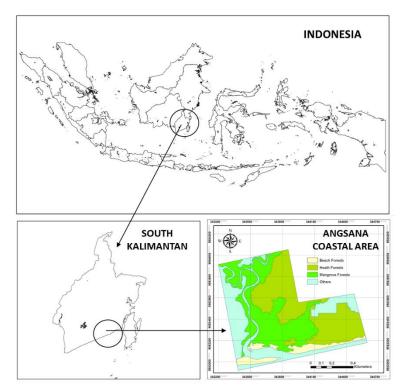


Figure 1. Location of Angsana coastal ecosystems in South Kalimantan. Different colors in the map indicate land cover variations.

77 The Angsana coastal area is a unique ecosystem located near a coal mining concession site. Initially, this area was not well 78 managed and almost became a degraded area due to the high rate of vegetation loss. However, stakeholders including a coal 79 mining company have put efforts to accelerate the recovery of this ecosystem through corporate social responsibility (CSR)

75 76 77 program, particularly from PT Borneo Indobara as a primary company that obtained legal permission for mining exploration around this site. By collaborating with the local community living around the area, the Corporate Social Responsibility Division of PT Borneo Indobara (CSR-BIB) has intensively conducted reforestation programs in this location since 2017. Such activities were not only conducted in the mangrove forest but also in the beach forest and heath forest.

Before Reforestation

After Reforestation

Figure 2. Comparison of landscape conditions in Angsana coastal ecosystems, South Kalimantan in 2015 (before reforestation) and in 2021 (after reforestation) based on Google Earth satellite imagery. The brown color indicates degraded land without vegetation cover.

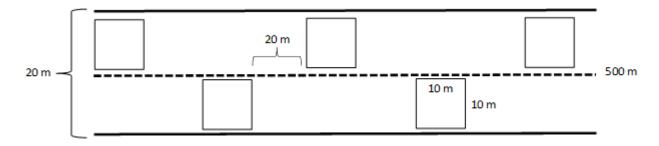
The CSR program from BIB also held training and supervising activities to develop ecotourism in Angsana coastal area, increase community awareness for conserving coastal biodiversity, and inform the local community that efforts for environmental preservation in coastal zones can also improve their welfare. In a short period from 2017 to 2021, these initiatives have contributed to the increase in forest covers in Angsana coastal area (Figure 2).

92 Procedures

93 Data were collected from August to December 2021. Vegetation survey was conducted using a transect line method with a sampling plot size of 10×10 m and an interval from each 20 m. The transect line was 500 m long and 20 m wide 94 95 (Figure 3). Nine transects were evenly distributed in each forest ecosystem, and the distance between transects ranged 96 from 1 km to 2 km depending on the coverage area of the forest ecosystem. Vegetation inventory was conducted by 97 establishing nested plots (sub-plots) within the sampling plot based on life stage, i.e., 2×2 m (seedlings), 5×5 m (saplings), and 10×10 m (poles and trees) (Matatula et al. 2021). The following parameters were recorded and measured: 98 99 name of species, number of species, and diameter (for poles and trees only). As one of the essential variables in forest 100 inventory, diameter has a strong correlation with other parameters such as height (Barbosa et al. 2019), volume 101 (Wirabuana et al. 2021a), and biomass (Setiahadi 2021) and could also describe the competitive position of individual 102 trees at a stand level (Maleki et al. 2015).

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107 Figure 3. Visual illustration of a transect line method for vegetation survey

108 Data analysis

Descriptive analysis was conducted to understand the vegetation structure of the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area. First, data from vegetation surveys were analyzed to calculate species density, species dominance, and frequency distribution (Eddy et al. 2019). The obtained valued were then used to quantify the relative abundance, relative dominance, and relative frequency for every species (Kasim et al. 2019). Finally, importance value index (IVI) was determined by summing up these three indicators to identify the strategic position of species in each forest ecosystem (Yuliana et al. 2019). However, the IVI for seedlings and saplings was only counted using relative abundance and frequency. The equations for calculating those parameters were presented below:

Species density =
$$\frac{Numbe of individual}{Size of sampling plot}$$
[1]Species dominance = $\frac{Total basal area of species}{Size of sampling plot}$ [2]Species frequency = $\frac{Number of plot wherein species existing}{Total sampling plot}$ [3]Relative density = $\frac{Species density}{Total species density} \times 100$ [4]Relative dominance = $\frac{Species dominance}{Total species dominance} \times 100$ [5]Relative frequency = $\frac{Species frequency}{Total species frequency} \times 100$ [6]

[7]

Important value index = Relative density + Relative dominance + Relative frequency

Vegetation diversity in the three forest ecosystems was assessed using three fundamental parameters, i.e. species richness calculated using Margalef Index (Dmg) (Singh 2020), species heterogeneity estimated using Shannon–Winner Index (H') (Li et al. 2018), and species evenness evaluated using Pielou–Evenness Index (J') (Wirabuana et al. 2021c). Sorensen similarity index (SC) was also calculated to determine the similarity degree of vegetation composition among the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area (Lv et al. 2021). The structure of species in each life stage from seedlings to trees was also examined to assess the regeneration capacity of species in the study area (Nagel et al. 2010). The equations for computing richness, evenness, heterogeneity, and similarity index were expressed below:

$$Dmg = \frac{S-1}{\ln(N)}$$
[8]

$$H' = -\sum_{i} \left(\frac{n_i}{N} x \ln \frac{n_i}{N} \right)$$
[9]

$$I' = \frac{\pi}{\ln(S)} \tag{10}$$

$$SC = \frac{2W}{(A+B)}$$
[11]

wherein *S* was the number of species, *N* represented total tree population, n_i described the sum of trees for each species, *W* was the number of common species between two forest types, *A* indicated the number of species only found in first forest, and *B* represented the number of species only discovered in second forest.

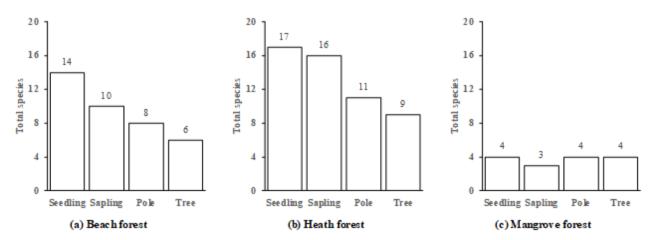
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

127 Species distribution and IVI

128 The results showed that 37 species from 25 families were found in the studied area. The number of species in MF was substantially lower than that in other forest ecosystems for each vegetation life form (Figure 4). Meanwhile, the highest 129 species abundance in each life stage was recorded in HF. The number of total species in BF and HF gradually declined as 130 the life form grew to adult stages. However, this trend was not observed in MF, in which the number of species from 131 seedlings to trees was almost equal. Decline in species number and abundance were naturally discovered in most forest 132 ecosystems due to the high competition among plants to obtain adequate resources, such as water, nutrients, light, and 133 space (Looney et al. 2016). This process caused natural mortality for weak plants because they could not optimally acquire 134 135 resources (Wirabuana et al. 2021b). Meanwhile, the robust species would survive and grow well.

Plant competition in a forest ecosystem is classified into two groups, namely intraspecific and interspecific. Intraspecific competition occurs among individuals within the same species, and interspecific competition occurs among individuals across different species (Barabás et al. 2016). Every plant in forest ecosystems would face both types of competition if it does not grow in a monoculture stand. Plant competition in the forest is also a part of the nutrient cycle because when the dead trees decomposed, they will release nutrients into the soil layer.



142 **Figure 4.** Number of species in every life form at three different forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area 143

141

144 Among the forest types, MF had a lower number of species because its environmental conditions had many limiting 145 factors in which only certain species can survive. This ecosystem is situated in tidal area with high salinity (Matatula et al. 146 2019). The substrate of mangrove ecosystem is also dominated by mud; thus, only a few species with unique root systems 147 can survive in these forests (Srikanth et al. 2015). In the studied area, seven species were found in MF, namely 148 Acrostichum aureum, Bruguiera cylindrica, Bruguiera gymnorriza, Lumnitzera littorea, Nypa fruticans, Rhizophora 149 mucronata, and Rhizophora apiculata (Table 1). Differ from that in BF and HF, the reforestation activity in MF was 150 conducted more intensively from 2017 to 2021. More than 3,000 seedlings were planted every year. Therefore, the number 151 of species from seedlings to trees in MF was almost balanced and equal.

152 Our study also found that none of the species was evenly distributed in the three forest ecosystems (Table 1), indicating that each species had specific habitat requirements to support its growth and development. However, some species were 153 154 observed in different types of forests, such as Chrysobalanus icaco in BF and HF and R. apiculata in MF and BF. Moreover, the highest IVI of species relatively differed across the three forest ecosystems. For example, Hibiscus tiliaceus 155 156 was the most important species in BF at all life forms based on the IVI, and R. mucronata was the essential species in MF. 157 In HF, the highest IVI was noted in several species, i.e., Adina minutiflora (seedlings), Premna serratifolia, Rhodomyrtus 158 tomentosa (saplings), Tristania maingavi (poles), and Vitex ovata (trees). Among the 37 species recorded in Angsana 159 coastal area, only the following species showed good regeneration as indicated by their distribution from seedlings to trees 160 (Khan et al. 2018): A. minutiflora, Artocarpus rafscens, Casuarina equisetifolia, Garcinia sp., Litsea firma, Podocarpus 161 latifolius, R. mucronata, R. apiculata, and T. maingayi.

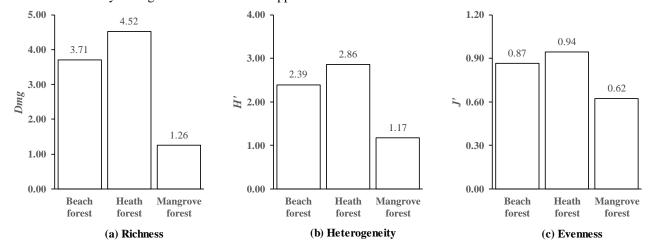
No.	Species	Family	Beach forests					Heath fo	orest		Mangrove forest			
INO.	Species	ганну	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree	Seedling	Sapling	Pole	Tree
1	Acrostichum aureum	Pteridaceae	8.55								22.02			
2	Adina minutiflora	Rubiaceae					29.18	17.09	36.00	18.69				
3	Artocarpus rafscens	Moraceae					5.70	8.55	20.87	26.95				
4	Avicennia marina	Acanthaceae	26.18	26.53	18.54									
5	Bruguiera cylindrica	Rhizophoraceae				24.24							42.38	33.2
6	Bruguiera gymnorhiza	Rhizophoraceae		9.26	20.17							22.23		
7	Calamus erinaceus	Arecaceae						8.55	19.15	17.12				
8	Calophyllum inophyllum	Clusiaceae			23.06	34.12								
9	Casuarina equisetifolia	Casuarinaceae	12.55	18.53	20.17	30.23								
10	Chrysobalanus icaco	Chrysobalanaceae	18.82	18.53				8.55						
11	Diospyros buxifolia	Ebenaceae						8.55	21.81					
12	Evodia aromatica	Lauraceae					5.70		19.15	20.04				
13	Excoecaria agallocha	Euphorbiaceae	10.82											
14	Flagellaria indica	Flagellariaceae					5.70							
15	Garcinia sp	Clusiaceae					21.35	8.55	20.87	23.77				
16	Hibiscus tiliaceus	Malvaceae	42.73	58.32	142.83	87.82								
17	Ixora coccinea	Rubiaceae					17.78							
18	Litsea firma	Lauraceae					17.10	12.55	39.63	40.22				
19	Lumnitzera littorea	Combretaceae											25.35	16.0
20	Macaranga triloba	Euphorbiaceae					5.70							
21	Mangifera sp.	Anacardiaceae						8.55						
22	Melastoma malabatricum	Melastomataceae	8.55				14.21	8.55						
23	Morinda citrifolia	Cicadellidae	12.55	18.53										
24	Nypa Fruticans	Arecaceae									12.93			
25	Podocarpus latifolius	Podocarpaceae					13.53	8.55	38.20	29.41				
26	Pandanus tectorius	Pandanaceae	6.27											
27	Peltophorum pterocarpum	Fabaceae						8.55	19.15					
28	Peronema canescens	Lamiaceae					5.70							
29	Premna serratifolia	Lamiaceae	17.09	18.53			5.70	21.09						
30	Rhizophora mucronata	Rhizophoraceae	6.27	13.26		46.06					88.08	105.56	171.60	142.0
31	Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	Myrtaceae	8.55				5.70	21.09						
32	Rizophora apiculata	Rhizophoraceae	6.27	9.26	23.06	77.53					76.98	72.22	60.67	108.7
33	Schima noronhoe	Theaceae					16.34	17.09						
34	Terminalia catappa	Combretaceae			17.12									
35	Tristania maingayi	Myrtaceae					5.70	17.09	46.03	41.05				
36	Vismia cayennensis	Hypericaceae					19.22	17.09						
37	Vitex ovata	Lamiaceae	14.82	9.26	35.05		5.70		19.15	82.76				
	Importance value index		200	200	300	300	200	200	300	300	200	200	300	300

162 **Table 1.** Importance value index of species in each growth stage in the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area, South Kalimantan

163 Note: The bold value indicates the highest importance value index of species in every life form

164 Vegetation diversity and similarity level among forest ecosystems

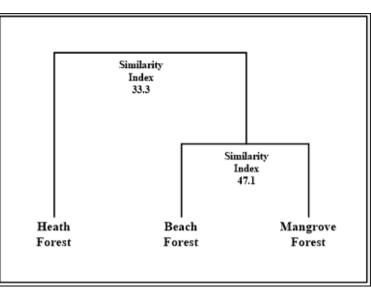
The highest richness, heterogeneity, and evenness of vegetation were discovered in HF, and the lowest diversity index was recorded in MF (Figure 5). Compared with that between MF and HF, the similarity in vegetation communities between MF and BF was higher with a similarity level of 47.1%. This result was supported by the observation that most species in MF were also found in BF. Five out of the seven species in MF were also found in BF. These findings signified that some biodiversity strategies in MF can also be applied in BF and vice versa.



171 Figure 5. Biodiversity indices in term of richness, heterogeneity, and evenness in the three types of forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area

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174 Figure 6. Similarity index of vegetation communities in the three forest ecosystems in Angsana coastal area

In ecosystem management, vegetation diversity is one of the most important parameters to assess environmental stability (De Boeck et al. 2018). High diversity indicates good environmental health (Zhang et al. 2018), even though this relationship does not generally apply in every type of forest, especially in mangroves. Different from other ecosystems, mangroves have many limitations for supporting plant growth, such as substrate condition, flooding, and wind speed (Froilan et al. 2020). Therefore, only a few species can grow well in mangroves. This finding explained why the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness in MF were considerably lower than those in BF and MF and why the resistance of mangroves to disturbance was relatively weaker compared with that of other forest types in Angsana coastal area.

According to the results, the vegetation communities in MF were almost similar to those in BF but were considerably different from those in HF. Meanwhile, a part of the vegetation community in BF was also discovered in HF. This finding indicated that the environmental condition in BF was situated in the transition phase between HF and MF. Similarities in vegetation between forests can also occur due to the tolerance level of species to site conditions. For example, most mangrove species could survive in beach areas, even though the soil was predominantly sand and its salinity was simulated by sea waves.

188 **Implication results**

189 This study concluded that vegetation structure highly varied among the three forest ecosystems, with the highest diversity observed in HF. Each type of forest had specific characteristics that became its unique entity. Therefore, Angsana 190 coastal area shows high potential to be established as a site for biodiversity conservation especially representing coastal 191 ecosystems of Borneo. However, only nine out of the 37 species observed in Angsana coastal area exhibited good 192 193 regeneration capacity. This circumstance should be anticipated as soon as possible to minimize the risk of species 194 extinction. We recommend that managers conduct enrichment planting to accelerate the effort of landscape conservation in 195 the study area. This activity must be focused on other species that lack good regeneration. This program can be only 196 implemented by collaborating with the local community around site.

197 Furthermore, additional efficient monitoring systems must be developed for measuring the dynamics of land cover in 198 Angsana coastal area because the challenge of reforestation in coastal ecosystems is substantially more complex than in 199 terrestrial ecosystems. Therefore, the monitoring method should provide rapid and accurate information to minimize the 200 risk of vegetation losses. In this context, using an unmanned aerial vehicle is a better solution than satellite imagery because the former can accelerate the data acquisition process (Hsu et al. 2020). Furthermore, this instrument can also 201 202 estimate the potential of blue carbon storage in Angsana coastal ecosystems (Peciña et al. 2021). With these efforts, 203 comprehensive information regarding the essential contribution of Angsana coastal ecosystems can be obtained and used 204 to support biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

205

209

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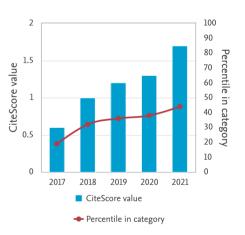
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Subject area: (Agricultural and Biological Sciences: Animal Science and Zoology) (Agricultural and Biological Sciences: Plant Science) (Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Molecular Biology) (Agricultural and Biological Sciences: Plant Science)	SNIP 2021	0
Source type: Journal	0.945	
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CiteScore CiteScore rank & trend Scopus content coverage

Cite	CiteScore rank (i) 2021 In category: Plant Science				
☆	#266 482	Biodiversitas	1.7	44th percentile	
☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile	
☆	#1	Annual Review of Plant Biology	38.3	99th percentile	
☆	#2	Trends in Plant Science	28.4	99th percentile	
☆	#3	Annual Review of Phytopathology	23.7	99th percentile	
☆	#4	Nature Plants	20.8	99th percentile	
☆	#5	Molecular Plant	19.5	99th percentile	
☆	#6	Plant Biotechnology Journal	16.6	98th percentile	
☆	#7	Plant Cell	16.5	98th percentile	
☆	#8	New Phytologist	15.7	98th percentile	
☆	#9	Current Opinion in Plant Biology	14.7	98th percentile	
☆	#10	Mycosphere	13.9	98th percentile	
☆	#11	NJAS - Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences	13.4	97th percentile	
☆	#12	Plant Physiology	12.7	97th percentile	
☆	#13	Plant, Cell and Environment	12.5	97th percentile	
☆	#14	Journal of Integrative Plant Biology	11.8	97th percentile	

CiteScore trend



→ Export content for category

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☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#15	Phytochemistry Reviews	11.6	96th percentile
☆	#16	Molecular Plant Pathology	11.0	96th percentile
☆	#17	Journal of Experimental Botany	10.9	96th percentile
☆	#18	Plant Journal	10.4	96th percentile
☆	#19	Journal of Pest Science	10.1	96th percentile
☆	#20	Journal of Ecology	9.9	95th percentile
☆	#21	Plant and Cell Physiology	9.2	95th percentile
☆	#22	European Journal of Agronomy	9.1	95th percentile
☆	#23	Environmental and Experimental Botany	9.1	95th percentile
☆	#24	Plant Methods	8.9	95th percentile
☆	#25	Annals of Botany	8.6	94th percentile
☆	#26	Horticulture Research	8.5	94th percentile
☆	#27	BMC Biology	8.4	94th percentile
☆	#28	Plant Reproduction	8.3	94th percentile
☆	#29	Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences	8.2	94th percentile
☆	#30	Harmful Algae	8.1	93rd percentile
☆	#31	Plant Science	8.0	93rd percentile
☆	#32	Frontiers in Plant Science	8.0	93rd percentile
☆	#33	Metabarcoding and Metagenomics	7.9	93rd percentile
☆	#34	Rice	7.9	93rd percentile
☆	#35	Plant Cell Reports	7.8	92nd percentile
☆	#36	Plant Communications	7.6	92nd percentile
☆	#37	Plant Molecular Biology	7.4	92nd percentile
☆	#38	Journal of Plant Interactions	7.4	92nd percentile
☆	#39	Annals of Agricultural Sciences	7.4	92nd percentile
☆	#40	Plant Physiology and Biochemistry	7.3	91st percentile
☆	#41	Plant and Soil	7.3	91st percentile
☆	#42	Tree Physiology	7.1	91st percentile
☆	#43	Physiologia Plantarum	7.1	91st percentile
☆	#44	Journal of Plant Growth Regulation	7.0	90th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#45	Journal of Plant Physiology	6.9	90th percentile
☆	#46	BMC Plant Biology	6.9	90th percentile
☆	#47	Crop Journal	6.9	90th percentile
☆	#48	Planta	6.9	90th percentile
☆	#49	Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics	6.7	89th percentile
☆	#50	Protoplasma	6.7	89th percentile
☆	#51	Fungal Ecology	6.6	89th percentile
☆	#52	Journal of Systematics and Evolution	6.6	89th percentile
☆	#53	Life Science Alliance	6.5	89th percentile
☆	#54	Photosynthesis Research	6.4	88th percentile
☆	#55	Photosynthetica	6.3	88th percentile
☆	#56	Phytochemistry	6.2	88th percentile
☆	#57	Phytobiomes Journal	6.2	88th percentile
☆	#58	Journal of Agronomy and Crop Science	6.1	88th percentile
☆	#59	Mycorrhiza	6.1	87th percentile
☆	#60	Phytopathology	6.0	87th percentile
☆	#61	Plant Growth Regulation	6.0	87th percentile
☆	#61	Rice Science	6.0	87th percentile
☆	#63	Preslia	6.0	87th percentile
☆	#64	NeoBiota	5.8	86th percentile
☆	#65	Horticultural Plant Journal	5.8	86th percentile
☆	#66	Plant Biology	5.8	86th percentile
☆	#67	EFSA Journal	5.7	86th percentile
☆	#68	Plant Genome	5.7	85th percentile
☆	#69	Environmental Technology and Innovation	5.7	85th percentile
☆	#70	Phytocoenologia	5.6	85th percentile
☆	#71	International Journal of Phytoremediation	5.6	85th percentile
☆	#71	Natural Products and Bioprospecting	5.6	85th percentile
☆	#73	Journal of Integrative Agriculture	5.6	84th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#74	Journal of Applied Phycology	5.5	84th percentile
☆	#75	American Journal of Botany	5.5	84th percentile
☆	#76	Phytochemical Analysis	5.5	84th percentile
☆	#77	Molecular Breeding	5.4	84th percentile
☆	#78	Functional Plant Biology	5.3	83rd percentile
☆	#79	Fermentation	5.3	83rd percentile
☆	#80	Current Plant Biology	5.2	83rd percentile
☆	#81	Journal of Applied Research on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	5.1	83rd percentile
☆	#82	Plant Biosystems	5.1	83rd percentile
☆	#83	Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society	5.1	82nd percentile
☆	#84	AoB PLANTS	5.1	82nd percentile
☆	#85	Plants People Planet	5.1	82nd percentile
☆	#86	The Botanical Review	5.0	82nd percentile
☆	#87	Botanical Studies	5.0	82nd percentile
☆	#88	Dendrochronologia	5.0	81st percentile
☆	#89	Plant Phenome Journal	4.9	81st percentile
☆	#90	Plant Pathology	4.9	81st percentile
☆	#91	Weed Science	4.9	81st percentile
☆	#92	Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science	4.9	80th percentile
☆	#92	Vegetation History and Archaeobotany	4.9	80th percentile
☆	#94	Microbes and Environments	4.9	80th percentile
☆	#95	Phycologia	4.8	80th percentile
☆	#96	Plant Direct	4.7	80th percentile
☆	#97	Journal of Integrated Pest Management	4.7	79th percentile
☆	#98	Annual Plant Reviews Online	4.7	79th percentile
☆	#99	Applications in Plant Sciences	4.6	79th percentile
☆	#100	Journal of Plant Research	4.6	79th percentile
☆	#101	European Journal of Phycology	4.6	79th percentile
☆	#102	Plant Diversity	4.6	78th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#103	Plant Ecology and Diversity	4.6	78th percentile
☆	#104	Fottea	4.6	78th percentile
☆	#105	Italian Botanist	4.6	78th percentile
☆	#106	European Journal of Forest Research	4.5	78th percentile
☆	#107	Journal of Vegetation Science	4.5	77th percentile
☆	#108	Trees - Structure and Function	4.5	77th percentile
☆	#109	Wood Science and Technology	4.5	77th percentile
☆	#110	Journal of Phycology	4.4	77th percentile
☆	#111	Weed Research	4.4	77th percentile
☆	#112	Advances in Botanical Research	4.3	76th percentile
☆	#113	Acta Physiologiae Plantarum	4.3	76th percentile
☆	#114	South African Journal of Botany	4.3	76th percentile
☆	#115	Foods	4.1	76th percentile
☆	#116	Journal of Fungi	4.1	76th percentile
☆	#117	Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology	4.0	75th percentile
☆	#118	Crop and Pasture Science	4.0	75th percentile
☆	#118	Current protocols in plant biology	4.0	75th percentile
☆	#120	Plant Disease	4.0	75th percentile
☆	#121	Alpine Botany	4.0	75th percentile
☆	#122	Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology	4.0	74th percentile
☆	#123	Natural Product Research	4.0	74th percentile
☆	#124	In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology - Plant	3.9	74th percentile
☆	#125	Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition	3.9	74th percentile
☆	#126	Economic Botany	3.9	73rd percentile
☆	#127	Algae	3.9	73rd percentile
☆	#128	Opuscula Philolichenum	3.9	73rd percentile
☆	#129	Journal of Plant Biology	3.8	73rd percentile
☆	#130	Breeding Science	3.8	73rd percentile
☆	#131	International Journal of Plant Sciences	3.8	72nd percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#132	Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants	3.8	72nd percentile
☆	#133	Systematics and Biodiversity	3.7	72nd percentile
☆	#134	Journal of Forestry	3.7	72nd percentile
☆	#135	Soil Science and Plant Nutrition	3.7	72nd percentile
☆	#136	Aerobiologia	3.7	71st percentile
☆	#137	European Journal of Plant Pathology	3.7	71st percentile
☆	#138	Phytopathologia Mediterranea	3.7	71st percentile
☆	#139	Aquatic Botany	3.6	71st percentile
☆	#140	Plants	3.6	71st percentile
☆	#141	Flora: Morphology, Distribution, Functional Ecology of Plants	3.6	70th percentile
☆	#142	New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research	3.6	70th percentile
☆	#143	Integrative Organismal Biology	3.6	70th percentile
☆	#144	Horticulture Environment and Biotechnology	3.6	70th percentile
☆	#145	Records of Natural Products	3.5	70th percentile
☆	#146	IAWA Journal	3.5	69th percentile
☆	#147	Plant Breeding	3.5	69th percentile
☆	#148	Rhizosphere	3.5	69th percentile
☆	#149	Forest and Society	3.5	69th percentile
☆	#150	Euphytica	3.4	68th percentile
☆	#151	Plant Biotechnology Reports	3.4	68th percentile
☆	#152	Biologia Plantarum	3.4	68th percentile
☆	#153	Botany Letters	3.4	68th percentile
☆	#154	International Journal of Plant Production	3.4	68th percentile
☆	#155	Plant Signaling and Behavior	3.4	67th percentile
☆	#156	Australian Systematic Botany	3.3	67th percentile
☆	#157	Journal of Berry Research	3.3	67th percentile
☆	#158	Seed Science Research	3.3	67th percentile
☆	#159	Taxon	3.3	67th percentile
☆	#160	Egyptian Journal of Biological Pest Control	3.3	66th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#161	Phycological Research	3.3	66th percentile
☆	#162	Cryptogamie, Algologie	3.2	66th percentile
☆	#163	Journal of Plant Ecology	3.2	66th percentile
☆	#164	Plant Gene	3.2	66th percentile
☆	#165	Theoretical and Experimental Plant Physiology	3.1	65th percentile
☆	#166	Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden	3.1	65th percentile
☆	#167	Plant Ecology	3.1	65th percentile
☆	#168	Journal of Bryology	3.1	65th percentile
☆	#169	Agriculture (Switzerland)	3.1	65th percentile
☆	#170	Phytochemistry Letters	3.1	64th percentile
☆	#171	In Silico Plants	3.1	64th percentile
☆	#172	California Agriculture	3.0	64th percentile
☆	#173	Journal of Phytopathology	3.0	64th percentile
☆	#174	Botanica Marina	3.0	64th percentile
☆	#175	Acta Botanica Brasilica	3.0	63rd percentile
☆	#176	Plant Molecular Biology Reporter	3.0	63rd percentile
☆	#177	Hacquetia	2.9	63rd percentile
☆	#178	Sydowia	2.9	63rd percentile
☆	#179	Tropical Plant Pathology	2.9	62nd percentile
☆	#180	Weed Technology	2.9	62nd percentile
☆	#181	Plant Systematics and Evolution	2.9	62nd percentile
☆	#182	Asian Pacific Journal of Reproduction	2.9	62nd percentile
☆	#183	aBIOTECH	2.9	62nd percentile
☆	#184	Bryologist	2.8	61st percentile
☆	#185	Legume Science	2.8	61st percentile
☆	#186	Turkish Journal of Botany	2.8	61st percentile
☆	#187	Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution	2.8	61st percentile
☆	#188	Journal of Crop Improvement	2.8	61st percentile
☆	#189	Folia Cryptogamica Estonica	2.8	60th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#190	Plant Genetic Resources: Characterisation and Utilisation	2.7	60th percentile
☆	#191	Australasian Plant Pathology	2.7	60th percentile
☆	#192	Archives Animal Breeding	2.7	60th percentile
☆	#193	Folia Geobotanica	2.7	60th percentile
☆	#194	Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection	2.7	59th percentile
☆	#195	Plant Sociology	2.7	59th percentile
☆	#196	New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science	2.6	59th percentile
☆	#197	Grassland Science	2.6	59th percentile
☆	#198	Australian Journal of Botany	2.6	59th percentile
☆	#199	Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality	2.6	58th percentile
☆	#200	Annals of Forest Research	2.5	58th percentile
☆	#201	Phytopathology Research	2.5	58th percentile
☆	#202	Edinburgh Journal of Botany	2.5	58th percentile
☆	#203	Journal of Ethnobiology	2.5	57th percentile
☆	#204	Acta Agrobotanica	2.5	57th percentile
☆	#205	Acta Botanica Hungarica	2.5	57th percentile
☆	#206	Genetica	2.5	57th percentile
☆	#207	Tropical Plant Biology	2.4	57th percentile
☆	#208	Acta Societatis Botanicorum Poloniae	2.4	56th percentile
☆	#209	Lindbergia	2.4	56th percentile
☆	#210	Phytoparasitica	2.4	56th percentile
☆	#211	Tuexenia	2.4	56th percentile
☆	#212	Gayana - Botanica	2.3	56th percentile
☆	#213	Comparative Cytogenetics	2.3	55th percentile
☆	#214	International Journal of Vegetable Science	2.3	55th percentile
☆	#215	Botany	2.3	55th percentile
☆	#216	Russian Journal of Plant Physiology	2.3	55th percentile
☆	#217	Acta Botanica Croatica	2.3	55th percentile
☆	#218	Willdenowia	2.2	54th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#219	Horticulture Journal	2.2	54th percentile
☆	#220	Bulletin of the Peabody Museum of Natural History	2.2	54th percentile
☆	#221	Dendrobiology	2.2	54th percentile
☆	#222	PhytoKeys	2.1	54th percentile
☆	#223	Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology	2.1	53rd percentile
☆	#224	Biotechnology, Agronomy and Society and Environment	2.1	53rd percentile
☆	#224	Plant Ecology and Evolution	2.1	53rd percentile
☆	#226	Journal of General Plant Pathology	2.1	53rd percentile
☆	#227	Agricultural Research	2.1	53rd percentile
☆	#228	Journal of Crop Science and Biotechnology	2.1	52nd percentile
☆	#229	Grana	2.1	52nd percentile
☆	#230	Plant Physiology Reports	2.1	52nd percentile
☆	#231	Acta Biologica Cracoviensia Series Botanica	2.1	52nd percentile
☆	#232	Revista Brasileira de Botanica	2.1	51st percentile
☆	#233	Biologia (Poland)	2.1	51st percentile
☆	#234	Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	2.1	51st percentile
☆	#235	Blumea: Journal of Plant Taxonomy and Plant Geography	2.0	51st percentile
☆	#236	Pakistan Journal of Botany	2.0	51st percentile
☆	#237	Mediterranean Botany	2.0	50th percentile
☆	#237	Urban Agriculture and Regional Food Systems	2.0	50th percentile
☆	#239	Nova Hedwigia	2.0	50th percentile
☆	#240	Natural Product Communications	2.0	50th percentile
☆	#241	Plant Species Biology	2.0	50th percentile
☆	#242	Czech Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding	2.0	49th percentile
☆	#243	Ethnobiology and Conservation	2.0	49th percentile
☆	#244	Tropical Ecology	2.0	49th percentile
☆	#245	Eurasian Journal of Soil Science	1.9	49th percentile
☆	#246	Plant Biotechnology	1.9	49th percentile
☆	#247	New Zealand Journal of Botany	1.9	48th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#248	Invasive Plant Science and Management	1.9	48th percentile
☆	#249	Annali di Botanica	1.9	48th percentile
☆	#250	Tropical Grasslands - Forrajes Tropicales	1.9	48th percentile
☆	#251	Notulae Botanicae Horti Agrobotanici Cluj- Napoca	1.9	48th percentile
☆	#252	Systematic Botany	1.9	47th percentile
☆	#253	EPPO Bulletin	1.9	47th percentile
☆	#254	USDA Forest Service - General Technical Report RMRS-GTR	1.9	47th percentile
☆	#255	Phytotaxa	1.8	47th percentile
☆	#256	Horticulturae	1.8	46th percentile
☆	#257	Plant Health Progress	1.8	46th percentile
☆	#258	Journal of Plant Pathology	1.8	46th percentile
☆	#259	Reference Series in Phytochemistry	1.8	46th percentile
☆	#260	Journal of Biologically Active Products from Nature	1.8	46th percentile
☆	#261	International Journal of Fruit Science	1.8	45th percentile
☆	#262	Biodiversity Data Journal	1.8	45th percentile
☆	#263	Revista Brasileira de Fruticultura	1.8	45th percentile
☆	#264	Allelopathy Journal	1.8	45th percentile
☆	#265	Journal of Plant Protection Research	1.7	45th percentile
☆	#266	Biodiversitas	1.7	44th percentile
☆	#267	Agrosystems, Geosciences and Environment	1.7	44th percentile
☆	#267	Rodriguesia	1.7	44th percentile
☆	#269	Karstenia	1.7	44th percentile
☆	#270	Kew Bulletin	1.7	44th percentile
☆	#271	Journal of Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers	1.7	43rd percentile
☆	#272	Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity	1.7	43rd percentile
☆	#273	Bothalia	1.7	43rd percentile
☆	#274	Chinese Journal of Eco-Agriculture	1.7	43rd percentile
☆	#275	Planta Daninha	1.7	43rd percentile
☆	#276	Ecologica Montenegrina	1.7	42nd percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#277	Chinese Journal of Plant Ecology	1.7	42nd percentile
☆	#278	Journal of the Indian Academy of Wood Science	1.6	42nd percentile
☆	#279	Canadian Journal of Plant Science	1.6	42nd percentile
☆	#280	Webbia	1.6	42nd percentile
☆	#281	Revista de la Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias	1.6	41st percentile
☆	#282	Agriculture	1.6	41st percentile
☆	#283	Forest Products Journal	1.6	41st percentile
☆	#284	South African Journal of Plant and Soil	1.6	41st percentile
☆	#285	Plant and Fungal Systematics	1.6	40th percentile
☆	#286	Nordic Journal of Botany	1.6	40th percentile
☆	#287	Acta Mycologica	1.6	40th percentile
☆	#288	Israel Journal of Plant Sciences	1.6	40th percentile
☆	#289	Chinese Journal of Rice Science	1.6	40th percentile
☆	#290	Brittonia	1.5	39th percentile
☆	#291	Ethnobotany Research and Applications	1.5	39th percentile
☆	#292	Journal of Apicultural Science	1.5	39th percentile
☆	#293	Cryptogamie, Bryologie	1.5	39th percentile
☆	#294	Journal of the Professional Association for Cactus Development	1.5	39th percentile
☆	#295	Herba Polonica	1.5	38th percentile
☆	#296	Ornamental Horticulture	1.5	38th percentile
☆	#297	Boletin Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Plantas Medicinales y Aromaticas	1.5	38th percentile
☆	#298	New Disease Reports	1.5	38th percentile
☆	#299	Haseltonia	1.5	38th percentile
☆	#300	Plant OMICS	1.4	37th percentile
☆	#301	Current Research in Environmental and Applied Mycology	1.4	37th percentile
☆	#302	Horticultura Brasileira	1.4	37th percentile
☆	#303	Cytologia	1.4	37th percentile
☆	#304	Botanica Pacifica	1.4	37th percentile
☆	#305	Hellenic Plant Protection Journal	1.4	36th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#306	Novosti Sistematiki Nizshikh Rastenii	1.4	36th percentile
☆	#307	Beitrage zur Tabakforschung International/ Contributions to Tobacco Research	1.4	36th percentile
☆	#308	Australasian Plant Disease Notes	1.4	36th percentile
☆	#309	Journal of Plant Biotechnology	1.4	35th percentile
☆	#310	Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding	1.4	35th percentile
☆	#311	Natural Sciences Education	1.3	35th percentile
☆	#312	Journal of Biological Research (Italy)	1.3	35th percentile
☆	#313	International Journal of Forestry Research	1.3	35th percentile
☆	#314	Acta Scientiarum Polonorum, Hortorum Cultus	1.3	34th percentile
☆	#315	Phyton	1.3	34th percentile
☆	#316	Acta Phytopathologica et Entomologica Hungarica	1.3	34th percentile
☆	#317	Flora Mediterranea	1.3	34th percentile
☆	#318	Journal of Horticultural Research	1.3	34th percentile
☆	#319	Genetika	1.3	33rd percentile
☆	#320	Botanical Sciences	1.3	33rd percentile
☆	#321	Chemistry of Natural Compounds	1.3	33rd percentile
☆	#322	Acta Agronomica Sinica(China)	1.3	33rd percentile
☆	#323	Egyptian Journal of Botany	1.3	33rd percentile
☆	#324	Acta Botanica Mexicana	1.3	32nd percentile
☆	#325	Annales Botanici Fennici	1.2	32nd percentile
☆	#326	Czech Mycology	1.2	32nd percentile
☆	#327	American Fern Journal	1.2	32nd percentile
☆	#328	Australian Journal of Crop Science	1.2	31st percentile
☆	#328	Legume Research	1.2	31st percentile
☆	#330	Feddes Repertorium	1.2	31st percentile
☆	#331	Seed Science and Technology	1.2	31st percentile
☆	#332	Biotechnologia	1.2	31st percentile
☆	#333	Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Sciences	1.2	31st percentile
☆	#334	International Journal of Plant Biology	1.2	30th percentile

☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#335	Maydica	1.2	30th percentile
☆	#336	Novon	1.2	30th percentile
☆	#337	Iranian Journal of Plant Physiology	1.2	30th percentile
☆	#338	Darwiniana	1.2	29th percentile
☆	#339	Tarim Bilimleri Dergisi	1.2	29th percentile
☆	#340	USDA Forest Service - Research Papers PNW-RP	1.2	29th percentile
☆	#341	Iheringia - Serie Botanica	1.1	29th percentile
☆	#342	Korean Journal of Plant Taxonomy	1.1	29th percentile
☆	#343	Botanica	1.1	28th percentile
☆	#343	Journal of Crop Protection	1.1	28th percentile
☆	#345	Turczaninowia	1.1	28th percentile
☆	#346	Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society	1.1	28th percentile
☆	#347	Anales del Jardin Botanico de Madrid	1.1	28th percentile
☆	#348	Indian Phytopathology	1.1	27th percentile
☆	#349	Neotropical Biology and Conservation	1.1	27th percentile
☆	#350	Crop, Forage and Turfgrass Management	1.1	27th percentile
☆	#351	Natura Croatica	1.1	27th percentile
☆	#352	Coffee Science	1.1	26th percentile
☆	#352	Vegetos	1.1	26th percentile
☆	#354	Plant Science Today	1.1	26th percentile
☆	#355	Environmental Control in Biology	1.1	26th percentile
☆	#356	Nuytsia	1.1	26th percentile
☆	#357	Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences	1.1	26th percentile
☆	#358	Agriculture and Forestry	1.1	25th percentile
☆	#359	Collectanea Botanica	1.0	25th percentile
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