## BUKTI KORESPONDENSI ARTIKEL JURNAL INTERNASIONAL BEREPUTASI

Judul Artikel	:	Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Kalimantan, Indonesia
Link	:	https://doi.org/10.13057/biodiv/d231208
Jurnal	:	Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity
Volume	:	23
Issue	:	12
Halaman	:	6147-6154
Penulis	:	Suyanto, Yusanto Nugroho, Moehar Marghiy Harahap, Lia Kusumaningrum,
		Pandu Yudha Adi Putra Wirabuana

No.	Perihal	Tanggal
1.	Bukti konfirmasi submit artikel dan draft artikel yang disubmit	20 Oktober 2022
2.	Bukti keputusan editor, artikel hasil review, dan artikel perbaikan	11 November 2022
3.	Bukti accepted	6 Desember 2022



## [biodiv] Submission Acknowledgement

1 message

**Ahmad Dwi Setyawan** <smujo.id@gmail.com> To: Pandu <pandu.yudha.a.p@ugm.ac.id> Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 1:50 PM

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# Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Borneo

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10 Manuscript received: ...... Revision accepted: ......

Abstract. Sustainable management in secondary tropical rainforests requires basic information about stand characteristics, mainly related to productivity and biodiversity. This study aimed to quantify vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from various sites of secondary forests in South Borneo. Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven different natural forest management unit compartments. Four parameters were measured from each tree, including the type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. Individual tree volume and biomass were estimated using allometric equations, while carbon storage was determined using a conversion factor from biomass. Three indicators were used to evaluate vegetation diversity: richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. The analysis of correlations was applied to examine the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity with a significant level of 5%. Results found that there were 41 tree species in the study site comprising 20 commercial and 21 non-commercial species. The highest richness (*R'*) was recorded in compartment 18X by approximately 4.0, while the most increased heterogeneity (*H'*) and evenness (*E'*) were observed in compartment 18Y by around 2.4 and 0.7, respectively. The accumulation of timber production varied in each site, with a range of 45.46–68.32 m³ ha⁻¹1. The highest carbon storage was noted in compartment 19Y (38.74±1.79t ha⁻¹1), while the lowest was found in compartment 18W (20.76±0.93 t ha⁻¹1). The relative contribution of commercial species to timber production and carbon storage was substantially higher than non-commercial species at all sites. However, there was not a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and stand productivity (*P*>0.05). Overall, our study concluded that the secondary tropical forest ecosystems in the site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage.

Keywords: biodiversity, ecosystems, inventory, natural forest, productivity

**Running title:** Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity

28 INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and economic development are essential issues in sustainable forest management, particularly in Indonesia. In this context, the management of forests is expected to stabilize wood supplies for commercial industries, support species conservation, and reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Wirabuana et al. 2021b). To tackle these challenges, information about stand dynamics is required as baseline considerations to determine alternative forest management strategies (Pretzsch et al. 2014). It is related to timber production and includes vegetation diversity and carbon storage.

In general, the quantity of timber production will provide adequate information about the economic value of the forest and its capacity for supporting industry viability (Simmons et al. 2021). It also determines the maximum annual allowable cutting from the forest ecosystem (Asamoah et al., 2020). The number of timber production also describes the regeneration stock from different life stages of trees to maintain business sustainability (Zambiazi et al. 2021). Meanwhile, vegetation diversity information indicates the stability of environmental health and forest ecosystems (Pan et al. 2018). It also shows how many species live in the forest and their relative contribution to ecological functions (Matatula et al. 2021). The vegetation diversity can also be used to understand the natural competition in the ecosystems (Duan et al. 2021). On another side, the accumulation of carbon storage indicates the ability of the forest ecosystem to support climate change mitigation, primarily for reducing carbon emissions (Sadono et al. 2021a). Many studies explain forest vegetation generally absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> through the photosynthesis process. First, it converts it into biomass (Sasaki et al. 2016, Ma et al. 2017, Kocurek et al. 2020, Wirabuana et al. 2020, Sadono et al. 2021b, Setiahadi 2021). Then, the biomass will be distributed in components like roots, stems, branches, and foliage (Poorter et al. 2012, Yue et al. 2018, Altanzagas et al. 2019, Wirabuana et al. 2021a). Higher biomass indicates excellent carbon storage wherein the carbon absorption in forests

will increase along with vegetation age (Arora et al. 2014). Another study report the critical role of vegetation on carbon absorption is also a part of the balance in biogeochemical cycles (Taillardat et al. 2018). To collect this information, forest inventory is necessary to support forest managers in monitoring the stand dynamics in each forest ecosystem, including secondary tropical rainforest (STR).

Before the 1990s, STR played an essential role in economic development. It provided wood materials for forest industries like furniture, veneer, and plywood. STR also occupied the second position of important sectors contributing to country revenue. However, the occurrence of deforestation has declined its contribution significantly to the gross domestic product. Most STR currently have low productivity and high biodiversity loss (Gaveau et al. 2014). To anticipate this condition, the government has conducted the effort of reforestation to recover forest productivity and prevent vegetation extinction. However, this program is not easy to implement because STR commonly has high variation in land configuration with low accessibility (Wardhana et al. 2020).

Moreover, soil quality in these sites is also dominated by mature soil with low fertility, like oxisols and ultisols (Fujii et al. 2018). Therefore, it causes the low survival rate of vegetation generated from the reforestation program. Nevertheless, several concession areas of STR still exist and maintain their functions for economic development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. One of them is a secondary tropical rainforest area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia (AYI) located in South Borneo. Although it has been managed for over 30 years, the information about forest dynamics in this location is still limited, mainly related to vegetation diversity and carbon storage. Therefore, it is essential to provide more comprehensive details on stand dynamics in this area to support better forest management efforts.

This study aims to document vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from several compartments of secondary tropical rainforests managed by AYI. This information will help forest manager to determine the forest planning strategy, mainly related to yield regulation and harvesting schedules. Thus, even though it is managed as a production zone, forest regeneration is still maintained and minimizes the risk of biodiversity loss. We hypothesize that:

- (a) Every compartment has a different value for vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage.
- (b) Higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production and carbon storage.
- (c) The contribution of non-commercial species on stand productivity is higher than commercial species.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Study area

This study was conducted in the secondary tropical rainforest concession area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia. It is situated in Tabalong District, approximately 270 km from Banjarmasin, the capital city of South Borneo province. The geographic coordinates of this area are located in S1°39'-1°40' and E115°29'-115°30'. Altitude ranges from 225 to 470 m above sea level. Land configuration is dominated by hills with a slope level of 15–40%. The average daily temperature is 27.6°C with a minimum of 25.7°C and a maximum of 30.3°C. The mean annual rainfall during the past ten years is 2,589 mm year-1, with an average air humidity of 87.6%. The highest rainfall is recorded in November. Dry periods are relatively short, only around two months from July to August. Oxisols and ultisols dominate soil types with high acidity levels.

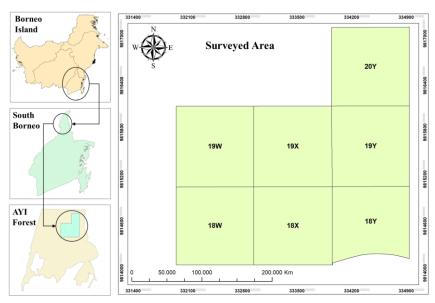


Figure 1. The study area of secondary tropical rainforest in South Borneo

#### **Data Collection**

Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven compartments of the secondary tropical rainforest management unit, namely 18W, 18X, 18Y, 19W, 19X, 19Y, and 20Y. The total surveyed area reached 700 ha, with each site 100 ha. To facilitate the measurement process, the field survey was conducted step by step using sub-plots of 20 m x 20 m. These sub-plots were arranged systematically; all trees in compartments could be covered and measured correctly. Four parameters were measured from each tree, i.e., type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. The determination of commercial and non-commercial species was undertaken, referring to the guidance from the company. Tree diameter was measured using a phi band at 1.3 m aboveground, while tree height was quantified using a haga altimeter from aboveground to the top crown. Moreover, the coordinate of trees was also recorded using a global positioning system (GPS).

#### Data Analysis

Three indicators were selected to describe vegetation diversity, i.e., richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. Vegetation richness was determined by Margalef Index (R'), while its heterogeneity was quantified using Shannon-Wiener Index (H'). On another side, the evenness of vegetation was assessed by Pielou Evenness Index (E'). Detail equations for calculating those indicators are expressed below (Nugroho et al. 2022):

$$R' = S - 1/\ln(N) \tag{1}$$

$$H' = -\sum (n_i/N) (\ln n_i/N)$$
 (2)

$$E' = H'/ln(S) \tag{3}$$

where S was the number of species observed, N represented the total tree population in each compartment, and  $n_i$  described the sum of trees for each species.

To determine the quantity of timber production, individual tree volume was calculated using the following equation:

$$V = 0.25 \pi \, dbh^2 \, hf \tag{4}$$

where V was tree volume (m<sup>3</sup>), dbh indicated tree diameter (cm), h represented tree height (m), and f showed a constant of form factor (0.6) (Akossou et al. 2013). Then, the timber production degree was assumed to be the mean stand volume in hectare units. This value could be derived by dividing the total tree volume in a compartment by its area.

The quantification of carbon storage and CO<sub>2</sub> absorption were also calculated using a similar principle to timber production. However, we used biomass accumulation as a conversion to compute both parameters. In this context, the individual tree biomass was estimated using a generalized allometric model for secondary tropical rainforest as given (Krisnawati et al. 2012):

$$B = 0.047454dbh^{2.078} (4)$$

*B* was aboveground biomass (kg), and *dbh* indicated tree diameter (cm). Next, the carbon stock of each tree was computed by multiplying its biomass with a conversion factor of 0.46 (Latifah et al. 2018), while CO<sub>2</sub> absorption was estimated by multiplying carbon stock with a constant of 3.67 (Latifah & Sulistiyono 2013). Then, the result was converted into a hectare unit.

Descriptive analysis was selected to compare the value of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage among different compartments based on the trend of the histogram and the summarized information from the table. Meanwhile, the spatial distribution of three parameters was processed using QGIS. Finally, to evaluate the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity, both in timber production and carbon storage, Pearson correlation analysis was applied with a significant level of 5%.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### **Vegetation Diversity**

Results found that vegetation diversity among compartments was substantially different (Table 1). The highest species abundance was recorded in the compartment of 18Y, while the lowest number of species was observed in the compartment of 20Y. Similar trends were also discovered in the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness, wherein the highest value of those indicators was noted in compartment 18Y. These findings directly confirmed our first hypothesis that assumed there was different vegetation diversity between compartments in the study site.

The diversity of vegetation in secondary tropical rainforests was generally caused by the interaction between vegetation and the environment. This process generated natural competition wherein trees compete with each other to obtain sufficient resources to support their survival (Wirabuana et al. 2022b). On another side, environmental variation also became a limiting factor for certain species; thus, it could inhibit several vegetation from growing well (Wang et al. 2019). Consequently, the regeneration capacity of each species in this ecosystem was highly dynamic depending on their adaptation to environmental conditions. Several previous studies also reported similar results wherein the natural regeneration in secondary tropical rainforests was exceptionally dynamics due to the impact of intraspecific and

interspecific competition between trees for obtaining light, water, nutrients, and space (Barabás et al. 2016, Adler et al. 2018, Yang et al. 2019).

Table 1. Comparison of species abundance, richness, heterogeneity, and evenness among compartments

Compartment	N species	Richness	Heterogeneity	Evenness
18W	32	4.01	1.91	0.55
18X	31	3.79	2.10	0.61
18Y	36	4.43	2.42	0.68
19W	32	3.99	1.96	0.57
19X	30	3.59	1.84	0.54
19Y	31	3.89	1.86	0.54
20Y	4	0.38	0.81	0.58

This study recorded that the heterogeneity of vegetation in the study location was dominated by medium classes with a range of 1.51–3.50 (Table 1) (Hidayat 2013). It was similar to previous studies that documented the secondary tropical rainforests commonly had medium vegetation biodiversity (Siregar and Undaharta 2018, Murdjoko et al. 2021, Tawer et al. 2021). This condition could happen because this site was managed using a selective cutting system; thus, only certain species were maintained to support the ecological function of the forest (Butarbutar 2014). In addition, most trees with a limit diameter of more than 50 cm and having commercial values were harvested to provide better-growing space for younger trees (Matangaran et al. 2019). Therefore, this scheme was expected to stabilize the regeneration capacity of secondary forests without sacrificing its economic benefits.

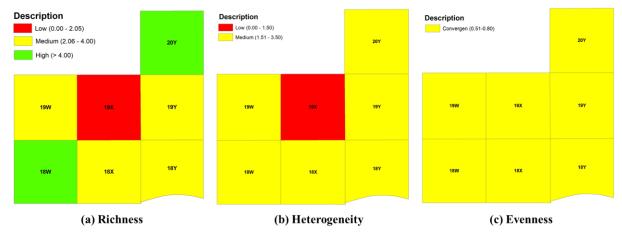


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity in the study site

Our results also indicated that species distribution in the study site was not evenly distributed. It was shown by the evenness index value ranging from 0.54 to 0.68 (Table 1). These outcomes signified that most species in this location grew in groups (Hussain et al. 2012). It was not surprising since Dipterocarpaceae families dominated most species in secondary tropical rainforests. Many studies explained that these families naturally live in groups and have a specific preference for their habitat (Purwaningsih 2004, Hadi et al. 2019, Sari et al. 2019).

According to the results, it was seen that vegetation diversity in the study site was still maintained well. It also implied that the forest management activity in this area fulfills the principle of sustainability by minimizing the risk of biodiversity loss. However, the effort of enrichment planting is required to improve biodiversity in the compartment with low diversity level. This scheme will also facilitate the conservation of native species from the secondary tropical rainforests.

#### **Timber Production**

 Summarized observation results documented that timber production in the study area ranged from 44.49±1.72 m³ ha⁻¹ to 68.32±2.69 m³ ha⁻¹ (Table 2). These values were substantially higher than the average productivity of Borneo's natural forests, ranging from 30 m³ ha⁻¹ (KLHK, 2019). Therefore, it indicated that the secondary tropical rainforest in this area had high productivity and could still support industry development. Moreover, this study recorded that the average timber production in each compartment was relatively different, wherein the most increased timber production was found in the compartment of 19Y. These findings also confirmed our first hypothesis that timber production was highly varied between compartments in secondary tropical rainforests.

Compartment	Timber production (m <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Biomass accumulation (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Carbon stock (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
18W	44.49±1.72	45.13±2.02	20.76±0.93	76.18±3.40
18X	56.05±2.05	68.35±2.85	31.44±1.31	$115.38\pm4.81$
18Y	54.3±2.43	69.25±3.74	31.86±1.73	$116.92 \pm 6.32$
19W	45.56±1.86	48.83±2.42	22.46±1.12	$82.44\pm4.08$
19X	54.96±1.55	67.11±2.44	30.87±1.12	113.29±4.11
19Y	68.32±2.69	84.22±3.89	38.74±1.79	142.17±6.56
20Y	50.57±2.30	46.37±2.36	21.33±1.09	$78.29 \pm 3.98$

Interestingly, the compartment of 18Y only occupied the fourth position of the most productivity compartments, even though it had the highest vegetation diversity (Table 2). Our study also did not find a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and timber production (Table 3). It was in contrast to previous studies that documented a substantial effect of vegetation diversity on stand productivity in tropical rainforest ecosystems (Cai et al. 2016, Gevaña et al. 2017, McNicol et al. 2018). These findings rejected our second hypothesis that higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production in the study site. However, several kinds of literature also found a similar outcome to ours wherein there was no significant relationship between vegetation diversity and forest productivity (Belote et al. 2011, Bravo-Oviedo et al. 2021). In this context, forest ecosystems may have diverse patterns regarding the connection between biodiversity and productivity.

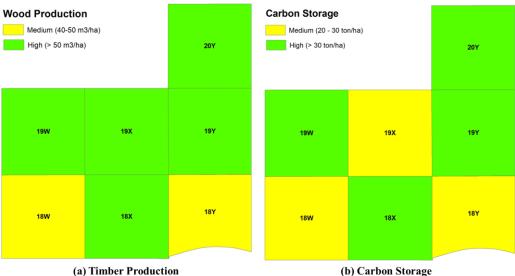


Figure 3. Spatial distribution of timber production and carbon storage in the study site

**Table 3.** Correlation between diversity indicators and stand productivity parameters

Diversity	Productivity parameter			
parameter	Timber production	Carbon Storage		
Richness	0.123 <sup>ns</sup>	$0.420^{\rm ns}$		
Heterogeneity	$0.116^{\rm ns}$	$0.442^{\rm ns}$		
Evenness	$-0.056^{\rm ns}$	$0.098^{\mathrm{ns}}$		

ns: non-significant based on correlation test

 Forest ecosystems in the study site had high productivity since their vegetation was dominated by trees with a diameter of more than 50 cm (Figure 4). On another side, the frequency of trees with a diameter lower than 20 cm was only around 2%. These indicated there was sufficient stock of timber production for selective cutting. Moreover, the relative contribution of non-commercial species to total timber production was considerably lower than commercial species (Figure 4). It demonstrated that the current standing stock had high economic value. These results confirmed our third hypothesis that commercial species' relative contribution to stand productivity was higher than non-commercial species. Although this site had increased productivity, forest managers should be careful to determine the quantity of annual allowable cutting (AAC) since the implementation of timber extraction can be impacted young trees' regeneration. Most

importantly, the process of timber extraction should not harvest trees that generate seeds for maintaining natural regeneration.

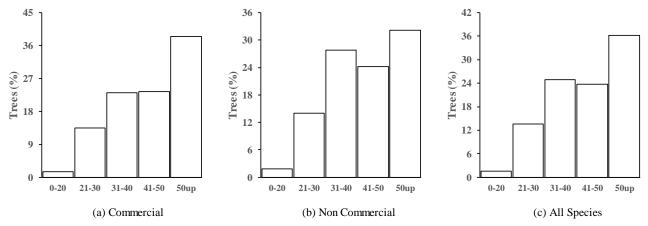


Figure 4. Diameter distribution of tree species in the study site

#### **Carbon Storage**

Carbon storage in each compartment varied, wherein the carbon stock in the study site ranged from  $20.76\pm0.93$  t ha<sup>-1</sup> to  $38.74\pm1.79$  t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 3). The highest CO<sub>2</sub> absorption was recorded in the compartment of 19Y by around  $142.17\pm6.56$  t ha<sup>-1</sup>. In addition, the relative contribution of commercial species on carbons stock was considerably higher than species non-commercial (Figure 4). These findings directly verified our first and third hypotheses in this study. However, similarly to timber production, our study did not find a significant effect of vegetation diversity on carbon storage in this area (Table 3).

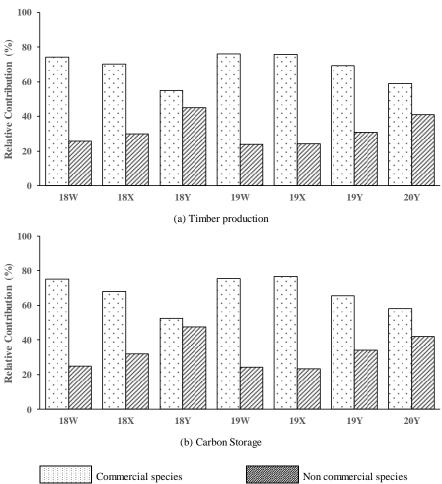


Figure 4. The relative contribution of commercial and non-commercial species on timber production and carbon storage

The accumulation of carbon storage in forest ecosystems has a positive relationship with stand productivity. Higher stand productivity increases carbon stock since it was generated from photosynthesis (Cai et al. 2016, Brancalion et al. 2019, Alam et al. 2022, Wirabuana et al. 2022a). A study reported the average carbon stock in tropical rainforest ecosystems was 51.18 t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Butarbutar et al. 2019). This value is higher than carbon storage in the study site. However, this study's carbon stock measurement is still limited to the tree level. We still have not quantified the carbon stock in other life stages like poles, saplings, seedlings, and understorey. Thereby, the actual carbon storage in the study area may be higher than the current estimation. It is also essential for forest managers in the study location to consider the quantity of carbon stock as the additional value of sustainable natural resources management.

#### **Implication Results**

 This study concluded that the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems in the study site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage. Furthermore, it indicated that forest managers had applied sustainability principles in the context of operation scale. Nevertheless, some improvements are still required to increase the value of forest management on this site. Besides conducting enrichment planting in the compartment with low biodiversity levels, we also suggest forest managers determine the scheme of yield regulation to minimize forest disturbance due to the impact of harvesting operations. Furthermore, the cutting process has a high potential to decline regeneration capacity since the felled trees will override the younger plants like seedlings and saplings.

We also suggest forest managers identify the distribution of mother trees in their concession area for obtaining seed as plant material in artificial regeneration. The seed collection is also essential to maintain the genetic diversity in this area. On another side, it is also necessary to document the carbon dynamics during the rotation periods, including loss and increment, since it will provide comprehensive information about forest management's effectiveness in tackling the climate change mitigation issue. We also encourage forest managers in this area to share their knowledge with other natural resources managers who fail to manage the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems. It is highly required since forest ecosystems play an essential role in economic development, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. They have a strategic position in hydrological cycles related to food security and natural disaster.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors address our appreciation to the management of PT Aya Yayang Indonesia, who allows us to conduct this study in their concession forest area. We are also grateful to the Faculty of Forestry, Lambung Mangkurat University, which provides a surveyor team to help with forest inventory. Finally, the authors also thank the anonymous reviewer who offers suggestions to improve this article.

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[biodiv] Editor Decision
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1 message

Nor Liza <smujo.id@gmail.com> To: Pandu Wirabuana <pandu.yudha.a.p@ugm.ac.id> Fri, Nov 11, 2022 at 9:09 AM

### Pandu Wirabuana:

We have reached a decision regarding your submission to Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity, "Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Borneo".
Our decision is: Revisions Required
Reviewer A:
Dear Editor-in-Chief,
The article is an interesting and comprehensive analysis to link species diversity, timber production, and carbon stock. However, I suggest to the author make some revisions to make more clear on the materials and method section. Please find the comments in the attached file. Overall, the article should be considered to be published in this journal.
Best regards
Recommendation: Revisions Required
Reviewer J:
My comments on how the manuscript can be improved are in the word document. There are major information gaps in the manuscript, but more fundamentally I am not seeing how the sampling sites were selected. Are the samples representative of the landscape? If not, then the results are not meaningful for management.
Recommendation: Resubmit for Review
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2 attachments



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# Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Borneo

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Abstract. Sustainable management in secondary tropical rainforests requires basic information about stand characteristics, mainly related to productivity and biodiversity. This study aimed to quantify vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from various sites of secondary forests in South Borneo. Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven different natural forest management unit compartments. Four parameters were measured from each tree, including the type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. Individual tree volume and biomass were estimated using allometric equations, while carbon storage was determined using a conversion factor from biomass. Three indicators were used to evaluate vegetation diversity: richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. The analysis of correlations was applied to examine the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity with a significant level of 5%. Results found that there were 41 tree species in the study site comprising 20 commercial and 21 non-commercial species. The highest richness (R) was recorded in compartment 18X by approximately 4.0, while the most increased heterogeneity (H) and evenness (E) were observed in compartment 18Y by around 2.4 and 0.7, respectively. The accumulation of timber production varied in each site, with a range of 45.46–68.32 m³ ha¹.¹ The highest carbon storage was noted in compartment 19Y (38.74±1.79t ha¹), while the lowest was found in compartment 18W (20.76±0.93 t ha¹). The relative contribution of commercial species to timber production and carbon storage was substantially higher than non-commercial species at all sites. However, there was not a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and stand productivity (P > 0.05). Overall, our study concluded that the secondary tropical forest ecosystems in the site had good vegetation diversity, (E > 0.05). Overall, our study concluded that the secondary tropical forest ecosystems in the site had good v

Keywords: biodiversity, ecosystems, inventory, natural forest, productivity

Running title: Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and economic development are essential issues in sustainable forest management, particularly in Indonesia. In this context, the management of forests is expected to stabilize wood supplies for commercial industries, support species conservation, and reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Wirabuana et al. 2021b). To tackle these challenges, information about stand dynamics is required as baseline considerations to determine alternative forest management strategies (Pretzsch et al. 2014). It is related to timber production and includes vegetation diversity and carbon storage.

In general, the quantity of timber production will provide adequate information about the economic value of the forest and its capacity for supporting industry viability (Simmons et al. 2021). It also determines the maximum annual allowable cutting from the forest ecosystem (Asamoah et al., 2020). The number of timber production also describes the regeneration stock from different life stages of trees to maintain business sustainability (Zambiazi et al. 2021). Meanwhile, vegetation diversity information indicates the stability of environmental health and forest ecosystems (Pan et al. 2018). It also shows how many species live in the forest and their relative contribution to ecological functions (Matatula et al. 2021). The vegetation diversity can also be used to understand the natural competition in the ecosystems (Duan et al. 2021). On another side, the accumulation of carbon storage indicates the ability of the forest ecosystem to support climate change mitigation, primarily for reducing carbon emissions (Sadono et al. 2021a). Many studies explain forest vegetation generally absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> through the photosynthesis process. First, it converts it into biomass (Sasaki et al. 2016, Ma et al. 2017, Kocurek et al. 2020, Wirabuana et al. 2020, Sadono et al. 2021b, Setiahadi 2021). Then, the biomass will be distributed in components like roots, stems, branches, and foliage (Poorter et al. 2012, Yue et al. 2018, Altanzagas et al. 2019, Wirabuana et al. 2021a). Higher biomass indicates excellent carbon storage wherein the carbon absorption in forests will increase along with vegetation age (Arora et al. 2014). Another study report the critical role of vegetation on carbon absorption is also a part of the balance in biogeochemical cycles (Taillardat et al. 2018). To collect this information, forest

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Commented [A1]:} & Timber production may or may not lead to long-term carbon storage. \end{tabular}$ 

inventory is necessary to support forest managers in monitoring the stand dynamics in each forest ecosystem, including secondary tropical rainforest (STR).

Before the 1990s, STR played an essential role in economic development. It provided wood materials for forest industries like furniture, veneer, and plywood. STR also occupied the second position of important sectors contributing to country revenue. However, the occurrence of deforestation has declined its contribution significantly to the gross domestic product. Most STR currently have low productivity and high biodiversity loss (Gaveau et al. 2014). To anticipate this condition, the government has conducted the effort of reforestation to recover forest productivity and prevent vegetation extinction. However, this program is not easy to implement because STR commonly has high variation in land configuration with low accessibility (Wardhana et al. 2020).

Moreover, soil quality in these sites is also dominated by mature soil with low fertility, like oxisols and ultisols (Fujii et al. 2018). Therefore, it causes the low survival rate of vegetation generated from the reforestation program. Nevertheless, several concession areas of STR still exist and maintain their functions for economic development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. One of them is a secondary tropical rainforest area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia (AYI) located in South Borneo. Although it has been managed for over 30 years, the information about forest dynamics in this location is still limited, mainly related to vegetation diversity and carbon storage. Therefore, it is essential to provide more comprehensive details on stand dynamics in this area to support better forest management efforts.

This study aims to document vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from several compartments of secondary tropical rainforests managed by AYI. This information will help forest manager to determine the forest planning strategy, mainly related to yield regulation and harvesting schedules. Thus, even though it is managed as a production zone, forest regeneration is still maintained and minimizes the risk of biodiversity loss. We hypothesize that: Every compartment has a different value for vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage (i). Higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production and carbon storage (ii). The contribution of non-commercial species on stand productivity is higher than commercial species (iii).

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Study area

This study was conducted in the secondary tropical rainforest concession area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia. It is situated in Tabalong District, approximately 270 km from Banjarmasin, the capital city of South Borneo province. The geographic coordinates of this area are located in \$1°39'-1°40' and \$E115°29'-115°30'. Altitude ranges from 225 to 470 m above sea level. Land configuration is dominated by hills with a slope level of \$15-40%. The average daily temperature is \$27.6°C with a minimum of \$25.7°C and a maximum of 30.3°C. The mean annual rainfall during the past ten years is \$2,589 mm year¹, with an average air humidity of \$7.6%. The highest rainfall is recorded in November. Dry periods are relatively short, only around two months from July to August. Oxisols and ultisols dominate soil types with high acidity levels.

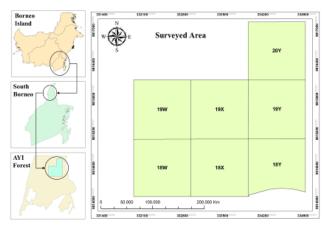


Figure 1. The study area of secondary tropical rainforest in South Borneo

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#### Data collection

Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven compartments of the secondary tropical rainforest management unit, namely 18W, 18X, 18Y, 19W, 19X, 19Y, and 20Y. The total surveyed area reached 700 ha, with each site 100 ha. To facilitate the measurement process, the field survey was conducted step by step using sub-plots of 20 m x 20 m. These sub-plots were arranged systematically; all trees in compartments could be covered and measured correctly. Four parameters were measured from each tree, i.e., type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. The determination of commercial and non-commercial species was undertaken, referring to the guidance from the company. Tree diameter was measured using a phi band at 1.3 m aboveground, while tree height was quantified using a haga altimeter from aboveground to the top crown. Moreover, the coordinate of trees was also recorded using a global positioning system (GPS).

#### Data analysis

Three indicators were selected to describe vegetation diversity, i.e., richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. Vegetation richness was determined by Margalef Index (R'), while its heterogeneity was quantified using Shannon-Wiener Index (H'). On another side, the evenness of vegetation was assessed by Pielou Evenness Index (E'). Detail equations for calculating those indicators are expressed below (Nugroho et al. 2022):

$$R' = S - 1/\ln(N) \tag{1}$$

$$H' = -\sum (n_i/N) (\ln n_i/N)$$
 (2)

$$E' = H'/ln(S) \tag{3}$$

where S was the number of species observed, N represented the total tree population in each compartment, and  $n_i$  described the sum of trees for each species.

To determine the quantity of timber production, individual tree volume was calculated using the following equation:

$$V = 0.25 \pi \, dbh^2 \, h \, f \tag{4}$$

where V was tree volume ( $m^3$ ), dbh indicated tree diameter (cm), h represented tree height (m), and f showed a constant of form factor (0.6) (Akossou et al. 2013). Then, the timber production degree was assumed to be the mean stand volume in hectare units. This value could be derived by dividing the total tree volume in a compartment by its area.

The quantification of carbon storage and  $CO_2$  absorption were also calculated using a similar principle to timber production. However, we used biomass accumulation as a conversion to compute both parameters. In this context, the individual tree biomass was estimated using a generalized allometric model for secondary tropical rainforest as given (Krisnawati et al. 2012):

$$B = 0.047454dbh^{2.078} \tag{4}$$

B was aboveground biomass (kg), and dbh indicated tree diameter (cm). Next, the carbon stock of each tree was computed by multiplying its biomass with a conversion factor of 0.46 (Latifah et al. 2018), while CO<sub>2</sub> absorption was estimated by multiplying carbon stock with a constant of 3.67 (Latifah & Sulistiyono 2013). Then, the result was converted into a hectare unit.

Descriptive analysis was selected to compare the value of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage among different compartments based on the trend of the histogram and the summarized information from the table. Meanwhile, the spatial distribution of three parameters was processed using QGIS. Finally, to evaluate the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity, both in timber production and carbon storage, Pearson correlation analysis was applied with a significant level of 5%.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Vegetation diversity

Results found that vegetation diversity among compartments was substantially different (Table 1). The highest species abundance was recorded in the compartment of 18Y, while the lowest number of species was observed in the compartment of 20Y. Similar trends were also discovered in the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness, wherein the highest value of those indicators was noted in compartment 18Y. These findings directly confirmed our first hypothesis that assumed there was different vegetation diversity between compartments in the study site.

The diversity of vegetation in secondary tropical rainforests was generally caused by the interaction between vegetation and the environment. This process generated natural competition wherein trees compete with each other to obtain sufficient resources to support their survival (Wirabuana et al. 2022b). On another side, environmental variation also became a limiting factor for certain species; thus, it could inhibit several vegetation from growing well (Wang et al. 2019). Consequently, the regeneration capacity of each species in this ecosystem was highly dynamic depending on their adaptation to environmental conditions. Several previous studies also reported similar results wherein the natural regeneration in secondary tropical rainforests was exceptionally dynamics due to the impact of intraspecific and

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interspecific competition between trees for obtaining light, water, nutrients, and space (Barabás et al. 2016, Adler et al.

Table 1. Comparison of species abundance, richness, heterogeneity, and evenness among compartments

Compartment	N species	Richness	Heterogeneity	Evenness
18W	32	4.01	1.91	0.55
18X	31	3.79	2.10	0.61
18Y	36	4.43	2.42	0.68
19W	32	3.99	1.96	0.57
19X	30	3.59	1.84	0.54
19Y	31	3.89	1.86	0.54
20Y	4	0.38	0.81	0.58

This study recorded that the heterogeneity of vegetation in the study location was dominated by medium classes with a range of 1.51-3.50 (Table 1) (Hidayat 2013). It was similar to previous studies that documented the secondary tropical rainforests commonly had medium vegetation biodiversity (Siregar and Undaharta 2018, Murdjoko et al. 2021, Tawer et al. 2021). This condition could happen because this site was managed using a selective cutting system; thus, only certain species were maintained to support the ecological function of the forest (Butarbutar 2014). In addition, most trees with a limit diameter of more than 50 cm and having commercial values were harvested to provide better-growing space for younger trees (Matangaran et al. 2019). Therefore, this scheme was expected to stabilize the regeneration capacity of secondary forests without sacrificing its economic benefits.

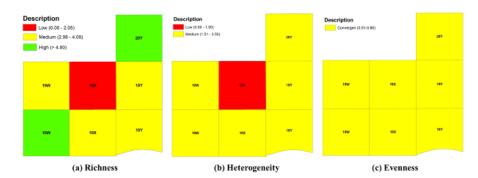


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity in the study site

Our results also indicated that species distribution in the study site was not evenly distributed. It was shown by the evenness index value ranging from 0.54 to 0.68 (Table 1). These outcomes signified that most species in this location grew in groups (Hussain et al. 2012). It was not surprising since Dipterocarpaceae families dominated most species in secondary tropical rainforests. Many studies explained that these families naturally live in groups and have a specific preference for their habitat (Purwaningsih 2004, Hadi et al. 2019, Sari et al. 2019).

According to the results, it was seen that vegetation diversity in the study site was still maintained well. It also implied that the forest management activity in this area fulfills the principle of sustainability by minimizing the risk of biodiversity loss. However, the effort of enrichment planting is required to improve biodiversity in the compartment with low diversity level. This scheme will also facilitate the conservation of native species from the secondary tropical rainforests.

Summarized observation results documented that timber production in the study area ranged from 44.49±1.72 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> to 68.32±2.69 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2). These values were substantially higher than the average productivity of Borneo's natural forests, ranging from 30 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> (KLHK, 2019). Therefore, it indicated that the secondary tropical rainforest in this area had high productivity and could still support industry development. Moreover, this study recorded that the average timber

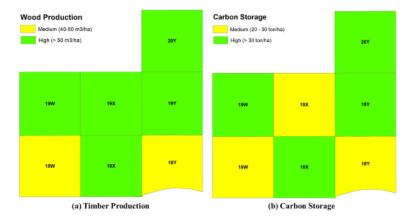
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 production in each compartment was relatively different, wherein the most increased timber production was found in the compartment of 19Y. These findings also confirmed our first hypothesis that timber production was highly varied between compartments in secondary tropical rainforests.

Table 2. Comparison of timber production, biomass accumulation, carbon storage, and CO2 absorption among compartments

Compartment	Timber production (m <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Biomass accumulation (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Carbon stock (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
18W	44.49±1.72	45.13±2.02	20.76±0.93	76.18±3.40
18X	56.05±2.05	68.35±2.85	31.44±1.31	115.38±4.81
18Y	54.3±2.43	69.25±3.74	31.86±1.73	116.92±6.32
19W	45.56±1.86	48.83±2.42	22.46±1.12	82.44±4.08
19X	54.96±1.55	67.11±2.44	30.87±1.12	113.29±4.11
19Y	68.32±2.69	84.22±3.89	38.74±1.79	142.17±6.56
20Y	50.57±2.30	46.37±2.36	21.33±1.09	78.29±3.98

Interestingly, the compartment of 18Y only occupied the fourth position of the most productivity compartments, even though it had the highest vegetation diversity (Table 2). Our study also did not find a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and timber production (Table 3). It was in contrast to previous studies that documented a substantial effect of vegetation diversity on stand productivity in tropical rainforest ecosystems (Cai et al. 2016, Gevaña et al. 2017, McNicol et al. 2018). These findings rejected our second hypothesis that higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production in the study site. However, several kinds of literature also found a similar outcome to ours wherein there was no significant relationship between vegetation diversity and forest productivity (Belote et al. 2011, Bravo-Oviedo et al. 2021). In this context, forest ecosystems may have diverse patterns regarding the connection between biodiversity and productivity.



 $\textbf{Figure 3}. \ \textbf{Spatial distribution of timber production and carbon storage in the study site} \\$ 

Table 3. Correlation between diversity indicators and stand productivity parameters

Diversity parameter -	Timber production	Carbon Storage
Richness	$0.123^{ns}$	$0.420^{\rm ns}$
Heterogeneity	$0.116^{ns}$	0.442 <sup>ns</sup>
Evenness	-0.056 <sup>ns</sup>	$0.098^{ns}$

Forest ecosystems in the study site had high productivity since their vegetation was dominated by trees with a diameter of more than 50 cm (Figure 4). On another side, the frequency of trees with a diameter lower than 20 cm was only around 2%. These indicated there was sufficient stock of timber production for selective cutting. Moreover, the relative contribution of non-commercial species to total timber production was considerably lower than commercial species (Figure 4). It demonstrated that the current standing stock had high economic value. These results confirmed our third hypothesis that commercial species' relative contribution to stand productivity was higher than non-commercial species. Although this site had increased productivity, forest managers should be careful to determine the quantity of annual allowable cutting (AAC) since the implementation of timber extraction can be impacted young trees' regeneration. Most importantly, the process of timber extraction should not harvest trees that generate seeds for maintaining natural regeneration.

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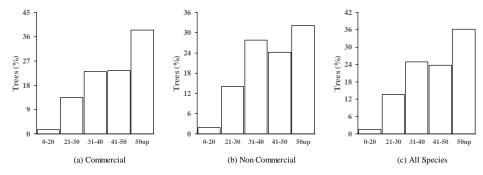


Figure 4. Diameter distribution of tree species in the study site

#### Carbon storage

Carbon storage in each compartment varied, wherein the carbon stock in the study site ranged from  $20.76\pm0.93$  t ha<sup>-1</sup> to  $38.74\pm1.79$  t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 3). The highest CO<sub>2</sub> absorption was recorded in the compartment of 19Y by around  $142.17\pm6.56$  t ha<sup>-1</sup>. In addition, the relative contribution of commercial species on carbons stock was considerably higher than species non-commercial (Figure 4). These findings directly verified our first and third hypotheses in this study. However, similarly to timber production, our study did not find a significant effect of vegetation diversity on carbon storage in this area (Table 3)

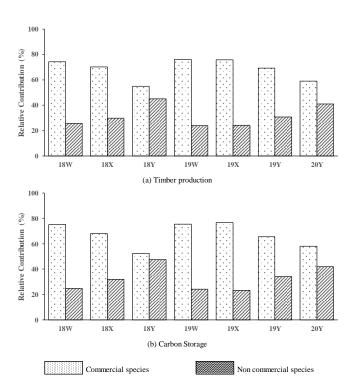


Figure 4. The relative contribution of commercial and non-commercial species on timber production and carbon storage

The accumulation of carbon storage in forest ecosystems has a positive relationship with stand productivity. Higher stand productivity increases carbon stock since it was generated from photosynthesis (Cai et al. 2016, Brancalion et al. 2019, Alam et al. 2022, Wirabuana et al. 2022a). A study reported the average carbon stock in tropical rainforest ecosystems was 51.18 t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Butarbutar et al. 2019). This value is higher than carbon storage in the study site. However, this study's carbon stock measurement is still limited to the tree level. We still have not quantified the carbon stock in other life stages like poles, saplings, seedlings, and understorey. Thereby, the actual carbon storage in the study area may be higher than the current estimation. It is also essential for forest managers in the study location to consider the quantity of carbon stock as the additional value of sustainable natural resources management.

#### Implication results

This study concluded that the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems in the study site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage. Furthermore, it indicated that forest managers had applied sustainability principles in the context of operation scale. Nevertheless, some improvements are still required to increase the value of forest management on this site. Besides conducting enrichment planting in the compartment with low biodiversity levels, we also suggest forest managers determine the scheme of yield regulation to minimize forest disturbance due to the impact of harvesting operations. Furthermore, the cutting process has a high potential to decline regeneration capacity since the felled trees will override the younger plants like seedlings and saplings.

We also suggest forest managers identify the distribution of mother trees in their concession area for obtaining seed as plant material in artificial regeneration. The seed collection is also essential to maintain the genetic diversity in this area. On another side, it is also necessary to document the carbon dynamics during the rotation periods, including loss and increment, since it will provide comprehensive information about forest management's effectiveness in tackling the climate change mitigation issue. We also encourage forest managers in this area to share their knowledge with other natural resources managers who fail to manage the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems. It is highly required since forest ecosystems play an essential role in economic development, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. They have a strategic position in hydrological cycles related to food security and natural disaster.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

251 The authors address our appreciation to the management of PT Aya Yayang Indonesia, who allows us to conduct this 252 study in their concession forest area. We are also grateful to the Faculty of Forestry, Lambung Mangkurat University, 253 which provides a surveyor team to help with forest inventory. Finally, the authors also thank the anonymous reviewer who 254 offers suggestions to improve this article.

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# Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Borneo

Abstract. Sustainable management in secondary tropical rainforests requires basic information about stand characteristics, mainly related to productivity and biodiversity. This study aimed to quantify vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from various sites of secondary forests in South Borneo. Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven different natural forest management unit compartments. Four parameters were measured from each tree, including the type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. Individual tree volume and biomass were estimated using allometric equations, while carbon storage was determined using a conversion factor from biomass. Three indicators were used to evaluate vegetation diversity: richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. The analysis of correlations was applied to examine the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity with a significant level of 5%. Results found that there were 41 tree species in the study site comprising 20 commercial and 21 non-commercial species. The highest richness (R') was recorded in compartment 18X by approximately 4.0, while the most increased heterogeneity (H') and evenness (E') were observed in compartment 18Y by around 2.4 and 0.7, respectively. The accumulation of timber production varied in each site, with a range of 45.46–68.32 m³ ha⁻¹. The highest carbon storage was noted in compartment 19Y ( $38.74\pm1.79$  ha⁻¹), while the lowest was found in compartment 18W ( $20.76\pm0.93$  t ha⁻¹). The relative contribution of commercial species to timber production and carbon storage was substantially higher than non-commercial species at all sites. However, there was not a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and stand productivity (P>0.05). Overall, our study concluded that the secondary tropical forest ecosystems in the site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage.

Keywords: biodiversity, ecosystems, inventory, natural forest, productivity

Running title: Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and economic development are essential issues in sustainable forest management, particularly in Indonesia. In this context, the management of forests is expected to stabilize wood supplies for commercial industries, support species conservation, and reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Wirabuana et al. 2021b). To tackle these challenges, information about stand dynamics is required as baseline considerations to determine alternative forest management strategies (Pretzsch et al. 2014). It is related to timber production and includes vegetation diversity and carbon storage.

In general, the quantity of timber production will provide adequate information about the economic value of the forest and its capacity for supporting industry viability (Simmons et al. 2021). It also determines the maximum annual allowable cutting from the forest ecosystem (Asamoah et al., 2020). The number of timber production also describes the regeneration stock from different life stages of trees to maintain business sustainability (Zambiazi et al. 2021). Meanwhile, vegetation diversity information indicates the stability of environmental health and forest ecosystems (Pan et al. 2018). It also shows how many species live in the forest and their relative contribution to ecological functions (Matatula et al. 2021). The vegetation diversity can also be used to understand the natural competition in the ecosystems (Duan et al. 2021). On another side, the accumulation of carbon storage indicates the ability of the forest ecosystem to support climate change mitigation, primarily for reducing carbon emissions (Sadono et al. 2021a). Many studies explain forest vegetation generally absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> through the photosynthesis process. First, it converts it into biomass (Sasaki et al. 2016, Ma et al. 2017, Kocurek et al. 2020, Wirabuana et al. 2020, Sadono et al. 2021b, Setiahadi 2021). Then, the biomass will be distributed in components like roots, stems, branches, and foliage (Poorter et al. 2012, Yue et al. 2018, Altanzagas et al. 2019, Wirabuana et al. 2021a). Higher biomass indicates excellent carbon storage wherein the carbon absorption in forests will increase along with vegetation age (Arora et al. 2014). Another study report the critical role of vegetation on carbon absorption is also a part of the balance in biogeochemical cycles (Taillardat et al. 2018). To collect this information, forest

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inventory is necessary to support forest managers in monitoring the stand dynamics in each forest ecosystem, including secondary tropical rainforest (STR).

Before the 1990s, STR played an essential role in economic development. It provided wood materials for forest industries like furniture, veneer, and plywood. STR also occupied the second position of important sectors contributing to country revenue. However, the occurrence of deforestation has declined its contribution significantly to the gross domestic product. Most STR currently have low productivity and high biodiversity loss (Gaveau et al. 2014). To anticipate this condition, the government has conducted the effort of reforestation to recover forest productivity and prevent vegetation extinction. However, this program is not easy to implement because STR commonly has high variation in land configuration with low accessibility (Wardhana et al. 2020).

Moreover, soil quality in these sites is also dominated by mature soil with low fertility, like oxisols and ultisols (Fujii et al. 2018). Therefore, it causes the low survival rate of vegetation generated from the reforestation program. Nevertheless, several concession areas of STR still exist and maintain their functions for economic development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. One of them is a secondary tropical rainforest area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia (AYI) located in South Borneo. Although it has been managed for over 30 years, the information about forest dynamics in this location is still limited, mainly related to vegetation diversity and carbon storage. Therefore, it is essential to provide more comprehensive details on stand dynamics in this area to support better forest management

This study aims to document vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from several compartments of secondary tropical rainforests managed by AYI. This information will help forest manager to determine the forest planning strategy, mainly related to yield regulation and harvesting schedules. Thus, even though it is managed as a production zone, forest regeneration is still maintained and minimizes the risk of biodiversity loss. We hypothesize that: Every compartment has a different value for vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage (i). Higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production and carbon storage (ii). The contribution of non-commercial species on stand productivity is higher than commercial species (iii).

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Study area

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This study was conducted in the secondary tropical rainforest concession area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesial It is situated in Tabalong District, approximately 270 km from Banjarmasin, the capital city of South Borneo province. The geographic coordinates of this area are located in S1°39'-1°40' and E115°29'-115°30'. Altitude ranges from 225 to 470 m above sea level. Land configuration is dominated by hills with a slope level of 15-40%. The average daily temperature is 27.6°C with a minimum of 25.7°C and a maximum of 30.3°C. The mean annual rainfall during the past ten years is 2,589 mm year<sup>-1</sup>, with an average air humidity of 87.6%. The highest rainfall is recorded in November. Dry periods are relatively short, only around two months from July to August. Oxisols and ultisols dominate soil types with high acidity levels.

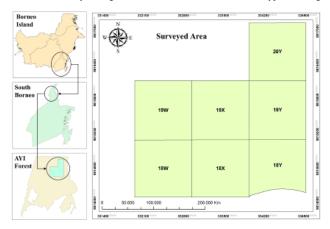


Figure 1. The study area of secondary tropical rainforest in South Borneo

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#### Data collection

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Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven compartments of the secondary tropical rainforest management unit, namely 18W, 18X, 18Y, 19W, 19X, 19Y, and 20Y. The total surveyed area reached 700 ha, with each site 100 ha. To facilitate the measurement process, the field survey was conducted step by step using sub-plots of 20 m x 20 m. These sub-plots were arranged systematically, all trees in compartments could be covered and measured correctly. Four parameters were measured from each tree, i.e., type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. The determination of commercial and non-commercial species was undertaken, referring to the guidance from the company. Tree diameter was measured using a phi band at 1.3 m aboveground, while tree height was quantified using a haga altimeter from aboveground to the top crown. Moreover, the coordinate of trees was also recorded using a global positioning system (GPS).

#### Data analysis

Three indicators were selected to describe vegetation diversity, i.e., richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. Vegetation richness was determined by Margalef Index (R'), while its heterogeneity was quantified using Shannon-Wiener Index (H'). On another side, the evenness of vegetation was assessed by Pielou Evenness Index (E'). Detail equations for calculating those indicators are expressed below (Nugroho et al. 2022):

$$R' = S - 1/\ln(N) \tag{1}$$

$$H' = -\sum (n_i/N) (\ln n_i/N)$$
 (2)

$$E' = H'/ln(S) \tag{3}$$

where S was the number of species observed, N represented the total tree population in each compartment, and  $n_i$ described the sum of trees for each species.

To determine the quantity of timber production, individual tree volume was calculated using the following equation:

$$V = 0.25 \pi \, dbh^2 \, hf \tag{4}$$

where V was tree volume ( $m^3$ ), dbh indicated tree diameter (cm), h represented tree height (m), and f showed a constant of form factor (0.6) (Akossou et al. 2013). Then, the timber production degree was assumed to be the mean stand volume in hectare units. This value could be derived by dividing the total tree volume in a compartment by its area.

The quantification of carbon storage and CO2 absorption were also calculated using a similar principle to timber production. However, we used biomass accumulation as a conversion to compute both parameters. In this context, the individual tree biomass was estimated using a generalized allometric model for secondary tropical rainforest as given (Krisnawati et al. 2012):

$$B = 0.047454dbh^{2.078} (4)$$

B was aboveground biomass (kg), and dbh indicated tree diameter (cm). Next, the carbon stock of each tree was computed by multiplying its biomass with a conversion factor of 0.46 (Latifah et al. 2018), while CO2 absorption was estimated by multiplying carbon stock with a constant of 3.67 (Latifah & Sulistiyono 2013). Then, the result was converted into a hectare unit.

Descriptive analysis was selected to compare the value of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage among different compartments based on the trend of the histogram and the summarized information from the table. Meanwhile, the spatial distribution of three parameters was processed using QGIS. Finally, to evaluate the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity, both in timber production and carbon storage, Pearson correlation analysis was applied with a significant level of 5%.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Vegetation diversity

Results found that vegetation diversity among compartments was substantially different (Table 1). The highest species abundance was recorded in the compartment of 18Y, while the lowest number of species was observed in the compartment of 20Y. Similar trends were also discovered in the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness, wherein the highest value of those indicators was noted in compartment 18Y. These findings directly confirmed our first hypothesis that assumed there was different vegetation diversity between compartments in the study site.

The diversity of vegetation in secondary tropical rainforests was generally caused by the interaction between vegetation and the environment. This process generated natural competition wherein trees compete with each other to obtain sufficient resources to support their survival (Wirabuana et al. 2022b). On another side, environmental variation also became a limiting factor for certain species; thus, it could inhibit several vegetation from growing well (Wang et al. 2019). Consequently, the regeneration capacity of each species in this ecosystem was highly dynamic depending on their adaptation to environmental conditions. Several previous studies also reported similar results wherein the natural regeneration in secondary tropical rainforests was exceptionally dynamics due to the impact of intraspecific and

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interspecific competition between trees for obtaining light, water, nutrients, and space (Barabás et al. 2016, Adler et al. 2018, Yang et al. 2019).

Table 1. Comparison of species abundance, richness, heterogeneity, and evenness among compartments

Compartment	N species	Richness	Heterogeneity	Evenness
18W	32	4.01	1.91	0.55
18X	31	3.79	2.10	0.61
18Y	36	4.43	2.42	0.68
19W	32	3.99	1.96	0.57
19X	30	3.59	1.84	0.54
19Y	31	3.89	1.86	0.54
20Y	4	0.38	0.81	0.58

This study recorded that the heterogeneity of vegetation in the study location was dominated by medium classes with a range of 1.51-3.50 (Table 1) (Hidayat 2013). It was similar to previous studies that documented the secondary tropical rainforests commonly had medium vegetation biodiversity (Siregar and Undaharta 2018, Murdjoko et al. 2021, Tawer et al. 2021). This condition could happen because this site was managed using a selective cutting system; thus, only certain species were maintained to support the ecological function of the forest (Butarbutar 2014). In addition, most trees with a limit diameter of more than 50 cm and having commercial values were harvested to provide better-growing space for younger trees (Matangaran et al. 2019). Therefore, this scheme was expected to stabilize the regeneration capacity of secondary forests without sacrificing its economic benefits.

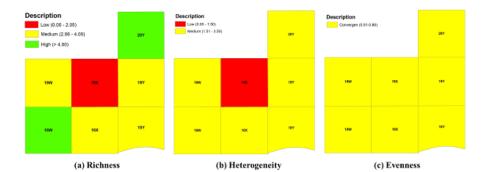


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity in the study site

Our results also indicated that species distribution in the study site was not evenly distributed. It was shown by the evenness index value ranging from 0.54 to 0.68 (Table 1). These outcomes signified that most species in this location grew in groups (Hussain et al. 2012). It was not surprising since Dipterocarpaceae families dominated most species in secondary tropical rainforests. Many studies explained that these families naturally live in groups and have a specific preference for their habitat (Purwaningsih 2004, Hadi et al. 2019, Sari et al. 2019).

According to the results, it was seen that vegetation diversity in the study site was still maintained well. It also implied that the forest management activity in this area fulfills the principle of sustainability by minimizing the risk of biodiversity loss. However, the effort of enrichment planting is required to improve biodiversity in the compartment with low diversity level. This scheme will also facilitate the conservation of native species from the secondary tropical rainforests.

Summarized observation results documented that timber production in the study area ranged from 44.49±1.72 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> to 68.32±2.69 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2). These values were substantially higher than the average productivity of Borneo's natural forests, ranging from 30 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> (KLHK, 2019). Therefore, it indicated that the secondary tropical rainforest in this area had high productivity and could still support industry development. Moreover, this study recorded that the average timber

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 production in each compartment was relatively different, wherein the most increased timber production was found in the compartment of 19Y. These findings also confirmed our first hypothesis that timber production was highly varied between compartments in secondary tropical rainforests.

Table 2. Comparison of timber production, biomass accumulation, carbon storage, and CO2 absorption among compartments

Compartment	Timber production (m <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Biomass accumulation (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Carbon stock (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
18W	44.49±1.72	45.13±2.02	20.76±0.93	76.18±3.40
18X	56.05±2.05	68.35±2.85	31.44±1.31	115.38±4.81
18Y	54.3±2.43	69.25±3.74	31.86±1.73	116.92±6.32
19W	45.56±1.86	48.83±2.42	22.46±1.12	82.44±4.08
19X	54.96±1.55	67.11±2.44	30.87±1.12	113.29±4.11
19Y	68.32±2.69	84.22±3.89	38.74±1.79	142.17±6.56
20Y	50.57±2.30	46.37±2.36	21.33±1.09	78.29±3.98

Interestingly, the compartment of 18Y only occupied the fourth position of the most productivity compartments, even though it had the highest vegetation diversity (Table 2). Our study also did not find a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and timber production (Table 3). It was in contrast to previous studies that documented a substantial effect of vegetation diversity on stand productivity in tropical rainforest ecosystems (Cai et al. 2016, Gevaña et al. 2017, McNicol et al. 2018). These findings rejected our second hypothesis that higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production in the study site. However, several kinds of literature also found a similar outcome to ours wherein there was no significant relationship between vegetation diversity and forest productivity (Belote et al. 2011, Bravo-Oviedo et al. 2021). In this context, forest ecosystems may have diverse patterns regarding the connection between biodiversity and productivity.

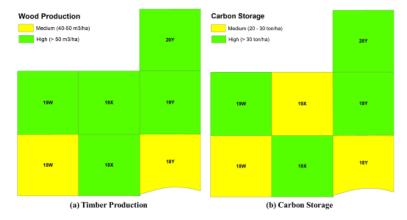


Figure 3. Spatial distribution of timber production and carbon storage in the study site

Table 3. Correlation between diversity indicators and stand productivity parameters

Dimensity managements	Productivity parameter			
Diversity parameter	Timber production	Carbon Storage		
Richness	0.123 <sup>ns</sup>	0.420 <sup>ns</sup>		
Heterogeneity	$0.116^{ns}$	$0.442^{\rm ns}$		
Evenness	-0.056 <sup>ns</sup>	$0.098^{\rm ns}$		

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Forest ecosystems in the study site had high productivity since their vegetation was dominated by trees with a diameter of more than 50 cm (Figure 4). On another side, the frequency of trees with a diameter lower than 20 cm was only around 2%. These indicated there was sufficient stock of timber production for selective cutting. Moreover, the relative contribution of non-commercial species to total timber production was considerably lower than commercial species (Figure 4). It demonstrated that the current standing stock had high economic value. These results confirmed our third hypothesis that commercial species' relative contribution to stand productivity was higher than non-commercial species. Although this site had increased productivity, forest managers should be careful to determine the quantity of annual allowable cutting (AAC) since the implementation of timber extraction can be impacted young trees' regeneration. Most importantly, the process of timber extraction should not harvest trees that generate seeds for maintaining natural regeneration.

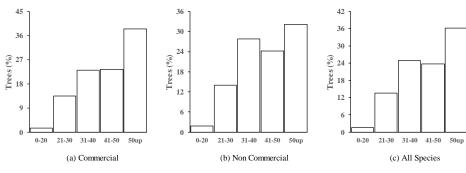


Figure 4. Diameter distribution of tree species in the study site

#### Carbon storage

Carbon storage in each compartment varied, wherein the carbon stock in the study site ranged from  $20.76\pm0.93$  t ha<sup>-1</sup> to  $38.74\pm1.79$  t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 3). The highest  $CO_2$  absorption was recorded in the compartment of 19Y by around  $142.17\pm6.56$  t ha<sup>-1</sup>. In addition, the relative contribution of commercial species on carbons stock was considerably higher than species non-commercial (Figure 4). These findings directly verified our first and third hypotheses in this study. However, similarly to timber production, our study did not find a significant effect of vegetation diversity on carbon storage in this area (Table 3).

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Table 3 is correlation between diversity indicators and stand productivity parameters.

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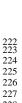
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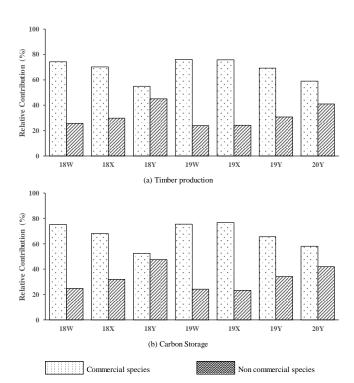


Figure 4. The relative contribution of commercial and non-commercial species on timber production and carbon storage

The accumulation of carbon storage in forest ecosystems has a positive relationship with stand productivity. Higher stand productivity increases carbon stock since it was generated from photosynthesis (Cai et al. 2016, Brancalion et al. 2019, Alam et al. 2022, Wirabuana et al. 2022a). A study reported the average carbon stock in tropical rainforest ecosystems was 51.18 t ha¹ (Butarbutar et al. 2019). This value is higher than carbon storage in the study site. However, this study's carbon stock measurement is still limited to the tree level. We still have not quantified the carbon stock in other life stages like poles, saplings, seedlings, and understorey. Thereby, the actual carbon storage in the study area may be higher than the current estimation. It is also essential for forest managers in the study location to consider the quantity of carbon stock as the additional value of sustainable natural resources management.

#### Implication results

This study concluded that the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems in the study site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage. Furthermore, it indicated that forest managers had applied sustainability principles in the context of operation scale. Nevertheless, some improvements are still required to increase the value of forest management on this site. Besides conducting enrichment planting in the compartment with low biodiversity levels, we also suggest forest managers determine the scheme of yield regulation to minimize forest disturbance due to the impact of harvesting operations. Furthermore, the cutting process has a high potential to decline regeneration capacity since the felled trees will override the younger plants like seedlings and saplings.

We also suggest forest managers identify the distribution of mother trees in their concession area for obtaining seed as plant material in artificial regeneration. The seed collection is also essential to maintain the genetic diversity in this area. On another side, it is also necessary to document the carbon dynamics during the rotation periods, including loss and increment, since it will provide comprehensive information about forest management's effectiveness in tackling the climate change mitigation issue. We also encourage forest managers in this area to share their knowledge with other natural resources managers who fail to manage the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems. It is highly required since forest ecosystems play an essential role in economic development, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. They have a strategic position in hydrological cycles related to food security and natural disaster.

**Commented [A20]:** It should be figure 5 not figure 4

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors address our appreciation to the management of PT Aya Yayang Indonesia, who allows us to conduct this study in their concession forest area. We are also grateful to the Faculty of Forestry, Lambung Mangkurat University, which provides a surveyor team to help with forest inventory. Finally, the authors also thank the anonymous reviewer who offers suggestions to improve this article.

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Subject: Revision and re-submission of manuscript ID 12632

Dear Editor Biodiversitas.

Thank you for your decision e-mail and the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled "Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Borneo". The suggestions offered by the reviewers have immensely helpful to improve our manuscript.

The revisions have been approved by all authors. The changes are demonstrated by green highlight in MS Word. Our response to reviewer's comments have been enclosed below.

We hope the revised manuscript will be better suit to Biodiversitas, but are pleased to consider further revisions. Thank you for your interest in our research.

Sincerely yours, Pandu Yudha Adi Putra Wirabuana

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Response to Reviewer A

Part of Article	Reviewer's Comments	Authors's Response
Abtract	I suggest to use the unit for	The unit of carbon storage has
	carbon storage is t C/ha. If you	been changed into t C ha <sup>-1</sup>
	calculate the biomass, the unit	(Line 22)
	is t/ha (Line 22)	
Introduction	- Please add the citation	- The citation has been added
	(Line 54)	(Line 54)
	- Authors should explain	- The hypothesis test not
	clearly in the materials and	always uses inferential
	methods section on how to test	statistics to examine it. The
	these hypothesis (Line 70-73)	descriptive test is also possible
		to apply. We use descriptive
		test to answer the first and last
		hypothesis while the analysis
		of pearson correlation is
		utilized to answer the second
		hypothesis. We have described
		a clear method how to test the
		hypothesis in the section of
		data analysis. Please see
		"Descriptive analysis was
		selected to compare the value
		of vegetation diversity, timber
26.4	747	production" (Line 117-118)
Methods	- When was the data collection	- Data collection was
	conducted? (Line 76)	conducted from 2021 to 2022.
	- Please use contras color to	Forest inventory was
		undertaken with the intensity sampling of 100% in 700 ha
	show the research site map (Line 86)	area
	(Line 60)	alea
	- Census method but authors	- We think the color for site
	used sub-plots 20 m x 20 m.	map is sufficient because it
	What the authors did, census	only uses to ilustrate the
	method or sampling method?	position of study area
	Or the authors used sampling	<u> </u>
	method but in each sampling	- Forest inventory was carried
	plot used census to measure all	out using census method. We
	vegetation in the sampling	has clearly stated in the first
	plot? (Line 88)	statement. However, since the
		study area is too large, the
	- I guess, the author have used	process of tree measurement
	the uniform systematic	was done step by step with a
	distribution sampling and	subplot 20 m x 20 m. There is
	measured the unit sample	no distance between subplot.
	using census method. Please,	To avoid missunderstanding
	state clearly on the data	we have deleted the statement.
	collection method (Line 91)	(Line 90-91)

	- Is it total tree height or	- No, this research used a
	commercial height? (Line 105)	cencus method. We have
		deleted a confusing statement
	- I suggest to use the	about forest inventory method
	terminology of percentage	(Line 90-91)
	carbon content (PCC) than	
	conversion factor. In general,	- It is total tree height
	the total carbon is dry-weight	(Line 103)
	biomass multiply with	
	percentage carbon content	- We have changed into a
	(Line 114)	percentage carbon content
	(2116 111)	(Line 112)
Results and Discussion	- I suggest the authors to pay	- Yes, we also still curious
	attention on compartment 20Y.	about this compartment.
	Why the number of species is	Further investigation will be
	4? While in other	planned to explore this
	compartments the species	information (Line 124-128)
	more than 30 (Line 124-128)	
		- We classify the value of
	- Please state in the data	biodiversity parameters
	analysis section on how	referring to the literatures. This
	authors classified biodiversity	explanation has been added in
	indices into low, medium,	the article (Line 118-121)
	high. It also will useful to	the article (Effic 110-121)
	_	The descification of wood
	explain the figure 2. whree the authors have made	- The classification of wood
		production and carbon storage
	classification also (Line 144-	was determined referring to
	145)	the literatures. We also add the
	Harris de la constant	explanation in the method
	- How you classifying the	(Line 118-121)
	wood production and carbon	747 1 11.0 1
	storage into medium and high?	- We have add the explanation
	Please state your approach on	about the relative contribution
	data analysis section to	of commercial and non
	classification the wood	commercial species based on
	production and carbon storage	the information from Figure 4
	(Line 194)	and Figure 4 (Line 221-222)
	- I suggest to add an	- We have re-checked it and
	explanation for figure 5 that	make a revision (Line 219)
	relative contribution of	make a revision (Line 217)
		- We have re-checked it and
	commercial species on carbon	
	storage higher than non-	make revision (Line 221)
	commercial species based on	IATo book the learnest and the land
	your finding on diameter	- We test the hypothesis based
	distribution in the figure 4	on the trend of value obtained
	(Line 215)	from the descriptive test. The
		analysis of table 2 was
	- Please re-check, table 3 or	calculated by dividing the
	table 2? Table 3 is correlation	productivity with the area of

between diversity indicators

compartment. We did not use

and stand productivity	an inferential statistic since our
parameters. (Line 217)	hypothesis did not state a
	significant different but only
- Please check again. Figure 4 is	different value.
diameter distribution of tree	
species in the study site. Figure	- We have changed it for
4 does not explain about	Figure 5 (Line 221)
relative contribution of	118410 0 (21110 221)
commercial species on carbon	
stock (Line 219)	
Stock (Line 217)	
- How author test the	
hypotheses 1? Refer to table 2, I	
can not see the difference on	
timber production and carbon	
storage for each compartment.	
How author analyze the table 2	
to get the conclusion that your	
findings have been verified for	
the first hypotheses? (Line 219)	
- It should be figure 5 not	
figure 4 (Line 223)	

Response to Reviewer J

Part of Article	Reviewer's Comments	Authors's Response
Abtract	Timber production may or	Yes, it is also become a good
	may not lead to long-term	question for the next research
	carbon storage (Line 25)	about stand dynamics. We
		have placed permanent
		sampling plots here to monitor
		the change of forest stand in
		long-term periods
Methods	- What is the history of the site?	- We highly apologize there is
	How long ago was it last	not sufficient information
	logged? Logged for how many	about this question. We have
	times? How was it logged?	tried to ask with forest
	(Line 75)	manager but they also did not
		about it because there are
	- Why only these	many staff rotation since the
	compartments? What are the	company has been operating.
	operations happening in these	
	compartments? (Line 89)	- We only have a permission to
		survey in these compartments
	- What is the minimum tree	since it will be managed for 10
	size measured? (Line 94)	years based on the forest
		planning strategies from the
		company.
		- The most minimum tree size
		is 15 cm in diameter at breast

		height and 15 cm at total tree
		height
Results and Discussion	- I would like to see the species	- We have used those data to
	list, density, and basal area	write other manuscripts that
	contribution (Line 123)	still considered, so that it can
		not be added here.
	- Without a baseline, without a	
	reference to primary forest, it is	- It is also difficult to find the
	hard to see if this statement is	baseline since there is not
	true (Line 164)	sufficient information about
		the stand characteristics of
	- How does this translate into	primary forest in this area
	rotation cycles? (Line 206-207)	
		- Annual Allowable Cutting
		refers to the sum of stand
		volume that can be harvested
		in each year. Therefore, change
		this term to rotation cylces is
		not correct

# Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Borneo

**Abstract.** Sustainable management in secondary tropical rainforests requires basic information about stand characteristics, mainly related to productivity and biodiversity. This study aimed to quantify vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from various sites of secondary forests in South Borneo. Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven different natural forest management unit compartments. Four parameters were measured from each tree, including the type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. Individual tree volume and biomass were estimated using allometric equations, while carbon storage was determined using a conversion factor from biomass. Three indicators were used to evaluate vegetation diversity: richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. The analysis of correlations was applied to examine the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity with a significant level of 5%. Results found that there were 41 tree species in the study site comprising 20 commercial and 21 non-commercial species. The highest richness (R') was recorded in compartment 18X by approximately 4.0, while the most increased heterogeneity (H') and evenness (E') were observed in compartment 18Y by around 2.4 and 0.7, respectively. The accumulation of timber production varied in each site, with a range of 45.46-68.32 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup>. The highest carbon storage was noted in compartment 19Y  $(38.74\pm1.79 \text{ t C ha}^{-1})$ , while the lowest was found in compartment 18W  $(20.76\pm0.93 \text{ t C ha}^{-1})$ . The relative contribution of commercial species to timber production and carbon storage was substantially higher than non-commercial species at all sites. However, there was not a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and stand productivity (P > 0.05). Overall, our study concluded that the secondary tropical forest ecosystems in the site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage.

**Keywords:** biodiversity, ecosystems, inventory, natural forest, productivity

Running title: Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity

28 INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and economic development are essential issues in sustainable forest management, particularly in Indonesia. In this context, the management of forests is expected to stabilize wood supplies for commercial industries, support species conservation, and reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere (Wirabuana et al. 2021b). To tackle these challenges, information about stand dynamics is required as baseline considerations to determine alternative forest management strategies (Pretzsch et al. 2014). It is related to timber production and includes vegetation diversity and carbon storage.

In general, the quantity of timber production will provide adequate information about the economic value of the forest and its capacity for supporting industry viability (Simmons et al. 2021). It also determines the maximum annual allowable cutting from the forest ecosystem (Asamoah et al., 2020). The number of timber production also describes the regeneration stock from different life stages of trees to maintain business sustainability (Zambiazi et al. 2021). Meanwhile, vegetation diversity information indicates the stability of environmental health and forest ecosystems (Pan et al. 2018). It also shows how many species live in the forest and their relative contribution to ecological functions (Matatula et al. 2021). The vegetation diversity can also be used to understand the natural competition in the ecosystems (Duan et al. 2021). On another side, the accumulation of carbon storage indicates the ability of the forest ecosystem to support climate change mitigation, primarily for reducing carbon emissions (Sadono et al. 2021a). Many studies explain forest vegetation generally absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> through the photosynthesis process. First, it converts it into biomass (Sasaki et al. 2016, Ma et al. 2017, Kocurek et al. 2020, Wirabuana et al. 2020, Sadono et al. 2021b, Setiahadi 2021). Then, the biomass will be distributed in components like roots, stems, branches, and foliage (Poorter et al. 2012, Yue et al. 2018, Altanzagas et al. 2019, Wirabuana et al. 2021a). Higher biomass indicates excellent carbon storage wherein the carbon absorption in forests will increase along with vegetation age (Arora et al. 2014). Another study report the critical role of vegetation on carbon absorption is also a part of the balance in biogeochemical cycles (Taillardat et al. 2018). To collect this information, forest

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inventory is necessary to support forest managers in monitoring the stand dynamics in each forest ecosystem, including secondary tropical rainforest (STR).

Before the 1990s, STR played an essential role in economic development. It provided wood materials for forest industries like furniture, veneer, and plywood. STR also occupied the second position of important sectors contributing to country revenue (KLHK, 2015). However, the occurrence of deforestation has declined its contribution significantly to the gross domestic product. Most STR currently have low productivity and high biodiversity loss (Gaveau et al. 2014). To anticipate this condition, the government has conducted the effort of reforestation to recover forest productivity and prevent vegetation extinction. However, this program is not easy to implement because STR commonly has high variation in land configuration with low accessibility (Wardhana et al. 2020).

Moreover, soil quality in these sites is also dominated by mature soil with low fertility, like oxisols and ultisols (Fujii et al. 2018). Therefore, it causes the low survival rate of vegetation generated from the reforestation program. Nevertheless, several concession areas of STR still exist and maintain their functions for economic development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. One of them is a secondary tropical rainforest area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia (AYI) located in South Borneo. Although it has been managed for over 30 years, the information about forest dynamics in this location is still limited, mainly related to vegetation diversity and carbon storage. Therefore, it is essential to provide more comprehensive details on stand dynamics in this area to support better forest management efforts.

This study aims to document vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage from several compartments of secondary tropical rainforests managed by AYI. This information will help forest manager to determine the forest planning strategy, mainly related to yield regulation and harvesting schedules. Thus, even though it is managed as a production zone, forest regeneration is still maintained and minimizes the risk of biodiversity loss. We hypothesize that: Every compartment has a different value for vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage (i). Higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production and carbon storage (ii). The contribution of non-commercial species on stand productivity is higher than commercial species (iii).

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Study area

This study was conducted in the secondary tropical rainforest concession area managed by PT Aya Yayang Indonesia. It is situated in Tabalong District, approximately 270 km from Banjarmasin, the capital city of South Borneo province. The geographic coordinates of this area are located in S1°39'-1°40' and E115°29'-115°30'. Altitude ranges from 225 to 470 m above sea level. Land configuration is dominated by hills with a slope level of 15-40%. The average daily temperature is 27.6°C with a minimum of 25.7°C and a maximum of 30.3°C. The mean annual rainfall during the past ten years is 2,589 mm year<sup>-1</sup>, with an average air humidity of 87.6%. The highest rainfall is recorded in November. Dry periods are relatively short, only around two months from July to August. Oxisols and ultisols dominate soil types with high acidity levels.

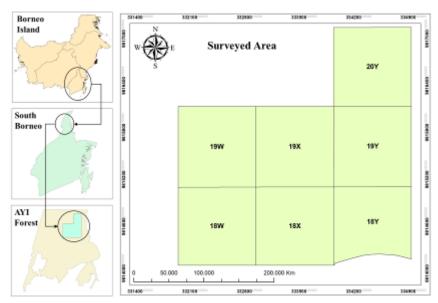


Figure 1. The study area of secondary tropical rainforest in South Borneo

#### **Data collection**

Forest inventory was conducted using a census method at seven compartments of the secondary tropical rainforest management unit, namely 18W, 18X, 18Y, 19W, 19X, 19Y, and 20Y. The total surveyed area reached 700 ha, with each site 100 ha. All trees in compartments could be covered and measured correctly. Four parameters were measured from each tree, i.e., type of species, commercial categories, tree diameter, and tree height. The determination of commercial and non-commercial species was undertaken, referring to the guidance from the company. Tree diameter was measured using a phi band at 1.3 m aboveground, while tree height was quantified using a haga altimeter from aboveground to the top crown. Moreover, the coordinate of trees was also recorded using a global positioning system (GPS).

#### Data analysis

Three indicators were selected to describe vegetation diversity, i.e., richness, heterogeneity, and evenness. Vegetation richness was determined by Margalef Index (R'), while its heterogeneity was quantified using Shannon-Wiener Index (H'). On another side, the evenness of vegetation was assessed by Pielou Evenness Index (E'). Detail equations for calculating those indicators are expressed below (Nugroho et al. 2022):

$$R' = S - 1/\ln(N) \tag{1}$$

$$H' = -\sum (n_i/N) (\ln n_i/N)$$
 (2)

$$E' = H'/ln(S) \tag{3}$$

where S was the number of species observed, N represented the total tree population in each compartment, and  $n_i$  described the sum of trees for each species.

To determine the quantity of timber production, individual tree volume was calculated using the following equation:

$$V = 0.25 \pi \, dbh^2 \, h \, f \tag{4}$$

where V was tree volume (m<sup>3</sup>), dbh indicated tree diameter (cm), h represented total tree height (m), and f showed a constant of form factor (0.6) (Akossou et al. 2013). Then, the timber production degree was assumed to be the mean stand volume in hectare units. This value could be derived by dividing the total tree volume in a compartment by its area.

The quantification of carbon storage and CO<sub>2</sub> absorption were also calculated using a similar principle to timber production. However, we used biomass accumulation as a conversion to compute both parameters. In this context, the individual tree biomass was estimated using a generalized allometric model for secondary tropical rainforest as given (Krisnawati et al. 2012):

$$B = 0.047454dbh^{2.078} \tag{4}$$

B was aboveground biomass (kg), and dbh indicated tree diameter (cm). Next, the carbon stock of each tree was computed by multiplying its biomass with a percentage carbon content of 0.46 (Latifah et al. 2018), while  $CO_2$  absorption was estimated by multiplying carbon stock with a constant of 3.67 (Latifah & Sulistiyono 2013). Then, the result was converted into a hectare unit.

Descriptive analysis was selected to compare the value of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage among different compartments based on the trend of the histogram and the summarized information from the table. Meanwhile, the spatial distribution of three parameters was processed using QGIS. The diversity of vegetation including richness, heteogeneity, and evenness was categorized referring to the classification of ecological indices by Hussain et al (2012). The quantity of timber production was classified into three categories, i.e. low (< 40 m³ ha⁻¹), medium (40-50 m³ ha⁻¹), and high (> 50 m³ ha⁻¹). We also stratified the carbon storage into three classes, namely low (< 20 t C ha⁻¹), medium (20-30 t C ha⁻¹), and high (> 30 t C ha⁻¹). Finally, to evaluate the relationship between vegetation diversity and stand productivity, both in timber production and carbon storage, Pearson correlation analysis was applied with a significant level of 5%.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### **Vegetation diversity**

Results found that vegetation diversity among compartments was substantially different (Table 1). The highest species abundance was recorded in the compartment of 18Y, while the lowest number of species was observed in the compartment of 20Y. Similar trends were also discovered in the richness, heterogeneity, and evenness, wherein the highest value of those indicators was noted in compartment 18Y. These findings directly confirmed our first hypothesis that assumed there was different vegetation diversity between compartments in the study site.

The diversity of vegetation in secondary tropical rainforests was generally caused by the interaction between vegetation and the environment. This process generated natural competition wherein trees compete with each other to obtain sufficient resources to support their survival (Wirabuana et al. 2022b). On another side, environmental variation also became a limiting factor for certain species; thus, it could inhibit several vegetation from growing well (Wang et al. 2019). Consequently, the regeneration capacity of each species in this ecosystem was highly dynamic depending on their adaptation to environmental conditions. Several previous studies also reported similar results wherein the natural

regeneration in secondary tropical rainforests was exceptionally dynamics due to the impact of intraspecific and interspecific competition between trees for obtaining light, water, nutrients, and space (Barabás et al. 2016, Adler et al. 2018, Yang et al. 2019).

Table 1. Comparison of species abundance, richness, heterogeneity, and evenness among compartments

Compartment	N species	Richness	Heterogeneity	Evenness
18W	32	4.01	1.91	0.55
18X	31	3.79	2.10	0.61
18Y	36	4.43	2.42	0.68
19W	32	3.99	1.96	0.57
19X	30	3.59	1.84	0.54
19Y	31	3.89	1.86	0.54
20Y	4	0.38	0.81	0.58

This study recorded that the heterogeneity of vegetation in the study location was dominated by medium classes with a range of 1.51–3.50 (Table 1) (Hidayat 2013). It was similar to previous studies that documented the secondary tropical rainforests commonly had medium vegetation biodiversity (Siregar and Undaharta 2018, Murdjoko et al. 2021, Tawer et al. 2021). This condition could happen because this site was managed using a selective cutting system; thus, only certain species were maintained to support the ecological function of the forest (Butarbutar 2014). In addition, most trees with a limit diameter of more than 50 cm and having commercial values were harvested to provide better-growing space for younger trees (Matangaran et al. 2019). Therefore, this scheme was expected to stabilize the regeneration capacity of secondary forests without sacrificing its economic benefits.

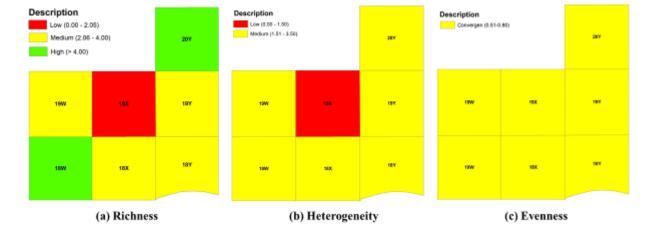


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity in the study site

Our results also indicated that species distribution in the study site was not evenly distributed. It was shown by the evenness index value ranging from 0.54 to 0.68 (Table 1). These outcomes signified that most species in this location grew in groups (Hussain et al. 2012). It was not surprising since Dipterocarpaceae families dominated most species in secondary tropical rainforests. Many studies explained that these families naturally live in groups and have a specific preference for their habitat (Purwaningsih 2004, Hadi et al. 2019, Sari et al. 2019).

According to the results, it was seen that vegetation diversity in the study site was still maintained well. It also implied that the forest management activity in this area fulfills the principle of sustainability by minimizing the risk of biodiversity loss. However, the effort of enrichment planting is required to improve biodiversity in the compartment with low diversity level. This scheme will also facilitate the conservation of native species from the secondary tropical rainforests.

#### **Timber production**

Summarized observation results documented that timber production in the study area ranged from 44.49±1.72 m³ ha⁻¹ to 68.32±2.69 m³ ha⁻¹ (Table 2). These values were substantially higher than the average productivity of Borneo's natural forests, ranging from 30 m³ ha⁻¹ (KLHK, 2019). Therefore, it indicated that the secondary tropical rainforest in this area

had high productivity and could still support industry development. Moreover, this study recorded that the average timber production in each compartment was relatively different, wherein the most increased timber production was found in the compartment of 19Y. These findings also confirmed our first hypothesis that timber production was highly varied between compartments in secondary tropical rainforests.

Table 2. Comparison of timber production, biomass accumulation, carbon storage, and CO2 absorption among compartments

Compartment	Timber production (m³ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Biomass accumulation (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Carbon stock (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
18W	44.49±1.72	45.13±2.02	20.76±0.93	76.18±3.40
18X	$56.05\pm2.05$	68.35±2.85	31.44±1.31	$115.38\pm4.81$
18Y	54.3±2.43	69.25±3.74	31.86±1.73	116.92±6.32
19W	45.56±1.86	48.83±2.42	22.46±1.12	82.44±4.08
19X	54.96±1.55	67.11±2.44	30.87±1.12	113.29±4.11
19Y	68.32±2.69	84.22±3.89	38.74±1.79	142.17±6.56
20Y	50.57±2.30	46.37±2.36	21.33±1.09	78.29±3.98

Interestingly, the compartment of 18Y only occupied the fourth position of the most productivity compartments, even though it had the highest vegetation diversity (Table 2). Our study also did not find a significant correlation between vegetation diversity and timber production (Table 3). It was in contrast to previous studies that documented a substantial effect of vegetation diversity on stand productivity in tropical rainforest ecosystems (Cai et al. 2016, Gevaña et al. 2017, McNicol et al. 2018). These findings rejected our second hypothesis that higher vegetation diversity significantly increases timber production in the study site. However, several kinds of literature also found a similar outcome to ours wherein there was no significant relationship between vegetation diversity and forest productivity (Belote et al. 2011, Bravo-Oviedo et al. 2021). In this context, forest ecosystems may have diverse patterns regarding the connection between biodiversity and productivity.

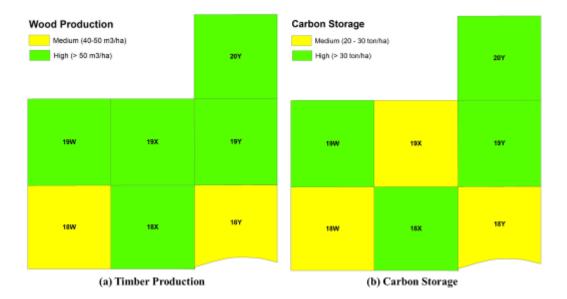


Figure 3. Spatial distribution of timber production and carbon storage in the study site

**Table 3.** Correlation between diversity indicators and stand productivity parameters

Diversity parameter	Productivity parameter		
	Timber production	Carbon Storage	
Richness	0.123 <sup>ns</sup>	0.420 <sup>ns</sup>	
Heterogeneity	$0.116^{\rm ns}$	0.442 <sup>ns</sup>	
Evenness	-0.056 <sup>ns</sup>	$0.098^{\mathrm{ns}}$	

Forest ecosystems in the study site had high productivity since their vegetation was dominated by trees with a diameter of more than 50 cm (Figure 4). On another side, the frequency of trees with a diameter lower than 20 cm was only around 2%. These indicated there was sufficient stock of timber production for selective cutting. Moreover, the relative contribution of non-commercial species to total timber production was considerably lower than commercial species (Figure 4). It demonstrated that the current standing stock had high economic value. These results confirmed our third hypothesis that commercial species' relative contribution to stand productivity was higher than non-commercial species. Although this site had increased productivity, forest managers should be careful to determine the quantity of annual allowable cutting (AAC) since the implementation of timber extraction can be impacted young trees' regeneration. Most importantly, the process of timber extraction should not harvest trees that generate seeds for maintaining natural regeneration.

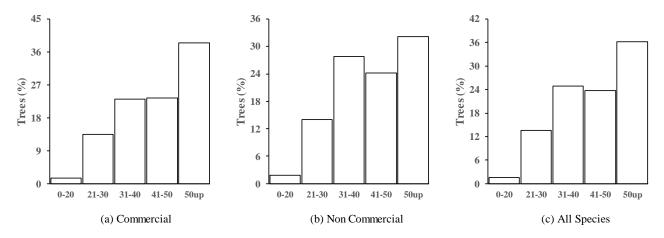


Figure 4. Diameter distribution of tree species in the study site

#### Carbon storage

Carbon storage in each compartment varied, wherein the carbon stock in the study site ranged from 20.76±0.93 t ha<sup>-1</sup> to 38.74±1.79 t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2). The highest CO<sub>2</sub> absorption was recorded in the compartment of 19Y by around 142.17±6.56 t ha<sup>-1</sup>. In addition, the relative contribution of commercial species on carbons stock was considerably higher than species non-commercial (Figure 5). It was possible since the percentage of trees with diameter more than 50 cm in commercial species higher than species non-commercial (Figure 4). These findings directly verified our first and third hypotheses in this study. However, similarly to timber production, our study did not find a significant effect of vegetation diversity on carbon storage in this area (Table 3).

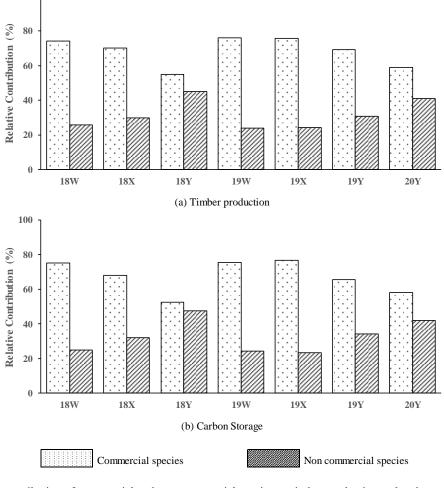


Figure 5. The relative contribution of commercial and non-commercial species on timber production and carbon storage

The accumulation of carbon storage in forest ecosystems has a positive relationship with stand productivity. Higher stand productivity increases carbon stock since it was generated from photosynthesis (Cai et al. 2016, Brancalion et al. 2019, Alam et al. 2022, Wirabuana et al. 2022a). A study reported the average carbon stock in tropical rainforest ecosystems was 51.18 t ha<sup>-1</sup> (Butarbutar et al. 2019). This value is higher than carbon storage in the study site. However, this study's carbon stock measurement is still limited to the tree level. We still have not quantified the carbon stock in other life stages like poles, saplings, seedlings, and understorey. Thereby, the actual carbon storage in the study area may be higher than the current estimation. It is also essential for forest managers in the study location to consider the quantity of carbon stock as the additional value of sustainable natural resources management.

#### **Implication results**

 This study concluded that the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems in the study site had good vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage. Furthermore, it indicated that forest managers had applied sustainability principles in the context of operation scale. Nevertheless, some improvements are still required to increase the value of forest management on this site. Besides conducting enrichment planting in the compartment with low biodiversity levels, we also suggest forest managers determine the scheme of yield regulation to minimize forest disturbance due to the impact of harvesting operations. Furthermore, the cutting process has a high potential to decline regeneration capacity since the felled trees will override the younger plants like seedlings and saplings.

We also suggest forest managers identify the distribution of mother trees in their concession area for obtaining seed as plant material in artificial regeneration. The seed collection is also essential to maintain the genetic diversity in this area. On another side, it is also necessary to document the carbon dynamics during the rotation periods, including loss and increment, since it will provide comprehensive information about forest management's effectiveness in tackling the climate change mitigation issue. We also encourage forest managers in this area to share their knowledge with other natural resources managers who fail to manage the secondary tropical rainforest ecosystems. It is highly required since forest ecosystems play an essential role in economic development, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. They have a strategic position in hydrological cycles related to food security and natural disaster.

The authors address our appreciation to the management of PT Aya Yayang Indonesia, who allows us to conduct this study in their concession forest area. We are also grateful to the Faculty of Forestry, Lambung Mangkurat University, which provides a surveyor team to help with forest inventory. Finally, the authors also thank the anonymous reviewer who offers suggestions to improve this article.

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## [biodiv] Editor Decision

Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity

1 message

Nor Liza <support@mail.smujo.id> Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:37 PM To: SUYANTO <author@smujo.id>, PANDU YUDHA ADI PUTRA WIRABUANA <pandu.yudha.a.p@ugm.ac.id>

SUYANTO, YUSANTO NUGROHO, MOEHAR MARAGHIY HARAHAP, LIA KUSUMANINGRUM, PANDU YUDHA ADI PUTRA WIRABUANA:

We have reached a decision regarding your submission to Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity, "Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Kalimantan, Indonesia".

Our decision is to: Accept Submission						



Source type: Journal

Q ==

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**①** 

## Source details

ISSN: 1412-033X E-ISSN: 2085-4722

Biodiversitas

Open Access ①

Scopus coverage years: from 2014 to Present

Publisher: Biology department, Sebelas Maret University Surakarta

Subject area: (Agricultural and Biological Sciences: Animal Science and Zoology) (Agricultural and Biological Sciences: Plant Science)

Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Molecular Biology

CiteScore CiteScore rank & trend Scopus content coverage

Journal of Integrative Plant Biology

→ Export content for category

CiteScore 2021

1.7

SJR 2021

0.290

SNIP 2021

0.945

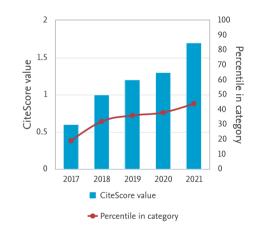
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¥	482	Biodiversitas	1.7	44th percentile
☆	Rank	Source title	CiteScore 2021	Percentile
☆	#1	Annual Review of Plant Biology	38.3	99th percentile
☆	#2	Trends in Plant Science	28.4	99th percentile
☆	#3	Annual Review of Phytopathology	23.7	99th percentile
☆	#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

11.8

97th percentile

## CiteScore trend



☆	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
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\square}$	#233	Biologia (Poland)	2.1	51st percentile
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\square}$	#234	Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	2.1	51st percentile
$\Rightarrow$	#235	Blumea: Journal of Plant Taxonomy and Plant Geography	2.0	51st percentile
☆	#236	Pakistan Journal of Botany	2.0	51st percentile
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\square}$	#237	Mediterranean Botany	2.0	50th percentile
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\square}$	#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
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\square}$	#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
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☆	#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
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☆	#366	Indian Journal of Biotechnology	1.0	23rd percentile
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☆	#370	Acta Horticulturae Sinica	1.0	23rd percentile
☆	#371	Plant Stress	1.0	23rd percentile
☆	#372	Journal of Advanced Biotechnology and Experimental Therapeutics	1.0	22nd percentile
☆	#373	Asian Journal of Plant Sciences	1.0	22nd percentile
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☆	#394	Acta Biologica Sibirica	0.8	18th percentile
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☆	#438	Proceedings on Applied Botany, Genetics and Breeding	0.4	9th percentile
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☆	#441	Arab Journal of Plant Protection	0.4	8th percentile
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☆	#462	Indian Journal of Nematology	0.2	4th percentile
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☆	#467	Bio-protocol	0.2	3rd percentile
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☆	#470	Ratarstvo i Povrtarstvo	0.1	2nd percentile
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☆	#478	Kitaibelia	0.0	0th percentile
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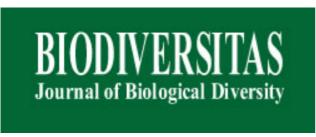
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#### ISSN 1412-033X | E-ISSN 2085-4722

**PUBLISHER:** Society for Indonesian Biodiversity

**CO-PUBLISHER:** Department of Biology, FMNS, Sebelas Maret University

Surakarta

FIRST PUBLISHED: 2000

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