

Assessment of species diversity, biomass and carbon stock of mangrove forests on Belitung Island, Indonesia

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Abstract. Henri, Farhaby AM, Supratman O, Adi W, Febrianto S. 2024. Assessment of species diversity, biomass and carbon stock of mangrove forests on Belitung Island, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas* 25: 21-29. Mangroves are highly productive ecosystems that provide important ecosystem services for people and nature, including climate change mitigation. This study analyzed species diversity, biomass value, and estimated carbon stocks in mangrove forest ecosystems on Belitung Island, Indonesia. The data collection method is carried out by creating a linear plot consisting of several circular subplots. Data analysis was carried out to determine the frequency, density, important value index, biomass (above-ground and below-ground biomass), and carbon content. The results of research on mangrove ecosystems on Belitung Island obtained ten species of mangroves dominated by *Rhizophora apiculata* Blume found in all research sites. The density of mangroves in the four locations (>1,500 trees/ha) is very dense. In contrast, the location in Juru Seberang (1,349 trees/ha) is categorized as moderate because it is the location of previous reforestation. *Rhizophora apiculata* has an important value index at the tree (161.24%) and sapling (149.24%) levels. Mangroves on Belitung Island have a total biomass value (225.08 t ha⁻¹), estimated carbon content (112.54 t C ha⁻¹), and carbon dioxide (CO₂) absorption of 413.02 t CO₂ ha⁻¹. Sustainable coastal ecosystem management can significantly reduce carbon emissions from the land use sector and maintain ecosystem services in these coastal habitats, considering Belitung Island as one of the archipelago areas.

Keywords: Belitung Island, biomass, carbon stock, mangrove, species diversity

INTRODUCTION

Mangrove forests are one of the ecosystems with high biodiversity (Lee et al. 2014) whose ecological habitats are found in bays, estuaries, lagoons, and along tidal zones of coastal areas (Mukherjee et al. 2014; Thomas et al. 2017; Bunting et al. 2018). Mangroves have a role in coastal ecological protection, including mitigating storm damage, stabilizing sediments, maintaining water quality, filtering pollutants (Passos et al. 2022; Strain et al. 2022), and providing various ecosystem services (Choi et al. 2022). The mangrove habitat is currently declining at an alarming rate of 1-2% per year, with 20-35% of global mangrove area lost over the past 50 years due to deforestation and land exploitation, as well as sea level rise and erosion (Alongi 2015; Goldberg et al. 2020).

Although mangrove forests only occupy 0.5% of the world's coastal areas, they can contribute 10-15% of total carbon and play an important role in soil carbon flux (Alongi 2014; Ouyang and Lee 2020). Mangroves are highly productive and have significant carbon storage capacity, while the soil in them has the potential to store more than 90% of carbon (Hapsari et al. 2020). Mangroves, together with seagrass and salt marsh ecosystems, are currently known as blue carbon ecosystems, which have recently been recognized for their carbon sequestration

value as nature-based solutions to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change (Murphy et al. 2023). Blue carbon implies carbon storage in aquatic plants, soil, and sediments. In addition, biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation have been widely recognized (Lai et al. 2022).

Southeast Asia is a strategic area for mangrove ecosystems because of its natural conditions that support the development of mangrove ecosystems, making this area has the highest area and diversity of mangrove species in the world (Daru et al. 2013). Indonesia is one of the Southeast Asian countries that has recently actively enacted several blue carbon policies and has established a new body responsible for mangrove restoration, with an ambitious mangrove restoration target of 600,000 ha by 2024 (Sidik et al. 2023). Based on national mangrove mapping in 2021, the existing mangrove area in Indonesia is ±2,264,080 ha, and the potential area of mangrove habitat is ±756,183 ha.

Mangrove ecosystems exist in the category of sparse, medium, or dense. This can be observed from the vegetation structure, which is determined by species diversity, the relative density of constituent species, the overall density of stands, the base area representing the size of plant stems, and their height. The vegetation structure indicates its functional capacity, influencing global climate change due

to its high carbon sequestration potential (Sahu and Kathiresan 2019). Several studies have analyzed mangrove distribution based on optimal zoning factors (Yuvaraj et al. 2017), and other studies have considered the optimal carbon content of land in existing mangrove areas (Byrd et al. 2018). This ecosystem stores high-value carbon in the soil, above-ground, and below-ground biomass (Cuc and Hien 2021). Carbon emissions and mangrove structure require horizontal and vertical heterogeneity measurements, ecosystem biomass calculations, and mangrove area and change measurements (Wong et al. 2020).

Several studies have inventoried and estimated mangrove biomass and carbon storage to improve understanding of ecosystem functions and services (Siteo et al. 2014; Njana 2020; Rahman et al. 2021). Studies regarding mangroves on Belitung Island have been carried out, including regarding the diversity and distribution of mangroves in the small islands area of Manggar Sub-district, East Belitung District (Ridho et al. 2015), the condition of the mangrove ecosystem on Sebongkok Island (Akhrianti 2016), the composition and density of mangroves in the cluster Memporang Island (Aliviyanti et al. 2020) and diversity and zonation of mangrove flora in Belitung Island (Irawan et al. 2021). Besides that, there is also related research analysis of mangrove litter production and carbon stock in Sukamandi Village, East Belitung District (Farhaby et al. 2023). The existence of mangroves in Bangka Belitung is essential because as an archipelago area, effective conservation is needed to protect, restore, and preserve the remaining mangrove areas (Sari et al. 2023). This study assessed species diversity and above- and below-ground biomass and carbon stocks in the mangrove forests of Belitung Island. The topic is of large scientific and management interest, considering that Indonesia has the largest mangrove areas in the world (22.6%). Therefore, assessing the diversity of mangrove vegetation is undoubtedly important because it will impact estimating the value of mangrove biomass and carbon, especially mangroves on Belitung Island in a sustainable manner.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Location and time of research

This research was conducted on Belitung Island, Bangka Belitung Islands Province, Indonesia, divided into five research location villages: Juru Seberang, Sukamandi, Sijuk, Terong, and Air Saga (Figure 1). The study was conducted for three months, from July to September 2023.

Procedures data collection

Vegetation structure

The research's sampling plot was linear (Figure 2), consisting of several circular subplots covering an area of 0.15 ha arranged perpendicular to the edge of the mangrove forest. Each plot carried out measurement activities for the diameter and height of trees and identification of the type of tree being measured. In this design, circular plots are established perpendicular to the marine-mangrove ecotone, with the first plot established 15 m inland from this ecotone. The circular plots are relatively easy to establish and efficient to measure. This circular plot is 14 meters in diameter ($r = 7$ m; $A = 153.9$ m²) to inventory smaller trees and circles with a diameter of 2 meters to inventory saplings and poles. Wood debris is measured in four planar intersect transects per plot. Soil samples of depth, bulk density, and carbon concentration are collected at prescribed depths near the center of each plot. Suppose an abundance of very large trees is present (e.g., >50 cm diameter at breast height [dbh]). In that case, this size class can be further measured in a 40 × 125 m (0.5 ha) rectangular plot surrounding the sampler circular plots (see Figure 2) (Donato et al. 2011).

Tree biomass estimation

The tree species on each plot were recorded and measured at chest level diameter (1.3 m above ground level or 30 cm above the highest fulcrum for root-rooted species such as *Rhizophora* spp.). Since no specific allometric equations were published at the study site, the published allometric equations were used to calculate the above-ground and below-ground biomass of each tree using allometric equations, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Biomass allometric equations and wood density values used in the study

Mangrove species	Above-Ground Biomass (AGB) (kg)	Below-Ground Biomass (BGB) (kg)	References	Wood density (g/cm ³)
<i>Avicennia marina</i> (Forssk.) Vierh.	Biomass = $0.308 \cdot dbh^{2.11}$	Biomass = $1.28 \cdot dbh^{1.17}$	(Comley and McGuinness 2005)	0.74 ^a
<i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i> (L.) Lam.	Biomass = $0.186 \cdot dbh^{2.31}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Clough and Scott 1989; Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.85 ^b
<i>Ceriops decandra</i> (Griff.) Ding Hou	Biomass = $0.251 \cdot \rho \cdot dbh^{2.46}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.89 ^b
<i>Ceriops tagal</i> (Perr.) C.B.Rob.	Biomass = $0.251 \cdot \rho \cdot dbh^{2.46}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.89 ^b
<i>Lumnitzera littorea</i> (Jack) Voigt	Biomass = $0.251 \cdot \rho \cdot dbh^{2.46}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.88 ^a
<i>Rhizophora apiculata</i> Blume	Biomass = $0.235 \cdot dbh^{2.42}$	Biomass = $0.00698 \cdot dbh^{2.61}$	(Ong et al. 2004)	0.98 ^b
<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> Lam.	Biomass = $0.235 \cdot dbh^{2.42}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Ong et al. 2004)	0.98 ^b
<i>Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea</i> C.F.Gaertn.	Biomass = $0.251 \cdot \rho \cdot dbh^{2.46}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.68 ^c
<i>Sonneratia alba</i> Sm.	Biomass = $0.251 \cdot \rho \cdot dbh^{2.46}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.83 ^b
<i>Xylocarpus granatum</i> J.Koenig	Biomass = $0.251 \cdot \rho \cdot dbh^{2.46}$	Biomass = $0.199 \cdot \rho^{0.899} \cdot dbh^{2.22}$	(Komiyama et al. 2005)	0.66 ^b

Note: a: Alongi (2015), b: Brown and Fischer (1920), c: Zanne et al. (2009)

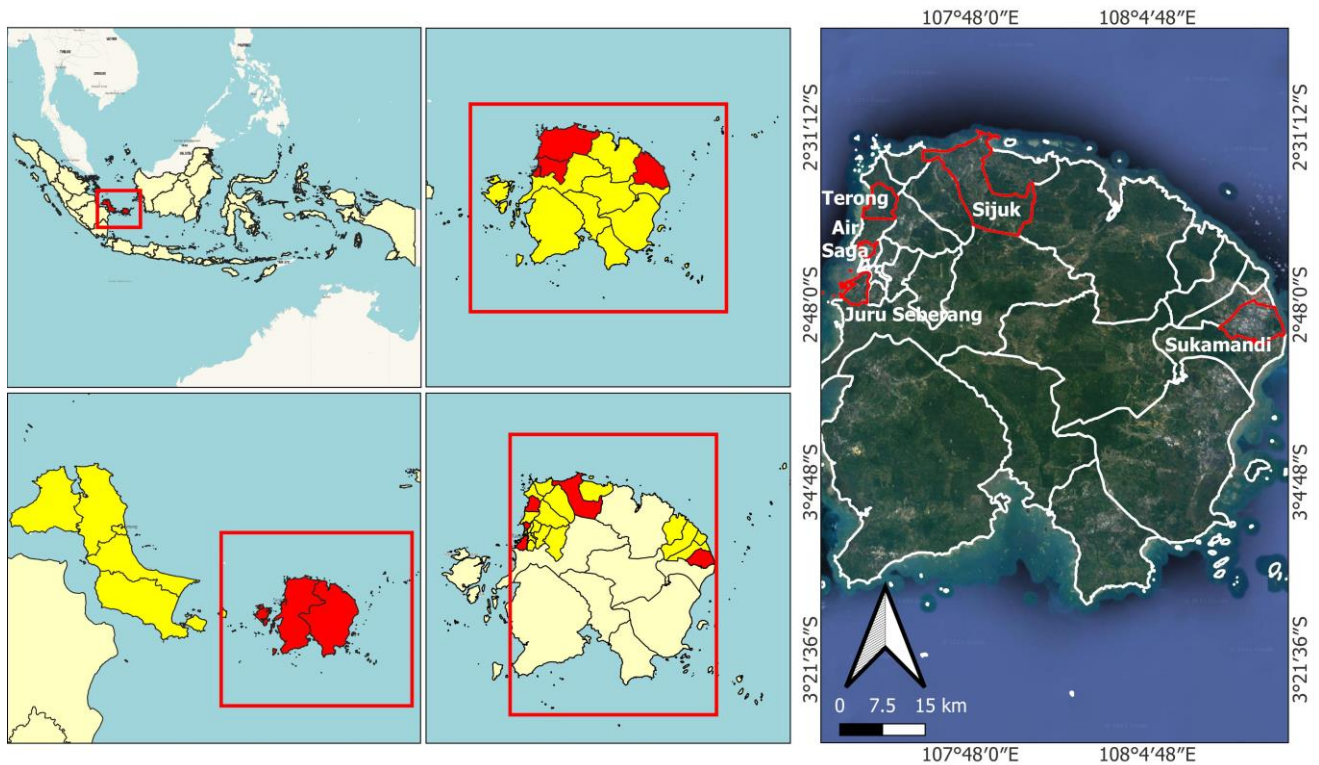


Figure 1. Mangrove research location on Belitung Island, Indonesia

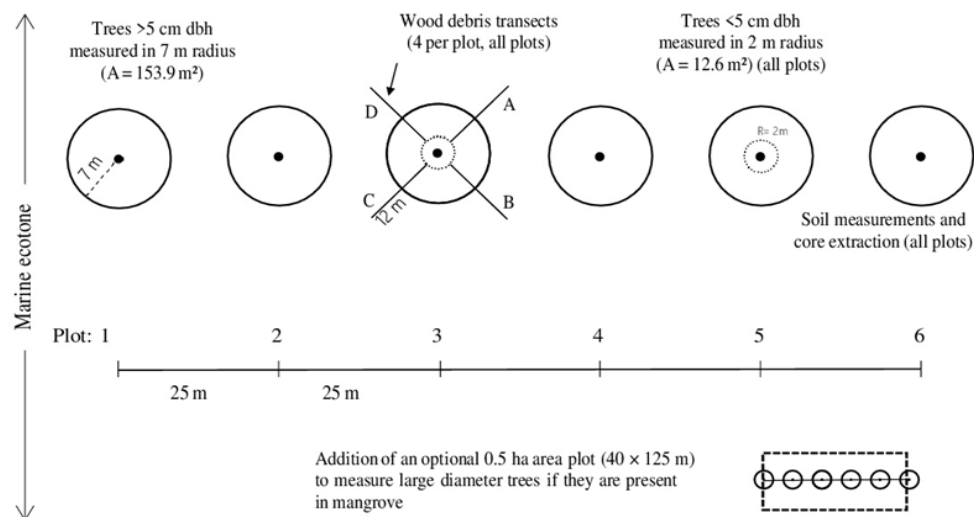


Figure 2. Plot chart of research samples on Belitung Island (Kauffman and Donato 2012)

Substrate sampling

Soil organic carbon using a color sampler tool and carried out by a composite method, mixing soil samples from five soil sample points at a depth of 30 cm to determine the C-organic content. Sampling was conducted in all four cardinal directions and the middle of the plot. Furthermore, composite substrate samples were taken as much as ± 300 g of total weight for further carbon content analysis using the Loss of Ignition (LOI) method (Cortés-Esquivel et al. 2023).

Data analysis

Mangrove community structure analysis

Data analysis for vegetation analysis was perceived with the conditions of Density type (K), Relative Density (KR), type Frequency (F), Relative Frequency (FR), type Dominance (D), Relative Dominance (DR), and Important Value Index (IVI) of mangroves in the study site.

The IVI described the dominant tree species in the study area. The formula for calculating IVI is as follows:

$$IVI = FR + KR + DR$$

Where:

IVI : Importance Value Index (%)

FR : Relative Frequency (%)

KR : Relative Density (%)

DR : Relative Dominance (%)

Relative Density (KR) formula :

$$KR (\%) = \frac{\text{Density of a species}}{\text{Total density of all species}} \times 100\%$$

Relative Frequency (FR) formula :

$$FR (\%) = \frac{\text{Frequency of a species}}{\text{Total frequency of all species}} \times 100\%$$

Relative Dominance (DR) formula :

$$DR (\%) = \frac{\text{Dominance of a species}}{\text{Total dominance of all species}} \times 100\%$$

Calculation of biomass C stock

The above and below-ground biomass data were converted to stock C equivalent by multiplying the values by 48% and 39%, respectively as suggested by Kauffman and Donato (2012). The sum of above-ground and below-ground biomass tree C stocks, hereinafter referred to as tree C stocks, is calculated to determine the tree C stock per plot and averaged per location and land use to obtain the average tree C stock per land use. The value is converted to CO₂ equivalent by multiplying stock C by 3.67 (Pendleton et al. 2012). Then, the carbon content is calculated following research conducted by (Zulhalifah et al. 2021).

$$\text{Carbon content} = \text{Biomass} \times 50\%$$

Besides that, further calculation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) absorption is carried out using the formula:

$$CO_2 = \text{Mr.CO/Ar. C} \times \text{carbon content}$$

Where:

CO₂ : Carbon dioxide uptake

Mr : Relative molecule

Ar : Relative atom

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Vegetation composition of mangrove species on Belitung Island

Mangroves found on Belitung Island based on the results of research, as many as 10 mangrove species consist of *Avicennia marina*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Lumnitzera littorea*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, *Sonneratia alba*, *Xylocarpus granatum* (Table 2). These results are different from previous research conducted by Irawan et al. (2021), stated that mangrove diversity on Belitung Island consists of 12 families, 16

genera, and 24 species. This is caused by differences in the methods used, Irawan et al. (2021) collected data on mangrove diversity using the roaming method in each mangrove forest, including the edge of the mangrove forest that borders the open sea, the middle part of the mangrove forest, and part of the border between the mangrove forest and the mainland forest. Meanwhile, this research uses a circular plot method arranged perpendicular to the edge of the mangrove forest. These results show that the diversity of mangrove species on Belitung Island is quite high in the category of true mangroves compared to the results of similar studies conducted in other Bangka Belitung regions such as in the Lepar Pongok Islands, namely four species of mangroves (Heriyanto and Silvaliandra 2019), in Mapur consisting as seven species of mangroves (Farhaby et al. 2020), on Takari beach as many as five species of mangroves (Farhaby and Anwar 2022). Baskara Bakti has five types of true mangroves (Henri et al. 2022). The diversity of species and changes in their existing distribution will certainly show how climate change impacts the landscape (Zhang et al. 2021).

Rhizophora apiculata is a dominating mangrove species from the Rhizophoraceae family, which has an extraordinary role in the growth and primary production of mangrove ecosystems. This is because *R. apiculata* colonizes relatively faster and grows faster and higher than other species (Tomlinson 2016). It is also influenced that the genus *Rhizophora* is a type of mangrove that tolerates various environmental conditions such as substrate, tides, salinity, and nutrient availability, allowing it to thrive in various locations (Usman et al. 2013). In this study, *Avicennia marina* is the least mangrove species found compared to other species. This is because the genus *Avicennia* is usually found on the borders of coastal areas and shows resistance to environmental stresses. *Avicennia* can thrive in sediments dominated by mud or a mixture of clay and sand with a low clay-to-sand ratio (Sari et al. 2019).

These five research locations have varied characteristics, namely at the BLMT 01 (Juru Seberang) location, which is a location for planting activities through reforestation on former tin mining land carried out by community groups. In comparison, the other four locations are natural mangrove forests. Mangroves are currently gaining global attention due to frequent environmental degradation, thus requiring various rehabilitation and restoration measures (López-Portillo et al. 2017), mostly through planting and reforestation (Primavera et al. 2019). Mangroves in rehabilitation and restoration sites need to be monitored for growth to determine the program's success rate and assess the health status of mangroves (Dale et al. 2014; Worthington and Spalding 2018). Mangroves that grow under diverse environmental conditions provide ecological niches for various microorganisms (Thatoi et al. 2012).

The density of mangrove vegetation in the five locations on Belitung Island was highest at the BLTM 03 (Sujuk) location of 3,932 trees/ha and the lowest at the BLTM 01 (Juru Seberang) location of 1,349 trees/ha. The vegetation density value is based on the Minister of Environment Number 201 Decree of 2004 concerning standard criteria and guidelines for determining mangrove damage. The requirements for mangroves are divided into three: density

>1,500 ind/ha including very dense criteria, density $\geq 1,000$ –<1,500 trees/ha including medium criteria, and mangroves with a density of <1,000 trees/ha including rare criteria. Based on this, the calculation of the average value of mangrove vegetation density on Belitung Island is included in the criteria of very dense density in the four locations (BLTM 02, BLTM 03, BLTM 04, and BLTM 05) while at the BLTM 01 location is included in the medium category. The number of trees also influences the density of mangrove trees in each location (see Figure 3), where the vegetation found has different variations even in location 1, dominated by small trees, while in other locations there are more large trees. In general, giant trees have more access to light, thus allowing them to grow taller (Stark et al. 2012), but smaller trees are more susceptible to competition (i.e., reduced accumulation of carbon as biomass) (McDowell et al. 2018).

Important Value Index of mangroves on Belitung Island

Based on the results of the Important Value Index (IVI) in the highest tree category, namely in *Rhizophora apiculata* at 161.24%, while the lowest in the species *Rhizophora mucronata* 2.73%. The highest IVI sapling category remains in *Rhizophora apiculata* (149.24%) and the lowest in *Lumnitzera littorea* (12.80%). Species not found in the tree category are *Ceriops tagal* and *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, while in the sapling category are *Avicennia marina* and *Xylocarpus granatum*, as presented in Table 3.

Rhizophora apiculata is a species that has the highest IVI in both the tree and sapling categories. *Rhizophora apiculata* species belonging to the genus Rhizophoraceae genetically have a strong adaptive capacity to extreme environmental conditions, even at high salinity levels (Tomlinson 2016; Raganas and Magcale-Macandog 2020) and become the dominant species that utilize their environment optimally (Efriyeldi et al. 2023). *Rhizophora* is dominant in mangrove forest areas because it has hypocotyledonous characteristics, germinating while still in the tree. Therefore, this genus group species is relatively easier to breed for revegetation in coastal areas (Usman et al. 2022).

The Important Value Index (IVI) provides an overview of the influence or importance of a mangrove plant species in its community ecosystem (Serosero et al. 2020); the higher the IVI value of a species means, the more important its role in the community which illustrates that the species

can compete in its environment and by other species (Pamoengkas et al. 2018; Matatula et al. 2021). IVI is also influenced by several other factors, such as the density of mangroves with a homogeneous distribution, which tends to cause a species to become dominant (Pamungkas et al. 2023). In addition, differences in stand age are also one of the leading factors of variations in the growth of mangrove species, which often occur due to competition between species in their habitat (Sadono et al. 2020).

Biomass, carbon stocks, and absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in mangrove vegetation on Belitung Island

The results of the research analysis showed that the species *Rhizophora apiculata* in the mangrove ecosystem on Belitung Island had the highest above-ground biomass value (123.61 t ha⁻¹) and the lowest in the species *Avicennia marina* (0.62 t ha⁻¹) with a total value of 174.98 t ha⁻¹. The highest below-ground biomass value was in the species *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* (15.52 t ha⁻¹), and the lowest value was in the species *Xylocarpus granatum* (1.79 t ha⁻¹) with a total of 50.10 t ha⁻¹. The above-ground and below-ground biomass results certainly affect biomass's total value, carbon content, and CO₂ absorption. *Rhizophora apiculata* mangrove species is the species that has the highest value in total biomass (126.77 t ha⁻¹), carbon content (63.39 t C ha⁻¹), and CO₂ absorption (232.62 t CO₂ ha⁻¹), as presented in Table 4.

The diversity and species composition of mangroves in each location on Belitung Island influence the biomass and carbon stocks in the mangrove forest. The results showed that above-ground biomass (174.98 t ha⁻¹) was higher than below-ground biomass (50.10 t ha⁻¹). Tree species diversity can affect above-ground biomass through several mechanisms, such as niche complementarity, sampling effects, and biomass ratio effects, resulting in more efficient resource use or higher productivity with greater diversity (Tilman et al. 2014). The biomass fraction varies by tree component, with the highest biomass fraction on the trunk, followed by branches and leaves (Rodrigues et al. 2015). Other factors affecting above-ground biomass include total tree volume, form factor, wood base density, and variables derived from the header, such as header volume, header diameter, tree architecture, and others (MacFarlane 2015).

Table 2. The composition and abundance of mangrove species on Belitung Island

Mangrove species	BLTM 01	BLTM 02	BLTM 03	BLTM 04	BLTM 05	Σ Individual mangrove
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i>	-	24	14	10	30	78
<i>Ceriops decandra</i>	-	1	14	4	30	49
<i>Ceriops tagal</i>	-	20	-	-	-	20
<i>Lumnitzera littorea</i>	-	4	6	-	-	10
<i>Rhizophora apiculata</i>	60	98	190	74	104	526
<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>	10	-	-	-	-	10
<i>Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea</i>	-	-	15	-	-	15
<i>Sonneratia alba</i>	12	7	-	13	-	32
<i>Xylocarpus granatum</i>	-	-	3	1	5	9

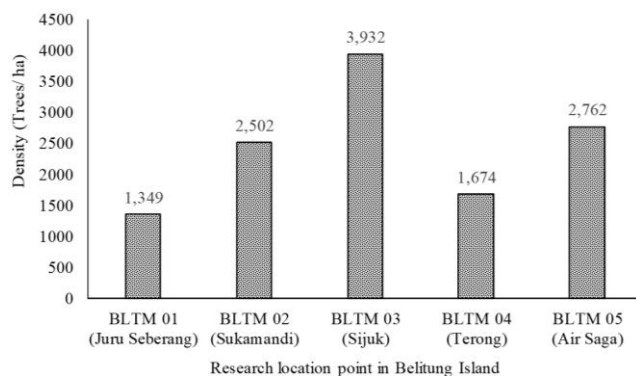
Note: BLTM 01: Juru Seberang; BLTM 02: Sukamandi; BLTM 03: Sijuk; BLTM 04: Terong; and BLTM 05: Air Saga

Table 3. Relative Frequency (FR), Relative Density (KR), Relative Dominance (DR), and Important Value Index (IVI) of tree and sapling category of mangrove species on Belitung Island

Mangrove species	Tree				Sapling			
	FR (%)	KR (%)	DR (%)	IVI (%)	FR (%)	KR (%)	DR (%)	IVI (%)
<i>A. marina</i>	2.08	0.51	0.18	2.77	-	-	-	-
<i>B. gymnorrhiza</i>	18.75	5.87	11.21	35.83	12.50	15.51	10.93	38.94
<i>C. decandra</i>	12.50	5.10	3.47	21.08	12.50	8.31	6.49	27.30
<i>C. tagal</i>	-	-	-	-	12.50	5.54	2.58	20.62
<i>L. littorea</i>	10.42	2.30	4.25	16.96	12.50	0.28	0.02	12.80
<i>R. apiculata</i>	31.25	76.02	53.97	161.24	12.50	63.16	73.58	149.24
<i>R. mucronata</i>	2.08	0.51	0.14	2.73	12.50	2.22	2.17	16.88
<i>S. hydrophyllacea</i>	-	-	-	-	12.50	4.16	2.73	19.39
<i>S. alba</i>	12.50	7.40	23.27	43.16	12.50	0.83	1.50	14.84
<i>X. granatum</i>	10.42	2.30	3.52	16.23	-	-	-	-

Table 4. Biomass, carbon stocks, and absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in mangroves on Belitung Island (mean ± SE)

Species mangrove	Above-ground biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	Below-ground biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	Total forest biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	Carbon content (t C ha ⁻¹)	Absorption CO ₂ (t CO ₂ ha ⁻¹)
<i>A. marina</i>	0.62 ± 0.44	2.56 ± 1.81	3.18 ± 2.25	1.59 ± 0.71	5.84 ± 2.61
<i>B. gymnorrhiza</i>	14.51 ± 7.26	15.52 ± 7.76	30.03 ± 15.02	15.02 ± 6.71	55.11 ± 24.64
<i>C. decandra</i>	12.30 ± 6.15	9.75 ± 4.88	22.05 ± 11.03	11.03 ± 4.93	40.46 ± 18.10
<i>C. tagal</i>	5.02 ± 3.55	3.98 ± 2.81	9.00 ± 6.36	4.50 ± 2.01	16.52 ± 7.39
<i>L. littorea</i>	2.51 ± 1.77	1.99 ± 1.41	4.50 ± 3.18	2.25 ± 1.01	8.26 ± 3.69
<i>R. apiculata</i>	123.61 ± 55.28	3.16 ± 1.41	126.77 ± 56.69	63.39 ± 28.35	232.62 ± 104.03
<i>R. mucronata</i>	2.35 ± 1.66	1.99 ± 1.41	4.34 ± 3.07	2.17 ± 0.97	7.96 ± 3.56
<i>S. hydrophyllacea</i>	3.77 ± 2.67	2.99 ± 2.11	6.76 ± 4.78	3.38 ± 1.51	12.40 ± 5.55
<i>S. alba</i>	8.03 ± 4.64	6.37 ± 3.68	14.40 ± 8.31	7.20 ± 3.22	26.42 ± 11.82
<i>X. granatum</i>	2.26 ± 1.30	1.79 ± 1.03	4.05 ± 2.34	2.02 ± 0.91	7.43 ± 3.32
Total	174.98	50.10	225.08	112.54	413.02

**Figure 3.** The density of mangrove vegetation at each location on Belitung Island

Below-ground biomass in mangrove forests on Belitung Island is relatively small (50.10 t ha⁻¹) because the mangrove plants are ecologically still alive, and there are no degraded conditions or logging carried out massively. This result is also influenced by the sampling technique that is carried out on the difficult parts, being near the root system, so root samples collected affect the estimation of root biomass. As described above, most of the root biomass (>80%) is concentrated in the first meter of soil, with >50% of the total root biomass being in the first 45 cm (Tamooh

et al. 2008). Variations in this below-ground fraction of biomass are also affected by differences in resource gradient conditions (i.e., nutrients) and regulatory gradients such as salinity, stand age, and species-specific growth patterns (Ray et al. 2011; Adame et al. 2017; Chatting et al. 2020).

The research on Belitung Island showed total biomass (225.08 t ha⁻¹), estimated carbon content (112.54 t C ha⁻¹) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) absorption of 413.02 t CO₂ ha⁻¹, higher than the mangrove forest in Gunung Anyar, Surabaya which produces biomass value (101.98 t ha⁻¹), estimation of carbon stocks (47.93 t C ha⁻¹) and CO₂ absorbing ability in mangrove stands (175.90 t CO₂ ha⁻¹) (Permana et al. 2022). However, mangroves on Belitung Island have a lower value when compared with Bahowo mangrove forest in Bunaken which produced total biomass (433.69 t ha⁻¹), estimated carbon content (203.83 t C ha⁻¹), and CO₂ absorption (748.07 t CO₂ ha⁻¹) (Bachmid et al. 2018) and the Mangunharjo mangrove forest, which produces biomass value (341.02 t ha⁻¹), estimated carbon stock (156.87 t C ha⁻¹), and CO₂ absorbing ability in mangrove stands (575.71 t CO₂ ha⁻¹) (Apriliana et al. 2021).

The ability of carbon absorption in each type of mangrove can be influenced by the age of the mangrove species, leaf cross-sectional area, water physicochemical factors, and the morphology of mangrove strata (Hilyana

and Rahman 2022). Well-maintained mangroves will sequester carbon from ecosystems, reducing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations and mitigating global climate change (Gnanamoorthy et al. 2020). Although mangrove forests cover only a small part (0.5%) of the global coastal ocean, they are among the most productive ecosystems with high carbon sequestration rates (Sanders et al. 2016).

In conclusion, mangroves on Belitung Island are important as the main buffer for coastal areas against environmental changes, and existing mangrove forests contribute to carbon sequestration. This study identified 10 species of mangroves spread across Belitung Island, including *Avicennia marina*, *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Lumnitzera littorea*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, *Sonneratia alba*, and *Xylocarpus granatum*. The density of mangrove vegetation is also relatively dense (>1,500 trees/ha), with *Rhizophora apiculata* dominating the tree and sapling levels. Mangroves on Belitung Island also have a high biomass value and estimated carbon stocks. Hence, the potential absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is also better. All stakeholders must play their roles efficiently to reduce CO₂ emissions and aid in the fight against climate change.

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