Potential and management strategy of floral biodiversity in the coastal areas in East Kalimantan, Indonesia

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Abstract. Rujehan, Matius P. 2018. Potential and management strategy of floral biodiversity in the coastal areas in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Biodiversitas 19: 1130-1137. Some issues such as land clearing and mining activities often arise in the coastal areas of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, East Kalimantan, Indonesia that serves as a water catchment area. The latest land cover in this area was dominated by bush or shrub and forest cover was reduced. This research was conducted in Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir in the coastal area of Bukit Soeharto Forest. The purposes of this study were to determine the potential diversity of flora in the two regions and to develop management strategies in order to maintain or even to improve the diversity of flora. The method used in this research was a survey using vegetation analysis and SWOT analysis. The results showed that the species of saplings and trees dominating the forest area of Tanah Merah Coast was Nauclea orientalis, while Cratoxylum arborescens was the most prominent species of seedlings. On the other side, the forest around Samboja Reservoir was dominated by Campnosperma auriculata for trees or adult communities, Ficus retusa for saplings and Dyera costulata for seedlings. Both species diversity (H') and evenness index (E) of these areas were categorized as medium. Management strategies needed to maintain and improve the diversity and evenness of existed flora consist of S-O strategy that aims to improve the ecological functions of the area that can provide economic benefits, S-T strategy proposes cooperation with local communities to develop alternative economic activities, W-O strategy utilize the funding opportunities from donor agencies for forest management and W-T strategy includes efforts to improve human resources through training in collaboration with donor agencies.

Keywords: Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, coastal areas, the potential of flora diversity, management strategies

INTRODUCTION

Bukit Soeharto Forest Park in East Kalimantan, Indonesia has an area of 67,766 hectares designated as a conservation area. Most of its area is a coastline which is the transitional area of land and freshwater ecosystems with marine ecosystems which have the potential of rich and diverse natural resources. Odum and Barrett (2005) state that coastal ecosystem includes beaches, river mouths (estuaries), coastal forests, seagrass, swamp area and mangrove. In Indonesia, coastal area is the center of a wide range of development activities, because this area has both renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. In addition, this area also has a very good accessibility to a wide range of economic activities from several sectors, such as transportation, ports, industries, residential areas and tourism.

Utilization and management of natural resources in the coastal ecosystem need to be carried out cautiously by implementing the principles of sustainable development. However, the increase in population and intensive development may endanger and damage the capacity of coastal ecosystem in providing all the natural resources and environmental services, whereas all aspects of local communities’ livelihood depend on this ecosystem. The local communities use the coastal areas for socio-economic activities and those activities might affect the existing biodiversity, so the management of natural resources needs to be taken seriously by the government. Besides, Nyurumana (2016) states that flora biodiversity is a strategic resource, as it acts as one of the determinants of the quality of human life. However, less environmentally sustainable utilization could lead to a high rate of degradation, thus threatening global biodiversity (Butchart et al. 2010; Houdet et al. 2012), especially in tropical forests with the level of degradation between 2-11% per decade (Koopowitz et al. 1994).

Regarding the issues above, there has been a disruption of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park ecosystems, both at Samboja Reservoir and Tanah Merah Coast. Damages in Samboja Reservoir, as the area of water catchment, were indicated by the practice of land clearing for agriculture and coal mining activities surrounding the area. Even the current land cover was dominated by bushes, shrubs, weeds and the forest cover was reduced; as a result, the hydrological system in this area was disturbed (Maharani 2012). Tanah Merah Coast is one type of coastal forest ecosystems in Bukit Soeharto Forest Park. Lately, Tanah Merah Coast has become a destination of ecotourism and is frequently visited by local tourists especially on holidays. Besides having quite beautiful scenery, Tanah Merah Coast is also a habitat for many species of coastal plants (Mukhlisi and Sidyasa 2011). Pressures derived from technology development and increasing population growth threaten the coastal ecosystem even though conservation area contributes to various aspects, including aspects of ecology, economy and science and technology (Dominggus 1999). In accordance with the characteristics of the coastal area of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, one of the efforts to
preserve this conservation area can be done through ecotourism activities involving local communities. In general, ecotourism not only provides ecological benefits but also economic benefits. Ecotourism activities in Forest Park are regulated in the Government Regulation No. 36, Year of 2010 concerning the management of nature tourism.

Therefore, vegetation analysis needs to be carried out to determine the components of the ecosystem, namely the species composition and structure of vegetation so that the potential of the area to be utilized and managed on an ongoing basis is in accordance with the characteristics of the area can be discovered. Nyurumana (2016) states combination between conservation-ecological benefits, social-culture-religion, and economic-earnings of flora biodiversity are the determinants of the success of its management.

SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) was carried out in order to maintain or even enhance the potential values of the area that can be utilized and managed optimally. From this analysis, it can be seen what kind of strategies that must be applied to develop the coastal areas as ecotourism. Therefore, the purposes of this study were to describe the potential diversity of flora in Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, especially in the coastal areas, and to determine the development strategy of the areas to support the conservation of biodiversity, especially the existing flora.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site and its status history

The research was conducted in Tanah Merah Coast Forest and Samboja Reservoir Forest of the coastal areas of Tahura Bukit Soeharto (Bukit Soeharto Forest Park), Block of Samboja, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. The study lasted for 5 (five) months, from January 2016 until May 2016.

Figure 1. Map of research site in Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, Block of Samboja, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia
The history of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park began with the proposal of the Governor of East Kalimantan in 1976 to make this area as an environmental preservation zone (Ruyadi 2009). In its development, the forest has experienced several changes of status and function. Lastly, the Decree of the Minister of Forestry no SK.577 / Menhut-II / 2009 established the area of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park covers an area of 67,766 hectares. Most of its areas are located in the coastal zone of which there is Samboja Block covering 8,212 hectares.

Data collection was carried out by a direct survey method that included primary data and secondary data. Primary data were collected through direct observation of the existing vegetation and interviews with local communities, community leaders and the forest management agency, while secondary data were gathered through the study of literature and documentation. The collected data were processed and analyzed through vegetation analysis and SWOT analysis. Vegetation analysis began by identifying the species, and calculating the number of individuals and frequency of each species and all species found in research area. Furthermore, to determine the diversity of species in the forest area, then the measurement of species diversity index (H') as proposed by Shannon-Wiener (Krebs 1985; Magurran 1988; Ludwig and Reynolds 1998; Wijana 2014) was conducted. The diversity index (H') is formulated as below.

\[ H' = -\sum_{i=1}^{S} \left( P_i \times \ln(P_i) \right) \]

Where, \( H' \) is the species diversity index and \( P_i \) equals to \( n_i / N \) in which \( n_i \) is the number of individuals of species \( i \)th and \( N \) is the total number of individuals of all species in the dataset. By referring to the Shannon-Wiener Index criteria, a species diversity index can be said to be high when \( H' > 3 \), medium when \( 1 \leq H' \leq 3 \) and low when \( H' < 1 \) (Odum and Barrett 2005).

To determine whether the number of individuals among species was evenly distributed at a certain level of growth, an evenness index (E) as used. To get the value of E, Pielou (1966) in Odum and Barrett (2005) applied the following formula:

\[ E = \frac{H'}{\ln(S)} \]

Where, \( H' \) is the species diversity index and \( S \) is the total number of species. Higher evenness index from a certain level of growth shows that the number of individuals among species is more evenly distributed. Evenness index ranges from 0 to 1. Hill (1973) in Nurdalahanti (2008) classified evenness index (E) into five classes, namely: 1) distributed unevenly when the value of E is 0.00 to 0.25, 2) less evenly when E is 0.26 to 0.50, 3) fairly evenly when E is 0.51 to 0.75, 4) almost evenly when E is 0.76 to 0.95, and 5) evenly when E is 0.96 to 1.00.

SWOT analysis provides numerous formulation of strategies to maintain or even increase the values of flora diversity and ecology in the coastal area of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park. There are three processes in making a SWOT analysis so that the decision obtained can be more precise. The first process is data collection that includes evaluation of internal and external factors. The second process is developing the matrix of evaluation of internal and external factors as well as the SWOT matrix. The last process is decision-making. At this stage, a variety of alternative strategies that can be used to make decision appears. According to Hidayat et al. (2012), S-O strategy has a tendency to be aggressive, meaning that it optimizes the potential and opportunities, while the S-T strategy enables self-improvement and is made to overcome weaknesses. W-O strategy includes diversification, in which it uses strengths to minimize threats, while W-T strategy allows defensive actions, namely reducing weaknesses and avoiding threats.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**The potential flora in the region**

The forest in Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir is included in the type of moderate heath forest. Hatta (2007) states that moderate heath forest is a group of forest in which its soil texture has a balanced proportion of sand and clay or with more clay proportion than sand. According to Ashton (1958) in Riswan (1987), moderate heath forest has a general characteristic of short trees with a small circumference of the trunk and a few species. There are few lianas and a lot of epiphytes with leaves that are hard and stiff as leather (schlerophyllous) on the forest floor and it shows similarities with peat swamp forests.

The soil has a low content of bases and is highly acidic, usually coarse textured and free drainage, in which the soil is often covered in a layer of peat or humus material that quickly disappear once the natural vegetation is cleared (Goeltenboth et al. 2012).

**Species composition**

From the results of observation, the floristic composition of vegetation at seedling stage in Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir is presented in Table 1. Table 1 shows that the total number of species of seedlings at Tanah Merah Coast area was higher (9 species) than that of Samboja Reservoir. This indicates that the species present at Tanah Merah Coast were better in competing with other species. Facts on the field showed that the habitats of Tanah Merah Coast were drier and more open than in Samboja Reservoir region where the habitats were closed and most of them were waterlogged. In a closed habitat, it is generally difficult for vegetation particularly seedlings to grow evenly and they tend to prefer certain locations that are not flooded. Fatem and Sykora (2012) mention plants common in open to closed forest have a wide amplitude concerning light conditions and can grow both in open forests and below the canopy of tall trees. Some have their optimum growth in shade while other species grow better in the presence of light.
instance, according to Siappa, et al. (2016), a species in a certain family such as Moraceae which grows in Tanah Merah Coast area more tolerant to a habitat that has dry soil, abundance of sunshine, dry or health area, but it also requires habitat conditions near streams and springs. Some areas around the river are sandy and composed of limestones so that it tends to have minimum amount of nutrient for plants.

The floristic composition of the vegetation at sapling stage in Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir area is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. The vegetation composition at seedling stage at Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir, Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, Block of Samboja, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

| Species                  | Region           | Tanah Merah Coast | Samboja Reservoir | Family     |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Cratoxylum arborescens   | √                | -                 | Hyperaceae        |
| Cratoxylum maingayi      | √                | -                 | Hyperaceae        |
| Clydemia hirta           | -                | √                 | Melastomataceae   |
| Dyera costulata          | -                | √                 | Apocynaceae       |
| Ficus nervosa            | √                | -                 | Moraceae          |
| Meioogyne virgata        | -                | √                 | Annonaceae        |
| Mallotus paniculatus     | -                | √                 | Euphorbiaceae     |
| Nauclea orientalis       | -                | √                 | Rubiaceae         |
| Shorea balangeran        | √                | -                 | Dipterocarpaceae  |
| Shorea sp.               | -                | √                 | Dipterocarpaceae  |
| Syzygium sp.             | -                | √                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Tristania beccarii       | √                | -                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Vitex pinnata            | -                | √                 | Lamiaceae         |
| Total                    | 9                | 5                 | 10                |

Table 2. The vegetation composition at sapling stage in Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir, Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, Block of Samboja, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

| Species                  | Region           | Tanah Merah Coast | Samboja Reservoir | Family     |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Campnosperma auriculata  | -                | √                 | Anacardiaceae     |
| Meioogyne virgata        | -                | √                 | Annonaceae        |
| Vernonia arborea         | -                | √                 | Asteraceae        |
| Calophyllum inophyllum   | -                | √                 | Clusiaceae        |
| Garcinia diversifolia    | -                | √                 | Clusiaceae        |
| Dillenia suffruticosa    | -                | √                 | Dilleniaceae      |
| Shorea balangeran        | √                | -                 | Dipterocarpaceae  |
| Shorea sp.               | √                | -                 | Dipterocarpaceae  |
| Macaranga triloba        | √                | √                 | Euphorbiaceae     |
| Caranga arborescens      | -                | √                 | Leguminosae       |
| Cratoxylum arborescens   | √                | √                 | Hypericaceae      |
| Vitex pinnata            | -                | √                 | Lamiaceae         |
| Vitex trifolia           | -                | √                 | Lamiaceae         |
| Ficus retusa             | -                | √                 | Moraceae          |
| Syzygium lineatum        | -                | √                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Syzygium pseudoformosum  | √                | √                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Syzygium sp.             | -                | √                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Tristanopsis obvata      | -                | √                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Tristania beccarii       | √                | -                 | Myrtaceae         |
| Nauclea orientalis       | √                | √                 | Rubiaceae         |
| Nepheleium mutabile      | √                | -                 | Sapindaceae       |
| Total                    | 8                | 17                |                   |

Species diversity and evenness index

A community may consist of various species or several species. It is necessary to calculate species diversity (H') for each stage of vegetation. Figure 2 presents the values of species diversity index for each stage of vegetation at Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir.

According to Dendang and Handayani (2015), vegetation composition is normal or balanced, if the number of individuals of seedlings is more than saplings, the number of saplings is more than poles, and the number of poles is more than the trees, so that the regeneration process can take place since there are sufficient amount of plants at early stages. However, the composition of the vegetation in the forest area of Tanah Merah Coast and Samboja Reservoir was slightly unbalanced. Clay-soil texture on both regions might be the cause.
The vegetation composition at tree stage in Tanah Merah Coast and around Samboja Reservoir, Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia are presented in Table 4. As described earlier, the analysis used to obtain the formulation of regional management strategy was the SWOT analysis. According to Boseman and Phatak (1989), SWOT analysis enables an organization to formulate and implement strategies aimed at accomplishing its organizational mission and objectives. Information collected and analyzed in the SWOT analysis may suggest that changes be made in either the mission, objectives, policies, or strategies of the organization. This analysis begins by identifying and evaluating various internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and external factors (opportunities and threats). The results of internal and external factors evaluation, as well as alternative strategies for coastal area management in Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, are presented in Table 4.
Table 4. The matrix of SWOT analysis and alternative management strategies of flora diversity in coastal area of Bukit Soeharto Forest Park, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

| Internal Factors Evaluation | Strengths | Weaknesses |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
|                              | 1. The forest park has a legal certainty as a conservation area. | 1. The forest park has limited human resources and financial capability in supporting the management. |
|                              | 2. Diversification and evenness of flora are classified as medium. | 2. There is no block clarity in the management of coastal areas. |
|                              | 3. It has a panoramic beauty of nature and the potential to develop ecotourism. | 3. It has low infrastructure quality. |
|                              | 4. Samboja Center for Conservation of Natural Resources is committed to managing the forest ecosystem. | 4. It lacks management program of socialization on a regular basis regarding the status and function of the coastal areas. |
|                              | 5. It has high accessibility to the coastal area, hence making it easier for the management. | 5. It lacks directional resource conservation programs (protection, preservation, and utilization). |

| External Factors Evaluation | Opportunities | SO Strategy | WO Strategy |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|                              | 1. East Kalimantan Provincial Government and KutaiKartanegara District have been committed to developing “Kaltim Green” program. | 1. Optimizing the regional management that can provide ecological and economic benefits. | 1. Building partnerships with donor agencies to support regional management. |
|                              | 2. There is a Regional Autonomy Policy associated with the management area. | 2. Developing management information systems with the use of information technology in improving the ecological values of the area. | 2. Building a participatory regional boundary. |
|                              | 3. There are supports of parties (local governments, universities, research agencies, NGOs, and communities) through collaborative management in the protection of flora and ecosystems diversity. | 3. Developing ecotourism for the region by involving local communities. | 3. Creating participatory planning with the aim of maintaining and improving the function of region. |
|                              | 4. There is improvement of forest resource conservation policy on the management of protected areas. |                                           |                                         |
|                              | 5. There is a good public perception toward the preservation of the forest area as a tourist destination that supports local economies. |                                           |                                         |

| Threats                      | 1. There is an increasing need for land for development. | 1. Reducing local communities’ reliance on natural resources by seeking alternative economic activities and employment. | 1. Cooperating with relevant agencies in order to increase the capacity of Human Resource Management. |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                              | 2. Local communities are highly dependent on natural resources. | 2. Optimizing the use of existing facilities and infrastructure to conduct surveillance of the area. | 2. Preserving flora and ecosystems by involving stakeholders that are attentive to conservation. |
|                              | 3. The forest area is prone to encroachment by local communities considering that the location is close to the residential area. | 3. Creating programs for environmental education and conservation to local communities, so as to grow the sense of belonging. | 3. Building cooperation with universities regarding social potency data collection, including potential business to be developed for economic improvement. |
|                              | 4. Population growth contributes to the increasing demand for land. |                                           |                                         |
|                              | 5. The political support consistency that could at any time. |                                           |                                         |
Table 4 provides a variety of SO, ST, WO and WT strategies. The SO strategy suggests that the management of these areas will not only attempt to maintain the existence of the area, but also to increase the function of region that can provide ecological and economic benefits. Forest utilization often works based on direct benefits in the form of tangible resources, such as bamboo, wood, oil, latex and so on, although intangible benefits in the form of immaterial or use of services such as ecotourism can be used as an alternative to support long-term development of the country (Purnamasari et al. 2005). The development of ecological benefits is meant to increase the species diversity and evenness, while the development of economic benefits shows the involvement of local communities to develop ecotourism activities. According to Suryawan et al. (2015), ecotourism can be developed in the form of conservation tour package that allows visitors to understand the meaning and be directly involved in conservation activities. Therefore socialization through promotion becomes important in this case as it aims to optimize the utilization of the region.

Meanwhile, ST strategy implies that the management should cooperate with the local communities to consider alternative business and jobs. Kustanti et al. (2012) state that the economic development should be carried out by the utilization of the potential products whereas the institutional development of the community can be done by means of activating again rural economic institutions such as village cooperatives. This effort will support the preservation of the region and the welfare of local communities as mandated by Government Regulation No. 36, Year of 2010. However, intensive forest utilization by local communities that can disrupt ecological values needs to be held to prevent further damages. Therefore it is necessary for the management to educate local communities through a program of environmental education and conservation, thereby creating awareness and the sense of belonging. This will encourage public intention to conduct environmentally sustainable economic activities.

WO strategy aims at utilizing funding opportunities from donor agencies in order to maximize the regional management. This strategy should be implemented within the framework of integrated participatory forest planning with clear regional boundaries, thus ensuring the enhancement of forest function in both ecological and economic aspects. According to Paramastuti and Chofyan (2013) in order to achieve optimum result of the forest function enhancement, then this integrated plan needs to be further elaborated, with the spatial concept of zoning essentially serves as a management tool for activities in a forest park. For example, Gunung Kunci Forest Park has three zones: protection zone, rehabilitation and preservation zone and utilization zone and Ir. H. Juanda Forest Park has four zones: protection zone, flora and fauna preservation zone, limited utilization zone and intensive utilization zone. Furthermore, the achievement of these two aspects is in accordance with the mandate of the Indonesian Act of 1945, article 33, paragraph 3 concerning principle of natural resources for the welfare of the community.

WT strategy focuses on efforts to work with various parties to overcome the limitations of fund management. Forest management agency can take the advantages of donor agencies to finance various activities, especially those related to the problem of low human resources. In order to improve the human resources, there should be a provision of management and technical training related to conservation. Management training is aimed at collaborating management, while technical training is directed to the preservation of flora and the ecosystem. Referring to the research by Suhanjito (2011), forest park collaborative management can be developed through a process of participatory action research. This participatory research includes group discussions focused on the participation of the local communities in identifying the problems encountered, collaboration between the Forestry Agency and local communities, improving local communities' capacity, and restoring the area of forest park through forest restoration, rehabilitation, and agroforestry. Also, the forest management agency can involve stakeholders including the local communities in preserving flora and the ecosystem. Public participation in conserving biodiversity of flora are important components that need to be considered and developed, especially to reduce the rate of environmental and natural resources degradation (Suryawan et al. 2015). Edward and Abivardi (1998) state that anyone who becomes involved in conservation work soon discovers that it is a truly multidisciplinary activity. On the other hand, to cope with external threats from the local communities, the forest management agency needs to collect data on socioeconomic by involving universities. The data obtained can be used as the basis for management policy.

Conclusions
A drier and more open forest in Tanah Merah Coast compared to a mostly waterlogged around Samboja Reservoir area enabled vegetation at seedling stage to grow better. Meanwhile, the number of species at sapling stage in the forest around Samboja Reservoir was higher than that in Tanah Merah Coast. The same condition was found for the tree stage of vegetation in these areas. Species diversity (H') of seedlings at Tanah Merah Coast forest area was higher than that around Samboja Reservoir. However, the later had a higher diversity of saplings and trees. In terms of species evenness (E), the number of individuals among species for each vegetation stage in the two areas were distributed fairly evenly.

SO strategy proposes attempts to increase the ecological functions that can provide economic benefits, while ST strategy suggests the management agency to cooperate with local community to consider alternative business and jobs. WO strategy aims at utilizing funds from donor agencies which can be done through the application of integrated participatory forest planning that ensures improvement in both ecological and economic aspects, while WT strategy utilizes the funds to improve the quality of human resources that can be achieved through the provision of a collaborative management training and a
technical training that aims at preserving the flora and the ecosystems.

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