IMPACT OF FIRE ON NATURAL REGENERATION IN PEAT

Bambang Hero Saharjo 1) and Ati Dwi Nurhayati 2)

1) Forest Fire Laboratory, Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, PO.BOX 168 Bogor, Phone: 62251421929, Fax: 62251621256.
2) Alumni, Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, PO.BOX 168 Bogor, Phone: 62251421929, Fax: 62251621256.

ABSTRACT

Fire is one of the most effective tools in disappearing vegetation community, where it was depend on the characteristics of burning itself and also the performance of the site being burnt. Previous research in mineral soils showed that repeated burning occurred at the same place trend to clean the vegetation which finally leads to have the land with lower number and quality of species left, while in peat land it was not fully understood. The research objective is to understand the vegetation dynamics following peat fires in the fibric peat type at the land preparation area using fire belong to the local community located in the Pelalawan district, Riau province, Indonesia during the dry season in the year 2001. Before slashing and drying, 10 tree species and 4 species of understorey vegetation found. The site was dominated by Uncaria glabrata at seedling stage, Garcinia rostrata at sapling stage, Shorea macrophylla at pole stage and Pandanus immersus at understorey. After slashing and followed by 4 weeks drying then continued by burning with high flame temperature range from 875°C to 900°C, it had been found that 3-months following burning the site was dominated by Garcinia rostrata at seedling stage and Cyperus halpan at understorey, while 6-months following burning the site was dominated by Eugenia jambos at seedling stage and Cyperus halpan at understorey. Three months following burning species left to be only 4 species with 115 individual/ha (3 species from original and 1 new species emerge), and at 6 months following burning still 4 species left with 230 individual/ha. Meanwhile in understorey vegetation, 3 months following burning the species increased to be 7 species with 746 individual/ha (3 species left unchanged, 1 species disappeared and 4 new species emerge) and 6 months following burning the species left still 7 species with 1235 individual/ha. This means that fire stimulate the increasing number of understorey vegetation.

Keywords: Peat fires, peat type, flame, natural regeneration, human

INTRODUCTION

In the most comprehensive study of the fires impact on the forest (Schindler, 1989), the researchers found that only 11% of the total forest area affected by fire was undisturbed primary forest, and that when this type of forest burns, only undergrowth is consumed, allowing full recovery of plant life within a few years.

Woods (1987) reported that the species composition of post-fire regeneration is related to the degree of canopy damage and resulting light level at the forest floor. High ground-level sunlight encourages pioneer species to sprout, disrupting the growth of tree seedlings normally associated with primary and secondary forests. Their effect is exacerbated in areas where hot fires destroy seedlings and viable seeds in the forest floor litter.

Ten years after the fires, ITTO-funded researchers studied regeneration in burned areas and reported that a variety of plant communities had grown, ranging from comparatively well-structured forest with wide species diversity to almost pure stands of pioneer species (Hess, 1994). The ITTO group was able to accelerate regeneration by killing pioneers species and planting seedlings of commercially valuable species. Vegetation ecologist have studied natural regeneration in abandoned Sweden plots and other forest clearings, providing insight into post-regeneration. One group found that after 30-years of natural regeneration in an abandoned pepper plantation, the resulting secondary forest was physiognomically indistinguishable from the primary lowland dipterocarp forest but different in floristics composition and structure (Kartawinata et al., 1981).

Previous research in mineral soils showed that repeated burning occurred at the same place trend to clean the vegetation which finally leads to have the land with lower number and quality of species left. While in peat land it was not fully understood. This paper present the information on fire impact to the natural regeneration of peat especially in fibric site.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Site and Time Period

Research was conducted in the period of August 2001 until July 2002 in the peat land area belong to the community of Pelalawan village, Pelalawan sub-district, Pelalawan district, Riau Province.

Based on the vegetation analysis shown that the research site was dominated by shrubs and ferns, vegetation found was Shorea macrophylla, Macaranga pruinosa, Ficus sundaica, Stenochlaena palustris, Parastemon urrophyllus, Baccaurea pendula, Nephorlepis flaccigera and Gleichenia linearis.

Climate in Pelalawan district cannot be separated from Riau province condition, generally the site was tropical climate with annually rainfall range between 2500-3000 mm with daily temperature between 22°C to 31°C. According to data made by Meteorological and Geophysical Agency, Ministry of Transportation, annually rainfall in the period between January-December 2001 in the site was 3794.5 mm that accompanied by 86 rainy days.

Sampling Data

The research was conducted in the field and at laboratory scale. Two (2) plots of 400 m² (20 m x 20 m) each with different characteristics is established at fibric site.

Before slashing and burning conducted, soil sampling, environmental condition measurement, and fuel characterization. Following those activity slashing was conducted where big log (diameter more than 10 cm) send out from the plot. Slashed logs and branching was separated through the plot. During slashed period (drying process) fuel characterization being conducted at different time measurement accompanied by environmental condition monitoring such as temperature, relative humidity and wind speed. Following slashing was drying for 4 a period of 4 weeks as it usually done by the community.

Activities conducted before burning

Three sub-plot of 2 m² (2 m x 1 m) in all the plot of 400 m² at fibric site was established in order to measure fuel characteristics such as fuel moisture, fuel bed depth, and fuel load.

Three samples of 100 gram each of materials found in the subplots (litter, leaves, branches, and logs) were taken and used as samples for moisture content measurement. Samples taken put in the oven and dried for 48 hours at 75°C (Clar and Chaten, 1954). Fuel moisture content estimated through dry weight based measurement.

Fuel load was estimated through the amount of plants materials both living and dead found in the subplot which were collected, separated and weighed.

Fuel bed depth was measured by the average height of the association of living and dead plant materials of various sizes and shapes in the subplots.

Activities conducted during burning

Burning was conducted using circle method and allowing the fire to propagate naturally. Flame temperature at 0 cm and 1 cm under the peat surface were measured using data logger. The temperature censors were placed in the plot at two locations.

Rate of the spread of fire was measured by the average distance perpendicular to the moving flame front per minute, using a stopwatch and through video camera recording.

It was very difficult to measure the average length of the flame directly in the burning condition, and then flame height was calculated through video camera recording.

Activities conducted after burning

Fuel left in the plot is measured by establishing 5 sub-plot 1m² in every plot. Those fuel left in the plot is weighted and checked.

Soon, following burning, heat penetration depth is measured by digging 5 sub-plot 400 cm² each in all the plots until 30 cm depth.

Fire intensity was calculated using Byram’s equation (Chandler et al, 1983), \[ FI = 273(h)^{1.7} \], where FI is fire intensity (kW/m) and h is flame length (m)

Vegetation Changing

In order to know the vegetation structure and composition changing then 25 m² (5 m x 5 m) sub-plot was established in the plot of 400m². In these sub-plots, all seedling, sapling, pole and trees and also understorey vegetation was calculated its species and number. Criteria used for seedling, sapling, pole and trees (Kusmana and Istomo, 1995) was as follows:

- Seedling means vegetation that has 1.5-m height.
- Sapling means vegetation that has 1.5-m height until seedling with 10-cm diameter.
- Pole means vegetation that has 10-20 cm diameter.
- Trees means vegetation that has > 20-cm diameter.

Before slashing, all seedling, sapling, pole, trees and undergrouth vegetation was calculated its species and number. Following slashing was drying for 4-weeks which continued by burning.

Activities conducted following burning

Following burning in the period of 1 month, 3 months and 6 months, all seedling, sapling, pole, trees and undergrouth vegetation found in the sub-plot was calculated its species and number.

Important Value Index (IVI)

Vegetation analysis is the way to study species composition and vegetation structure in one ecosystem (Soerianegara and Indrawan, 1998). In the vegetation analysis it was calculating Important Value Index. According to Odum (1971), IVI was numbering density.
relative (DR), frequency relative (FR) and dominance relative (DR).

\[ \text{IVI} = \text{DR} + \text{FR} + \text{DR} \]
- IVI for trees and pole was: \( \text{DR} + \text{FR} + \text{DR} \)
- IVI for seedling, sapling and undergrowth vegetation was: \( \text{DR} + \text{FR} \), where

\[ \text{DR} = \frac{S - I}{\ln (S)} \]
\( S \) = Total species found
\( I \) = Total individual number

Species Richness
Species richness was a species number in a community. In order to predict species richness, Margaleff (Ludwig and Reynolds, 1988) formula used as follows:

\[ R = \frac{(S-1)}{\ln (n)} \]

Where, \( R \) = Richness Index
\( S \) = Total species found
\( n \) = Total individual number

Species Diversity
Species richness used to compare two communities, to study the effect of biotic disturbing and to know succession stage. Diversity changing can be calculated by using Shannon-Weiner (Ludwig and Reynolds, 1988) that was:

\[ H' = - \sum \left( \frac{\text{ni}}{N} \right) \log \left( \frac{\text{ni}}{N} \right) \]

Where, \( H' \) = Diversity Index
\( N \) = Total number all individual
\( \text{ni} \) = Number of individual within a species in sample plot

Evenness
Evenness concept would like to show the degree of evenness of individual abundance between species. Evenness scaling was an indicator for signing dominancy between species within community. If every species have the same individual number, then those communities have evenness with minimum value. Meanwhile if in the community there was found dominancy or sub-dominancy species means that community have evenness with minimum value. Evenness formula (Ludwig and Reynolds, 1988) was:

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

Where, \( E \) = Evenness number (0-1)
\( H' \) = Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index
\( S \) = \( \sum \) all species within community

Index of Similarity
The changing of vegetation community following fire can be compared using community association analysis through following formula:

\[ IS = \frac{2W(a + b)}{(a + b)} \times 100 \%
\]

Where, \( IS \) = Index of similarity
\( W \) = Lower number or the same from two communities that compared
\( a, b \) = Total community value a (before burning) and b (following burning)

The highest \( IS \) value was 100 % while the lowest was 0 %. 100 % value if compared communities really the same, 0 % value if two communities compared absolutely different. Generally, two communities was relatively the same if they have \( IS \geq 75 \%

Data Analysis
A completely random design of variance was used to test for differences among subplots, based on the following model (Steel and Torrie 1981):

\[ Ymn = U + Tm + Emn \]

Where, \( Ymn \) = fuel and fire behavior parameter at \( m \) subplot in \( n \) replication
\( U \) = mean of the treatment population sampled
\( Tm \) = treatment (slashing, drying, burning)
\( Emn \) = random component

To identify significant difference of fuel and fire behavior parameters among subplots (p≤0.05), the Duncan test was used (Steel and Torrie 1981).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Before Burning
Temperature before burning was vary from 36 °C in plot 2 to 37 °C in plot 1, relative humidity vary from 52 % in plot 2 to 53 % in plot 1 and wind speed vary from 0.67 m/minute in plot 2 to 1.05 m/minute in plot 1 (Table 1).

Before burning fuel load found in the site in the range between 61.56 to 62.67 ton/ha; fuel moisture vary from 8.63 to 9.19 % for dry leaves, 12.85-15.6 % for dry branching and 84.75 to 85.6 % for peat surface; while fuel bed depth was vary from 42.3 to 54.7 cm (Table 1).

Before slashing 15 species of trees from 12 families was found in the fibric peat site which was dominated by Euphorbiaceae family and nine (9) species from 9 families of under storey vegetation was found (Table 2).

Important Value Index of seedling was vary from 7.612 (Alstonia pneumathophora) to 91.003 (Uncaria glabrata), sapling was vary from 2.681 (Gonystylus bancanus) to 50.63 (Garcinia rostrata), pole was vary from 28.22 (Derris heterophylla) to 70.93 (Pandanus immersus) and underg storey vegetation was 300 made by Shorea macrophylla (Table 3).
Table 1. Weather condition and Fire Behavior during burning

| Parameter                        | Plot 1                                  | Plot 2                                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Weather condition                |                                         |                                         |
| Temperature                      | 37                                      | 36                                      |
| Relative humidity (%)            | 53                                      | 52                                      |
| Wind speed (m/sec.)              | 1.05                                    | 0.67                                    |
| Fuel load (ton/ha)               | (62.67±12.59)a                          | (61.56±13.16)a                          |
| Fuel bed depth (cm)              | (54.7±8.9) b                            | (42.3±7.8)a                             |
| Fuel moisture (%)                | * Leaves (8.6±1.10)a                    | (9.19±4.59)a                            |
| * Branches                       | (15.6±3.59)b                           | (12.85±4.85)a                           |
| * Peat surface                   | (8.5±1.34)a                            | (84.7±0.78)a                            |
| Flame length (m)                 | (4.12±1.53)b                            | (3.69±1.8)a                             |
| Fire int. (kW/m)                 | (672.1±501.34)b                         | (5300.28±4117.48)a                      |
| R. of the spr. (m/mnt)           | (3.3±1.8) b                            | (1.47±0.39) a                           |
| Flame temp. (°C)                 | - 1 cm below ground                     | 75                                      |
|                                  | - Ground                                 | 875                                    |
| Burnt fuel (%)                   | * Litter                                | 95                                      |
|                                  | * Branches                              | 75                                      |
|                                  | * Log                                   | 5                                       |
|                                  | Slope (%)                               | 0                                       |
|                                  | Plot size (ha)                          | 0.04                                    |
|                                  | Duration (mnt.)                         | 15.18                                   |
|                                  | Burning time                            | 12.35 p.m                               |
| Means are significantly different when standard errors are followed by different letters (p<0.05) |

Table 2. Species trees and understorey vegetation found in the research site

| No. | Species trees | Botanical name          | Local name | Family          |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | *Alstonia spatulata* | Basung                | Apocynaceae |
| 2.  | *Bredelia glauca*     | Ki Howo                | Euphorbiaceae |
| 3.  | *Calopha/ium pulcherimum* | Bintangur Onjem    | Clusiaceae  |
| 4.  | *Eugienia jambos*     | Jambu-jambu            | Myrtaceae   |
| 5.  | *Ficus sindaica*      | Ara                     | Moraceae    |
| 6.  | *Gal/earia celebica*  | Ketiau                 | Euphorbiaceae |
| 7.  | *Gama motleyana*      | Ketiau                 | Sapotaceae  |
| 8.  | *Garcina rastrata*    | Asam Kandis            | Clusiaceae  |
| 9.  | *Gonysty/us bancanus* | Gaharu Buaya           | Thymelaceae |
| 10. | *Litsea velutina*     | Medang                 | Lauraceae   |
| 11. | *Lophopetalum pachyphyllum* | Perupuk               | Celastraceae |
| 12. | *Neoscorpita/ins philippinensis* | Nangka-nangka | Euphorbiaceae |
| 13. | *Parastemon uropyllus* | Milas                 | Chrysobalanaceae |
| 14. | *Shorea macrophylla*  | Meranti                | Dipterocarpaceae |
| 15. | *Timonius wallichianus* | Cabe-cabe             | Rubiaceae   |

Understorey vegetation

| No. | Species trees | Botanical name | Local name | Family |
|-----|---------------|----------------|------------|--------|
| 1.  | *Antidesma penandrum* | Kayu Lundu   | Euphorbiaceae |
| 2.  | *Cyperus halpas* | Papayungan    | Cyperaceae  |
| 3.  | *Derris heterophylla* | Tubalau       | Leguminosae |
Table 3. Important Value Index Seedling, Sapling, Pole and Understorey vegetation before burning

| No | Botanical name | Seedling | | Sapling | | Understorey vegetation | | Pole |
|----|----------------|----------|---|--------|---|------------------------|---|------|
|    | D (ind/ha) | DR (%) | F | FR (%) | IVI | D (ind/ha) | D | FR (%) | IVI |
| 1. | Alstonia pneumathopora | 5 | 1.730 | 0.167 | 5.882 | 7.612 | 100 | 0.083 | 100 | 324.000 | 100 | 300.000 |
| 2. | Alstonia scholaris | 8 | 2.768 | 0.250 | 8.824 | 11.592 | 94 | 0.500 | 94 | 23.893 | 94 | 23.893 |
| 3. | Baccaraera pendula | 12 | 4.152 | 0.333 | 11.765 | 15.917 | 78 | 0.417 | 78 | 27.778 | 78 | 27.778 |
| 4. | Bredelia glauca | 12 | 4.152 | 0.417 | 14.706 | 18.858 | 94 | 0.500 | 94 | 23.893 | 94 | 23.893 |
| 5. | Ficus sundaica | 4 | 1.384 | 0.167 | 5.882 | 7.612 | 100 | 0.083 | 100 | 324.000 | 100 | 300.000 |
| 6. | Litsea polyantha | 5 | 1.730 | 0.167 | 5.882 | 7.612 | 94 | 0.500 | 94 | 23.893 | 94 | 23.893 |
| 7. | Litsea javanica | 7 | 2.422 | 0.250 | 8.824 | 11.246 | 78 | 0.417 | 78 | 27.778 | 78 | 27.778 |
| 8. | Mangifera indica | 6 | 2.076 | 0.167 | 5.882 | 7.958 | 41 | 0.333 | 41 | 14.591 | 41 | 14.591 |
| 9. | Parastemon uruphyllus | 18 | 6.228 | 0.417 | 14.706 | 20.934 | 212 | 73.356 | 212 | 91.003 | 212 | 91.003 |
| 10. | Uncaria glabrata | 100 | 100.000 | 2.833 | 100.000 | 200.000 | 212 | 73.356 | 212 | 91.003 | 212 | 91.003 |
| 1. | Alstonia spatulata | 15 | 5.338 | 0.250 | 6.977 | 12.315 | 2 | 0.712 | 2 | 2.326 | 2 | 2.326 |
| 2. | Bredelia glauca | 18 | 6.406 | 0.333 | 9.302 | 15.708 | 90 | 0.667 | 90 | 50.633 | 90 | 50.633 |
| 3. | Lophopetalum pachyphyllum | 4 | 1.423 | 0.083 | 2.326 | 3.749 | 281 | 100.000 | 281 | 50.000 | 281 | 50.000 |
| 4. | Euginia jambos | 15 | 5.338 | 0.333 | 9.302 | 14.640 | 94 | 0.500 | 94 | 23.893 | 94 | 23.893 |
| 5. | Ficus sundaica | II | 3.915 | 0.250 | 6.977 | 10.891 | 94 | 0.500 | 94 | 23.893 | 94 | 23.893 |
| 6. | Ganua motleyana | 5 | 1.068 | 0.167 | 4.651 | 5.719 | 41 | 0.333 | 41 | 14.591 | 41 | 14.591 |
| 7. | Galearia celebica | 3 | 1.068 | 0.167 | 4.651 | 5.719 | 22 | 0.333 | 22 | 2.326 | 22 | 2.326 |
| 8. | Garancia rostrata | 90 | 32.028 | 0.667 | 18.605 | 50.633 | 22 | 0.333 | 22 | 2.326 | 22 | 2.326 |
| 9. | Gonystylus bancanus | 1 | 0.356 | 0.083 | 2.326 | 2.681 | 22 | 0.333 | 22 | 2.326 | 22 | 2.326 |
| 10. | Litsea velutina | 62 | 22.064 | 0.583 | 16.279 | 38.343 | 250 | 100.000 | 250 | 70.933 | 250 | 70.933 |
| 11. | Neocathecinia kingii | 4 | 2.076 | 0.083 | 2.326 | 3.749 | 250 | 100.000 | 250 | 70.933 | 250 | 70.933 |
| 12. | Parastemon uruphyllus | 41 | 14.591 | 0.333 | 9.302 | 23.893 | 250 | 100.000 | 250 | 70.933 | 250 | 70.933 |
| 13. | Timonium wallachianus | 2 | 0.712 | 0.083 | 2.326 | 3.037 | 250 | 100.000 | 250 | 70.933 | 250 | 70.933 |
|    |                | 281 | 100.000 | 3.583 | 100.000 | 200.000 | 300.000 | 324.000 | 300.000 | 324.000 | 300.000 | 324.000 |

4. Erechthistes valerianirifolia | Sintroga | Asteraceae |
5. Melastoma malabathricum | Harendong | Melastomaceae |
6. Nephorlepis radican | Paku Rawa | Oleandraceae |
7. Pandanus immersus | Paku Hutan | Pandaceae |
8. Stenochaloea palustris | Paku Hutan | Pteridaceae |
9. Trycalsia sp. | Rayutan Cina | Rubiaceae |
After Burning

Flame length was vary from 3.69 m to 4.12 m, where rate of the spread of fire vary from 1.47 m/minute to 3.31 m/minute, resulted flame temperature in the ground that vary from 875 °C to 900 °C and flame temperature 1 cm under the ground was vary from 75 °C to 90 °C. Fire intensity as one component to understand how fire behave was vary from 5300 in plot 2 to 6721 kW/m in plot 1 (Table 1).

Important Value Index

Three months following burning Important Value Index seedling in sapric plot was dominated by Eugenia jambos with IVI was 88.758 and Garcinia rostrata with IVI was 56.398, while Six months following burning it was dominated by Eugenia jambos with IVI was 102.945 followed by Parastemon uruphyl/us with IVI was 34.571 (Table 4).

Important Value Index under storey vegetation three months following burning was dominated by Cyperus halpan with IVI was 83.789 followed by Stenochlaena palustris with IVI was 32.486, while six months following burning it was dominated by Cyperus halpan with IVI was 69.779 followed by Pandan/us immersus with IVI was 31.097 (Table 5).

Species Richness (R)

Three months following burning in Fibric 1, species richness of seedling was 0.71, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.06, while in Fibric 2, species richness of seedling was 0.53, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.86 (Table 6).

Six months following burning in Fibric 1, species richness of seedling was 0.60, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.92, while in Fibric 2, species richness of seedling was 0.43, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.95 (Table 6).

Species Diversity (H')

Three months following burning in Fibric 1, species diversity of seedling was 1.16, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 1.24, while in Fibric 2, species diversity of seedling was 0.97, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 1.28 (Table 6).

Six months following burning in Fibric 1, species diversity of seedling was 1.10, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 1.49, while in Fibric 2, species diversity of seedling was 0.80, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 1.52 (Table 6).

Evenness (E)

Three months following burning in Fibric 1, evenness of seedling was 0.67, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.77, while in Fibric 2, evenness of seedling was 0.69, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.72 (Table 6).

Six months following burning in Fibric 1 plot, evenness of seedling was 0.80, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.76, while in Fibric 2, evenness of seedling was 0.72, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 0.78 (Table 6).

Index of Similarity (IS)

Before burning and three months following burning Index of similarity of seedling in Fibric 1 was 40.88, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 43.46, while in Fibric 2, Index of similarity of seedling was 39.42, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 32.89 (Table 7).

Before burning and six months following burning Index of similarity of seedling in Fibric 1 was 36.38, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 39.68, while in Fibric 2, Index of similarity of seedling was 31.14, sapling was 0.0, and under storey was 40.21 (Table 7).

Three and six three months following burning Index of similarity of seedling in Fibric 1 was 93.80, sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was 82.72, while in Fibric 2, Index of similarity of seedling was 88.38, sapling was 0.0, and under storey was 83.17 (Table 7).

DISCUSSION

High fire intensity resulted during burning that vary from 5,300.28 to 6721.24 kW/m was an indicator how severe fire did in fibric site and it relation to the effect of the materials found both dead and live on the peat surface eventhough it was found that both fuel load was not significantly different. No peat burnt found in the site after burning even though flame temperature vary from 875°C to 900°C actually would like to show how peat with the lowest level of decomposition and covered with high moisture content was not easily be destroyed. This has consequences that during burning it will create more devastated effect on the peat surface rather than below especially in relation to the seed lethal temperature. By the way low rate of the spread of fire as a result from penetration heat that vary from 1.47 m/minute to 3.31 m/minute, give a consequence also to the performance of living things under peat surface as it had been found that flame temperature 1 cm below peat was vary from 75 to 90°C. The natural regeneration emerge after burning directly affected both by heat effect on the peat surface and below and also vegetation performance near the burnt site. The effect of fire depends on the fire regime. A change in the fire regime can change the prospect of the communities (Bond and Wilgen, 1996).
### Table 4. Important Value Index Seedling 3 and 6 months following burning

| No | Botanical name               | K (ind/ha) | KR (%) | F   | FR (%) | IVI    |
|----|------------------------------|------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|
|    | Three months                 |            |        |     |        |        |
| 1  | *Euginia jambos*            | 61         | 53.043 | 0.417 | 35.714 | 88.758 |
| 2  | *Garcinia rostrata*         | 32         | 27.826 | 0.333 | 28.571 | 56.398 |
| 3  | *Parastemon uruphyllus*     | 5          | 4.348  | 0.167 | 14.286 | 18.634 |
| 4  | *Antidesma pentandrum*      | 17         | 14.783 | 0.250 | 21.429 | 36.211 |
|    |                              | 115        | 100.000| 1.167 | 100.000| 200.000|
|    | Six months                   |            |        |     |        |        |
| 1  | *Euginia jambos*            | 161        | 64.400 | 0.667 | 38.095 | 102.495|
| 2  | *Garcinia rostrata*         | 47         | 18.800 | 0.250 | 14.286 | 33.086 |
| 3  | *Parastemon uruphyllus*     | 15         | 6.000  | 0.500 | 28.571 | 34.571 |
| 4  | *Antidesma pentandrum*      | 27         | 10.800 | 0.333 | 19.048 | 29.848 |
|    |                              | 250        | 100.000| 1.750 | 100.000| 200.000|

### Table 5. Important Value Index Understorey vegetation 3 and 6 months following burning

| Botanical name               | D (ind/ha) | DR (%) | F   | FR (%) | IVI    |
|------------------------------|------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|
| Three months                 |            |        |     |        |        |
| *Cyperus halpan*             | 445        | 59.651 | 0.583 | 24.138 | 83.789 |
| *Erechites valerianmifolia*  | 21         | 2.815  | 0.250 | 10.345 | 13.160 |
| *Melastoma malabricum*       | 48         | 6.434  | 0.250 | 10.345 | 16.779 |
| *Nephorlepis radicans*       | 47         | 6.300  | 0.250 | 10.345 | 16.645 |
| *Pandanus immersus*          | 79         | 10.590 | 0.417 | 17.241 | 27.831 |
| *Stenochalaoena palustris*   | 88         | 11.796 | 0.500 | 20.690 | 32.486 |
| *Tryca/sia sp.*              | 18         | 2.413  | 0.167 | 6.897  | 9.309  |
|                              | 746        | 100.000| 2.417 | 100.000| 200.000|
| Six months                   |            |        |     |        |        |
| *Cyperus halpan*             | 632        | 51.174 | 0.667 | 18.605 | 69.779 |
| *Erechites valerianmifolia*  | 58         | 4.696  | 0.417 | 11.628 | 16.324 |
| *Melastoma malabricum*       | 70         | 5.668  | 0.500 | 13.953 | 19.622 |
| *Nephorlepis radicans*       | 102        | 8.259  | 0.583 | 16.279 | 24.538 |
| *Pandanus immersus*          | 183        | 14.818 | 0.583 | 16.279 | 31.097 |
| *Stenochalaoena palustris*   | 152        | 12.308 | 0.583 | 16.279 | 28.587 |
| *Tryca/sia sp.*              | 38         | 3.077  | 0.250 | 6.977  | 10.054 |
|                              | 1235       | 100.000| 3.583 | 100.000| 200.000|

### Table 6. Index of species biodiversity in Fibric 1 and 3 before and following burning

| No | Growth stage | Index | Before | Following burning |
|----|--------------|-------|--------|-------------------|
| 1  | Seedling     |       |        |                   |
|    | R            | 2.27  | 0.71   | 0.60              |
|    | H            | 1.77  | 1.16   | 1.10              |
|    | E            | 0.84  | 0.67   | 0.80              |
| 2  | Sapling      |       |        |                   |
|    | H            | 1.97  | 0.00   | 0.00              |
| 3  | Pole         |       |        |                   |
|    | H            | 0.64  | 0.00   | 0.00              |
| 4  | Under storey |       |        |                   |
|    | R            | 0.60  | 0.66   | 0.92              |
Impact of fire in peat (B. H. Saharjo and A. D. Nurhayati)

| Growth stage | Tree species | Index of Similarity (IS) |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
|               | A + B        | A + C                    | B + C                  |
| Fibric 1      |              |                          |                        |
| 1. Seedling   | 40.88        | 36.38                    | 93.80                  |
| 2. Sapling    | 0.00         | 0.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 3. Pole       | 0.00         | 0.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 4. Under storey | 43.46        | 39.68                    | 82.72                  |
| Fibric 2      |              |                          |                        |
| 1. Seedling   | 39.42        | 31.14                    | 88.38                  |
| 2. Sapling    | 0.00         | 0.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 3. Pole       | 0.00         | 0.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 4. Under storey | 32.89        | 40.21                    | 83.17                  |

Legend: A = Before burning
         B = 3 months following burning
         C = 6 months following burning
Important Value Index

*Seeding*

Fire drastically changed the structure and composition of seedling as it can be seen three months following burning. The site was dominated by *Eugenia jambos* with *IVI* = 88.758 followed by *Garcinia rostrata* with *IVI* = 56.398 where before burning the site was dominated by *Uncaria glabrata* with *IVI* = 91.003 followed by *Parastemon uruphyllus* with *IVI* = 20.394. At this time only four species found compared to ten species found before burning.

Six months following burning again only four species found but with more individu (250) compared to at three months (115). This fact shown that only this four species that could adapted with new environment which then dominated the site. For many species, the combination of open space, increased availability of resources and temporary reduction in seed predators (enemy-free space) is highly favourable for seedling establishment in the post-fire environment (Bond and Wilgen, 1996).

*Under storey vegetation*

Three months following burning under storey vegetation was dominated by *Cyperus halpan* with *IVI* = 83.789 followed by *Stenochalazaena palustris* with *IVI* = 32.486, compared to the condition before burning seems that following burning the number of species increased to be seven species than four species before. *Cyperus halpan* was a new species of under storey that was not found at before burning stage and dominated the site. Another new species found were *Melastoma malabtricum* and *Tyrcalsia sp. Derris heterophylla* that found before burning become disappeared at three months following burning. *Cyperus halpan* still dominated at six months following burning which then followed by *Pandanus immersus* that was dominated the Fibric site before burning.

*Species Richness (R)*

Species Richness of seedling three months following burning that was vary from 0.53 (Fibric 2) to 0.71 (Fibric 1) was lower than before burning that was vary from 2.04 (Fibric 2) to 2.27 (Fibric 1), sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey was vary from 0.06 (Fibric 1) to 0.86 (Fibric 2). This fact show that fire decrease species richness of seedling, sapling, pole and under storey vegetation, even though there was an increasing of it but it was still lower than in the condition before burning. This situation was occurred also for the seedling, sapling, pole, and under storey vegetation at six months following burning condition. Even though during three months seems species richness especially for seedling and under storey vegetation increased but still lower than before burning.

*Species Diversity (II’)*

Fire decrease species diversity of seedling, sapling, pole, and under storey vegetation as it can be seen trough species diversity performance at three and six months following burning. The increasing of species diversity during three and six months following burning could be understood because of better environmental condition resulted following burning. It was separated also by the regeneration process that occurred due to better media and environmental factor.

*Evenness (E)*

Evenness at the period of three months following burning was lower than in the before burning condition. Evenness of seedling was vary from 0.67 (fibric 1) to 0.69 (Fibric 2), sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0 and under storey vegetation that was vary from 0.72 (Fibric 2) to 0.76 (Fibric 1), there all value less than before burning value of evenness. This situation was also the same at the period of six months following burning.

*Index of Similarity (IS)*

Index of Similarity of seedling between before burning and three months following burning was vary from 39.42% (Fibric 2) to 40.88% (Fibric 1) sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0, and under storey that was vary from 32.89% (Fibric 2) to 43.46% (Fibric 1). This means that communities formed at the three months following burning was totally different compared to the before burning condition.

Meanwhile index of similarity of seedling between before burning and six months following burning was vary from 31.14% (Fibric 2) to 36.38% (Fibric 1), sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0, and under storey vegetation that was vary from 39.68% (Fibric 1) to 40.21% (Fibric 2). Again this fact show that communities formed at six months following burning was totally different compared to the before burning condition.

Even though communities formed at three and six months following burning compared to the condition before burning was totally different but index of similarity between seedling at three and six months following burning was vary from 88.38% (Fibric 2) to 93.80% (Fibric 1), sapling was 0.0, pole was 0.0, and under storey vegetation that was vary from 82.72% (Fibric 1) to 83.17% (Fibric 2) means that seedling in both communities relatively the same as it occurred also in under storey vegetation but not for sapling and pole that totally different. Post-fire conditions have many advantages for seedlings, space is freed by the burning of established plants, resources increased and seed and seedling predators decline (Bond and Wilgen, 1996).

**CONCLUSION**

Burning drastically changes the domination and composition structure of the vegetation in fibric peat type. After burning there was a trend of seedling species to disappeared and replace by new species, while at understorey vegetation it was totally different because following burning the species found was increased.
At three months following burning it was found that 9 species of seedling was disappeared and only 1 species left, while at understorey vegetation it was found that only 1 species disappeared and another 3 species left. The total species of seedling found at three months following burning was 4 species (10 species found before burning) and 7 species in understorey vegetation (4 species found before burning).

At three and six months following burning the species richness of seedling, sapling and pole decreased drastically compared to the condition before burning, as it was occurred also in the species diversity and evenness.

Similarity of species found before burning and following burning was totally different as it found in fibric 1 and 2, but it was not too different between seedling species found at three and six month following burning that was vary from 82.72 % to 93.8 %.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Author thank to PT.Riau Andalan Pulp And Paper (PT.RAPP), PO Box 1080, Pekanbaru, Riau 28000, Indonesia, which had given chance to have a research collaboration and funding assistance.

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