

# Environmental conditions to support blue carbon storage in mangrove forest: A case study in the mangrove forest, Nusa Lembongan, Bali, Indonesia

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<sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Indonesia. Jl. Prof. Soedjono D. Poesponegoro (Lingkar Kampus Raya), Pondok Cina, Beji, Depok 16424, West Java, Indonesia. Tel./fax.:+62-21-7270163, ✉✉email: herdis@ui.ac.id

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**Abstract.** *Pricillia CC, Patria MP, Herdiansyah H. 2021. Environmental conditions to support blue carbon storage in mangrove forest: A case study in the mangrove forest, Nusa Lembongan, Bali, Indonesia. Biodiversitas 22: 3304-3314.* Mangrove ecosystems can provide ecosystem services to mitigate climate change by absorbing and storing carbon in their systems. The question arises of how to manage a mangrove forest to store more carbon. The Nusa Lembongan mangrove forest was examined to assess the optimal environmental settings for blue carbon storage in the mangrove ecosystem. Five stations were selected purposively. The parameters observed in each station were aboveground living biomass, mangrove stand density, clay percentage in soil, bulk density, water content, soil organic carbon (%C), and soil organic nitrogen (%N). Based on this study, the total carbon stock in mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan was  $68.10 \pm 20.92 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  and equals to  $249.95 \pm 76.77 \text{ MgCO}_2 \text{ ha}^{-1}$  with a significant contribution of soil carbon stock. This study indicates that the essential parameters that can promote carbon sequestration in mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan were aboveground living biomass, soil organic carbon content and soil organic nitrogen content. In addition, as soil organic carbon content also negatively correlates with bulk density, it also can be considered. These findings can contribute to blue carbon planning and management to improve the effectiveness of the blue carbon project.

**Keywords:** Aboveground biomass, blue carbon, climate change, mangrove, soil organic carbon

**Abbreviations:** AA: *Avicennia alba*, AM: *Avicennia marina*, AMR: *Avicennia marina* var. *rumphiana*, BC: *Bruguiera cylindrica*, BG: *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, CT: *Ceriops tagal*, DBH: Diameter at breast height, NDC: Nationally Determined Contributions, RA: *Rhizophora apiculata*, RM: *Rhizophora mucronata*, RS: *Rhizophora stylosa*, SA: *Sonneratia alba*, UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, XG: *Xylocarpus granatum*

## INTRODUCTION

The stored carbon in coastal ecosystems is called blue carbon (Macreadie et al. 2019). The term has been emerging since 2009 as a concern of coastal ecosystem degradation and a considerable contribution to global carbon sequestration (Lovelock and Duarte 2019; Macreadie et al. 2019). In particular, mangrove ecosystems have been degrading at an alarming rate, from 1 to 8% per year (Friess et al. 2019). Simultaneously, mangrove's ability to sequester carbon is generally higher than terrestrial and coastal vegetation at the local plot scale (Grace et al. 2006; Lewis et al. 2009; Estrada and Soares 2017; Taillardat et al. 2018). Nevertheless, blue carbon only accounts for 1.3% of land carbon sink globally because of lower coverage area (Taillardat et al. 2018). As a response to this matter, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) promotes the integration of mangrove ecosystems in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as the mitigation plan, besides adaptation plan. Taillardat et al. (2018) argue that including mangroves as a climate change mitigation

strategy is most effective at the national level. Understanding the factors that influence carbon burial in mangrove ecosystems can contribute to effective planning and climate change mitigation plans.

Globally mangrove ecosystem has a total carbon stock of  $738 \pm 27.9 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  of which 77% of the carbon is stored in soil (Alongi 2020). Although mangrove forests in the world only account for 0.2% of terrestrial vegetation coverage (Hamilton and Casey 2016), in a country that has extensive mangrove area, it is essential to consider the mangrove ecosystem as a mitigation plan. Given this matter, the Indonesian government has been starting to incorporate mangrove ecosystems by including mangrove forests in National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. However, carbon stored in mangrove soil has not been included yet (Anwar 2020). Studies that address carbon stock in mangrove soil are urgently needed to improve data availability and reduce uncertainty. Moreover, it is also suggested to provide local-scale mangrove data to increase data accuracy and enable high-resolution data. Hence, it could help address conservation challenges in various geographic settings (Worthington et al. 2020).

According to Howard et al. (2017), prioritizing areas that have high carbon sequestration potential for blue carbon projects is essential. Nevertheless, studies regarding the factors that influence carbon storage in the mangrove ecosystem are scarce, including which species and geography significantly impact carbon storage (McLeod et al. 2011; Howard et al. 2017). Few studies have observed the factors that influence carbon preservation in mangrove ecosystem (Matsui et al. 2015; Weiss et al. 2016; Martuti et al. 2017; Asadi et al. 2018; Pérez et al. 2018; Gao et al. 2019; Kida and Fujitake 2020). Findings of these studies showed that the influencing factors of carbon sequestration in the mangrove ecosystem were varied and complicated. Hence quantitative analysis of influencing factors that promote carbon preservation is necessary for different geographic settings (Huang et al. 2018). This study analyzed seven parameters: aboveground living biomass, mangrove stand density, clay percentage in soil, bulk density, water content, soil organic carbon (%C), and soil organic nitrogen (%N). These parameters were analyzed to determine which parameters will significantly correlate with the mangrove ecosystem's total carbon stock. These parameters will preview suitable geographical settings for carbon storage at a local scale project. It also will reveal which species have the potential to store more carbon for further rehabilitation efforts.

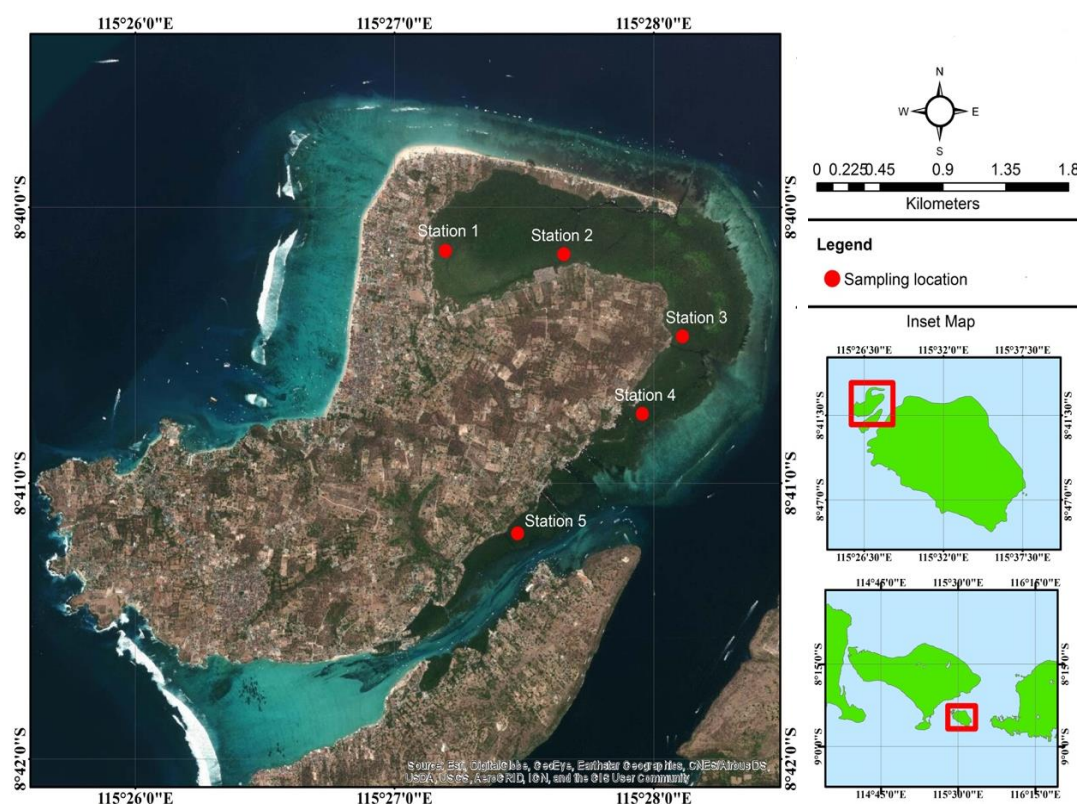
Hence, to understand the correlation between those parameters, the mangrove forest in Nusa Lembongan was selected as the research location. It has a high-density mangrove forest and has been protected under the regulation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of

The Republic of Indonesia since 1981. The mangrove ecosystem in the mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan can store carbon in biomass of  $90.72 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2014). However, the previous study had not included soil carbon stock. As far as the authors determine, no study has been done regarding carbon storage ability in mangrove soils in the mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan. This study can contribute to the planning and management of mangrove ecosystems, as these forests are often chosen as locations for mangrove rehabilitation programs.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study area

The mangrove forest of Nusa Lembongan is located on the south of Bali mainland, lying between latitude  $115^{\circ}27'0'' \text{ E}$ - $115^{\circ}28'23.1'' \text{ E}$  and longitude  $8^{\circ}39'51.2'' \text{ S}$ - $8^{\circ}41'37.8'' \text{ S}$  (Figure 1). It covers a total of 202 ha (Palguna et al. 2017). In the mangrove forests of Nusa Lembongan, six families were found, namely Acanthaceae, Avicenniaceae, Lythraceae, Rhizophoraceae, Meliaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Combretaceae (Palguna et al. 2017). Distribution of mangrove species in mangrove forest of Nusa Lembongan does not form a distinctive zonation; however, the exposed mangrove zone was dominated with *Rhizophora stylosa* Griff., *Rhizophora apiculata* Blume and *Sonneratia alba* Sm. (Welly et al. 2010). In this study, five stations were selected purposively to represent the mangrove area's various environmental settings.



**Figure 1.** Location of sampling site in mangrove forest of Nusa Lembongan, Bali Province, Indonesia

Here, brief information about each station is explained based on the author's observation. Station 1 is located in 8°40'06.5" S 115°27'15.2" E, which is far from offshore, adjacent to the housing complex, and characterized by minimal active disturbance. At the time of the study, crab and cockle collectors were not found. However, based on local people's information, sometimes people get inside to collect crabs and cockles. Station 2 is located in 8°40'04.9" S, 115°27'36.3" E, which adjacent to the landfill with minimal disturbance. Station 3 is located in 8°40'16.7" S, 115°28'09.4" E; based on local people information, almost no one enters this area because of the high density of mangrove, dominated with *Rhizophora* sp. which had high and dense stilt-roots making it almost inaccessible. Station 4 is located in 8°40'44.0" S 115°27'57.3" E; unlike other stations far from offshore exposure and characterized with clay-dominated soil, this station is directly facing the offshore and had soil mixed between sand and clay. This station is also the site for mangrove tours. Station 5 is located in 8°41'10.1" S, 115°27'29.5" E, adjacent to offshore and had soil mixed between sand and clay. This station also had a high density of mangrove; and it was almost inaccessible because of the stilt-roots of *Rhizophora* sp. As observed, water salinity in stations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were 25 ppt, 28 ppt, 26 ppt, 31 ppt and 31 ppt respectively.

## Procedures

### Data collection

Data collection in the mangrove ecosystem was carried out at five stations, according to Figure 1. At each station, two 100 m transects were laid from the shore perpendicular towards the mangrove forest, the distance between transects was 50 m. Square plots sized 10 × 10 m were set along the transect in 35 m intervals (6 plots in total). The stands were distinguished between trees, saplings, and seedlings. Tree characterized with diameter at breast height (DBH) ≥ 10 cm and height of ≥ 1.5 m; sapling has DBH < 10 cm and height of ≥ 1.5 m; and seedling has height ≥ 1.5 m (Soerianegara and Indrawan 1988). However, based on our observation, all quadrats are dominated by the sapling. Considering that, the sapling has to be accounted for aboveground living biomass carbon stock (Lovelock et al. 2005). In contrast, the seedling will be neglected from aboveground living biomass carbon stock quantification due to insignificance contribution in carbon content (Kauffman and Donato 2012). Therefore to determine the number of stands in each quadrat, an area plot of 10 × 10 m was used to determine the number of trees and saplings to increase DBH measurement accuracy. However, smaller plots sized 2 × 2 m were used to determine the number of seedlings.

The observed in-situ parameters were the number of stands, species, DBH, and water salinity. Soil samples were collected using stainless steel core having 30 cm length and 7 cm diameter in three selected plots in each station. The later sample was separated into 0 – 15 cm and 15 – 30 cm depth. The subsampling strategy was carried out following

method of Howard et al. (2014). During soil sample collection, core compression occurred; therefore, the compaction correction factor was used to determine soil subsampling depth (Howard et al. 2014). The compaction correction factor was calculated by dividing the length of soil extracted from the core and the length of core penetration. Then, the result was multiplied with the desired depth. The subsamples were placed in Zip-lock plastic bags and labeled. The soil samples were preserved in a freezer (< 4 °C) until further laboratory analysis.

Besides soil samples, tree biomass was also collected for carbon stock estimation. For each species that were identified in the mangrove forest, two samples of branches were collected. At the time of the study, eleven species were found: *Xylocarpus granatum* J. Koenig., *Ceriops tagal* (Perr.) C.B. Rob., *S. alba*, *Rhizophora mucronata* Lam., *R. apiculata*, *R. stylosa*, *Avicennia marina* (Forssk.) Vierh., *Avicennia marina* var. *rumphiana* (Hallier f.) Bakh., *Avicennia alba* Blume., *Bruguiera cylindrica* (Linnaeus) Blume. and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* (L.) Lam. Due to customary law applied in the mangrove forest, which prohibited cutting down mangrove trees, authorities (*Perbekel* Jungutbatu Village and local government) approved collecting samples in a limited number.

### Mangrove ecosystem condition

Parameters used as an indicator for mangrove ecosystem conditions were aboveground biomass, mangrove density, clay percentage in soil, bulk density, moisture content, and C:N ratio. After obtaining the number of stands and species, the mangrove density was determined using the equation of (Bengen 2000).

$$D_i = \frac{n_i}{A}$$

Where:  $D_i$  is the mangrove density of species  $i$  (ind  $m^{-2}$ ),  $N_i$  is the number of stands of species  $i$  (ind), and  $A$  is area ( $m^2$ ). The analyzed samples consisted of soil and biomass. Aboveground biomass was obtained from wood density and DBH values using the allometric equations specified for each species (Howard et al. 2014). The branch samples were cut into 2.5 cm long pieces; the number of cut samples from each branch was  $n = 25$ . Then, samples were measured for volume using Archimedes principles. The samples' dry weight was measured after they were dried in oven at 100 °C until constant weight. Wood density was calculated by dividing dry weight samples and the volume of samples. Later, the following allometric equations were used to determine aboveground biomass for specified species (Table 1), where variables used are wood density ( $\rho$ ) and DBH.

Biomass of each tree in quadrat plot was estimated using an allometric equation. Later, all of the aboveground biomass were summed up and converted into  $Mg\ ha^{-1}$ . Clay percentage was obtained from the pipetting method (Tan 2005). Bulk density was obtained using the disturbed soil method following Tan (2005) due to soil compaction that may lead to soil volume bias. The procedure started with a weighted 100 ml graduated cylinder, then the cylinder was

filled with <2 mm of soil. The first addition of soil was compacted by tapping the cylinder base ten times with the palm. The soil was kept added until 100 ml of soil volume was achieved, then the soil cylinder was weighed. The procedures were repeated twice for the average value. Soil moisture content was analyzed separately; 10 g of moist soils were dried using in oven at 105°C for 24 hours (Tan 2005). The weight difference between wet soil and oven-dried soil was taken as soil moisture content (Tan 2005). The bulk density was calculated using the equation following (Tan 2005).

$$\text{Oven-dry weight of soil} = \frac{(\text{weight of 100 ml sample of air-dry soil} \times 100)}{100 + \text{soil moisture content}}$$

$$\text{Bulk Density} = \frac{\text{oven-dry weight of 100 ml soil}}{100} \text{ (g cm}^{-3}\text{)}$$

Where: C:N ratio was obtained from organic carbon content and organic nitrogen content ratio. Organic carbon content was analyzed using Walkley and Black method (American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society 1982), while organic nitrogen content was determined using the Kjeldahl method (American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society 1982).

#### Carbon stock

Carbon stock sampling was carried out on the biomass and soil of mangrove ecosystems. Soil samples were prepared for analysis by oven-drying at 35°C, powdered, and sieved with 2 mm sieve. Afterward, organic carbon content was analyzed using the Walkley and Black method to determine organic carbon concentration. The following formula was used to calculate carbon stock in soils (Howard et al. 2014).

$$Ct = \left( \frac{\%Corg}{100} \right) \times \rho \times d$$

Where: Ct is total carbon stock in soils (g cm<sup>-2</sup>), d is soil interval (cm); ρ is a ratio of dry weight (g) and sample volume (cm<sup>3</sup>), and %Corg is organic carbon content from laboratory analysis. After this, carbon stock data were tabulated based on depth. To determine total carbon stock in a single core, carbon stock value in 0 – 15 cm depth was

summed up with carbon stock value in 15 – 30 cm depth. The results were converted into Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> with the following equation (Howard et al. 2014)

$$Corg \left( \frac{MgC}{ha} \right) = Corg \text{ in a single core} \left( \frac{g}{cm^2} \right) \times \frac{1 Mg}{1,000,000 g} \times \frac{100,000,000 cm^2}{1 ha}$$

The calculation was repeated for all coring, and calculations for other cores in a given station using the equation below to determine organic carbon stored in mangrove soil in the study area.

$$\bar{X} = \frac{(\text{Corg core \#1} + \text{Corg core \#2} + \dots + n)}{n} \pm \sigma$$

Where:  $\bar{X}$  is the average of carbon stock in all coring, n is the total number of all coring, and  $\sigma$  is standard deviation. Then the following formula to determine the concentration of organic carbon in biomass (Howard et al. 2014).

$$C_{abg} = \rho \times 0.46$$

Where: C<sub>abg</sub> is carbon stock in aboveground biomass, ρ is aboveground biomass (Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 0.46 is the conversion factor. Eventually, to measure the total carbon stock in each station, which consists of aboveground biomass and soils, each pool's carbon stock was summed up.

#### Data analysis

The results of sample processing in the laboratory were tabulated, and then using the SPSS application, the data was processed for descriptive statistical analysis. Determination of optimal mangrove conditions for blue carbon storage was carried out by analyzing mangrove forest conditions consisting of aboveground biomass, mangrove stand density, clay percentage in soil, bulk density, water content, and %N and its association with carbon stock in biomass and soils. The influence of each factor was determined using multiple regression analysis using SPSS. For complete results in all mangrove forest areas, the satellite image was used to determine the level of mangrove vegetation health using the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) method.

**Table 1.** Allometric equation for calculating aboveground biomass

Species	Study sites	Allometric equation	Source
<i>X. granatum</i>	Asia	W = 0.251 ρ (DBH) <sup>2.46</sup>	Komiyama et al. (2005)
<i>C. tagal</i>	South Sulawesi, Indonesia	W = 0.529 DBH <sup>2.04</sup>	Kangkuso et al. (2018)
<i>Sonneratia</i> spp.	Central Jawa, Indonesia	W = 0.258 DBH <sup>2.287</sup>	Kusmana et al. (2018)
<i>R. mucronata</i>	South Sulawesi, Indonesia	W = 0.143 DBH <sup>2.52</sup>	Kangkuso et al. (2018)
<i>R. apiculata</i>	South Sulawesi, Indonesia	W = 0.268 DBH <sup>2.345</sup>	Kangkuso et al. (2018)
<i>R. stylosa</i>	Phillipines	W = 0.045 DBH <sup>2.868</sup>	Gevana and Im (2016)
<i>A. marina</i>	Australia	W = 0.308 DBH <sup>2.11</sup>	Comley and McGuinness (2005)
<i>A. marina</i> var. <i>rumphiana</i>	Asia	W = 0.251 ρ (DBH) <sup>2.46</sup>	Komiyama et al. (2005)
<i>A. alba</i>	Asia	W = 0.251 ρ (DBH) <sup>2.46</sup>	Komiyama et al. (2005)
<i>B. gymnorhiza</i>	Australia	W = 0.186 DBH <sup>2.31</sup>	Clough and Scott (1989)
<i>B. cylindrica</i>	Asia	W = 0.251 ρ (DBH) <sup>2.46</sup>	Komiyama et al. (2005)

The software used to process satellite images is QGIS. The data used was a  $10 \times 10$  m resolution Sentinel 2 satellite image extracted from Copernicus Open Access Hub. This study used the satellite image from February 27th, 2020. NDVI is used to determine mangroves' classification based on an index indicating the presence of green plants and a vegetation health index by utilizing a combination of the Near-Infrared (NIR) band from a satellite image (Daulat et al. 2018). NDVI values range between -1 and + 1, and positive values mean high vegetation quantity, and negative values indicate the absence of vegetation (Mather and Koch 2011). Vegetation reflecting the combination of the visible red wave spectrum and the NIR wave spectrum (Daulat et al. 2018). Healthy vegetation will absorb most of the incoming red waves and reflect most of the NIR waves. The opposite applies to unhealthy vegetation, which is mathematically understood by the following equation (Daulat et al. 2018).

$$NDVI = \frac{(NIR - Red)}{(NIR + Red)}$$

Where: NDVI is the normalized difference vegetation index, NIR is the near-Infrared band, and Red is the red band. After obtaining data on the mangrove ecosystem's community structure at each station and satellite image processing, the two data were compared to validate general density levels for the mangrove ecosystem in the mangrove forest at Nusa Lembongan.

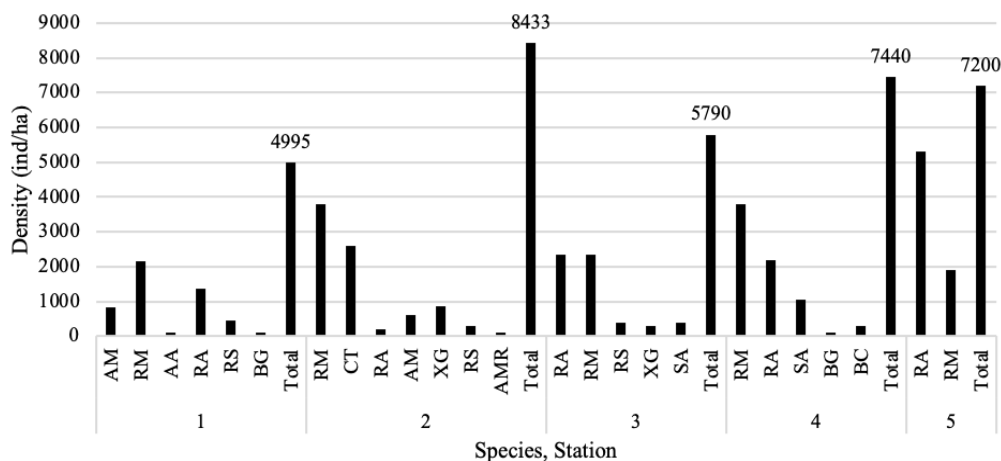
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Mangrove stand density

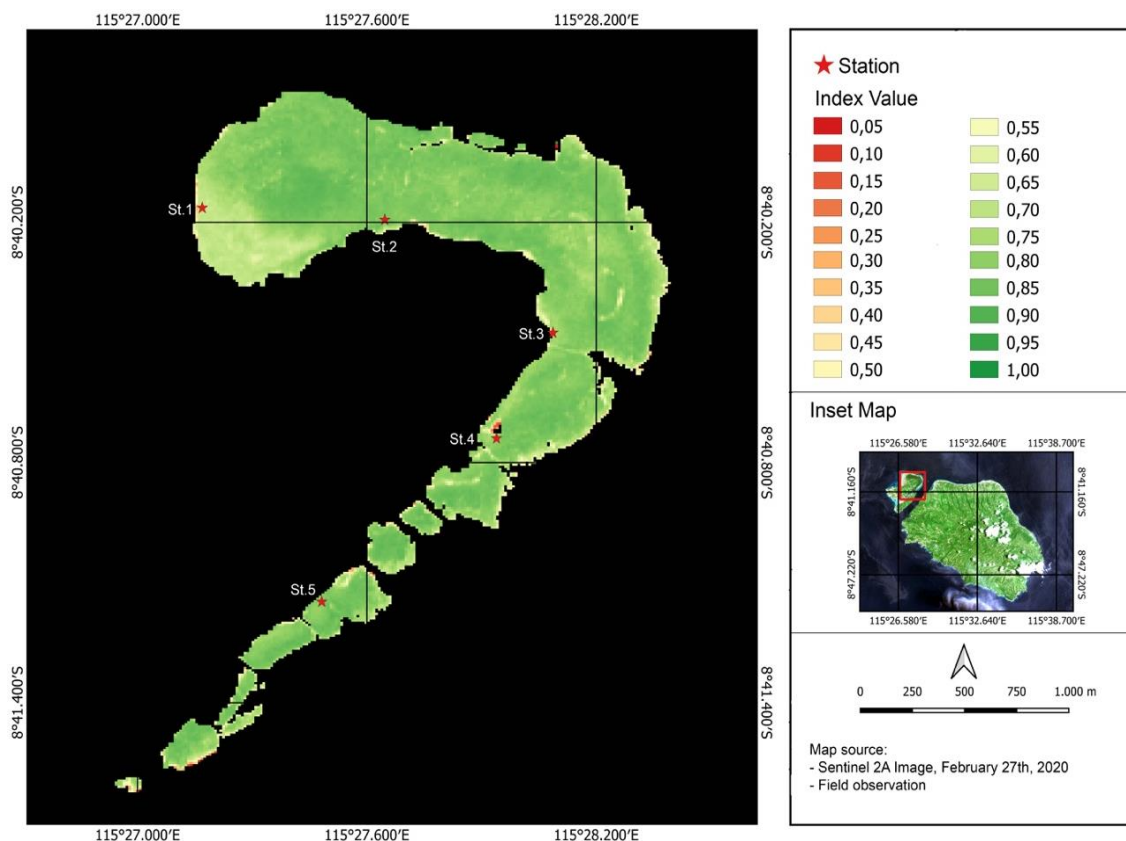
Mangrove stand density can affect carbon stock and the rate of carbon accumulation; the more standing mangroves, the more carbon can be absorbed and stored in the area (Suryono et al. 2018). High stand density can slow down the flow/turbulence in the area; hence mangrove litter can be directly deposited in the soil. The sedimentation rate of

solid particles is also higher than in areas with high currents (Breithaupt et al. 2012; Barreto et al. 2016). This study found 10 species and a variety, while the most cited publication to determine mangrove species in Nusa Lembongan found 13 species (Welly et al. 2010). Figure 2 presents the result of mangrove stand density. Based on the observation, sapling dominates in all of the mangrove stations. Hence, to improve the discussion's clarity, this study will indicate *mangrove density as the total of trees and saplings*. Figure 2 shows mangrove density in each station. In general, the average mangrove density in all of the stations was  $4940 \pm 1710.33$  ind  $ha^{-1}$ ; this study found a higher density than the previous study, which was  $3044.4$  ind  $ha^{-1}$  (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2014). Plants of *R. mucronata* and *R. apiculata* were found in all stations. The abundance distribution of *R. mucronata* and *R. apiculata* shows high tolerance of these species in various geographical settings, which differs by salinity, tidal exposure and soil.

Based on Figure 2, it was known that the highest mangrove density was found in station 2, which is dominated by *R. mucronata*. Station 2 was located directly adjacent to the landfill, but it was assumed that it does not reduce mangrove density. However, the total number of tree densities in station 2 was the lowest compared to other stations with  $400$  trees  $ha^{-1}$ , while other stations had more than  $550$  trees  $ha^{-1}$ , station 2 was dominated by the young stand with DBH < 10 cm. It can be assumed that the leachate from landfills may contaminated mangrove soil because at the time of the study, leachates were not treated before they reached the mangrove forest. Leachate from municipal solid waste open dumping site usually contains heavy metals, namely, Mn, Pb, Cu, Cd, Cr and Ni (Kanmani and Gandhimathi 2013; Ishchenko 2018). A high-level concentration of Cr, Cu and Ni can decline mangrove growth if the heavy metals concentration absorbed in mangrove biomass exceeds its limit (Nguyen et al. 2020). The lowest mangrove density was found in station 1, which was located adjacent to settlements.



**Figure 2.** Mangrove density (total density of trees and saplings) in Nusa Lembongan, Bali Province, Indonesia. Note: *A. alba* (AA), *A. marina* var. *rumphiana* (AMR), *A. marina* (AM), *B. cylindrica* (BC), *B. gymnorhiza* (BG), *C. tagal* (CT), *R. apiculata* (RA), *R. mucronata* (RM), *R. stylosa* (RS), *S. alba* (SA), *X. granatum* (XG)



**Figure 3.** NDVI of mangrove forest in Nusa Lembongan, Bali Province, Indonesia

For complete determination of all mangrove forest areas, the satellite image was used to determine the level of mangrove vegetation health using the NDVI method. Figure 3 shows the processed image.

This study found that the NDVI value ranged from 0.670 to 0.896, with an average index of  $0.798 \pm 0.074$ . Previously, Daulat et al. (2018) used similar method to determine mangrove health in Nusa Lembongan for 2003, 2010, and 2017 which had an average index of 0.773, 0.763, and 0.821, respectively. This study has a higher average index than the years 2003 and 2010 but lower to the year 2017; indicating reduction in mangrove canopy coverage because of a reduction in mangrove density. The previous study argues a significant relationship between NDVI value and mangrove stand density (Satyanarayana et al. 2011). This study also shows that the same results after a simple regression analysis were conducted, resulting in  $R^2 = 0.377$  and  $p < 0.05$ . The average NDVI value for individuals stations in this study were 0.628, 0.843, 0.795, 0.819 and 0.830 in stations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Based on the field data, the highest to the lowest mangrove density were in stations 2, 5, 4, 3 and 1; compared to NDVI, it presents the same result. The coverage area of mangrove forests was 203.67 ha which is greater than the report of Palguna et al. (2017). Later, the result of NDVI values were classified into three categories of mangrove coverage area according to Indonesia Forestry Department (2005) viz. rare, moderate and dense, as showed in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Classification of mangrove coverage in mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan, Bali Province, Indonesia based on NDVI analysis

Classification*	NDVI value*	Area (ha)
Rare	0 – 0.33	0.387
Moderate	0.33 – 0.43	0.523
Dense	0.43-1	202.758
<b>Total</b>		<b>203.668</b>

Note: \*NDVI value classification according to Indonesia Forestry Department (2005)

**Aboveground living biomass and aboveground living biomass carbon stock**

Aboveground living biomass accounts for 21% of the mangrove ecosystem's total carbon stock (Howard et al. 2014). Data of DBH measurement were used as an input for biomass allometric equation based on earlier studies as shown in Table 1. Table 3 shows aboveground living biomass in terms of total biomass from trees and saplings.

This study used a carbon conversion factor to determine carbon stock from aboveground living biomass, resulting in a perfect correlation between aboveground living biomass and aboveground living biomass carbon stock. According to Table 3, the highest aboveground living biomass and carbon stock were found in Station 4, which is dominated by *S. alba*; in this station, a large tree of *S. alba* with DBH 47.23 cm was found. Based on Figure 4, *S. alba* was the

second-largest mean DBH among other species found in the study area. Figure 4 shows that the largest mean DBH belonged to *B. cylindrica*, followed by *S. alba*, *A. alba*, *A. marina* var. *rumphiana*, and *R. apiculata*. In contrast, the smallest mean DBH was of *C. tagal* which dominated the stand density of station 2. Regardless of that, high stand density was found in station 2, but it had low aboveground living biomass. The Mangrove community dominated by small trees is reported to have higher stand density while the community dominated by large trees are reported to have lower stand density (Kamruzzaman et al. 2017). Stand density is the factor to differentiate early growth of mangrove, young stand (sapling) to mature stand (tree) by reducing the number of stands (Fromard et al. 1998).

According to Table 3, the average aboveground living biomass was  $121.58 \pm 109.78 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ , and it ranged from  $62.19 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$  (station 1) to  $271.78 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$  (station 4) This study observed higher aboveground living biomass than previous study of Kusumaningtyas et al. (2014) at mangrove forest in Nusa Lembongan, which reported  $114.73 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ . However, the average aboveground living biomass carbon stock was  $56.41 \pm 50.94 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  ranged

from  $28.85 \pm 20.20 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$  (station 1) up to  $126.11 \pm 74.57$  (station 4)  $\text{Mg C ha}^{-1}$ . This study had lower result of average living biomass carbon stock compared to the previous study by Kusumaningtyas et al. (2014) in Nusa Lembongan, which resulted in  $59.95 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ .

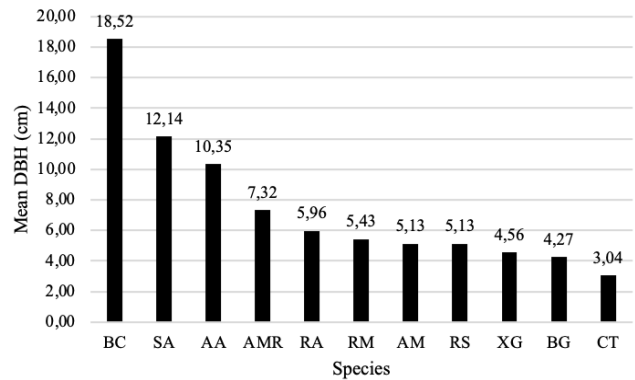


Figure 4. Mean DBH of species found in study area

Table 3. Aboveground living biomass and carbon stock in each observation station of mangrove forest of Nusa Lembongan, Bali Province, Indonesia

Station	Species	Total aboveground living biomass (kg)	Total aboveground living biomass ( $\text{Mg ha}^{-1}$ )	Aboveground living biomass carbon stock ( $\text{Mg C ha}^{-1}$ )
1	<i>A. marina</i>	497.61	62.19	$28.85 \pm 20.20$
	<i>R. mucronata</i>	1454.05		
	<i>A. alba</i>	125.80		
	<i>R. apiculata</i>	1586.94		
	<i>Rhizophora stylosa</i>	58.79		
	<i>B. gymnorhiza</i>	8.00		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3731.19</b>		
2	<i>R. mucronata</i>	2763.03	63.41	$29.42 \pm 14.21$
	<i>C. tagal</i>	488.89		
	<i>R. apiculata</i>	35.90		
	<i>A. marina</i>	151.16		
	<i>X. granatum</i>	317.89		
	<i>Rhizophora stylosa</i>	25.68		
	<i>A. marina</i> var. <i>rumphiana</i>	22.32		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3804.86</b>			
3	<i>R. apiculata</i>	3075.04	73.29	$34.01 \pm 15.30$
	<i>R. mucronata</i>	831.28		
	<i>R. stylosa</i>	15.01		
	<i>X. granatum</i>	417.67		
	<i>S. alba</i>	58.35		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4397.36</b>		
4	<i>R. mucronata</i>	4626.53	271.78	$126.11 \pm 74.57$
	<i>R. apiculata</i>	2339.64		
	<i>S. alba</i>	8297.57		
	<i>B. gymnorhiza</i>	3.23		
	<i>B. cylindrica</i>	1039.76		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16306.74</b>		
5	<i>R. apiculata</i>	8083.34	137.25	$63.68 \pm 19.13$
	<i>R. mucronata</i>	151.56		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8234.89</b>		

### Soil properties and soil carbon stock

Soil properties include bulk density, water content, %C, %N, C:N ratio and particle size, were analyzed in each station. Few studies argue that soil properties can be a significant predictor of carbon storage in coastal landscape, as most of the carbon in a coastal ecosystem are stored in the soils (Prasad et al. 2010; Lunstrum and Chen 2014; Matsui et al. 2015; Dahl et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2016). Table 4 shows the mean value  $\pm$  SD of each property for the depth profiles 0-30 cm in all stations.

In general, the mean value of soil carbon stock in mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan in 30 cm depth was  $79.79 \pm 23.02$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>. The soil carbon stock results in each station as shown in Table 4 did not differ significantly. This value can be greater as the common depth used to measure soil carbon stock in topsoil was 1 m (Howard et al. 2014). Therefore, bulk density and %C data were used as an approach to compare carbon stock in this study with other studies. The mean value of bulk density in this study was  $1.10 \pm 0.11$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>, this was higher compared to mangrove soils in Bintuni Bay ( $0.3 \pm 0.1$  g cm<sup>-3</sup> to  $0.9 \pm 0.1$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>) (Sasmito et al. 2020b) and Segara Anakan ( $0.69 \pm 0.12$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>) but lower compared to mangrove soils in Berau ( $1.20 \pm 0.36$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>) and Kongs Island ( $1.35 \pm 0.18$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>) (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2019). The highest bulk density was found in station 3; meanwhile, the lowest bulk density was found in station 4. The mean value of %C in Central Segara Anakan was  $2.4 \pm 0.8\%$  which has a similar result compared to this study ( $2.47 \pm 0.99\%$ ) (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2019). However, this study revealed a lower %C compared to Berau ( $5.7 \pm 3.7\%$ ) (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2019) and Bintuni Bay ( $16.4 \pm 2.1\%$ ) (Sasmito et al. 2020b) and higher %C compared to Kongs Island ( $0.8 \pm 0.2\%$ ) (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2019).

Carbon sequestration in soils is more complicated than in biomass because the source of carbon does not come only from the vegetation itself but also from outside the system. Autochthonous carbon comes from its system; carbon is produced from CO<sub>2</sub> intake in mangrove biomass and associated biota and stored in mangrove soils (Howard et al. 2014; Saderne et al. 2019). Meanwhile, allochthonous carbon comes from outside the system; this carbon is produced from other places, in the context of blue carbon, carbon that comes from land or other marine ecosystems

such as seagrass and coral reef ecosystem (Howard et al. 2014). C:N ratio were used to identify the source of carbon in sediment; in this study, the value of C:N ranged from 10 to 27, which was close to the result from a study in Kongs Island ( $20.8 \pm 0.6$ ) but lower compared to marine mangrove in Segara Anakan (28.55 up to 64.36) (Weiss et al. 2016; Kusumaningtyas et al. 2019). C:N ratio of mangrove biomass known to be around 32.6 up to 298 (Weiss et al. 2016; Sasmito et al. 2020a). It can be considered that the source of carbon in this study was from allochthonous carbon, since C:N ratio found in soil was far from the ratio in mangrove biomass. However, it can also imply high decomposition rates due to the low residence time of water that increases exposure time to oxygen, promoting decomposition (Ranjan et al. 2011).

According to Table 4, the highest soil carbon stock were found in station 5 with  $81.88 \pm 28.89$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> followed with station 2 ( $80.12 \pm 24.80$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>), station 4 ( $79.59 \pm 16.93$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>), station 1 ( $78.73 \pm 39.92$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>), and the least is station 3 ( $78.66 \pm 19.17$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>). Based on Pearson's correlation analysis, it shows correlation between %C with bulk density ( $r = -0.406$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) and significance correlation with %N ( $r = 0.922$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ). This result is supported by few studies that also show an inverse relationship between %C and bulk density (Avnimelech et al. 2001; Stringer et al. 2016; Gao et al. 2019). Bulk density can restrain natural root growth, and a bulk density of  $\leq 1.3$  g cm<sup>-3</sup> is reported to be good, between  $1.3-1.55$  g cm<sup>-3</sup> to be moderate, and  $\geq 1.8$  g cm<sup>-3</sup> is reported to be extremely bad (Mukhopadhyay et al. 2019). A positive correlation between %C and %N was also found in a study conducted by Huang et al. (2018).

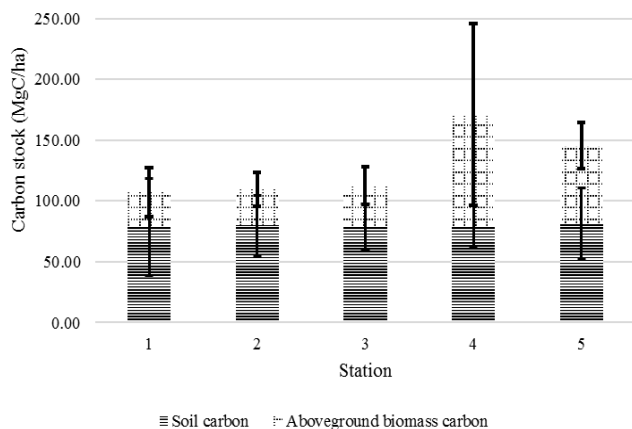
### Total carbon stock

Based on this study the total carbon stock (aboveground living biomass and soil) in station 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were  $53.79 \pm 39.85$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>;  $54.77 \pm 32.75$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>;  $56.33 \pm 28.59$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>;  $85.56 \pm 51.93$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>;  $72.78 \pm 25.17$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> respectively as shown in Figure 5. The highest total carbon stock was found in station 4 and the lowest was found in station 1, these results corroborate data in Table 3 which also shows the highest aboveground living biomass carbon stock was found in station 4 and the lowest was found in station 1.

**Table 4.** Soil properties and soil carbon stock in each observation station of mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan, Bali Province, Indonesia

Properties	Station				
	1	2	3	4	5
Water content (%)	$37.94 \pm 3.88$	$32.85 \pm 4.25$	$23.84 \pm 3.17$	$37.42 \pm 7.69$	$37.56 \pm 8.89$
Bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	$1.09 \pm 0.03$	$1.12 \pm 0.08$	$1.15 \pm 0.16$	$1.05 \pm 0.08$	$1.06 \pm 0.14$
%C	$2.39 \pm 1.08$	$2.42 \pm 0.93$	$2.30 \pm 0.64$	$2.53 \pm 0.48$	$2.70 \pm 1.71$
%N	$0.14 \pm 0.03$	$0.13 \pm 0.03$	$0.13 \pm 0.01$	$0.12 \pm 0.01$	$0.13 \pm 0.05$
C:N	$16.83 \pm 3.87$	$18.67 \pm 4.72$	$17.33 \pm 3.33$	$20.50 \pm 2.51$	$20.50 \pm 3.39$
%Sand (particle size 2 – 0.05 mm)	$34.60 \pm 9.03$	$42.60 \pm 17.78$	$60.67 \pm 25.79$	$83.38 \pm 4.07$	$62.72 \pm 9.06$
%Silt (particle size 50 – 2 $\mu$ m)	$53.40 \pm 11.14$	$47.22 \pm 15.34$	$31.25 \pm 21.76$	$12.55 \pm 4.03$	$29.82 \pm 7.81$
%Clay (particle size < 2 $\mu$ m)	$12.20 \pm 5.62$	$10.18 \pm 4.23$	$8.05 \pm 5.99$	$4.07 \pm 0.98$	$7.43 \pm 2.92$
Soil carbon stock (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )	$78.73 \pm 39.92$	$80.12 \pm 24.80$	$78.66 \pm 19.17$	$79.59 \pm 16.93$	$81.88 \pm 28.89$





**Figure 5.** Total carbon stock in soil and aboveground living biomass

This study found that the contribution of aboveground living biomass to total carbon stock was 38%. According to Figure 5, most carbons were stored in the soil, which accounts for 64% of total carbon stock. This observation is quite close to a previous study that states 77% of total carbon stock in the mangrove ecosystem was stored in soil (Alongi 2020; Kauffman et al. 2014; Sasmito et al. 2020b). Coastal ecosystem are known to have higher carbon accumulation in sediments/soil compared to terrestrial vegetation mainly because of high autochthonous and allochthonous inputs and low decomposition rates of organic matter due to the mostly anoxic conditions in the sediment (Kristensen 2000; Donato et al. 2011; Kida and Fujitake 2020). The rate of organic carbon accumulation in mangrove ecosystems is estimated to be around 20 – 24 Tg C yr<sup>-1</sup> (Twilley et al. 1992; Jennerjahn et al. 2004). However, in station 4 the contribution of aboveground living biomass to total carbon stock was 61% because the site was dominated by old trees with high DBH from species such as *S. alba* and *B. cylindrica* as shown in Figure 4.

The result of multiple regression analysis shows a significant association between total carbon stock with water content, bulk density, %N, %C, %Clay, stand density and aboveground living biomass simultaneously ( $R^2 = 0.997$ ). However, only %N, %C, and aboveground living biomass have a significant relationship with total carbon stock ( $p < 0.05$ ). A previous study by Sasmito et al. (2020b) found a strong influence between bulk density, carbon content and basal area with total stock carbon. It can be considered that this study contradicts the statement regarding bulk density but supports the influence of carbon content and basal area on total stock carbon. Basal area and aboveground living biomass are correlated as both are related to trunk diameter (Torres and Lovett 2013).

In conclusion, the total carbon stock from aboveground biomass and soil of mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan was  $68.10 \pm 20.92$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> and equals to  $249.95 \pm 76.77$  MgCO<sub>2</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>, with significant carbon stocks were stored in

the soil. Nevertheless, in station 4, the aboveground living biomass stored significant carbon compared to the soil as seen on Table 3, station 4 had the highest aboveground living biomass, Therefore, it is important to protect mangrove forest especially those which dominated by old and large trees and avoid degradation because it has stored great amount of carbon. The essential parameters that can promote carbon sequestration in mangrove forest Nusa Lembongan were aboveground living biomass, soil organic carbon content, and soil organic nitrogen content. Besides, as soil organic carbon content also negatively correlates with bulk density, it also can be considered.

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