



## Dynamics of Riparian Vegetation Structure in Logawa River: Ecological Impacts and Landscape Management

Nabela Fikriyya<sup>1\*</sup>, Adinda Kurnia Putri<sup>1</sup>, Mahardika Nur Permatasari<sup>1</sup>, Yuriza Eshananda<sup>2</sup>, Ishama Ibrahim<sup>1</sup>, Aisyah Fajar Kartika<sup>1</sup>, Retno Wulandari<sup>1</sup>, Jefri Anjaini<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Study Program Aquatic Resource Management, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Jenderal Soedirman University, 53122, Purwokerto, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Study Program Biology, Faculty of Biology, Jenderal Soedirman University, 53122, Purwokerto, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Study Program Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Jenderal Soedirman University, 53122, Purwokerto, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: [nabela.fikriyya@unsod.ac.id](mailto:nabela.fikriyya@unsod.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

One of the riparian zone functions is to act as a buffer zone, playing crucial roles in economic and ecological aspects. The riparian area of the Logawa River is currently under anthropogenic pressure from sand mining activities, leading to habitat degradation. It is characterized by slopes >15% and high rainfall intensity and is prone to erosion. This research aimed to analyze the structure of riparian vegetation and its correlation with environmental parameters. Observations were conducted in July 2024 along the Logawa River, divided into the upstream, midstream, and downstream sections, with four stations in each section. Vegetation analysis was carried out using a purposive sampling method with plots measuring 20x20m (tree), 10x10 m (pole), and 1x1m (seedling), positioned parallel to the riverbank. Measured soil parameters included C-organic (%), N-total (%), P-total, and organic matter, while water parameters included pH, temperature, TDS, BOD, and COD. Riparian vegetation data were analyzed using alpha diversity indices, including the Shannon-Wiener index ( $H'$ ), dominance index ( $D$ ), and evenness index ( $e'$ ). Further analysis was conducted using Redundancy Analysis (RDA) to explore the relationship between vegetation and habitat variation and Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) to assess the correlation between vegetation presence and environmental parameters. The results showed that the  $H'$  ranged from 0.58 to 1.98,  $D$  ranged from 0.20 to 0.75, and  $e'$  from 0.30 to 1.00. RDA results indicate that Loc 5 in the midstream is closely associated with *Swietenia macrophylla* and *Cocos nucifera*. In contrast, Loc9 downstream is associated with *Artocarpus heterophyllus* and *Mangifera indica*, suggesting that these species are prevalent and commonly found in these areas. CCA results show that *Paraserianthes falcataria* is more strongly associated with higher levels of chemical oxygen demand and strongly correlates with the environmental gradient represented by N-total (%).

### INTRODUCTION

The riparian zone of rivers refers to the land situated along the banks of rivers or bodies of water (Clerici *et al.*, 2014; González *et al.*, 2017). Empirically, riparian zones

are commonly found in regions with rivers and have historically been preferred areas for human settlement due to their easy access to freshwater resources and are believed to be among the earliest human habitation sites (González *et al.*, 2017; Singh *et al.* 2021). Economically, riparian areas are often used for recreation as well as food sources (Rachmawati & Retnaningdyah, 2014; González *et al.*, 2017; Singh *et al.*, 2021). Ecologically, riparian zones help stabilize riverbanks, provide energy for food webs, serve as ecological corridors, and maintain biodiversity, especially in fragmented landscapes (Clerici *et al.*, 2014; Singh *et al.*, 2021).

High anthropogenic activity and pressures in riparian zones are driven by their location at the core of human activities (Capon, 2020). Riparian zones face significant threats from reclamation (Clerici *et al.*, 2014), agricultural activities, urbanization, river flow alteration, overexploitation, climate change, and pollution (Nóbrega *et al.*, 2020; Singh *et al.*, 2021). Surface fluctuations due to riparian zone degradation can deteriorate river health (Xu & Chang 2017; Lind *et al.*, 2019; Zheng *et al.*, 2023) as well as causing global environmental changes. Similar threats have been observed in the Logawa River in Banyumas, where anthropogenic pressures include sand and stone mining, unsustainable fishing practices (Susanto & Novitasari, 2017), and household waste pollution (Puspitasari *et al.*, 2023). The Logawa sub-watershed is dominated by hilly terrain with slopes exceeding 15% and receives high annual rainfall exceeding 3000mm (Suwarno & Sutomo, 1999). Consequently, most of the Logawa River area is prone to erosion, with at least 50 landslide occurrences recorded in the Logawa sub-watershed (Suwarno & Sutomo, 1999; Suwarno *et al.*, 2017).

The degradation of riparian zones can lead to land degradation (Capon, 2020), hydrological cycle changes, land cover alteration (Merrit, 2022), and a decline in water quality (Benavides *et al.*, 2023). The Logawa River area faces land cover changes due to population growth, resulting in increased land conversion activities (Sarjanti, 2023), leading to shifts in plant biodiversity (Zheng *et al.*, 2023). The Logawa River is also home to native fish species, such as *Brek* (*Puntius orphoides*), *Pelus* (*Psidonophis cancrivorus*), and *Baceman* (*Mystus nemurus*), which require habitat protection (Susanto & Novitasari, 2017). Therefore, it is essential to manage and restore riparian vegetation, particularly its structure and function (Clerici *et al.*, 2014; Riis *et al.*, 2014; Singh *et al.* 2021).

Protecting plant biodiversity in riparian zones can also support synergy between soil and plant communities, improve soil biogeochemical conditions, and increase soil porosity, enhancing river water quality, as one intriguing study related to riparian zones focuses on biodiversity and structural complexity (Stella *et al.*, 2013; Nóbrega *et al.*, 2020). Research on riparian vegetation community structure, habitat suitability, and relationship with water and soil quality provides crucial information to investigate the status of the Logawa River's riparian zone. Therefore, this research could be the foundation for policy-making and river management. Furthermore, studying the plant

community structure in river systems can provide insights into environmental characteristics and can hold potential for biomonitoring (Alemu *et al.*, 2017).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Time and location**

The research was conducted in July 2024 in the upstream, midstream, and downstream sections of the Logawa River, Banyumas Regency, Central Java (Fig. 1 & Table 1).

### **Materials**

The tools used include 20x20, 10x10, and 1x1 plot sizes, DBH tape, Garmin GPS map, water quality checker, sample bottles, ziplock bags, shovel, and sieve.

### **Procedure**

#### **1. Sampling riparian vegetation**

Vegetation sampling was conducted along the upstream, midstream, and downstream sections of the Logawa River, with four stations established in each section (12 stations in total). A purposive sampling approach was employed using the quadrat transect method. Each transect comprised three nested plots of different sizes: 20 × 20m for trees (diameter > 20cm), 10 × 10 m for poles (diameter 10–20cm), and 1 × 1m for seedlings (height < 150cm).

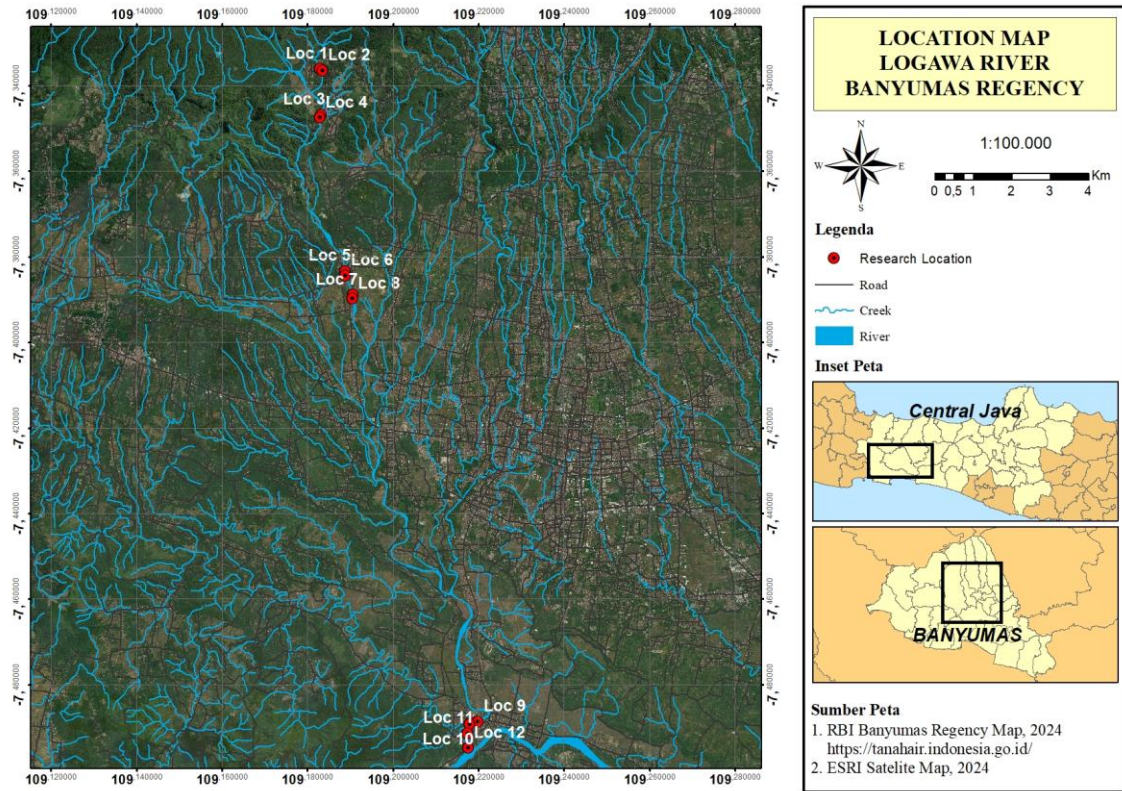
For each tree and pole, the species name, number of individuals, and diameter at breast height (DBH, measured at 1.3m) were recorded. Plant species were identified using the PlantNet application and further verified through the Plants of the World Online database. Each species was then classified as either native or introduced.

#### **2. Soil sampling**

Soil samples were collected from the 1 × 1 m plots, located perpendicular to the river channel. Samples were extracted from the top 0–20cm soil layer, following the method described by **Park and Kim (2020)**. The collected samples were analyzed for soil pH, total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), available nitrogen (AN), and available phosphorus (AP).

#### **3. Water quality measurement**

Physical and chemical parameters of the river water were measured, including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), total dissolved solids (TDS), biological oxygen demand (BOD), and chemical oxygen demand (COD).



**Fig. 1.** Research site map

**Table 1.** Coordinate research site

Part of river	Location		Coordinate	
	Station	Named	X	Y
Upstream	Station 1	Loc1	-7.33597	109.18293
	Station 2	Loc2	-7.33638	109.18346
	Station 3	Loc3	-7.34676	109.18319
	Station 4	Loc4	-7.34743	109.18288
Midstream	Station 5	Loc5	-7.38329	109.18888
	Station 6	Loc6	-7.38438	109.18886
	Station 7	Loc7	-7.38888	109.19064
	Station 8	Loc8	-7.38982	109.19055
Downstream	Station 9	Loc9	-7.48874	109.21992
	Station 10	Loc10	-7.48938	109.21797
	Station 11	Loc11	-7.49148	109.21753
	Station 12	Loc12	-7.49495	109.21760

## Data analysis

### 1. Vegetation structure

The alpha diversity indices were used to analyze species diversity as follows:

*Diversity Index ( $H'$ ) Shannon-Wiener (Magurran, 2004):*

$$H' = - \sum_{i=1}^s P_i \ln P_i$$

*Dominance Index Simpson ( $D$ ) (Krebs, 1972):*

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^s [P_i^2]$$

Evenness Index ( $e'$ ) Modified Hill's ratio (Magurran, 2004):

$$e' = \left[ \frac{H'}{\ln(S)} \right]$$

Where:

$H'$  = Diversity Index ( $H'$ ) Shannon-Wiener

$$P_i = \frac{n_i}{N}$$

$n_i$  = The number of individuals of a species

$N$  = Total number of individuals of all species

$S$  = Number of species

Furthermore, the Importance Value Index (IVI) was calculated following the method of **Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg (1974)**. For trees and poles, IVI was determined by summing relative density, relative frequency, and relative dominance. For seedlings, IVI was calculated using only relative density and relative frequency.

## 2. Soil analysis and water quality analysis

All soil and water samples were analyzed in the Laboratory of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman (UNSOED). Redundancy Analysis (RDA) was conducted to assess the relationship between vegetation structure and habitat variation, assuming linear species–environment responses (**Ramberg et al., 2020**). In addition, Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) was performed to evaluate the association between species presence and environmental parameters, using PAST (Paleontological Statistics) software, version 4.13.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Riparian vegetation community structure

### 1. Importance value index (IVI)

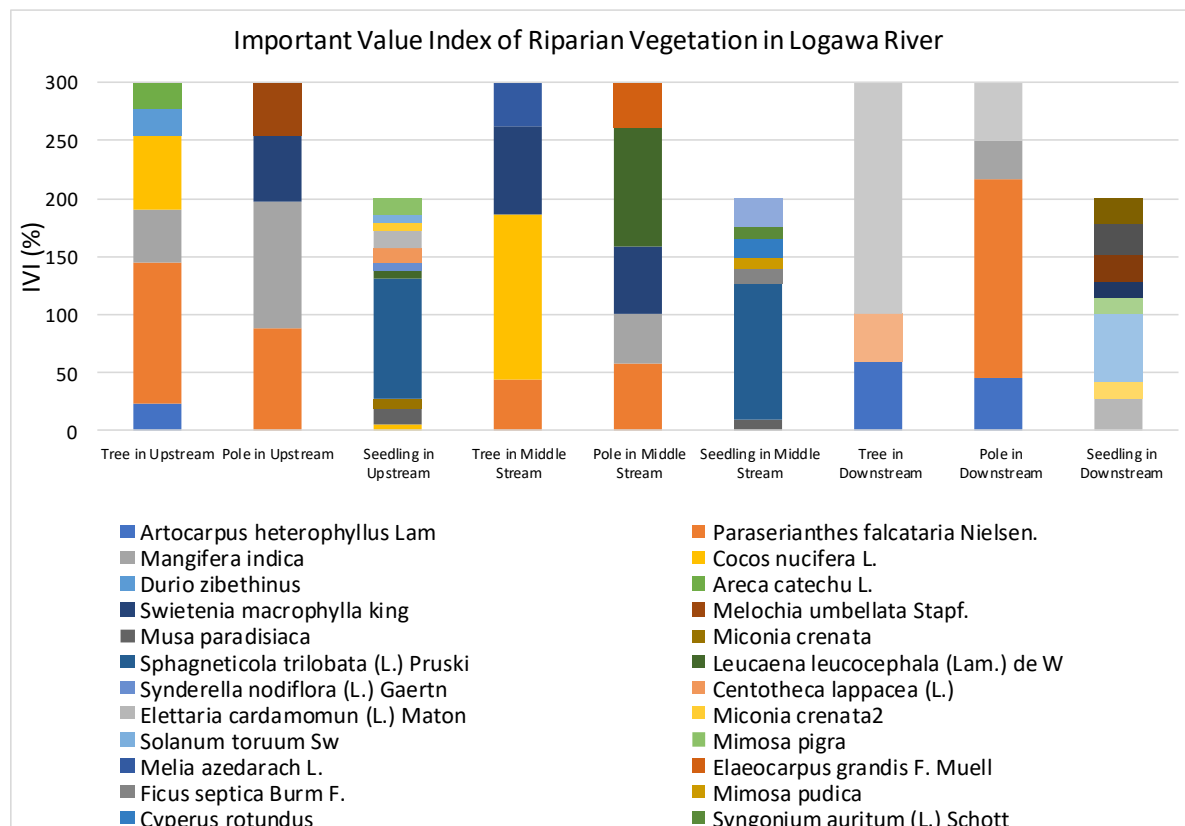
Based on the research findings, 33 species were identified in the riparian zone of the Logawa River, with 17 species found in the upstream area and 14 species in the midstream and downstream areas, comprising 10 native species and 22 introduced species (Supplementary). Six species were identified in the upstream zone's tree layer, with *Paraserianthes falcataria* Nielsen. (122.08) having the highest Importance Value Index (IVI), followed by *Cocos nucifera* L. (65.77) (Fig. 2), while the other species had values below 50. *P. falcataria* is widely distributed in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, and is commonly found in lowland forests, along riverbanks, and in disturbed areas such as agricultural lands and plantations (**Krisnawati et al., 2019**).

In the pole layer, four species were identified, with *Mangifera indica* L. (108.89) having the highest IVI, followed by *P. falcataria* (Fig. 2). Mango is well-adapted to a wide range of climates and soil types, though it is sensitive to low temperatures, high temperatures, and moisture conditions (Navjot et al., 2012). 11 species were found in the seedling layer, with the highest IVI belonging to *Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski (103.64), followed by *Elettaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton, with a significantly lower IVI of 15.41, while other species had values below 15 (Fig. 2). *S. trilobata* also had the highest IVI in the midstream section (116.19) and belongs to the Asteraceae family, an invasive species (Zhang et al., 2022). This species is abundant not only in the Logawa River but also in the Banjaran River, as evidenced by its high IVI and presence at almost all stations (Fikriyya et al., 2023).

In the midstream section of the Logawa River, 14 species were found, comprising four tree species, five pole species, and seven seedling species. *Cocos nucifera* L. had the highest IVI in the tree layer (142.38), followed by *Swietenia macrophylla* King. (75.98), while other species had IVIs below 50 (Fig. 2d). In the pole layer, *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de W. (102.13) had the highest IVI, followed by *P. falcataria* and *S. macrophylla*, with equal values of 58.35 (Fig. 2). *L. leucocephala* was only found in the midstream section of the river. In the seedling layer, seven species were identified, with *S. trilobata* having the highest IVI (116.19), followed by *Imperata cylindrica* (L.) Raeusch, while other species had IVI's below 20 (Fig. 2). *I. cylindrica*, commonly known as cogongrass, is a highly invasive grass species that poses significant threats to biodiversity and ecosystem productivity (Holzmueller & Jose, 2012; Parker, 2022). Its ability to thrive in various environmental conditions, including nutrient-poor soils and disturbed areas, is attributed to its competitive nature, allelopathic effects, and extensive rhizome system (Parker, 2022).

In the downstream section of the Logawa River, 14 species were identified, comprising three tree species, four pole species, and eight seedling species. The tree species with the highest IVI was *Tectona grandis* Linn. F. (199.79) (Fig. 2), only found in the downstream stations. For the pole layer, *P. falcataria* had the highest IVI (170.96) (Fig. 2). *T. grandis* (teak) is a valuable timber species that grows optimally in tropical regions with distinct wet and dry seasons (Tanaka et al., 1998; Palanisamy et al., 2009). In the seedling layer, *Alternanthera paronychioides* A. St.-Hil had the highest IVI and was exclusively found in the downstream section of the Logawa River (Fig. 2). *Alternanthera* species exhibit varying degrees of tolerance to waterlogging and soil conditions. *A. philoxeroides*, an invasive wetland plant, demonstrates higher waterlogging tolerance and photosynthetic capacity (Chen et al., 2013).





**Fig. 2.** IVI of vegetation riparian in Logawa River

## 2. Alpha diversity indices

The diversity index ( $H'$ ) reflects the number of species and individuals per area that could persist in a region. The high  $H'$  value indicates that the area is able to provide sufficient resources for each species, with no single species dominating, implying that the ecosystem is stable. Conversely, a low  $H'$  value suggests that one species occupies the area disproportionately. The  $H'$  in the riparian zone of the Logawa River ranges from 0.58 to 1.61, which falls within the low to moderate category (Table 2). The highest value, 1.61, is found at the pole growth stage in the midstream section, while the lowest value, 0.58, is found in the seedling stage downstream. Based on **Reed (1978)**, a high  $H'$  value indicates more stable and varied environmental factors.

The  $H'$  value is inversely related to the dominance index ( $D$ ); the lowest  $D$  value of 0.20 is found in the pole stage in the midstream area, which has the highest  $H'$  value (1.61) and vice versa (Table 2). High dominance in ecological communities suggests the prevalence of one or few species and can lead to reduced diversity (**Hillebrand et al., 2008; Braun, 2015**). This dominance can result from unfavorable environmental conditions or anthropogenic disturbances (**Hillebrand et al., 2008**). Although the number of species in the pole stage (6 species) is lower than in the tree

stage (4 species), the number of individuals per species is more balanced, ranging from 1 to 3 individuals per species. Additionally, understanding dominance is crucial for assessing biodiversity impacts and complementing standard ecological analyses (Hillebrand *et al.*, 2008; Braun, 2015). Later, the  $H'$  and  $D$  values correlate with the Evenness Index ( $e'$ ), which ranges from 0 to 1. The closer the value is to 1, the more evenly distributed the species are, as shown by the highest  $e'$  value in the midstream section (1) and the lowest  $e'$  value of 0.30, which corresponds to the lowest dominance value (0.75) (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Alpha diversity indices

Indices	$H'$			$D$			$e'$		
	Us	Ms	Ds	Us	Ms	Ds	Us	Ms	Ds
Growth stage									
Tree	1.43	1.21	0.90	0.32	0.33	0.47	0.80	0.88	0.82
Pole	1.24	<b>1.61</b>	1.07	0.33	<b>0.20</b>	0.43	0.90	<b>1.00</b>	0.77
Seedling	0.90	<b>0.58</b>	1.59	0.65	<b>0.75</b>	0.27	0.38	<b>0.30</b>	0.76

Note: Us: Upstream, Ms: Midstream, Ds: Downstream

## Environmental parameters

### 1. Soil parameters

Soil organic carbon (C-organic) represents the organic carbon content in the soil, and its values in the study area ranged between 0.66-1.73% (Table 3), with the highest value found at Loc2. Higher soil organic carbon (SOC) levels indicate more outstanding organic matter content, which can originate from plant residues or increased microbial activity. Organic agricultural systems have been shown to increase SOC and microbial activity compared to conventional systems (Araújo *et al.*, 2009). C-organic levels can also be influenced by organic inputs from anthropogenic activities (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2016). The C-organic values in the downstream area (0.89-1.69%) are higher than in the midstream (0.92-1.47%), but the range is lower compared to the upstream section (0.66-1.73%). This could be due to lower agricultural activity in the downstream section compared to the upstream but with higher industrial activity compared to the midstream, leading to an accumulation of organic material and, consequently, higher values downstream. This aligns with Jacobson *et al.* (2000) findings that downstream areas of the Kuiseb River accumulate organic material transported from upstream due to hydrological decay. Organic matter content, representing the amount of organic material in the soil, ranged between 1.14-2.98 in the study area. Organic matter levels are directly proportional to C-organic, with the highest value observed at Loc2 (2.98) and the lowest at Loc1 (1.14).

The N-total value represents the nitrogen content in the soil, ranging from 0.02-0.22% in the study area (Table 3). The highest N-total content was found at Loc10. This higher nitrogen content in sediments can indicate more active organic



matter decomposition at this station (**Berg & Matzner, 1997**). Additionally, it suggests the presence of a significant nitrogen source, likely from runoff containing fertilizers or decomposed organic material (**Kaushal *et al.*, 2011**) and possibly accumulation from upstream and midstream areas. Loc6 had the lowest N-total content at 0.02%. **Xu *et al.* (2014)** suggest low nitrogen values may indicate reduced microbial activity or limited nitrogen sources. Loc10, in the downstream section of the river, had the highest N-total content.

The *P*-total value represents the phosphorus content in the soil, expressed as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>%, with values ranging from 0.08-0.18% (Table 3). The upstream section showed relatively consistent *P*-total values, ranging from 0.11-0.13%. In the midstream section, values ranged from 0.11-0.18%, with the highest at Loc8. According to **Sharpley *et al.* (1999)** and **Carpenter (2005)**, high phosphorus (*P*) levels in an area can result from external inputs such as soil erosion and fertilizer use, leading to the eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems (**Sharpley *et al.*, 1999**; **Carpenter, 2005**). In the downstream section, *P*-total values were relatively low, ranging from 0.08-0.14%. Loc10 had the lowest phosphorus content at 0.08%, and low phosphorus levels can limit plant and microbial growth (**Lehtola *et al.*, 2002**).

The pH H<sub>2</sub>O (1:2.5) represents the soil's acidity or alkalinity, measured in a 1:2.5 ratio, with values in the study area ranging from 5.58-6.57, indicating slightly acidic to neutral conditions (Table 3). The upstream section had pH values ranging from 5.75-6.36, showing slightly acidic soil conditions. The midstream section had a similar pH range of 5.70-6.33. The lowest and highest pH values were found in the downstream section, with 5.58 (lowest) and 6.57 (highest). Low soil pH can decrease the activity of soil microorganisms, *P* uptake and utilization, and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> decreases *P* uptake from soil by plants (**Maharajan *et al.*, 2021**). This is consistent with the findings in the study, where Loc10 had the lowest pH and *P*-total values.

**Table 3.** Soil parameters

Station	C-organic	Bahan Organic	N-total	<i>P</i> -total	pH H <sub>2</sub> O (1,25)
Loc1	<b>0.66</b>	<b>1.14</b>	0.07	0.13	6.23
Loc2	1.73	2.98	0.12	0.11	5.93
Loc3	0.71	1.22	0.10	0.11	6.36
Loc4	1.46	2.52	0.08	0.13	5.75
Loc5	0.92	1.59	0.17	0.15	6.02
Loc6	0.94	1.61	<b>0.02</b>	0.16	6.33
Loc7	1.47	2.54	0.08	0.11	6.18
Loc8	0.91	1.57	0.04	<b>0.18</b>	6.54
Loc9	1.28	2.21	0.08	0.14	6.05
Loc10	<b>1.69</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>5.58</b>
Loc11	0.89	1.53	0.05	0.12	5.87
Loc12	1.09	1.89	0.05	0.14	<b>6.57</b>
Unit	%	-	%	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> %	-
Method	Spectrophotometry	Calculation	Kjeldahl	Spectrophotometry	Electrometry

## 2. Water parameters

The pH values of the water in the study area ranged from 7.24 to 8.95 (Table 4), which falls within the acceptable water quality standards of 6-9. The highest pH value was recorded in the midstream section at Loc7 (8.95), indicating a more alkaline environment. According to **Wang *et al.* (2020)**, alkaline conditions are often caused by mineralization or the presence of alkaline inputs from the soil or rocks. The lowest pH value was observed at Loc1, with a pH of 7.24. However, the highest water pH does not correspond with the highest soil pH found at Loc12. Additionally, the water temperature ranged between 22 and 28.1°C. The upstream section of the river exhibited lower temperatures compared to other sections of the river. The lower Temperatures in the upstream section may be due to geographical factors, such as more incredible vegetation cover, which aligns with the highest H' tree index compared to other areas (Table 2).

The dissolved oxygen (DO) values in the study area ranged from 6.82 to 11.74 mg/L, with the lowest value recorded in the downstream section at Loc9 (6.82 mg/L) (Table 4), indicating a high presence of organic matter that requires more oxygen for decomposition (**Liu *et al.*, 2017**). The low DO levels may be due to organic matter accumulation from upstream areas. This is consistent with the findings of **Lv *et al.* (2018)**, which state that high oxygen consumption is caused by the accumulation of organic matter and pollutants from upstream (**Lv *et al.*, 2022**). Meanwhile, total dissolved solids (TDS) measured the total amount of dissolved solids in water, ranging from 39-92mg/ L and the highest recorded at Loc12. High TDS values indicate the presence of dissolved solids, which may originate from natural sources such as soil and minerals or human activities (**Sun *et al.*, 2020**).

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) measures the oxygen microorganisms require to break down organic matter in water. Elevated BOD levels indicate significant organic pollution in freshwater (**Maddah, 2022**). The lowest BOD value was found at Loc7, with a concentration of 1.4 mg/L. Hoyos *et al.* (2019) state that low BOD values suggest minimum organic matter requiring decomposition (**Hoyos, 2018**). Chemical oxygen demand (COD) measures the amount of oxygen required to decompose organic and inorganic matter in water, ranging from 26.93 to 75.04mg/ L. The highest COD value was recorded at Station 1, while the lowest was found at Loc5 (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Water quality parameters

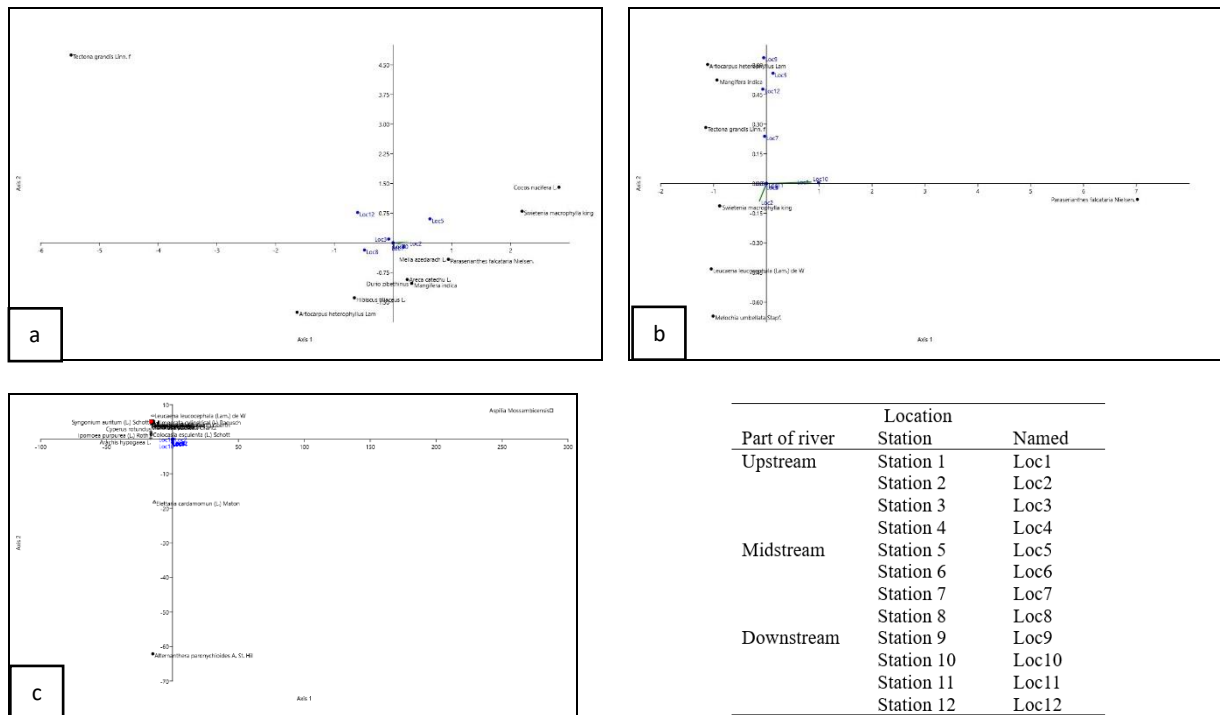
Station	pH	Temperature (°C)	DO (mg/L)	TDS (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)
Loc1	7.24	22	10.73	42	3.7	75.04
Loc2	7.71	22.1	11.74	39	4.2	27.9
Loc3	8.02	23.3	10.74	36	2.3	39.44
Loc4	8.14	24.3	9.47	40	2.1	61.57
Loc5	7.38	25.6	7.38	61	2	26.93
Loc6	7.65	25.2	8.18	63	3.4	57.72
Loc7	8.95	26.5	8.09	55	1.4	32.71
Loc8	8.78	25	8.5	63	1.8	33.67
Loc9	7.58	26.3	6.82	70	3.5	42.33
Loc10	7.7	26.5	7.17	74	3.6	32.71
Loc11	7.73	26.6	7.64	65	1.7	45.21
Loc12	7.48	28.1	7.62	92	2.9	53.87

### Relationship with environmental parameters

Redundancy analysis (RDA) explains the relationship between vegetation and habitat variation across 12 stations. Species that appear closer together on the plot share similar environmental preferences. Based on Fig. (3a), it is observed that Loc5 is closely associated with *Swietenia macrophylla* King and *Cocos nucifera* L., indicating their widespread distribution in this area. Both have the same habitat preference as the characteristics of Loc5, which is classified as midstream with relatively high rainfall. *Swietenia macrophylla* grows optimally in fertile alluvial soils, with good drainage and high rainfall. It tolerates light shade in early growth stages (Krisnawati *et al.*, 2011). Meanwhile, *C. nucifera* grows best in tropical, humid climates with annual rainfall over 1000mm and well-drained sandy to clay soils, especially near coastlines or along rivers (Hartawan & Sarjono, 2016). Similarity, *Melia azedarach* L. and *Paraserianthes falcataria* Nielsen are close, suggesting they share similar environmental preferences. However, *C. nucifera* L. and *P. falcataria* are positioned on different axes, indicating that they prefer different conditions or habitats.

Fig. (3b) shows the RDA values at the pole, indicating that several species have different habitat preferences. Different plant species show preferences for specific microenvironments within riparian zones, leading to habitat segregation. Factors influencing plant distribution include flooding frequency, moisture tolerance, and light availability (McCoy-Sulentic *et al.*, 2017). For example, *Swietenia macrophylla* King. with Loc2, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* is associated with Loc5 and Loc9., *Tectona Grandis* Lonn. F with Loc7, and *Mangifera indica* with Loc12. *S. macrophylla* King is not only commonly found in upstream areas (Loc2 for poles) but also in midstream areas (Loc5 for trees). This indicates that it is a widely distributed species (Wijayanto & Nurunnajah, 2012). However, *S. macrophylla* thrives in areas with better light access and stable soil conditions (Pratiwi & Narendra, 2012), which align with midstream characteristics. Later, *A. heterophyllus* and *T. Grandis* Lonn are the exotic species with

the former being also an invasive species (Fabricante *et al.*, 2013). Both species are found in various tropical regions. *Tectona grandis* is associated with midstream riparian zones because it prefers well-drained soils and moderately dry to moist conditions (Rahmawaty *et al.*, 2016), which align with the environmental characteristics of the mid-riparian zone. At the seedling level (Fig. 3c), many species along the Logawa River riparian zone occupy similar ecological niches. However, a few species, such as *Aspilia mossambicensis* (*Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski) and *Alternanthera paronychioides* A. St. Hil., exhibit different environmental preferences, indicating distinct habitat specializations. These results suggest moderate diversity and signs of early successional stages, typical of riparian zones affected by anthropogenic influences.



**Fig. 3.** Redundancy a(RDA) correlation between vegetation and habitat variation (a) Tree (b) Pole (c) Seedling (d) Location codes (note: also for Fig. 4)

Fig. (4) presents the canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) to analyze the relationship between vegetation and environmental parameters. The proximity between a species and an environmental factor indicates a stronger association. The relationship between tree species and soil parameters (Fig. 4a) shows that *Cocos nucifera* L. is associated with Loc5 and N-total, while *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L. is linked to Loc2 and C-organic. This aligns with Silverio-Gómez *et al.* (2022) and Kotecha and Ram (2022), who reported that *Cocos nucifera* L. thrives in nutrient-rich soils, particularly those with high nitrogen content. The availability of total nitrogen (N-total) at Loc5, the second

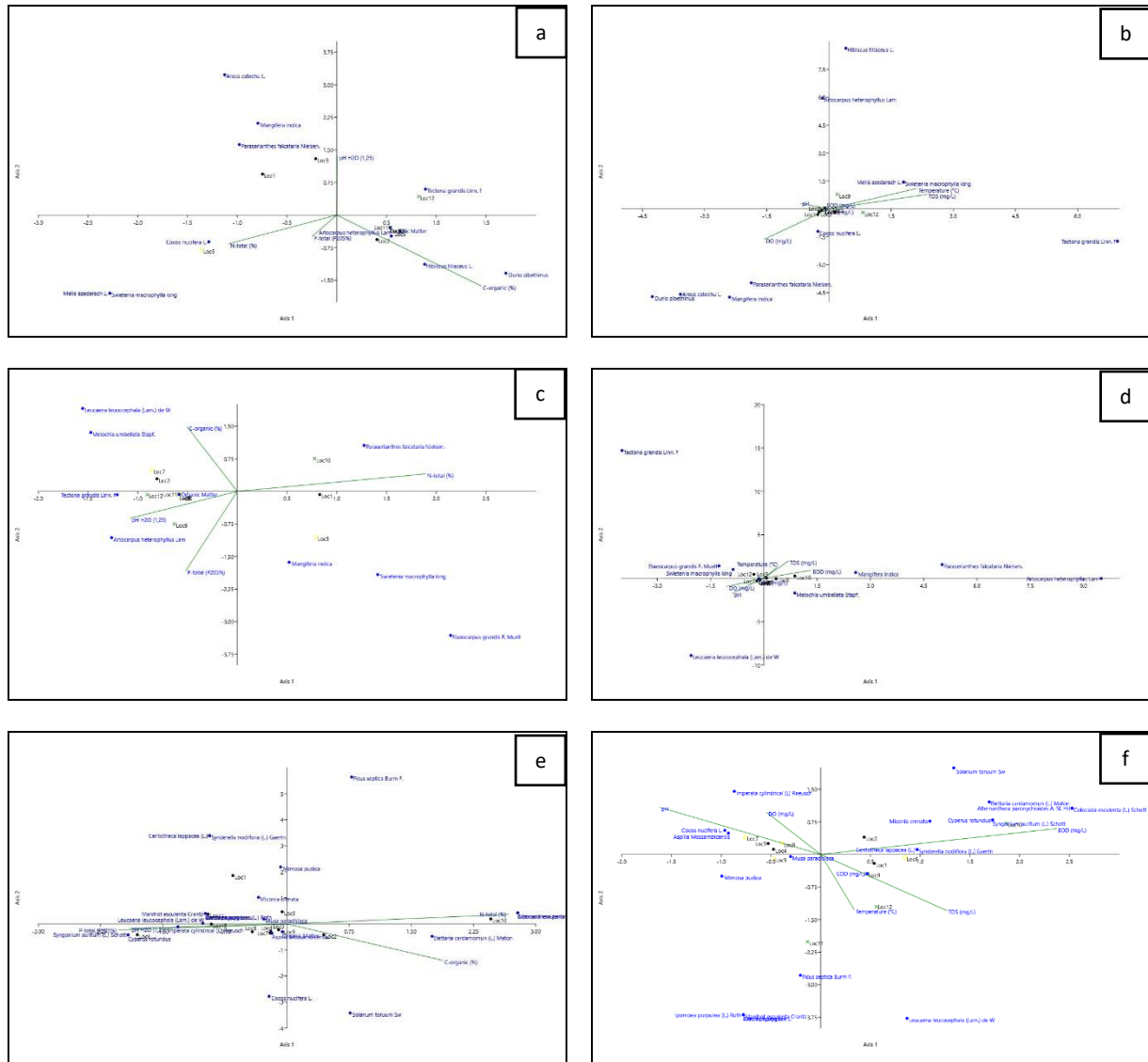
highest among the sites (0.17; Table 3), makes this area favorable for the species. Conversely, *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L. shows a strong association with soil organic carbon. According to **Graham *et al.* (2017)**, *H. tiliaceus* influences organic carbon oxidation in sediments, and its ecological preference for soils high in organic matter is also supported by **Waldo (1975)**.

In contrast, *Areca catechu* L. does not exhibit a strong association with any specific parameter or station, suggesting its presence may be influenced by other environmental factors. However, the relationship with water parameters (Fig. 4b) reveals a more dispersed species distribution. The dissolved oxygen (DO) vector points toward the upper right quadrant, aligning with *A. catechu* and *Durio zibethinus*, suggesting a closer relationship with DO levels. This is consistent with ecological findings showing that both species favor well-drained soils, which are essential for optimal root development (**Staples & Bevacqua, 2006**). Such soils typically offer improved aeration due to better structure, larger pore spaces, and enhanced hydraulic conductivity (**Leyton & Yadav, 1960**), conditions that promote root respiration and elevate DO concentrations (**Prayitno, 2020**).

Furthermore, *Mangifera indica* and *Paraserianthes falcataria* are located in the same quadrant as chemical oxygen demand (COD) in Fig. (4b), suggesting a possible influence. Plant litter from riparian zones contributes to COD, and species vary in their impact due to compositional differences (**Esslemont *et al.*, 2007**). Leaves of *M. indica* are known to contain high levels of carbon and bioactive compounds, potentially affecting COD levels (**Ngoma *et al.*, 2015**). *P. falcataria*, a fast-growing tree species, also contributes significantly to organic matter input in ecosystems (**Krisnawati *et al.*, 2011**). In contrast, *Tectona grandis* Linn. f., *H. tiliaceus*, and *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam. show broader associations with water parameters such as pH, temperature, and total dissolved solids (TDS).

Fig. (4c) illustrates the relationship between pole vegetation and soil parameters. *P. falcataria* shows a strong correlation with N-total, indicated by its proximity to Loc10 on the plot, suggesting this species is widely distributed in that area. This may be attributed to nitrogen-fixing bacteria—primarily from the genera *Rhizobium* and *Bradyrhizobium*—present in the nodules of *P. falcataria*. Additionally, *C-organic* is closely associated with *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.), which contributes to soil organic carbon and total nitrogen accumulation (**Radrizzani *et al.*, 2011**).

The relationship between vegetation and water quality (Fig. 4d) further indicates that *P. falcataria* and *M. indica* are closely associated with COD and biological oxygen demand (BOD), suggesting these species influence those parameters. Conversely, *L. leucocephala* is more closely related to TDS and temperature, implying that it may play a role in affecting those water quality variables.



**Fig. 4.** Canonical correlation analysis (CCA) of the relationship between vegetation presence and environmental parameters: (a) Tree with soil parameters (b) Tree with water parameters (c) Pole with soil parameters (d) Pole with water parameters (e) Seedling with soil parameters (f) Seedling with water parameters. (note: using the same location codes with Fig. 3)

Fig. (4e, f) illustrates the relationship between environmental parameters and seedling vegetation. *Elettaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton is closely associated with Loc10 and N-Total, indicating that the high nitrogen levels in this location are suitable for the growth of this species, consistent with the N-Total values at Loc10 (Table 3). The relationship with water parameters is more apparent in Fig. (4f). For example, *Miconia crenata* is associated with COD and Loc1 with the highest value of COD. *M. crenata* is an invasive and contribute substantially to leaf litter in tropical streams (Júnior *et al.*,

2006) which can increase COD concentration (Guo *et al.*, 2017; Samudro *et al.*, 2018). *Cyperus rotundus* and *Syngonium auritum* (L.) Schott is associated with BOD and Loc6, and *Cocos nucifera* L. is associated with DO.

### **Ecological impacts and landscape management**

The findings of this study hold significant implications for local conservation policies and the management of the Logawa River ecosystem. The observed correlations between species presence and environmental parameters such as nitrogen content, DO, COD, and BOD provide a foundation for targeted conservation strategies aimed at protecting of native biodiversity while simultaneously controlling invasive species. For instance, the maintenance of *Paraserianthes falcataria*, a native known for its symbiotic relationship nitrogen-fixing bacteria, plays a crucial role in enhancing soil fertility, thereby supporting increased biodiversity through improved sufficient nutrients. Similarly, *Cocos nucifera*, another native species with considerable economic importance, thrives under comparable environments, underscoring the necessity of habitat management that supports species with both ecological and socioeconomic value.

Furthermore, the presence of species that indirectly impact water quality such as *Areca catechu* and *Durio zibethinus*, which are strong positive correlations with elevated DO levels and serve as important bioindicators in conservation efforts. These species preferentially inhabit well-aerated soils that facilitate optimal root respirations and contribute to increased dissolved oxygen concentrations in adjacent aquatic systems. These insights endorse restoration interventions focused on promoting native species establishment, enhancing soil nutrient status and mitigating organic pollution sources.

However, the detection of 22 introduced species, notably the dominance *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam., present considerable challenges to the conservation of native habitats. Empirical studies from Brazil and Thailand have shown that *A. heterophyllus* significantly alters species richness, vegetation diversity, and soil composition in invaded areas (Fabricante *et al.*, 2012; Barbosa, 2016; Freitas *et al.*, 2017). In riparian forests, *A. heterophyllus* can comprise over 35% of the vegetation structure, outcompeting native species (Freitas *et al.*, 2017). The species constant fruit production and genetic variability contribute to its invasive success (Barbosa, 2016). Given its economic significance to local communities, public education is imperative to raise awareness regarding its environment impacts and the critical importance of conserving native diversity. Additionally, the implementation of an integrated management plan encompassing monitoring, control, and eradication of invasive species is vital to restore and sustain native species diversity and ecosystem services within the Logawa River Basin.



## CONCLUSION

Overall, 33 species were identified in the riparian zone of the Logawa River, including *Paraserianthes falcataria* Nielsen. dominating the upstream section, *Cocos nucifera* L. in the midstream, and *Tectona grandis* Linn. F. in the downstream. The Shannon-Wiener Index (H') indicates low to moderate diversity, while the Evenness Index (e') ranges up to 1.00. The RDA results indicate that certain identified plant species are widespread and commonly found in specific areas. Also, several species, such as *P. falcataria*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L., and *Elettaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton were strongly correlated with N-Total.

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**Dynamics of Riparian Vegetation Structure in Logawa River: Ecological Impacts and Landscape Management**

**SUPPLEMENTARY**

No	Species	Native	Introduced	No	Species	Native	Introduced
1	<i>Alternanthera paronychioides</i> A.St.-Hil		✓	17	<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i> (L.) Roth		✓
2	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.		✓	18	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (Lam.)deW		✓
3	<i>Areca catechu</i> L.		✓	19	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.		✓
4	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam		✓	20	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz		✓
5	<i>Asystasia gangetica</i> (L.)		✓	21	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	✓	
6	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.		✓	22	<i>Melochia umbellata</i> Stapf.	✓	
7	<i>Centotheca lappacea</i> (L.)	✓		23	<i>Miconia crenata</i> (Vahl)		✓
8	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	✓		24	Michelang.		✓
9	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott		✓	25	<i>Mimosa pigra</i> L.		✓
10	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	✓		26	<i>Musa x paradisiaca</i> L.		✓
11	<i>Durio zibethinus</i> L.	✓		27	<i>Paraserianthes falcataria</i>	✓	
12	<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i> F.		✓	28	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw.		✓
13	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i> (L.) Muell		✓	29	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> (L.)		✓
14	<i>Ficus septica</i> Burm F.	✓		30	<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> King.	✓	
15	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> L.		✓	31	<i>Synderella nodiflora</i> (L.) Gaertn		✓
16	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (L.)	✓		32	<i>Syngonium auritum</i> (L.) Schott		✓
					<i>Tectona grandis</i> Linn. f		✓