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Carbon recovery following selective logging in tropical rainforests in Kalimantan, Indonesia

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Abstract

Background: The knowledge gap regarding post-logging carbon recovery by increased growth is becoming more crucial to understand the significant contribution of forest to climate change mitigation. We assessed the ability of tropical forests in Indonesia to recover carbon following conventional logging. We evaluated carbon re-growth of 10,415 trees in permanent sample plots (PSPs) in East Kalimantan. Four different post-harvesting silvicultural treatments including liberation, refining, thinning, and control were applied in the PSPs. We estimated the carbon recovery period using three different scenarios of total carbon losses due to logging. In the first scenario, we used an existing factor of logging damage and increased it for assuming the range of carbon losses due to different logging practices.

Results: Under the existing conventional logging practice, the concession annually emits $51.18 \text{ tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$, of which 16.8% are extracted from the forest as raw timber, 38% are logging losses, and 45.2% are emissions due to infrastructure development for logging operation. Increasing the logging damage factor two and three times led to an increase in carbon emission to 70.76 and $90.34 \text{ tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$, respectively. The recovery time of the aboveground carbon is 26 years in Scenario 1, 36 years in Scenario 2, and 46 years in Scenario 3. We found no significant effect of the silvicultural treatment type on carbon recovery, but significant effect of the sites was observed.

Conclusions: We found that the time taken to restore the carbon to the level found in undisturbed forests is considerably longer than the current intervention cycles. The time needed to recover biomass and carbon-stock noticeably depends on the intensity of logging interventions, demonstrating the benefits of using improved harvesting e.g., reduced impact logging to reduce emissions. The study found that site variability has a significant effect on the carbon recovery time. Different silvicultural treatments, on the other hand, have no effect on the recovery time. The study suggests that it is not appropriate to establish an intervention cycle based on arbitrary choice; the time between interventions must be based on logging losses and site specific growth potential to ensure sustainable management of forests.

Keywords: Timber growth, Carbon recovery, Silvicultural treatment, Logging cycle, Above-ground biomass

Background

Forests play a significant role in the global carbon cycle due to their dual ability to act as a sink and a source of atmospheric carbon. From 1990 to 2007, forests sequestered 2.4 ± 0.4 gigatons of carbon (Gt C) annually (Pan et al.

2011). Globally, forests store an estimated 471 ± 93 Gt C (West et al. 2014), of which more than half (247 Gt C) is stored in the tropical forests of Latin America (49%), sub-Saharan Africa (25%), and Southeast Asia (26%) (Saatchi et al. 2011). While Pan et al. (2011) suggested that forests function as a carbon sink, Baccini et al. (2017) cautioned that the carbon balance of tropical ecosystems remains uncertain, and that the world's tropical forests are a net source of carbon.

Human-induced disturbances in tropical forests contribute 8%–15% to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

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(Houghton et al. 2015), with gross tropical deforestation emission of 2.9 ± 0.5 Gt C·year⁻¹ and compensation by re-growth of 1.6 ± 0.5 Gt C·year⁻¹. However, the role of forest degradation by disturbances is also considered to be significant. Emissions by forest degradation, though varying from region to region, is dominated by emissions from timber harvesting and wood fuel (Köhl et al. 2015). Pearson et al. (2017) estimated total annual emissions of 2.1 Gt C of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from forest degradation, of which 53% came from timber harvest, 30% from wood fuel harvest, and 17% from forest fires. With the continuous expansion of selective logging (Blanc et al. 2009), the carbon emission from degradation will be more significant in the dynamic carbon of forests. In 2010, around 403 million hectares (ha) of tropical forests were managed under selective logging, and around 183 million ha were managed with a management plan (Blaser et al. 2011).

While the emissions of forest management and respective carbon accounting systems have often been discussed, the ability of forests to recover biomass and carbon after logging interventions has not received much attention. Carbon fluxes from tropical deforestation and regrowth are subject to high uncertainties (DeFries et al. 2002; Sierra et al. 2012). Pan et al. (2011) estimated the re-growing of tropical forests to be about 1.65 ± 0.71 Gt C·year⁻¹. Several studies showed an increase in the growth of carbon in logged compared to non-logged forests (Chapman and Chapman 1997; Péli-sier et al. 1998; Bischoff et al. 2005; Berry et al. 2010; Mazzei et al. 2010; Hawthorne et al. 2012; Gourlet-Fleury et al. 2013). The reasons for this increase in growth vary. The volume of timber extracted and the level of disturbance or the intensity of logging have an impact on the rate of recovery in such a way that growth has slowed down with increased magnitude of disturbances (Chapman and Chapman 1997; Pena-Claros et al. 2008; Villegas et al. 2009; Bonnell et al. 2011; Sist et al. 2014; Vidal et al. 2016). Post-silvicultural treatment, including the integration of sustainable harvesting practices such as the implementation of reduce impact logging (RIL), is reported to show a positive impact on C-recovery (de Graaf et al. 1999; Priyadi et al. 2005; Pena-Claros et al. 2008; Villegas et al. 2009; Gourlet-Fleury et al. 2013).

Information about the ability of tropical forests to re-grow after logging interventions is crucial to understand the contribution of tropical forest management practices to the global carbon budget and its consideration under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD+) mechanism. Considerable uncertainty remains about the rate of biomass recovery in secondary forests and the influence of prior interventions on recent recovery rates (Poorter et al. 2016). Forests are widely recognized as a source of

renewable resources, and the use of wood is considered carbon-neutral. However, this assumption only applies if the amount of carbon removed by timber harvesting from the forest C-pool is compensated by timber growth processes. Hence, the decisive questions are how a forest grows after interventions and how much time is needed at given growth to compensate for carbon losses of the remaining stand. We are referring to the change in carbon due to timber growth which includes diameter growth of the survivor trees, ingrowth and mortality.

This study contributes to the forest carbon recovery literature by conducting an analysis of post logging carbon recovery in the context of selective/conventional logging followed by four different treatments: liberation, refining, thinning, and control (no treatment). More specifically, the paper: (i) assesses the magnitude of carbon emissions in the existing selective logging practice, (ii) examines the rate of carbon recovery after the selective/conventional logging, (iii) explores whether the existing logging cycle provide sufficient time for carbon recovery, and (iv) evaluates the impact of different treatments on the post logging carbon recovery.

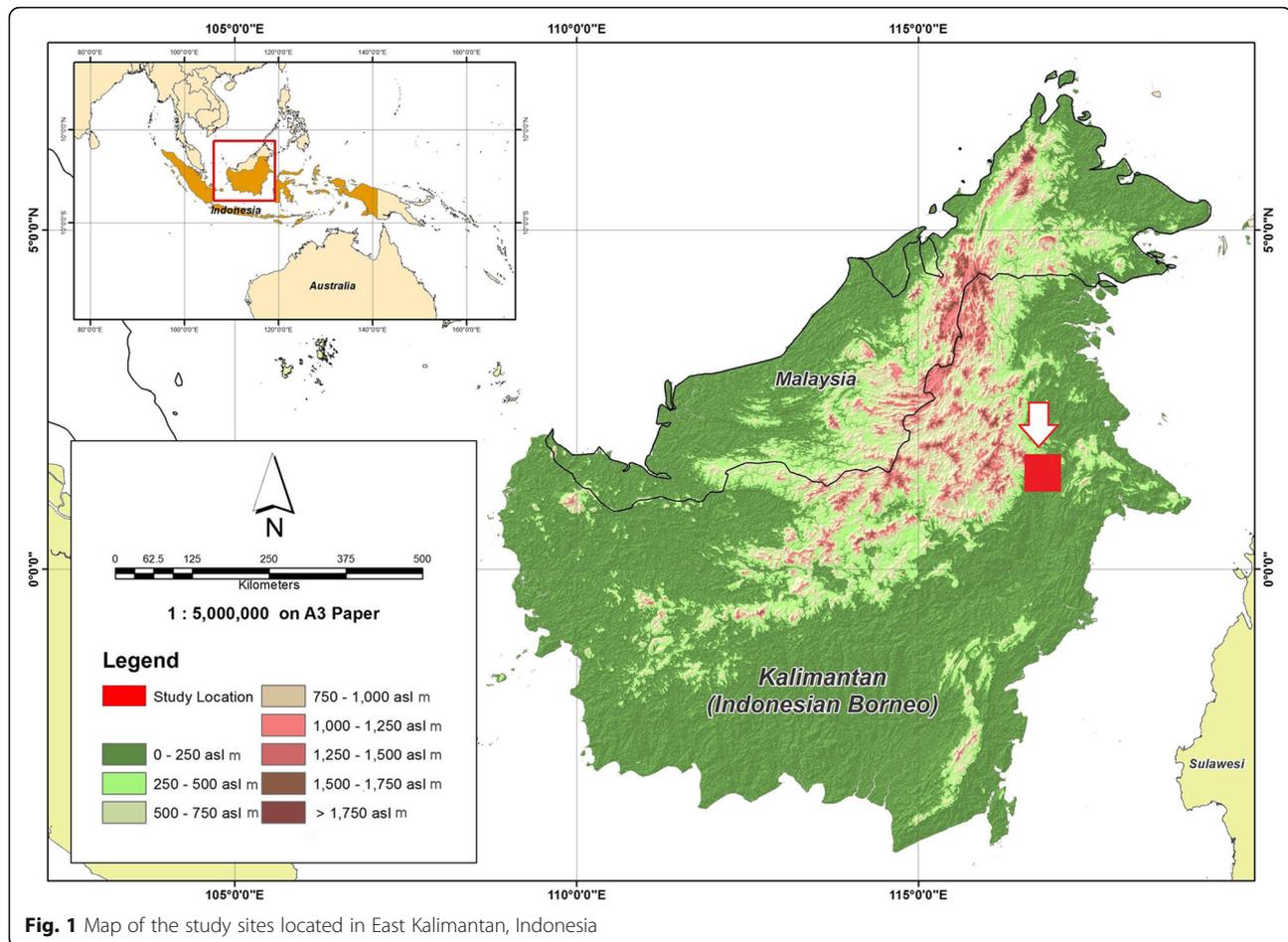
Methods and materials

Study area and sites

The study was conducted in a logging concession holder, i.e., PT¹ Gunung Gajah Abadi (GGA) in East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. The GGA is geographically located at 1°20′–1°35′ North latitude and 116°4′–117°2′ East longitude (Fig. 1). Based on the Köppen classification (Köppen 1884), the forest type in the GGA is classified as fully humid equatorial rain forest. Based on the data from 1971 to 1997, the mean annual rainfall in the study area is 1928 mm with dry season of less than a month (0.5 to 0.9 month) in a year. Figure 2 presents a climate diagram showing the mean monthly temperature and precipitation in the study area. The soil types of the study area are alluvial soil, latosol soil and podzolic soil.

The GGA is covered by mixed dipterocarp lowland forest which is characterized by the domination of trees in the Dipterocarpaceae. The dipterocarp trees are usually late successional and somewhat shade tolerant hardwood species. For the management of this forest, low intensity logging that opens small canopy gaps is a potentially sustainable approach (Ruslandi and Putz 2017). Over the past decades, the GGA has been selectively harvesting the fots management conducted in Indonesia (Budiaman and Pradata 2014). The cutting cycle is presently at 35 years. In the system, selective logging is followed by the post-logging treatments in the residual stands. The treatments may include liberation thinning, refining, enrichment planting etc.

¹PT is stand for Perseroan Terbatas (a term that represents a limited liability company in Indonesia).



Permanent sample plots, plot design and silvicultural treatments

Under the TPPI system, permanent sample plots (PSPs) are established and distributed in the logging area to monitor logged-over forests. Ministerial Guidelines (Keputusan Menteri) No. 237/Kpts-II/1995 (Anonim 1995) mandates the forest concessions to establish a series of PSPs in the logging areas. Since 1995, the GGA has implemented a range of silvicultural treatments and monitored their impacts on the productivity by establishing a number of PSPs in its logging areas.

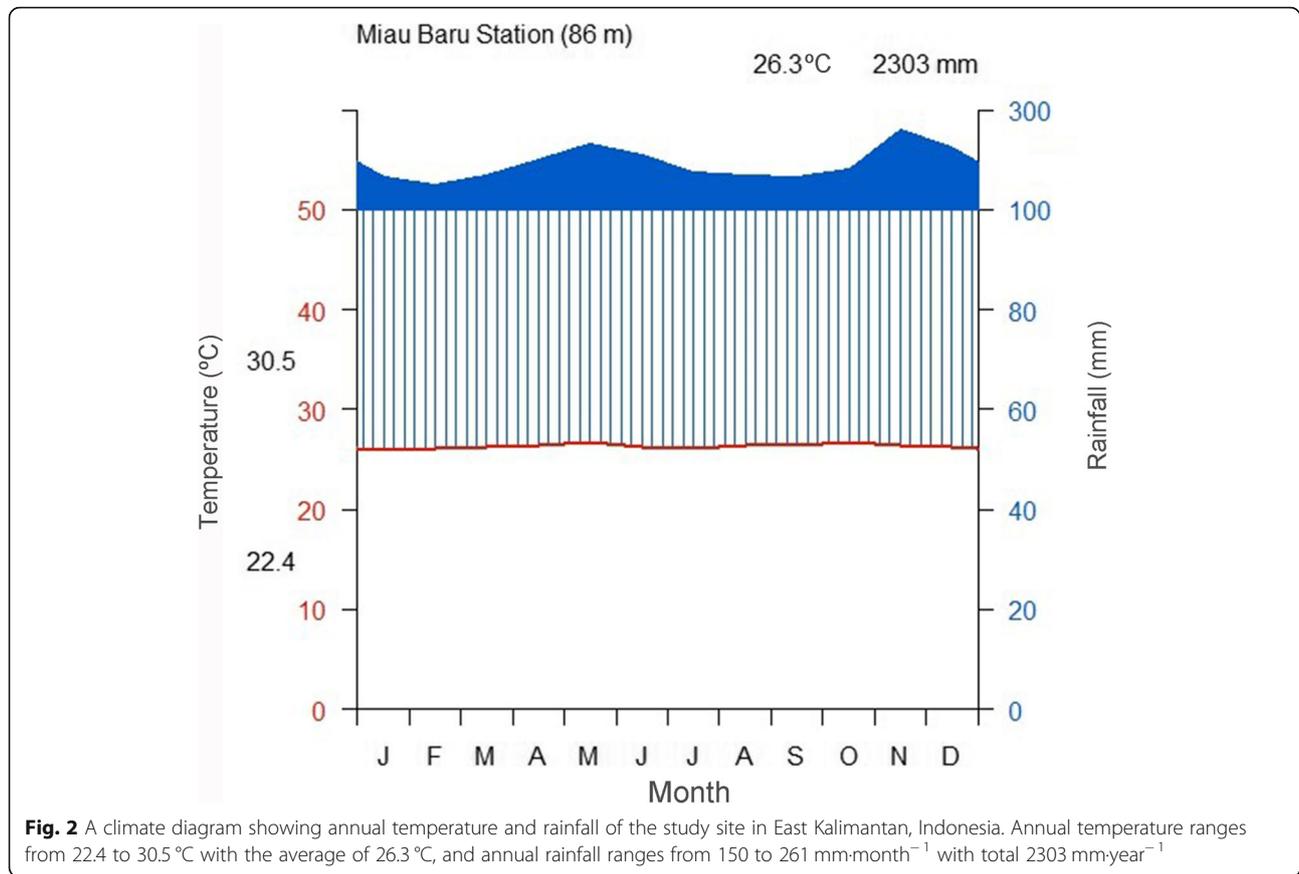
This study focuses on four PSPs established in four different sites in the logging area of the GGA. Each PSP consists of six sub-plots with the same plot size of 200 m × 200 m. Three sub-plots are located in the North and three in the South of each PSP. Within each sub-plot, the tree attributes are recorded in a 100 m × 100 m measurement area located in the center of the sub-plot. The response design allows a big buffer area surrounding the measurement area within each sub-plot (Fig. 3).

The three sub-plots in the North of the PSP received three different silvicultural treatments: (i) liberation

(perapihan), involves a very light cleaning of the area as to remove shrubs and liana, (ii) refinement (pembebasan), which is meant to remove all shrubs and lianas and non-commercial young trees (saplings) with a diameter at breast height (DBH) (d) less than or equal to 5 cm, and (iii) thinning (penjarangan), which involves the selective removal of non-commercial trees ($d > 20$ cm) that compete with neighboring commercial trees. In the South of the PSP, three control sub-plots are paired with each of the sub-plots in the North. Figure 3 presents the layout of the PSP and sub-plots.

Assessment of the permanent sample plots

The Ministerial Guidelines postulates that the PSPs should be established and assessed one year after logging after being subjected to a silvicultural treatment. However, this did not happen in the study area in practice. For three sites, the first PSP assessment is postponed for several years. For example, in site 1, the PSP was assessed in 1995 one year after harvesting (1994) and assessed six times between 1996 and 2007. In site 2, logging took place in 1985, but the PSP was assessed in



1999 for the first time after 11 years of logging. Table 1 presents the years of PSP assessments for the four different sites.

Data collection

In the measurement area (100 m × 100 m) within the sub-plot, all trees > 10 cm diameter (*d*) were tagged,

identified to species, and monitored for diameter increments. The tree positions were not recorded. Recruits were treated in similar ways once they reached the 10 cm diameter threshold.

We received the entire data sets for the four sites. The total set includes 10,415 trees (Site 1: 3,068, Site 2: 3,396, Site 3: 1,714 and Site 4: 2,237 trees). We were able

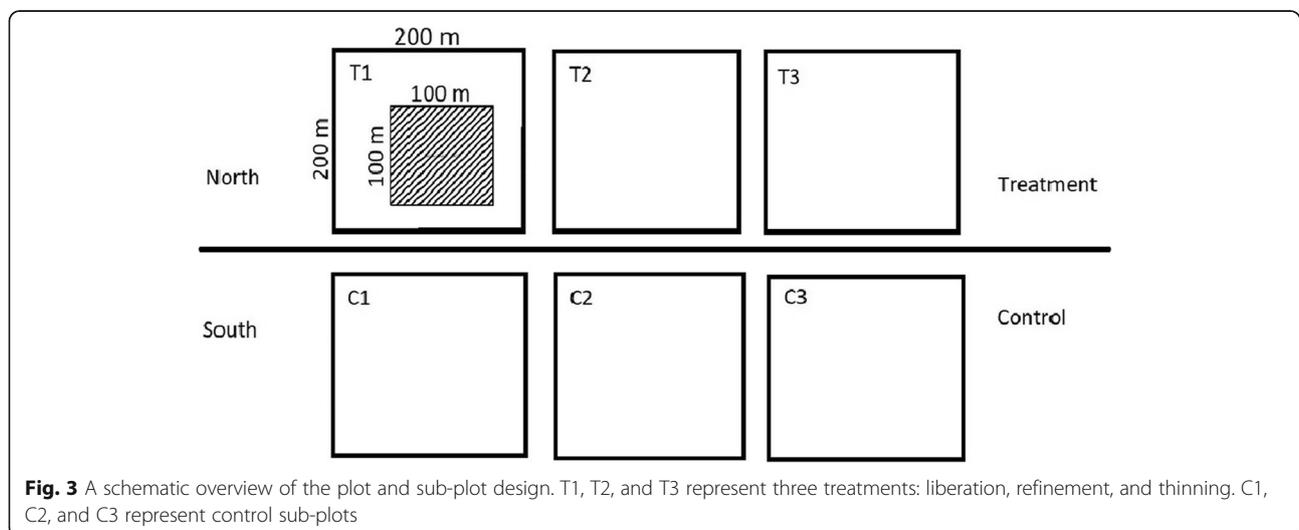


Table 1 Location of permanent sample plots (PSPs), logging years and PSPs measurement years. The Table describes the logging year, first measurement year and the subsequent years of the PSPs measurements after the logging in the PSPs in four different sites

Sites	Logging year	First measurement (years after logging)	Measurement year
1	1994/1995	1	1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2007
2	1985/1986	11	1999, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2011
3	2004	4	2008, 2009, 2012
4	2008	5	2011, 2013, 2014

to trace the missing trees (i.e., mortality of trees) in the datasets of subsequent assessments for a site.

Moreover, we received the records of the volume harvested in the harvested area for the period of 1985–2016 (Table 2). The information on total growing stock for each site was also available for the study (Table 2).

Estimating above-ground biomass

Above-ground biomass (AGB) for each tree was estimated using Chave et al.'s (2014) Eq. 7 (Eq. 1). The model needs input DBH (d), wood-specific gravity (ρ), and an environmental stress factor (E). E is used to predict AGB of a single tree as input to derive emission factors (EFs) for natural forests. E is a linear function of

Table 2 Volume of timber extracted from the study area for the period 1985–2016. The Table presents the year of harvesting, harvested area and the timber volume extracted

Year	Area (ha)	Volume (m ³)		Year	Area (ha)	Volume (m ³)	
		Total	Per ha			Total	Per ha
1985	1,100	41,592.87	37.81	2001	1,320	48,186.25	36.5
1986	1,199	36,916.91	30.79	2002	1,826	53,025.64	29.04
1987	1,104	38,010.93	34.43	2003	1,238	45,193.08	36.5
1988	796	27,707.04	34.81	2004	1,233	33,033.03	26.79
1989	753	31,261.76	41.52	2005	1,774	41,113.47	23.18
1990	900	46,020.3	51.13	2006	1,374	48,719.25	35.46
1991	740	35,616.05	48.13	2007	1,466	45,204.86	30.84
1992	1,054	39,193.93	37.19	2008	1,440	47,739.63	33.15
1993	220	8,090.32	36.77	2009	1,216	50,035.89	41.15
1994	1,215	37,078.19	30.52	2010	1,290	47,500.58	36.82
1995	1,612	66,483.84	41.24	2011	1,405	47,746.96	33.98
1996	1,417	59,346.59	41.88	2012	1,280	43,764.52	34.19
1997	1,745	73,142	41.92	2013	1,335	40,247.18	30.15
1998	931	35,903.14	38.56	2014	956	33,749.7	35.3
1999	1,429	53,036.62	37.11	2015	579	23,142.57	39.97
2000	1,380	45,676.89	33.1	2016	236	10,442.78	44.25
				Total	37,563	13,33,923	

temperature seasonality, climatic water deficit, and precipitation seasonality, and is available in the form of a global raster map. As the geographic position of the study site was known, the value of E was extracted from the map and was attached to the trees found in the study site. Chave et al. (2014) considered the overestimates in calculation and provide 0.5%–6.5% of bias.

$$\text{AGB}_{\text{est}} = \exp [-1.803 - 0.976 E + 0.976 \ln(\rho) + 2.673 \ln(d) - 0.0299 [\ln(d)]^2] \quad (1)$$

where

AGB = total oven-dry above-ground biomass in (kg)

d = diameter at breast height (cm)

ρ = wood-specific gravity in (g·cm⁻³)

E = environmental factor

There are other calculation models for the region provided by Manuri et al. (2014) and Basuki et al. (2009). Manuri et al. (2014), however, differentiate the equation based on the dipterocarps and non-dipterocarps families while Basuki et al. (2009) present the model for the genera of commercial and mixed species.

Calculating growth-related carbon stock change

Growth-related carbon stock change relates to carbon accumulation due to biomass growth and is calculated by applying the periodic growth equations proposed by Beers (1962):

$$G = V_2 + I - V_1 - M \quad (2)$$

where

G = the net growth

V_1 = volume at first occasion

V_2 = volume at second occasion

M = mortality

I = ingrowth, or recruitment

Carbon emissions scenarios

To calculate the carbon emissions caused by selective logging, we used an accounting method proposed by Pearson et al. (2014), which is based on the IPCC's gain-loss approach (IPCC 2006). Pearson et al. (2014), provide the estimation of forest degradation emissions using the data from 74 developing countries, which can be considered as the most comprehensive study currently available. The method accounts separately for emissions (i) from the extracted log, (ii) from dead biomass carbon left behind in the gap from felled trees and incidental damage to the surrounding forest, and (iii) from logging

infrastructure, e.g. skidding trails. The total emission from logging is estimated as the sum of the three sources of emissions.

$$TE = ELE + LDE + LIE \quad (3)$$

where

TE = total emission resulting from timber harvest (tC)
 ELE = extracted log emissions (tC)
 LDE = emission from logging damage (tC)
 LIE = emission related to logging infrastructure development (tC)

ELE is considered a committed emission, meaning that estimated emissions occur fully at the time of the harvest (Pearson et al. 2014). It is related to the volume of timber extracted from the forest and the specific wood gravity, which then gets converted into carbon. LDE occurs where trees are felled and includes both non-utilized biomass of the harvested trees and incidental damages to surrounding forest during felling. LIE results from the logging infrastructure, for example, construction of logging roads, skid trails and logging decks. For calculating ELE, LDE, and LIE, we used the emission factors ($\text{tC} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$) presented by Pearson et al. (2014) for Indonesia: extracted log emissions factor (ELE factor) of 0.25, logging damage factor (LDF) of 0.57, and logging infrastructure factor (LIF) of 0.67.

$$ELE \text{ (tC)} = 0.25(\text{tC} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}) \times \text{timber extracted (m}^3) \quad (4)$$

$$LDE \text{ (tC)} = 0.57(\text{tC} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}) \times \text{timber extracted (m}^3) \quad (5)$$

$$LIE \text{ (tC)} = 0.67(\text{tC} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}) \times \text{timber extracted (m}^3) \quad (6)$$

Emissions associated with logging damages depend on the precaution with which harvesting operations are carried out (Sist and Nguyen-Thé 2002; Feldpausch et al. 2005; Medjibe et al. 2011; Griscom et al. 2014, 2019; Sasaki et al. 2016). We assumed various level of logging damage, which might reflect the transition from conventional logging to reduced impact logging (RIL). In addition to the emission factors presented by Pearson et al. (2014) for logging losses, we increased the corresponding emissions by a factor of two to three:

$$LDE_i \text{ (tC)} = (0.57 \times i)(\text{tC} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}) \times \text{timber extracted (m}^3) \quad (7)$$

where, LDE_i is the adjusted logging damage expansion factor and i is an expansion factor with $i = \{1, 2, 3\}$.

The total emission, TE_i , for each scenario, LDE_i is calculated with the equation:

$$TE_i = ELE + LDE_i + LIE \quad (8)$$

Carbon recovery period

Carbon recovery period refers to the period needed for the remaining growing stock to be able to compensate the total losses of carbon caused by the timber harvest through growth. The loss of carbon per ha is represented by TE_i . The growth of the remaining growing stock is deduced from the PSPs in terms of the periodic annual increment. The periodic annual increment of volume is converted into annual carbon accumulation per ha. This can be used to calculate the time required to compensate for a carbon loss of TE_i .

Results

Extracted timber and carbon emission

Timber harvesting in the study area follows the TPTI System, which limits the minimum cutting at DBH (d) to 50 cm for a cutting cycle of 35 years. During the period 1985–2016, an area of 37,563 ha was logged, resulting in the total harvested timber of 1,333,922 m^3 . On average, 1,174 ha and 41,685 m^3 had been logged annually. The average log production for each of the four sites is 34.78, 33.36, 35.86 and 33.41 $\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{year}^{-1}$, respectively (Table 3).

The extracted timber in those four sites results in extracted log emission (ELE) ranging from 8.34 to 8.69 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$ and emission from infrastructure (LIE) from 22.35 to 24.03 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$. We used three scenarios for logging damage emissions (LDE) (average of four sites); 19.58 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$ for scenario LDE_1 , 39.16 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$ for scenario LDE_2 , and 58.74 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$ for scenario LDE_3 . The resulting total emissions (average of four sites), TE_i , are 51.18, 70.76 and 90.34 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$, respectively (Table 4).

Biomass and carbon growth

The average annual carbon growth observed is 1.82 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{year}^{-1}$ (Site 1), 3.55 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{year}^{-1}$ (Site 2), 2.08 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{year}^{-1}$ (Site 3), and 4.45 $\text{tC} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{year}^{-1}$ (Site 4).

Carbon growth for the different sites is shown in Fig. 4 and Table 5. The growth of carbon shows a steady increase. However, in Site 1 a decrease in growth can be observed for the period from 1997 to 1999 for treatment refinement and for the period from 1997 to 1998 in all other treatments. This decrease is due to the mortality of individual trees. However, it should be borne in mind that Site 1 covers the longest time series, and thus the growing stock dynamics are considered over much longer periods than for the other three sites.

Table 3 Average annual log production for the four study sites for the period 1985–2016

Site	Forest area (ha)	Total harvested volume (1985–2016) (m ³)	Average annual log production (m ³ ·ha ⁻¹ ·year ⁻¹)
Site 1	18,745	648,065	34.78
Site 2	18,391	606,212	33.36
Site 3	6,631	236,788	35.86
Site 4	4,976	165,508	33.41

Average annual carbon growth for the control ranges from 0.52 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 3 Control 2) to 6.90 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 4 Control 1). For liberation treatment, the annual carbon growth is 1.06, 3.07, 5.82, and 6.72 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ for the respective sites with a mean growth of 4.17 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹, which is the highest rate among all treatments and controls. For refinement, the lowest growth was found for Site 1 (1.19 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹), followed by 2.52 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 3), 4.25 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 2), and 4.30 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 4) with a mean annual growth across all sites of 3.06 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹. The growth due to thinning ranges from 1.28 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 3) to 3.70 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Site 2).

Silvicultural treatment

Figure 5 shows the growth-related performance of each treatment in the four sites. The average growth over all treatments in all sites ranges from 1.87 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (Control 2) to 4.17 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ (liberation).

There is no common pattern of growth across the sites. The largest annual carbon growth is found for Control 1 in Site 4. In the other sites, different treatments show the highest and lowest values (Site 1: Control 3 highest, Liberation lowest; Site 2: Control 1 highest, Control 3 lowest; Site 3: Liberation highest, Control 2 lowest) (Table 6).

No statistical difference in carbon growth is found between the treatments, whereas growth between sites are statistically significant (ANOVA, $\alpha = 0.05$). No significant difference is found for the interaction between treatment and site (Table 7).

Recovery time

We calculated the time needed for recovering the total carbon emissions from harvesting, including extracted

timber and logging losses (Table 3), by assuming the above carbon growth shown in Table 5.

Under scenario LDE₁ (LDF = 0.57), the mean of carbon recovery time ranges from 7 to 104 years with an average of 26 years. When LDF is doubled (Scenario 2) and tripled (Scenario 3), the recovery time increases to 10–143 years (average = 36 years) and 13–183 years (average = 46 years), respectively. The mean recovery time between sites varies from 13 to 44 years in Scenario 1, 18 to 61 years in Scenario 2, and 24 to 78 years in Scenario 3. Regarding the three silvicultural treatments, liberation requires the shortest recovery time of 20, 28, and 36 years for LDE₁, LDE₂, and LDE₃, respectively. The longest recovery time is found in Control 2 and ranges from 42 years in LDE₁ to 75 years in LDE₃ (Table 8).

Discussion

Harvesting and carbon emission

The average timber production for each of the four sites ranges between 33.36 and 35.86 m³·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹. This is the common average timber production of concessions in the region, which is confirmed by other studies such as Griscom et al. (2014) with the production of 39.1 m³·ha⁻¹ and Pearson et al. (2014) which range from 26 to 38 m³·ha⁻¹. They also correspond with production volume of 38.9 observed in Brazil (West et al. 2014). Higher timber production (50–250 m³·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹) has been reported by Sist et al. (1998) and Sist et al. (2003a, 2003b), which, however, investigate earlier stages of timber production.

The carbon stock of the four sites studied is estimated to have been between 100 and 173 tC·ha⁻¹ before logging. Measurements started after logging interventions and showed an initial C-stock between 50 and 126 tC·ha⁻¹.

Table 4 Logging harvest and related carbon losses in each site. Related carbon losses are given as ELE= extracted log emission, LIE = emission related to infrastructure, LDE= emission from logging damage and TE = total emission

Site	Harvest (m ³ ·ha ⁻¹)	ELE (tC·ha ⁻¹)	LIE (tC·ha ⁻¹)	LDE ₁ (tC·ha ⁻¹)	LDE ₂ (tC·ha ⁻¹)	LDE ₃ (tC·ha ⁻¹)	TE ₁ (tC·ha ⁻¹)	TE ₂ (tC·ha ⁻¹)	TE ₃ (tC·ha ⁻¹)
1	34.779	8.69	23.30	19.82	39.65	59.47	51.82	71.64	91.47
2	33.356	8.34	22.35	19.01	38.03	57.04	49.70	68.71	87.73
3	35.859	8.96	24.03	20.44	40.88	61.32	53.43	73.87	94.31
4	33.406	8.35	22.38	19.04	38.08	57.12	49.78	68.82	87.86
Mean	34.35	8.58	23.16	19.58	39.16	58.74	51.18	70.76	90.34

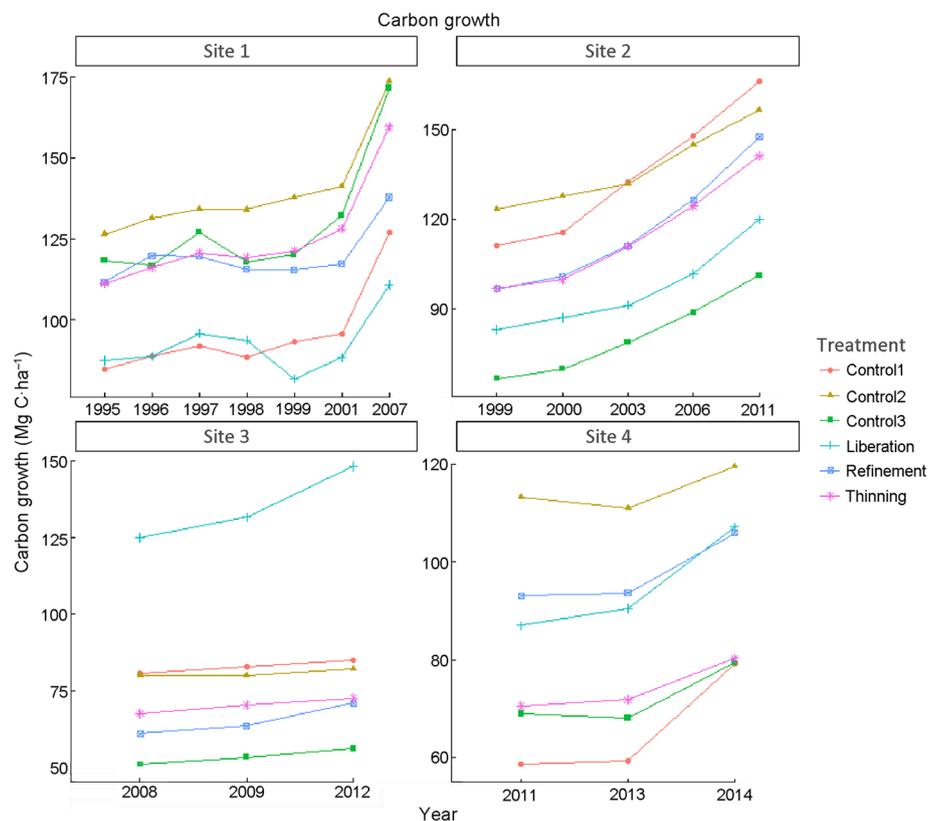


Fig. 4 Carbon stocks estimated in the first measurement years and for the following years based on the subsequent periodic measurements in four different sites ($\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$). The carbon stocks are estimated for four different treatments—liberation, refinement, thinning, and control

Scenario LDE_1 is based on the total emission reported by Pearson et al. (2014) that corresponds to common interventions and the resulting emissions from logging, infrastructure, and logging losses in the region. Those emissions from the four different sites studied range from 49 to 53 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$, with an average of 51.18 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$. C-stock before logging and related C-stock losses by harvesting are comparable to magnitudes reported by Sasaki et al. (2016), which report 172.5 (± 16.8 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$) for the initial C-stock and losses of 52.2 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$. Between the four sites studied, no significant difference in emission was found. Scenario LDE_1 is conservative by assuming comparatively low forest harvesting emissions.

Larger logging losses (Bertault and Sist 1997; Chapman and Chapman 1997; Sist and Nguyen-Thé 2002; Priyadi et al. 2005; Pinard and Putz 2006; Medjibe et al. 2011) and logging intensities (Sist et al. 1998; Sist et al. 2003a, 2003b; Bischoff et al. 2005) are reported for the Kalimantan. To understand the magnitude of the potential carbon emissions associated with larger logging losses, the study defined additional scenarios that anticipate emissions that exceed the emissions of the conservative Scenario 1. Scenarios LDE_2 and LDE_3 assume larger logging intensities and larger harvesting-related carbon losses. Scenario 2 assumes two

times higher logging damage (LDE), while Scenario 3 assumes three times higher LDE than the LDE in Scenario 1. Under these scenarios, the total C-losses per hectare increase to 70.76 and 90.34 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ (138% and 176% of Scenario 1).

The scenarios and associated findings suggested that unsustainable and destructive harvesting practice severely undermine sustainable forest management (SFM). On the one hand, low- or reduced-impact logging, characterized by less dead biomass carbon left behind gaps created by felled trees and reduced incidental damage to the surrounding forest, brings significant ecological benefit including reduced carbon emissions. On the other hand, leaving less biomass behind the forest means a higher timber recovery rate can be realized. Therefore, the intensity and the way of timber harvesting are crucial factors to influence SFM.

Regrowth

The growth observed for the four sites and different silvicultural treatments showed no uniform pattern and ranged between 1.65 and 4.61 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{year}^{-1}$. In other studies, conducted in Kalimantan, increases in C-stock of 4.5 ± 1.5 $\text{tC}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{year}^{-1}$ (Mazzei et al. 2010; Poorter et al. 2016) or in aboveground wood production of 6.3 Mg

Table 5 Average growth of diameter (*d*), basal area (*G*), biomass, and carbon (*C*) by site and treatment

Site	Treatment	Annual increment/growth			
		<i>d</i> (cm·year ⁻¹)	<i>G</i> (m ² ·ha ⁻¹ ·year ⁻¹)	Biomass (t·ha ⁻¹ ·year ⁻¹)	<i>C</i> (t·ha ⁻¹ ·year ⁻¹)
1	Liberation	0.12	0.15	2.16	1.06
1	Refinement	0.11	0.19	2.42	1.19
1	Thinning	0.15	0.37	4.48	2.20
1	Control1	0.09	0.36	3.88	1.90
1	Control2	0.16	0.37	4.38	2.14
1	Control3	0.13	0.44	4.94	2.42
	Mean	0.13	0.31	3.71	1.82
2	Liberation	0.29	0.61	6.26	3.07
2	Refinement	0.33	0.79	8.68	4.25
2	Thinning	0.23	0.69	7.56	3.70
2	Control1	0.28	0.84	9.39	4.60
2	Control2	0.26	0.55	5.67	2.78
2	Control3	0.30	0.60	5.87	2.88
	Mean	0.28	0.68	7.24	3.55
3	Liberation	-0.06	1.20	11.88	5.82
3	Refinement	0.02	0.57	5.13	2.52
3	Thinning	-0.13	0.31	2.55	1.25
3	Control1	0.17	0.18	2.28	1.12
3	Control2	-0.01	0.05	1.05	0.52
3	Control3	0.13	0.30	2.60	1.28
	Mean	0.02	0.44	4.25	2.08
4	Liberation	0.34	1.91	13.72	6.72
4	Refinement	0.00	1.17	8.77	4.30
4	Thinning	0.69	0.78	6.64	3.25
4	Control1	0.52	2.48	14.08	6.90
4	Control2	-0.13	0.64	4.20	2.06
4	Control3	0.07	0.79	7.11	3.48
	Mean	0.25	1.29	9.09	4.45

dry mass per ha per year (Banin et al. 2014) are reported. Values equivalent to or slightly higher than the values of our study have been found in other tropical forests in Sabah (1.4 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹), Southern Mexico, Brazil (0.5 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ for conventional logging and 2.8 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹ for RIL), and Suriname (0.64 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹) (Lobo et al. 2007; Berry et al. 2010; Aryal et al. 2014; West et al. 2014; Roopsind et al. 2017).

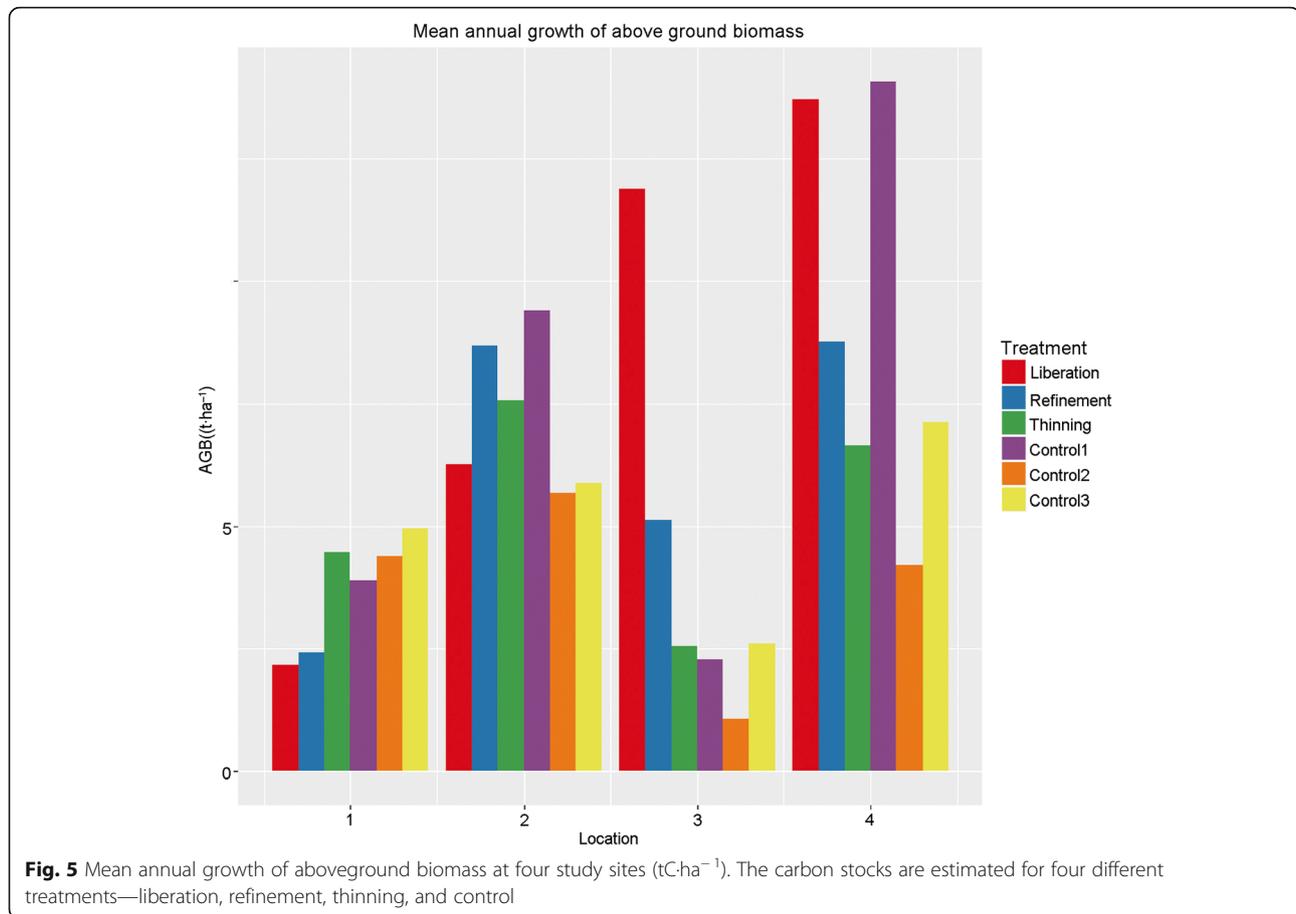
We found no significant differences between the treatments applied, but of the four sites ($\alpha = 0.1$), Site 4 showed the highest growth and Site 1 the lowest. The time after logging covers four years in Site 4 and 12 years in Site 1. Figueira et al. (2008) describe the impact of light availability on growth. This effect is particularly strong shortly after interventions. Considering that the levels of logging interventions are about the same in the four sites, we presume that the differences in growth are not only due to specific local

site conditions, but they may also depend on the time under consideration after interventions.

Effects of silvicultural treatments

Silvicultural treatment is often seen as a controlling element of stand growth (Graaf 1986; Lamprecht 1989). However, in our study silvicultural treatments do not significantly influence the forest stand growth. For example, liberation, which is a light silvicultural treatment, shows the largest average growth over all treatments and site combinations (4.17 tC·ha⁻¹·year⁻¹) but the lowest growth in Site 1. Even between controls, where no treatments are applied, the performance with respect to growth shows considerable contrasts between the four sites.

Each treatment shows a different behavior in the four sites. Since a mix-up between the growth implications of



the individual treatments and the period under consideration cannot be excluded, statements about the influence of silvicultural treatments on forest growth are only possible with reservations. The lack of impact of treatment on forest growth is also confirmed by our statistical analysis, which shows no significance.

These findings stand in contrast to other studies, which found at least moderate treatment effects (Forshed et al. 2008; Peña-Claros et al. 2008; Villegas et al. 2009). Krisnawati and Wahjono (2010) describe a positive influence of purposive liberation of future crop trees. The stimulating effect of silvicultural treatment on individual tree growth was observed

Table 6 Mean carbon growth by site and treatment ($tC \cdot ha^{-1} \cdot year^{-1}$)

Treatment/Site	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Treatment mean
Liberation	1.06	3.07	5.82	6.72	4.17
Refinement	1.19	4.25	2.52	4.30	3.06
Thinning	2.20	3.70	1.25	3.25	2.60
Control1	1.90	4.60	1.12	6.90	3.63
Control2	2.14	2.78	0.52	2.06	1.87
Control3	2.42	2.88	1.28	3.48	2.51

after a period of 20 years by de Graaf et al. (1999). Our results, as well as those from other studies, suggest that post-harvest stand growth depends more on the condition of the remaining stand than on the silvicultural treatment. This view is also shared by other authors (Chapman and Chapman 1997; Bonnell et al. 2011; Sist et al. 2003a, 2003b; West et al. 2014).

Recovery time

An estimation of the recovery time facilitates an overall assessment of carbon emissions from harvesting and carbon removals due to the growth of the remaining stand. It is thus an important indicator for SFM. A recovery time of more than 100 years was found for logged stands in Mexico (Aryal et al. 2014) and Africa (Bonnell et al. 2011). In studies carried out in other tropical forests,

Table 7 Analysis of variance (ANOVA)

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr (>F)
Treatment	5	57.03	11.41	1.418	0.2738
loc	3	116.20	38.73	4.816	0.0153*
Residuals	15	120.65	8.04		
Signif. codes					0 '***', 0.001 '**', 0.01 '*', 0.05 '.', 0.1 ' ', 1

Table 8 Carbon emissions and recovery time under three scenarios

Site	Treatment	Annual Carbon Growth (tC·ha ⁻¹ ·year ⁻¹)	Harvest (m ³ ·ha ⁻¹)	Total emission (tC·ha ⁻¹)			Recovery Time (years)		
				TE ₁	TE ₂	TE ₃	TR ₁	TR ₂	TR ₃
1	Liberation	1.06	34.78	51.82	71.65	91.47	49	68	86
1	Refinement	1.19	34.78	51.82	71.65	91.47	44	60	77
1	Thinning	2.20	34.78	51.82	71.65	91.47	24	33	42
1	Control1	1.90	34.78	51.82	71.65	91.47	27	38	48
1	Control2	2.14	34.78	51.82	71.65	91.47	24	33	43
1	Control3	2.42	34.78	51.82	71.65	91.47	21	30	38
	Loc1. Mean						32	44	56
2	Liberation	3.07	33.36	49.71	68.72	87.74	16	22	29
2	Refinement	4.25	33.36	49.71	68.72	87.74	12	16	21
2	Thinning	3.70	33.36	49.71	68.72	87.74	13	19	24
2	Control1	4.60	33.36	49.71	68.72	87.74	11	15	19
2	Control2	2.78	33.36	49.71	68.72	87.74	18	25	32
2	Control3	2.88	33.36	49.71	68.72	87.74	17	24	30
	Loc2. Mean						15	20	26
3	Liberation	5.82	35.86	53.43	73.87	94.31	9	13	16
3	Refinement	2.52	35.86	53.43	73.87	94.31	21	29	37
3	Thinning	1.25	35.86	53.43	73.87	94.31	43	59	75
3	Control1	1.12	35.86	53.43	73.87	94.31	48	66	84
3	Control2	0.52	35.86	53.43	73.87	94.31	104	143	183
3	Control3	1.28	35.86	53.43	73.87	94.31	42	58	74
	Loc3. Mean						44	61	78
4	Liberation	6.72	33.41	49.78	68.82	87.87	7	10	13
4	Refinement	4.30	33.41	49.78	68.82	87.87	12	16	20
4	Thinning	3.25	33.41	49.78	68.82	87.87	15	21	27
4	Control1	6.90	33.41	49.78	68.82	87.87	7	10	13
4	Control2	2.06	33.41	49.78	68.82	87.87	24	33	43
4	Control3	3.48	33.41	49.78	68.82	87.87	14	20	25
	Loc4. Mean						13	18	24
	Mean						26	36	46
	Minimum						7	10	13
	Maximum						104	143	183

recovery rates between 16 and 30 years were described (Mazzei et al. 2010; West et al. 2014; Poorter et al. 2016; Raymond et al. 2015).

Under scenario LDE₁, we found an average recovery time of 26 years, which is shorter than the cutting cycle of 35 years mandatory in Indonesia. However, the wide range of recovery time under scenario LDE₁, which extends from 7 to 104 years, leaves large uncertainties. In Scenarios LDE₂ and LDE₃, the recovery times are correspondingly longer, which might be due to higher losses by logging damage and extend beyond the Indonesian cutting cycle. Martin et al. (2015) conducted a meta-

analysis to study at what age following forest clearance carbon pools in secondary tropical forests reach equivalent values to those of undisturbed forests. They found that above-ground carbon pool recovered within 85 years, and that soil carbon remained largely unchanged over time. In our findings, the longer recovery period for LDE₂ and LDE₃ scenarios supports the findings of Martin et al. (2015).

Losses due to extracted timber, logging residuals, and infrastructure measures thus have a decisive impact on the recovery time. Timber harvesting measures that are not carried out gently need recovery periods that are

longer than the usual harvesting cycles. Therefore, forests cannot recover before the next harvesting intervention, leading to long-term losses of biomass and C-stocks and thus to forest degradation.

Sustainability is the goal of forest management. Sustainable forest management means the balance of ecological, economic, and sociocultural function of forests for present and future generations. It implies that the need for long-run growing C-stock maintenance to recover the biomass losses. Unsustainable forest management occurs when biomass loss from growing stock cannot be recovered by the growth of the remaining stand. Our study shows that the amount of timber extracted does not suffice to make statements about the time needed to recover the growing stock and the C-stock.

Of crucial importance is the amount of biomass and carbon losses caused by harvest residuals and infrastructure measures. In general, these quantities are of no economic significance and at best reduce the costs of wood harvesting operations. Therefore, these influencing components must be given a greater importance, e.g. through timber harvesting guidelines or financial incentives to reduce the amount of timber felled but not used.

REDD+ mechanism and harvesting losses

Indonesia is participating in the REDD+ mechanism. One of the five activities of the REDD+ mechanism includes reducing emissions from forest degradation (Decision 1 of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (decision1/CP.16)). To achieve the goal of the REDD+ mechanism, reducing logging losses from logging damage and logging infrastructure development through the implementation of improved harvesting and /or RIL is crucial. At the same time, a country might decide to reduce timber harvesting in order to reduce forest degradation and consequently reduction in forest carbon emissions. In this case, a reduction in harvest intensity leads to a reduction in revenues from timber harvesting. Considerable investments are needed to design and implement measures like RIL and might impose a high economic burden to the country in the initial years of REDD+ implementation. The forgone benefits and investment might exceed the REDD+ revenues generated from accountable carbon credits (emission reductions). However, the realization of long-term financial and ecological benefits of RIL and other co-benefits of the REDD+ mechanism encourages adopting such measures. Improved harvesting practices and RIL stimulates the accomplishment of sustainable management of forests, which is another designated REDD+ activity (decision1/CP.16). For C-stock dynamics, the improved harvesting and/or RIL even play a greater role by reducing the carbon recovery period than the biomass growth after conventional harvesting interventions

(See 'Regrowth' section of this Chapter). As a result, measures to reduce harvesting losses account for a greater, if not the most important, share of sustainable forest management within the scope of REDD+.

Conclusions

This study has analyzed the rate of above-ground biomass and carbon recovery in post-logging secondary forests managed by a forest concession holder in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The study has shown that above-ground carbon pool may take only 26 years to recover following selective logging. In secondary forests undergoing high-intensity logging associated with larger incidental damage, above-ground carbon pool takes a longer time to reach equivalent values to those of unlogged forests.

This study provides new information regarding the recovery of above-ground carbon pools after selective logging for policy and forest management entities including forest concessions holder and forest management units. Such information has increasing relevance in the context of climate change mitigation policies designed to reduce carbon emissions from forest degradation such as REDD+.

Future discussions concerning the reduction of intervention cycles can only be conducted against the background of the losses of the remaining stock caused by logging. Our study shows that arbitrarily determined intervention cycles of 30 years, which is currently applied in some sites in Kalimantan, is very risky in terms of biomass and carbon recovery. Owing to the wide growth performance after logging interventions, site-specific specifications of intervention cycles are necessary. An important influencing factor is the amount of biomass losses from previous cutting operations. This calls for mandatory reduced impact logging and specific management regimes instead of uniform annual allowable cut.

In our study, silvicultural treatments, i.e. liberation, refinement, and thinning, do not significantly influence forest stand growth. This does not mean that we argue in favor of passive restoration of tropical forests. Further research is needed to explore the impacts of such silvicultural treatments on biomass recovery.

Our study did not show the impact of carbon storage of harvested wood products or emission reductions by the material and energetic use of timber. Butarbutar et al. (2016) showed that carbon offsets by timber utilization are a major component of the C-balance of logging interventions. However, only reduced impact logging that minimizes logging residuals and losses by infrastructure offers the possibility for carbon offsets.

Abbreviations

AGB: Above-ground biomass; *d*: Diameter at breast height (130 cm); ELE: Extracted log emission (tC); LDE: Emission from logging damage (tC); LIE: Emission related to logging infrastructure development (tC); TE: Total emission resulting from timber harvest (tC)

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Authors' contributions

TB, MK and PN designed the research. TB and SS worked on data preparation and TB and MK performed data analysis. TB, MK, SS, and PN drafted the article. TB, MK and PN reviewed the drafts. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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