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# BIODIVERSITAS

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### Book:

Rai MK, Carpinella C. 2006. Naturally Occurring Bioactive Compounds. Elsevier, Amsterdam.

### Chapter in book:

Webb CO, Cannon CH, Davies SJ. 2008. Ecological organization, biogeography, and the phylogenetic structure of rainforest tree communities. In: Carson W, Schnitzer S (eds) *Tropical Forest Community Ecology*. Wiley-Blackwell, New York.

### Abstract:

Assaeed AM. 2007. Seed production and dispersal of *Rhazya stricta*. 50th annual symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, Swansea, UK, 23-27 July 2007.

### Proceeding:

Alikodra HS. 2000. Biodiversity for development of local autonomous government. In: Setyawan AD, Sutarno (eds.) *Toward Mount Lawu National Park; Proceeding of National Seminary and Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation to Protect and Save Germplasm in Java Island*. Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, 17-20 July 2000. [Indonesian]

### Thesis, Dissertation:

Sugiyarto. 2004. Soil Macro-invertebrates Diversity and Inter-Cropping Plants Productivity in Agroforestry System based on Sengon. [Dissertation]. Universitas Brawijaya, Malang. [Indonesian]

**Information from internet:** Balagadde FK, Song H, Ozaki J, Collins CH, Barnett M, Arnold FH, Quake SR, You L. 2008. A synthetic *Escherichia coli* predator-prey ecosystem. *Mol Syst Biol* 4:187. [www.molecularsystembiology.com](http://www.molecularsystembiology.com)

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# The spatial distribution of sago palm landscape Sentani watershed in Jayapura District, Papua Province, Indonesia

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**Abstract.** Dimara PA, Purwanto RH, Sunarta S, Wardhana W. 2021. The spatial distribution of sago palm landscape Sentani watershed in Jayapura District, Papua Province, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas* 22: 3811-3820. Sago palm is one of the starch sources used as local food in Papua, therefore this research aims to identify the supporting environment for the plant to grow by utilizing spatial data. The methods used were Spatial Analysis and Field Survey, where the first employed satellite imagery of Quickbird in 2012 and Landsat 8 in 2020 to distinguish between sago and non-sago palm landscape. In the process, five parameters were used, consisting of covering land elevation, slope gradient, soil type, rainfall as well as the optimal distance from the river and lake. The result showed the sago palm landscape in Sentani Watershed lies in the elevation of 0-450 m asl, while its largest habitat which lies between 0-100 m asl covering an area of 4,385.63 is found in a flat slope covering an area of 2,941.99 ha and in a very steep slope that spreads out over 41.92 ha. Generally, in Sentani Watershed, the plant grows in Mediterranean soil possessing thick solum with pH 5.0-7.0 and medium to great soil erodibility. Moreover, the largest habitat experiences a precipitation rate of 1,750 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> covering a total of 6,846.24 ha, while the Doyo River has the largest sago palm landscape compared to other rivers.

**Keywords:** Elevation, *Metroxylon sagu*, sago palm habitat, Sentani watershed, slope gradient

## INTRODUCTION

Sago palm (*Metroxylon sagu* Rottb.) is one of the main edible staple starch sources which has become a part of local cultures in Papua and West Papua provinces of Indonesia (Yater et al. 2019). This is a type of plant that naturally grows in a river basin, freshwater & peat swamp, dry land, temporarily and permanently waterlogged land, as well as around water sources (Yamamoto 2011; Matatula et al. 2019). It can also be found at an altitude of 1,250 m asl with precipitation of 4,500 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> including areas having high precipitation and moisture rate. The suitable environment for the plant to grow is a muddy area that supports non-submerged pneumatophore (breathing roots) while being rich in minerals, organic matters, and slightly acidic brownish groundwater. Sago palm is durable in certain conditions like drought, flood, strong wind, and fire (Ehara et al. 2018), hence its growth and productivity are suggested to be affected by environmental factors (Muhidin et al. 2016).

Furthermore, the two aforementioned provinces have sago palm landscapes covering 1.2 million ha (Yater et al. 2019), making Jayapura District to possess great potential for this plant's presence (Abbas et al. 2020; Riyanto et al. 2018). Some research state sago varieties surrounding Sentani Lake in Papua contain high starch, namely *phara*, *yebha*, *osukul*, and *folo* (Yamamoto 2011; Matanubun 2015). The starch extracted from the Yebha variety is 7.60-

7.9 tons ha<sup>-1</sup>yr<sup>-1</sup> and 8.30 ton ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> is from Phara (Yamamoto 2011). Sago is considered as one of the local food assets, while the high carbohydrate content can be selected as the world's alternative in facing the crisis related to this nutrient type (Zhu 2019). In addition, the palm grows naturally in the Jayapura and has been equally utilized by the local community for generations. However, the man-made sago cultivation initiative is still less important and in reality, the Sentani sub-district establishment has aggravated the situation. Due to this regional partition, lots of sago forests surrounding Sentani Lake have been converted to built-up areas and agricultural fields. Human activities are one of the main driving forces of land use and cover changes in natural environments generally (Spruce et al. 2020; Xu et al. 2020). Hence, to determine the latest exact land coverage, sago palm landscape needs to be mapped in the district.

Moreover, geographical information system and remote sensing are types of technology that provides the latest maps of particular vast areas rapidly, easily and less expensively (Warnasuriya et al. 2014; Sulistyono 2017; Birhane et al. 2019). Information on the landscape, climate parameter, soil, and hydrology can be used to develop an environmental spatial model for sago palm's growing place. Therefore, this research aims to examine the identification of the plant's environment by using spatial data that are integrated with field inventory to provide deeper information on the respective habitat.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

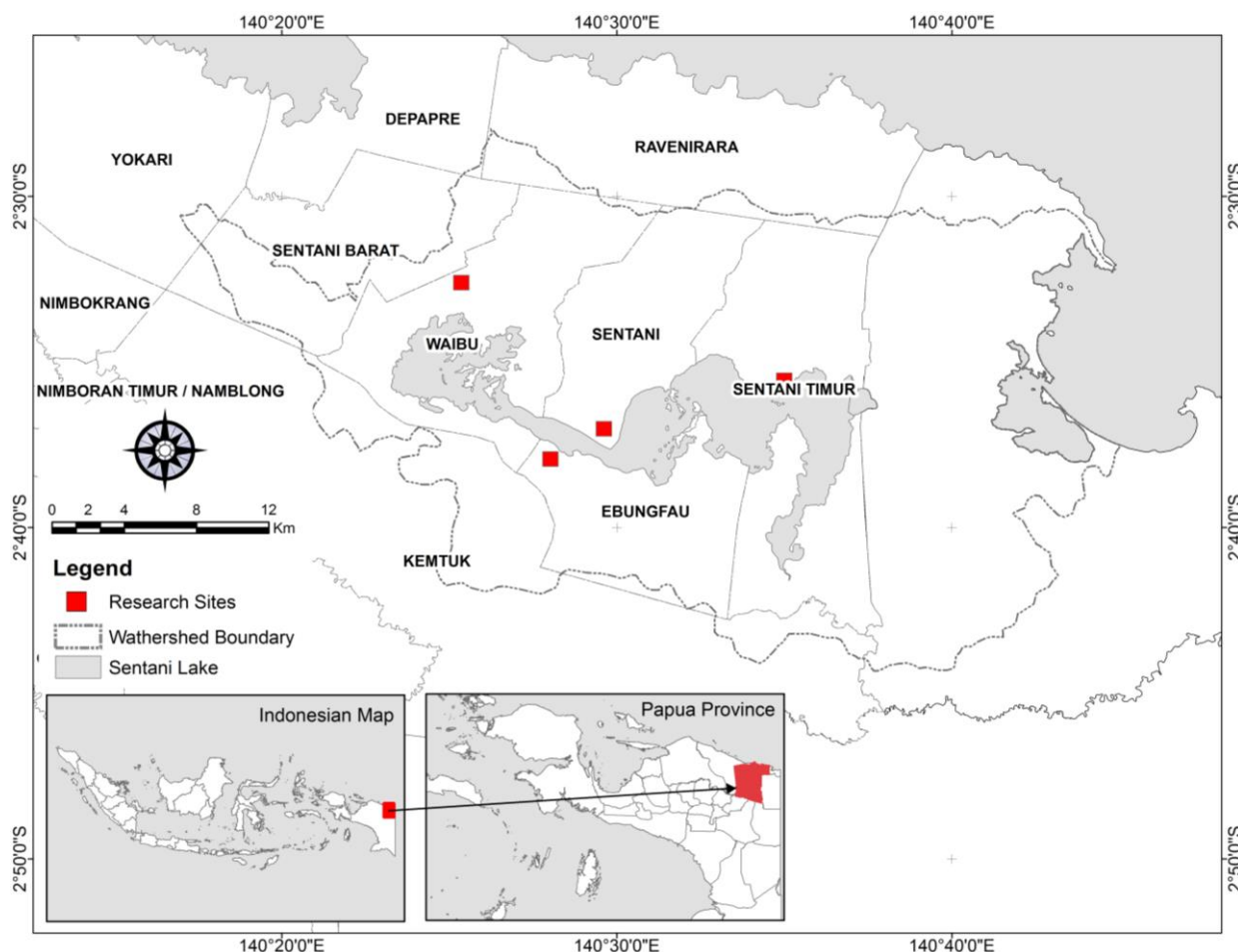
### Time and location of research

This research was conducted from August to December 2020 in several locations where the sago palm landscape covers the Sentani Watershed area (DAS Sentani) and the GIS laboratory of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Papua. Administratively, the landscape spreads over 6 (six) Sub-Districts i.e. Sentani, Ebungfau, Kentuk, East and West Sentani, as well as Waibu in Jayapura District. Geographically, the mentioned Watershed lies between  $2^{\circ}27'46.88''-2^{\circ}44'7.95''\text{S}$  and  $140^{\circ}16'44.76''-140^{\circ}38'25.37''\text{E}$ .

### Procedures

Two types of satellite imageries were used, namely Quickbird in 2012 and Landsat 8 in 2020, to differentiate between sago and non-sago palm landscapes. Remote sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have emerged as effective tools for mapping and monitoring land cover over a period of time (Saadat et al. 2011; USGS 2017). Hence, the imageries were processed with Envi 4.5 to create a multispectral and supervised classification for land coverage. Supervised image classification was performed by using the Maximum likelihood algorithm as one of the popular techniques of

this process (Osunmadewa et al. 2018; Kumar et al. 2021). The accuracy test applied through the Kappa coefficient was conducted using a confusion or error matrix to compare the relationship between known field data and the classification results. Data regarding the sago palm were obtained, then processed with ArcGIS 10.8 to calculate the landscape coverage. These were needed to figure out the biophysical condition of the plant's habitat in Sentani Watershed's natural forests. Spatial analysis, a method comprised of several calculations and logical evaluations (mathematical), was used to determine relation potentials or (possible) patterns having geographical features including digital data in certain regional borders (Kindu et al. 2013; Liu et al. 2020). Fieldwork or survey was also carried out to check the presence of sago palm in its habitat based on the spatial model result, by examining the diameter of a circular plot following the plant's cluster. The plot was selected according to sago palm's growth in cluster form, while its position was set systematically on 15 designed sample points. Besides, the measurement of temperature and humidity with thermohygrometer, as well as sunlight intensity using lux meter, was done inside and outside the sago grove. The data used and their types can be seen in Table 1.



**Figure 1.** Map of sago forest research in Sentani Watershed, Jayapura District, Papua, Indonesia

**Table 1.** The research spatial data

Data	Types of data	Source
Indonesian Topography	Vector	BIG
Quickbird Multispectral	Raster	BIG
Landsat 8	Raster	Earthexplorer.usgs.gov
Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM).	Raster	Earthexplorer.usgs.gov
Sago Palm Landscape	Vector	Supervised classification
Soil type	Vector	BIG, Bappeda Papua
Elevation (DEM)	Vector	Earthexplorer.usgs.gov
Slope	Raster	TIN, IDW, Kriging
Rivers	Vector	Bappeda Papua
Rain Precipitation	Vector	Thiessen polygon method
Watershed area	Vector	Departement of forestry
Jayapura administration	Vector	Bappeda Papua

### Data analysis

The thematic map overlay method combined with the fieldwork and statistic analysis was used to assess the sago palm habitat's suitability. Based on this, 5 (five) environmental parameters i.e. elevation, slope gradient/inclination, soil types, rainfall, and optimal distance of river and lake were considered. Biophysical and biochemical traits are useful for estimating plant growth and yield (El-Hendawy et al. 2019). Therefore, data analysis was carried out by overlaying the spatial and field data, while the suitable area for the sago palm was analyzed by tabulation. The GIS overlay technique applied to ecological and environmental research has shown its usefulness in understanding and managing land suitability (BenDor et al. 2017).

Further analysis was carried out to obtain elevation and slope data which were derived from the Indonesian Topographic Map (RBI) with a scale of 1:250,000 published by the Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial). For more illustration, the map of land elevation was extracted from contour data analysis with a contour interval of 50 metres, then classified into 6 classes, leading to the grouping of sago palm habitat into plain, hill, and mountain. In addition, the maps of slope gradient were based on contour data through interpolation analysis to decrease slope (%), then classified into 6 classes which put the habitat into the following categories: Flat/No slope (0-1%), gentle slope (2-8%), slopy (9-15%), slightly steep (16-25%), steep (26-40%), very steep (41-60%) and extremely steep (>60%) (Wondie et al. 2012; Li et al. 2020).

Similarly, maps of soil types were derived from the Map with a scale of 1:250,000 published by the Centre of Soil Research and Agroclimate (Puslitanak). Sago palm grows in varied soil types, hence the habitats are

categorized based on suborder/great group. Then precipitation was measured by grouping according to the total annual rainfall ( $\text{mm year}^{-1}$ ), where the data used were from BMKG, Jayapura in 2018. Precipitation data management in GIS uses the Thiessen polygon method to divide areas that have the same rainfall. However, buffering analysis was used to calculate the distance from the river or lake to the sago palm landscape (200 m).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sago palm (*Metroxylon sagu* Rottb) in Sentani Watershed, Jayapura District grows naturally in form of large and small clusters. In its vernacular names among the local community of Sentani, this plant is classified based on morphological features into several varieties e.g. *folo*, *hobolo*, *mano*, *phane*, *phara*, *rondo*, *riruna*, *usukhulu*, *wani* and *yebha* (Yamamoto 2011; Matanubun 2015). The data analysis result showed the sago palm landscape covers 7,842.76 ha and this scatters in 6 sub-districts i.e. Ebungfau (899.53 ha), Kemtuk (593.30 ha), Sentani (2,164.61 ha), West Sentani (696.01 ha), East Sentani (1,521.85 ha), and Waibu (1,967.46 ha), which can be seen in Figure 2.

### Sago habitat based on elevation

The classification of sago landscape elevation in Sentani Watershed covers highland, low-land, and wetland forests (swamp and lake), as well as Hills, which can be seen in Table 2 and Figure 3.

Sago palm landscape in the research site lies in the elevation of 0-450 m asl, while its largest habitat can be seen at 0-100 m asl covering 4,385.63 ha (55.92%). Based on the growth observation, sago palm adapts and grows well at 0-100 m asl, but some scholars said it grows optimally at 0-400 m (Bantacut 2011; Ehara et al. 2018). Meanwhile, the plant's smallest habitat scatters between 401-450 m asl and covers 11.39 ha (0.15%). The best suitable elevation for sago palm to grow and have great starch content is 400 m asl, therefore any level higher than this causes poor growth and less amount of starch. Altitude affects the reception of sunlight for the process of photosynthesis in the plant (Miyazaki et al. 2007)

From the field observation at a 100 m asl, clusters of sago palm grow in a great number in varied habitats, namely temporarily and permanently waterlogged, as well as dry land surrounding Sentani lakeside. Furthermore, the shore acts as the fertile ground for sago palm as this area is relatively flat and has a constant water supply. The plant can also be found in river banks and around the water source(s) including any high-water-containing land and /or waterlogged areas (Anugoolprasert et al. 2012).

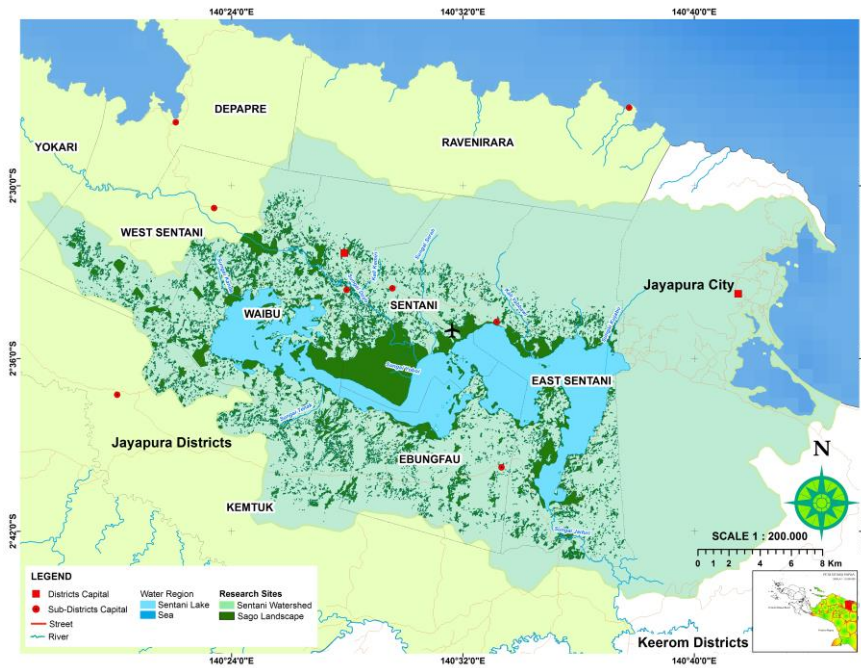


Figure 2. Map of the distribution of sago landscape per sub-district

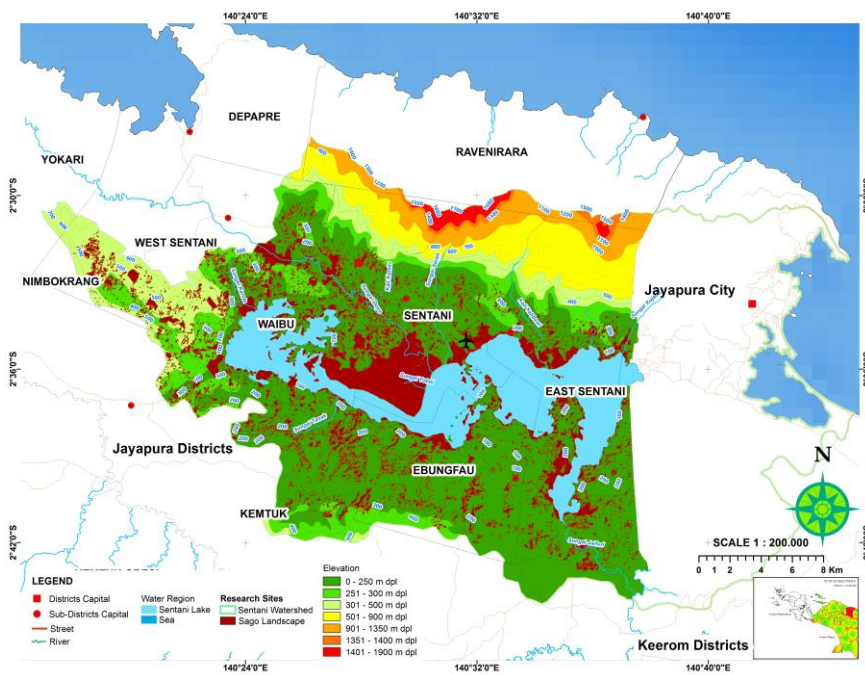


Figure 3. Map of sago palm landscape based on elevation

Table 2. Elevation-based distribution of sago palm landscape

Elevation (m asl)	Sub-district (ha)						Total	Percent (%)
	Ebungfau	Kemtuk	Sentani	West Sentani	East Sentani	Waibu		
0-100	346.24	86.30	2015.36	44.66	829.25	1063.82	4,385.63	55.92
101-150	17.04	-	101.78	45.33	82.62	180.01	426.78	5.44
151-200	385.99	285.80	26.46	170.3	541.93	330.14	1,740.62	22.19
201-250	130.25	111.86	-	-	23.28	14.03	279.41	3.56
251-300	20.03	81.44	14.19	151.38	41.50	281.41	589.95	7.52
301-350	-	4.38	6.82	2.68	3.25	6.62	23.75	0.30
351-400	-	23.52	-	270.27	-	91.46	385.25	4.91
401-450	-	-	-	11.39	-	-	11.39	0.15
Total	899.53	593.30	2,164.61	696.01	1,521.85	1,967.46	7,842.76	100.00

Source: Spatial Data Analysis (2020)

Different land elevations and temperatures have related influences. Sago palms in the upland (>100 m asl) usually form small clusters which live close to the dry land and other woody vegetation especially in the river banks, water source, and valley that has runoff flows during rainy days. This causes not growing up to the full potential, because the plants compete with one another to absorb nutrients, water, and sunlight. Sago palm grows in any land that has an elevation ranging from 0-700 m asl, yet found at 1,000 m asl (Lim and Chung 2020).

The elevation is also linked to the temperature difference of day and night, while in the vast area, elevation and slope direction influence the local microclimate. Moreover, sunlight is essential for plants to grow by affecting their physiology process especially photosynthesis. Some factors influencing sago palm photosynthesis are light intensity, temperature, and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Azhar et al. 2020). The analysis result showed the average annual sun exposure in Sentani Watershed is 62.5% to 75%. Furthermore, the factor influencing sunlight absorption by sago palms is the cluster density, which blocks light penetration. More factors include the difference in sago palm anatomy, other plants

crown covering its growing area, the presence of offshoot/suckers, various petiole lengths, diameter, and height.

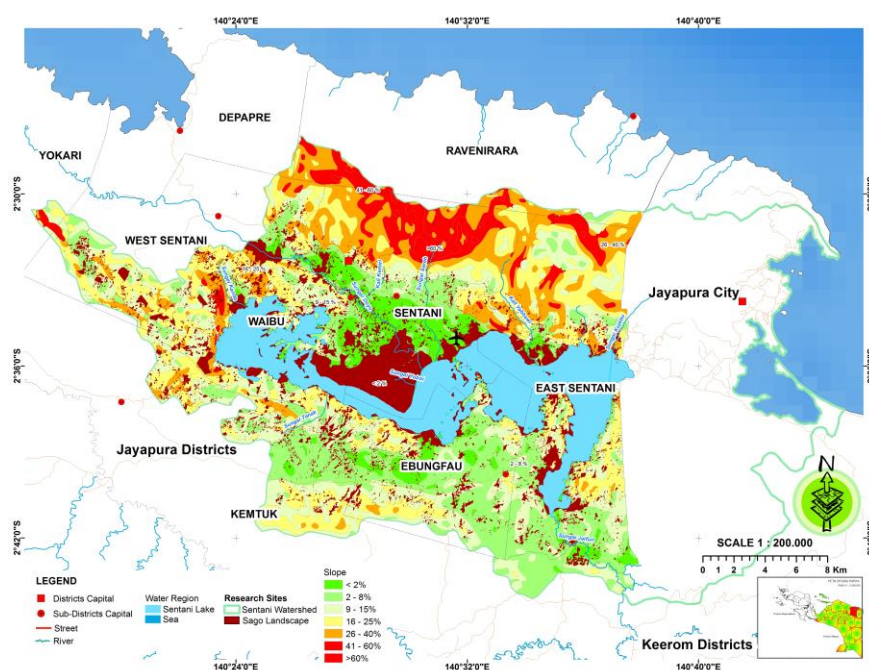
**Sago palm habitat based on slope gradient**

Sentani Watershed area has varied landforms ranging from a flat plain to hill, and mountain, furthermore, topography plays an important role in determining the speed of surface water in carrying soil particles. Also, one of the factors influencing and controlling the soil formation process is a slope which greatly affects species composition but has no significant effect on their richness (Nepali et al. 2021). This seems possible because the mentioned parameter tends to initiate the formation of either fertile or critical land of any particular area, and the higher the slope gradient, the potential for critical land becomes greater. Dong et al. (2016) stated that slope gradient affects the value of erosion over a zone. Hence, as the gradient increases, soil fertility is reduced, leading to elevated destructive impact force from the surface water onto the soil. The presence of the sago palm landscape in terms of its inclination can be seen in Table 3 and Figure 4.

**Table 3.** Distribution of sago palm landscape based on slope

Slope (%)	Sub-district (ha)						Total	Percent (%)
	Ebungfau	Kemtuk	Sentani	West Sentani	East Sentani	Waibu		
0-1	176.86	27.25	1,852.94	78.72	243.47	562.75	2,941.99	37.51
2-8	334.89	222.58	254.38	171.2	555.09	451.55	1,989.69	25.37
9-15	252.75	171.35	30.11	164.61	324.07	415.92	1,358.81	17.33
16-25	131.25	140.64	22.01	175.46	274.62	339.51	1,083.49	13.82
26-40	3.78	31.48	5.17	106.02	110.16	170.25	426.86	5.44
41-60	-	-	-	-	14.44	27.48	41.92	0.53
Total	899.53	593.30	2,164.61	696.01	1,521.85	1,967.5	7,842.76	100

Source: Spatial Data Analysis (2020)



**Figure 4.** Map of sago landscape based on slope

Sago forest can be seen in varied gradients starting from flat plain until very steep, while its largest habitat lies in the slope 0-1% covering 2,941.99 ha, and topographically, *Metroxylon sagu* Rottb grows well in any flat area. In Sentani Watershed, there is a connection between slope gradient and sago forest as the coverage declines in the steep area (41-60%) to 41.92 ha. In addition, the slope direction also greatly affects certain plant species. This deals with the aspect of sunlight direction as the exposure has an immediate impact on varied environmental temperatures (Nepali et al. 2021)

Topographically, the sago palm still lives and grows in a non-flat plain (steep to very steep). However, this plant is in form of small clusters which have poor vegetative growth and longer harvest time in certain plots of a site that has a very steep slope. Furthermore, the sago palm landscape surrounding Sentani Lake lies in a flat area, thereby allowing it to receive intense sunlight. The difference in varied environmental temperatures has a strong impact on sago palm growth and distribution (Abbas et al. 2010). Slope gradient is one of the factors influencing soil development caused by the physical and living environments.

**Sago palm habitat based on types of soil**

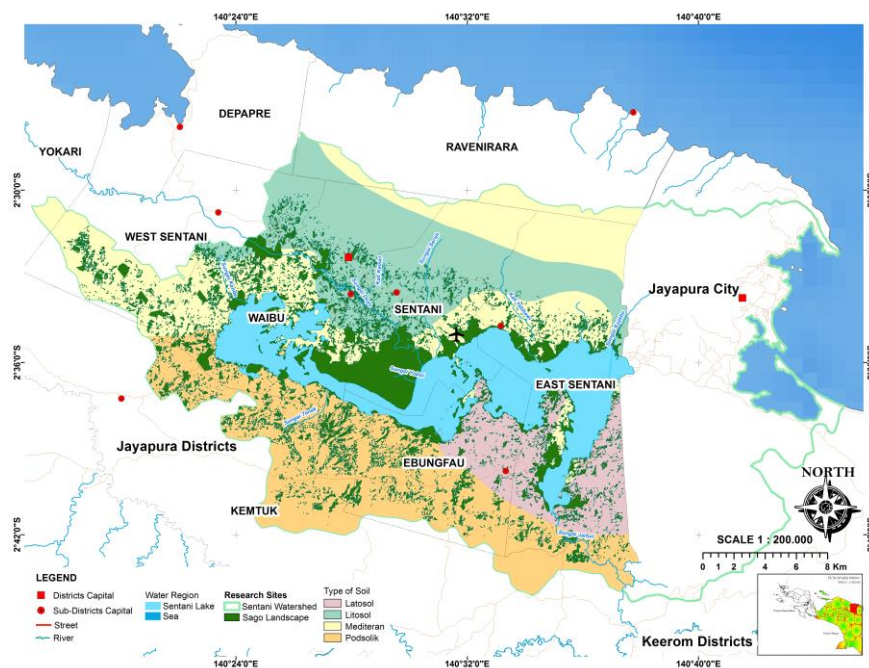
The map with a scale of 1 : 250,000 published by the Centre of Soil Research and Agroclimate (Puslitanak) was used to determine the soil types for sago palm habitat in Sentani Watershed. Notably, this plant lives in certain soils namely litosol, latosol, and podsol, as well as the Mediterranean which is the dominant one. Soil is the supporting factor in sago palm’s growth and production (Ehara et al. 2018), hence the habitat's distribution can be seen in Table 4 and Figure 5.

Table 4 shows that most sago palms grow in Mediterranean and podsol soils. The first can be found in the northern & western part of Sentani Watershed is generated from volcanic parent rocks' decomposition. Furthermore, its solum is slightly dense (1-2 m) and has a slightly acidic to neutral reaction (pH 5.0-7.0) as well as medium to great soil erodibility. In fact, the sago palm living in this soil forms varied clusters i.e. homogenous and heterogeneous landscape in dry land and swamp habitat, respectively (Irawan et al. 2009). Homogeneity reflects the high rate of sago palm dominance over other plants, while heterogeneity means a low dominance rate.

**Table 4.** Soil type-based distribution of sago palm landscape

Types of soil	Sub-district (ha)						Total	Percent (%)
	Ebungfau	Kemtuk	Sentani	West Sentani	East Sentani	Waibu		
Litosol	-	-	371.56	233.76	44.67	378.38	1,028.37	13.11
Latosol	190.75	-	16.52	-	559.87	-	767.14	9.78
Podsol	693.68	590.30	171.19	-	116.66	540.24	2,112.07	26.93
Mediterranean	15.10	3.00	1605.34	462.25	800.65	1,048.84	3,935.18	50.18
Total	899.53	593.30	2,164.61	696.01	1,521.85	1,967.46	7,842.76	100

Source: Soil Map (Puslitanak 1983) and Spatial Data Analysis (2020)



**Figure 5.** Sago palm landscape map based on types of soil

Furthermore, the research on sago palm habitat in Sentani and East Sentani Districts shows that the clusters grow in clogged-drainage alluvium plain and very shallow groundwater. In the area close to Sentani Lake, there is mineral soil and light brown peat with varied textures from loamy clay to sandy silt clay. The topography is flat to moderate flat, while the soil is classified as Inceptisole that has groundwater in 100 cm depth from the surface and falls into the poor quality category. In contrast, sago palm habitat scatters in Waibu Sub-District and grows in varied soil ecosystems directed to the Sentani Lake area which has peat, and to the hilly area that only has very clogged and clogged drainage soil. The textures are varied, ranging from loamy clay, sandy silt clay to loam, while the parent material is derived from alluvium and decayed vegetation which its organic material layer experiences hemic and fibric decomposition. The topography here is flat to moderate flat, moreover, inceptisol in this area has dark brown organic-rich topsoil. Sago palm grows well in inceptisol soil that has very clogged drainage or non-permanently inundated land. The best environment for sago palm to grow is in a muddy area where its pneumatophores (breathing roots) are not submerged, including dark brownish-yellow clay that is intensively rich in organic material. In addition, the plant grows well provided the area has tidal waves especially the freshwater ones (Ehara 2005).

Sago palm grows in any soil type (Miyamoto et al. 2009), as well as in the upland area that has litosol, latosol, and podsol. For further illustration, podsol soil spreads in the southern part has a wavy topography until hilly slope on a certain elevation of 20-100 m asl, where more dense solum (1-2 m) in varied colors ranged from red to yellow. Its soil reaction is very acidic to acidic which also has strong erodibility and low soil fertility. Sago palm population in this area is in a small cluster and proximity to river flows while being associated with woody vegetation.

#### Sago palm habitat based on climate

Climate data explained here covers rainfall, temperature, and moisture, but the first influences water supply level on the land as can be seen in Table 5.

The largest sago palm habitat is in the area that has rainfall of 1,750 mm $\text{yr}^{-1}$ , covering 6,846.24 ha (87.29%). According to data published by Indonesia's Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) in Jayapura, most sago palms in Sentani Watershed grow in average monthly rainfall ranging from 108.20 mm in January to 258.10 mm in November, which

in other words, range from 1,494.40 mm – 2,796.32 mm  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ . According to Matanubun (2015) in Papua province, the studied plant generally grows in Climate Type B1 that has an average rainfall of 2,118 mm  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ . The pattern of rainfall in the Jayapura District shows that the value increases in line with area elevation, hence certain parameters of climate including rainfall and temperature are basic environmental factors contributing to vegetation dynamic (Zhu et al. 2016; Azhar et al. 2018a).

Furthermore, this research also ascertains the effect of sunlight intensity in sago palm habitat in Sentani Watershed, indicating that sunlight intensity partially penetrates the floor of the cluster formed. In particular, the average sunlight intensity measured in the proximity of the sago palm cluster is around 226.48 lux while being around 792.12 lux in the transition area between one cluster to another. In contrast, sunlight intensity measured in an open space reaches 1,642.10 lux, meaning more than 50 % of the exposure tends not to penetrate the floor area of the plant's cluster. This is because there is a blockage from the forest canopy produced from the close-knit formation of petioles and leaves. In addition, each cluster consists of several individuals that can be in various stages ranging from tree to seedling.

Moreover, the average air temperature under the sago palm cluster during observation time spanning from August – December 2020, was discovered to range from 21.89-22.20°C. Yet, the data collected from the BMKG station in Jayapura showed the average air temperature ranged from 27.60 to 28.48°C, meaning the fluctuation of this factor under sago palm stand is relatively narrow or lower compared to the one within a clear area. The supporting optimal temperature for sago palm's growth ranges from 24.5-29°C, where the lowest is 15°C and relative moisture is from 70-90% (Morrison et al. 2012). Also, air temperature change around the plant generally follows the fluctuation of local temperature conditions that were detected to be on average 28.82°C in May. This condition lasted for six months and declined until it reached 27.60°C in November. In other words, local temperature all through this period decreased around 1.27°C. This follows the change of season pattern as May is in the Dry Season, while other months until November is already in transition to Rainy Season. This temperature range is essential in influencing plant growth stages, which once low, tends to extend the early vegetative phase. The photosynthetic activity of sago palms is more optimal at a temperature of 25-29°C (Azhar et al. 2018a)

**Table 5.** Rainfall-based distribution of sago palm landscape

Rain precipitation (mm/year)	Sub-district (ha)						Total	Percent (%)
	Ebungfau	Kemtuk	Sentani	West Sentani	East Sentani	Waibu		
1750	899.53	419.22	2,164.61	286.18	1,521.85	1,554.85	6,846.24	87.29
2500	-	174.08	-	409.83	-	412.61	996.52	12.71
Total	899.53	593.30	2,164.61	696.01	1,521.85	1,967.46	7,842.76	100

Source: Spatial Data Analysis (2019)



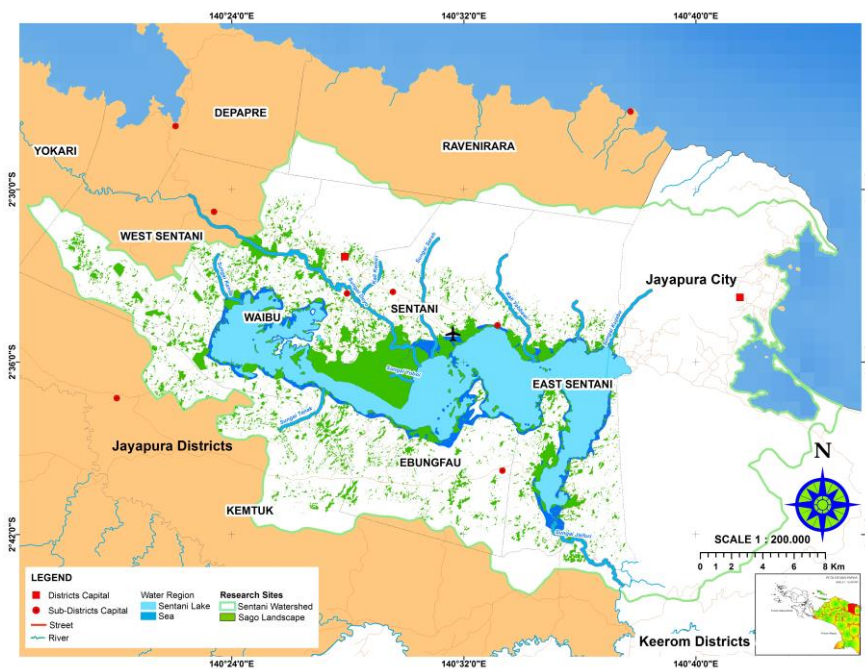
**Sago palm habitat based on the distance of the river and lake**

In general, 11 rivers are flowing through Sentani Watershed and all of them finally discharge into Sentani Lake. Therefore, sago palm scatters along the river basins and lakeshores in a pattern that forms the plant’s habitat. For example, there are swampy, transition, and dry habitats that have permanently and temporarily waterlogged, as well as dry & non-inundated areas, respectively. Despite this, the rivers' distance to sago palm habitat can be seen in Table 6.

The largest sago palm habitat is in the Doyo River that covers 207.47 ha (30.85%), while the Kehiran river occupies the second largest area (28.19%). Also, the Sereh River has the smallest area as this only covers 6.07ha. The sago palm’s natural habitat is found in drainage areas and muddy rivers, including a muddy area that sometimes dries gradually (Singhal et al. 2008; Ehara et al. 2009).

Furthermore, the habitat's condition along the river basins can be defined as temporarily waterlogged and/or dry, indicating that it is occasionally submerged. Temporarily waterlogged means that this habitat has water submersion when it rains and/or becomes submerged for a while i.e. between one to two weeks or until one month, depending on the precipitation’s intensity.

Sago palm has optimal growth in the wetland, because this condition provides a large amount of water support for it (Ehara et al. 2018). However, the continual waterlogged condition will influence the photosynthesis capacity to be less optimal. In fact, Sentani Lake is the commonest place for *Metroxylon sagu* Rottb (Figure 5) to grow, meaning the plant has adapted well to either waterlogged or dry habitat. The distance between the lake and the sago palm landscape can be seen in Table 7 and Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Map of sago palm landscape based on the distance of river and lake

**Table 6.** Distances between the rivers and the sago palm habitat

Names of river	Length of river (m)	Sago forest coverage* (ha)	Percent (%)	Sub-district
Doyo River	17,783	207.67	30.85	West Sentani, Waibu
Jaifuri River	9,443	22.45	3.34	East Sentani
Kanda River	4,031	50.38	7.48	West Sentani, Waibu
Kehiran River	7,512	189.77	28.19	Sentani
Kujabu River	4,619	27.06	4.02	East Sentani
Sentani River	5,152	15.02	2.23	Sentani
Sereh River	3,310	6.07	0.90	Sentani
Tenak River	4,255	25.78	3.83	Kemtuk, Waibu
Yoboi River	1,562	65.89	9.79	Sentani
Kemiri River	3,079	15.25	2.27	Sentani
Yabbawi River	8,632	47.76	7.10	Sentani
Total		673.10	100	

Note: \*Distance 0-200 meters from the body of river to sago palm habitat. Source: Spatial Data Analysis (2020)

**Table 7.** Distance between Sentani Lake and the sago palm landscape

Distance	Sago forest coverage (ha)	Percent (%)	Sub-district
0-100 m	58.72	2.32	Waibu, Sentani, East Sentani
101-200 m	641.23	25.32	Waibu, East Sentani
201-300 m	1,832.11	72.36	Sentani
Total	2,532.06	100	

Note: \*Distance 100-300 meters from the lake to sago palm habitat(s). Source: Spatial Data Analysis (2020)

Significantly, the range of surface water and ground water's depth is prominent in determining sago palm's growth. Based on the result of distance measurement (201-300 m) from lakeshores to sago palm landscape, a homogenous cluster covers 1,832.11 ha (72.36%). The relief condition of Sentani Watershed varying from flat to hill and mountain causes different hydrology conditions compared to other areas. Sago palm habitat in the lakeshore possesses a flat relief condition as this can be seen from its slope gradient (0-2 %). It hydrologically has temporarily waterlogged to dry habitats, where the surface water of the first type is 20 cm in the dry season and 50-70 cm in the rainy season. Similarly, the second has 10-15 cm surface water depth which uses 1-3 months to dry. Sago palm habitats in Papua New Guinea lies in the alluvial plain, flood plain swamps, back swamps, and coastal areas (Ehara 2018).

Water plays an important role in the growth of sago palm, by acting as the nutrient source and dissolvent. Hence, this plant depends heavily on the way the essential nutrients and water in the soil are provided (Azhar et al. 2020). The common overflowing water condition in swampy areas is less beneficial for the growth as it leads to the soil around roots being poorly aerated. Soil aeration is closely linked to the existing air content which its level of availability determines the CO<sub>2</sub> quantity formed from the bottom decomposition of organic materials caused by microbes. Significantly, water is one of the essential components affecting the plant's growth because as the deficit occurs, the leaves continually shrink in size. This factor also contributes to the formation of leaf structure that plays a role in the metabolism process which can become reduced when water is deficient. Therefore, the groundwater depth needs to be maintained for sago palms as well as to control the surface water. According to Azhar et al. 2018b, sago palm grows well in the tidal landscape especially the freshwater area.

In conclusion, the sago palm landscape in Sentani Watershed covers 7,842.76 ha, such that the forest distributes in 6 (six) sub-districts i.e. Ebungfau, Kemtuk, Sentani, West Sentani, East Sentani, and Waibu. Its largest habitat can be seen in the elevation of 0-100 m asl, covering 4,385.63 ha (55.92%). Meanwhile, the smallest which is located in 401-450 m asl has an 11.39 ha (0.15%) total area. The habitat of the plant is mostly found in

Mediterranean soil which receives a precipitation rate of 1,750 mm yr<sup>-1</sup>. Furthermore, the largest is found around Sentani Lake (between 201& 300 m) and in the Doyo River's bank, ranging from 0-200 m. The suitable location for sago palm habitat based on these environmental indicators is the Sub-districts of West Sentani, Waibu, Sentani, and East Sentani.

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