

Project Update: September 2009

P. Akhriadi, RMT Padang – Indonesia Team Members: Ahmad Taufiq, Desman Alfajri, Heri Adi Kiswanto, Reki Kardiman, Hernawati New population of *Rafflesia hasseltii* found in Sijunjuang area. A population of *R. hasseltii* exist in disturbed forest was accessed by the Team.

Illegal logging is main problem that pressures the population of *Rafflesia* in that location. This site is new for the Team and after searching for three days the Team successes to access the location and do counting the individuals and host-plants. Nearly all the local people in this location site have some trouble to recognize *Rafflesia*. There is some misinterpretation between *Rafflesia* and *Amorphophallus* in local people mind. Local people named “Bunga Bangkai” for both *Rafflesia* and *Amorphophallus*, meanwhile in Indonesia language Bunga Bangkai is vernacular name of *Amorphophallus*. Mostly the people are not familiar with scientific name and misinterpretation about this plant often happen along the survey of *Rafflesia* in West Sumatra.

The existence of *Rafflesia* in Sijunjung reported by Meijer reported on 1984. After works of Meijer no reports about the existence of *Rafflesia* from Sijunjung anymore, so this finding is the newest information about the existence of *Rafflesia* in Sijunjung, although the Team have not found the blooming flower. Posters as media campaign of *Rafflesia* Monitoring Team are distributed to local peoples, local government and students along the fieldtrip. The Team also do intensive communicating and discussion with senior researcher of Indonesian Science Institution that have interest with Conservation of *Rafflesia* in Indonesia. Conservation Training for junior member of KCA-LH *Rafflesia* have been done for seven months with topics including Biodiversity, Taxonomy and Ecology.





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