## Project Update: April 2009

P. Akhriadi, RMT Padang – Indonesia Team Members: P. Akhriadi, Ahmad Taufiq, Desman Alfajri, Heri Adi Kiswanto, Reki Kardiman, Hernawati

After studying Rafflesia sites in Padang on January, the team continued working for several site and suspected hotspots of Rafflesia on Batang Palupuah, Agam, Bukittinggi, Payakumbuh, Tanah Datar and Panti district. Along the survey, the team found several blooms of Rafflesia arnoldii R. Brown., in Batang Palupuah and Payakumbuh. In Batang Palupuah, the team must stay longer in the field and decides to wait for two days before the flower completely bloom. It's rare to find the blooming flower when we conducted the field survey. It's difficult to make prediction about the blooming period of Rafflesia flower without intensive observation. The finding of Rafflesia haseltii Suringar blooming by local communities in Payakumbuh (provided by a photograph that documented by local people) ten years ago must be noted as the important findings. This information is a new record for distribution of R. hasseltii Suringar on West Sumatra.

Along the survey the team also distributed questioner in the villages to gather information from the people and communities around the Rafflesia site. Two Senior High Schools (SMA 1 Palupuh and SMA 4 Bukit Tinggi) also visited to distribute the Questioner for the Students to gets the perception of the students about Rafflesia and its conservation, and also to share the knowledge about this species. Rafflesia Conservation Training for junior member of KCA-LH Rafflesia FMIPA UNAND started on February, about 14 junior members of KCA-LH Rafflesia FMIPA UNAND attend the training that conducted at the base camp of KCA-LH Rafflesia in Limau Manis, Padang. Initiating by team leader the training will be conducted for next seven months.

In April the Team designed and published the Poster "Rafflesia, Important or Not" in Indonesian language. This poster will distribute to local communities, universities, government units, NGO's, and related stakeholders that concern with this taxon.



