GIZ Bioclime Team Finds Sumatra Endemic Tree in Kerinci Seblat Highland Forest

IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered

Tembalun (*Parashorea malaanonan* Merr) was found in a highland area in Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP). The newly recorded species, which according to IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) data is critically endangered, was found during a carbon and floral biodiversity survey conducted by a team from GIZ Bioclime, the Palembang Environment and forestry Research and Development Institute (BP2LHK) and KSNP from 23-26 April 2016.

Tembalun (*Parashorea malaanonan* Merr)

According to the botanist Dafid Pirnanda, *Tembalun* is a Sumatra endemic with class 2 timber that can be used for furniture making and house construction. "*There is already a lot of information on the Tembalun tree, however, during the Bioclime survey this species was only found in this region*" (Pirnanda, 2016).

Dafid, who has been involved in surveys with Bioclime since February 2016, added that the tree species grows in highland regions and is difficult to find in other ecosystem types.

The second phase of the Carbon and Floral Biodiversity Survey involved a tree inventory covering species, height and diameter, as well as collecting soil samples, forest floor plants and leaf litter for further laboratory analysis. Surveys were carried out in 8 plots following completion in 6 plots during the first stage of the survey. A total of 14 plots in highland / montane ecosystems spread across TNKS in Musi Rawas and North Musi Rawas districts were surveyed.

Since 2015, Bioclime has been carrying out carbon measurements and floral biodiversity inventories in 4 (four) ecosystem types (peatland, mangrove, lowland and highland) distributed throughout the districts of Banyuasin, MUBA, Musi Rawas and North Musi Rawas. The total number of plots in these priority regions is 115.

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Measuring tree diameter

The survey team prepares to approach a carbon stock and floral biodiversity measurement plot