# Nepenthes as Tourism Flagship Species: the Conservation Strategies in Dayak Seberuang Settlements Area

## Hendra Setiawan<sup>\*</sup>

Departement of Biology Education, Faculty of Teaching Training and Education, University of Kapuas, Sintang, Indonesia

#### Abstract

The aims of this research are to formulate the conservation strategies of lowland *Nepenthes* based on conservation status analysis, distribution map, and conceptualizing *Nepenthes* as flagship species for tourism. Research was held on January to October 2015 in Dayak Seberuang settlement areas, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. Literature analysis was used to identify recent conservation status of *Nepenthes*. Spatial analysis with open access software QGIS ver. 2.4 was used to understand the distribution of *Nepenthes*. Descriptive analysis and SWOT analysis was used to analyze people perception about *Nepenthes*. The results showed that from five lowland *Nepenthes* species which commonly found in West Kalimantan Province, one of them, namely *Nepenthes bicalcarata* is categorized as vulnerable (VU), and rest of it was categorized as least concern (LC) based on International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources (IUCN). The status of each lowland *Nepenthes* in West Kalimantan Province is urgent to improve because of much pressure to its population and habitat. Based on the distribution mapping, each *Nepenthes* has different preference of habitat. *Nepenthes bicalcarata* can be found only on canopy cover at peat swam forest, on the other hand, *N. gracilis* and *N. mirabilis* can be found in open area like Kerangas or secondary forest. Results of SWOT analysis showed that IFAS and EFAS score in range 4.107-4.086 which means that the conservation strategies of lowland *Nepenthes* in Dayak Seberuang settlements area are in growth phase to improve the *Nepenthes* population. There are opportunities for the use of Nepenthes as tourism flagship in West Kalimantan.

Keywords: community, conservation strategies, Nepenthes.

#### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of country with high biodiversity resources in the world. Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI-Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia) reported that Indonesia has 1,500 species of algae, 80,000 species of fungi, 595 species of lichens, 2,197 species of fern, and 30,000-40,000 species of spermatophyte. Indonesian flora is 15.5% from all flora of the world [1]. One of Indonesian endemic flora is *Nepenthes* and Indonesia is biodiversity center of *Nepenthes* in the world [2].

Nepenthes is a carnivorous plant which used its leaf modification known as pitcher to catch the prey. The pitcher is an adaptation to environmental stress especially the habitat with lack of nitrogen [2]. In Indonesia, Nepenthes plants are well known as useful plants and recently popular as ornamental plants because of uniqueness of its pitcher [3].

*Nepenthes* popular as ornamental plants, thus invite the plant hunters to gather it in nature massively. It is one of threats to

<sup>\*</sup> Correspondence address:

Hendra Setiawan

Address : Faculty of Teaching Training and Education, University of Kapuas, Sintang, 78611 *Nepenthes* population in Borneo Island (Kalimantan, Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei Darussalam), besides habitat loss because of forest conversion to oil plantation [4].

The threats to Nepenthes population in nature are increasing every year [5]. It became more complex and involves so many aspects, such as economics, cultures, social, politics, environmental health, ecology, etc. To respond that threats, the conservationist need to arrange a comprehensive strategy in *Nepenthes* conservation from some perspective to prevent the decrease of *Nepenthes* population. This research was aim to formulate conservation strategies of lowland *Nepenthes* based on conservation status analysis, distribution map, and people perception about *Nepenthes*.

# **RESEARCH METHOD**

#### Study site

This study was held in Dayak Seberuang Community settlements area which is one of traditional community in West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia [6]. This community administratively located in Sepauk Sub-district, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan Province [3]. It is a low land area with average altitude from 0-100 m asl. The common vegetation in this area is

Email : hendra\_setiawan09@yahoo.com

tropical lowland plants such as Shorea albida, Pandanus tectorius, Alstonia schoolaris, Sindora sp., Gluta renghas, Soneratia alba, and Planchonia grandis.

# Data collection

The secondary data is conservation status from five lowland *Nepenthes* which is commonly found in 0-500 m asl in West Kalimantan namely N. ampullaria, N. bicalcarata, N. gracilis, N. mirabilis, and N. rafflesiana [3,7]. It was analyzed according to IUCN red list data (www.iucnredlist.org) which accessed on June 30, 2016. Spatial data from Nepenthes distribution was recorded with global positioning system (GPS) in each location of Nepenthes. People perception about Nepenthes was gathered through discussion and interview with chieftain, prominent figure of Dayak Seberuang People, traditional healers, and stakeholders from villages and Sub-district of Sepauk was involved as informants [8,9].

# Data analysis

Every status of lowland *Nepenthes* which commonly found in West Kalimantan Province was analyzed based on the threats aspect [10]. It then completed with data from other literature, field observation, and traditional people assessments.

Spatial data was analyzed with an open access software QGIS ver. 2.4 to construct a distribution map of *Nepenthes* [11,12]. Descriptive analysis was used to arrange people perception about *Nepenthes* [13]. SWOT analysis with IFAS and EFAS matrix was used to quantified and analyzed conservation strategy of lowland *Nepenthes* [14,15].

# RESULT AND DISCUSSION

# **Nepenthes Lowland Conservation Status**

Based on IUCN, the conservation status of five lowland *Nepenthes* which commonly found in West Kalimantan Province are least concern (LC) to Vulnerable (VU) (Table 1). *Nephentes ampullaria* [16], *N. gracilis* [17], *N. mirabilis* [18], *N. rafflesiana* [19] were categorized as low risk/least concern. Based on IUCN in 2016, conservation status of *N. ampullaria*, *N. gracilis*, and *N. rafflesiana* is need updating because the last assessment is on 16 years ago when the threats is less complex then now.

On the other hand, the population of *N. mirabilis* is increasing caused by the habit of this species which commonly lives on disturbed habitat which increase in West Kalimantan Province by conversion of forest to agriculture fields [17]. *Nepenthes bicalcarata* is categorized as vulnerable [2,20,21]. Some of this status is not appropriate anymore to reliable condition in nature. For example, the population of *N. rafflesiana* is highly dependent to primary heath forest (*Kerangas* forest), whereas the scope of this habitat is decrease very fast every years caused by expansion of palm oil plantation. The worst condition is happened to *N. bicalcarata*, this species is an endemic species in northerneast part of Kalimantan Island.

This area only populated on peat swam forest and primary *Kerangas* forest which is decrease by forest burned from expansion of palm oil plantation and new paddy fields. Both of this *Nepenthes* status is need to increase into next level to maintain their natural population. Status raised is one of the solutions to maintain the population and makes local government aware about population threats in their region [22,23].

Dayak Seberuang settlements area cover more than three villages which connected by the river. The habitat of lowland *Nepenthes* in this area is actually specific and affected by the micro climate [24]. This fact makes the conservation strategies from each habitat have to be different. *Nepenthes* conservation strategy, especially in Dayak Seberuang settlements area are depend on habitat where the *Nepenthes* lives, not based only on the species itself. *Nepenthes* threats is classified in category number five namely biological resource use [10,24] (Table 2).

Based on field observation and discussion to prominent figures of Dayak Seberuang community, threats to *Nepenthes* is also related to agricultural activities (Number 2) such as slash and burn technique for paddy fields (Table 2). Special condition of *Nepenthes* in Dayak Seberuang People is *Nepenthes* directly affected by tradition especially because it has many traditional use like traditional medicine, dye material, etc. [4]. This condition can make *Nepenthes* population increase or decrease depends on how traditional people, local government, and related stakeholders manage it [25].

# Conservation Strategy of Lowland Nepenthes based on Distribution Maps

Lowland Nepenthes which found in Dayak Seberuang settlements area is live in specific habitat. Specific habitat is some preference for each *Nepenthes* (Fig. 1).

# Lowland Nepenthes conservation strategies in Dayak Seberuang (Setiawan et al)

Table 1.	Threats Status of	f Lowland Ne	penthes based	on IUCN

Nepenthes species	Threats status by IUCN	Latest review	Annotations	Field observation
N. ampullaria	LR/LC Ver. 2.3	2000	Needs updating	Abundant
N. bicalcarata	VU B1 +2c Ver 2.3	2000	Needs updating	Hardly found
N. gracilis	LR/LC Ver. 2.3	2000	Needs updating	Abundant
N. mirabilis	LCVer 3.1	2014	Update	Increasing
N. rafflesiana	LR/LC Ver. 2.3	2000	Needs updating	Hardly found

Note: LR = Lower risk, LC = least concern, VU= Vulnerable

Table 2	. Threats	Classification	of Lowland	Nepenthes
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Nonenthes Species	First level threat category									
Nepenthes Species —	1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
N. ampullaria	X * X * [5]									
N. biclcarata	X *			X * [2]						
N. gracilis	X *			X * [5]						
N. mirabilis	X *			X * [2]						
N. rafflesiana	X *			X * [5]						

**Note**: \*Based on field observation and interview from Dayak Seberuang People, West Kalimantan 1. Residential & commercial development, 2. Agriculture and aquaculture, 3. Energy production and mining, 4. Transportation and services corridors, 5. Biological resources use, 6. Human intrusions and disturbance, 7. Natural systems modifications, 8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes, 9. Pollution, 10. Geological events, and 11. Climate change and severe weather.

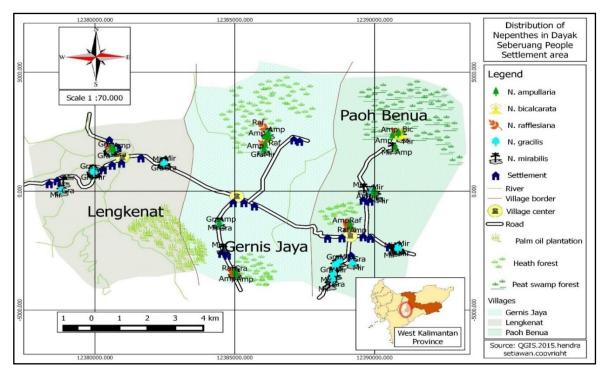


Figure 1. Map of Nepenthes Distribution in Dayak Seberuang People Settlements Area

Nepenthes ampullaria can be found in secondary forest with open canopy, heath forest (Kerangas forest), peat swam forest, and edge of lake. Nepenthes bicalcarata only can be found in peat swamp forest. Nepenthes gracilis and N. mirabilis commonly found in an open canopy area like secondary forest and disturbed habitat. Nepenthes rafflesiana commonly found in primary Kerangas forest and peat swamp forest. In some condition, Nepenthes can be found lives side by side with other Nepenthes. Nepenthes bicalcarata can be found with N. ampullaria and *N. rafflesiana* but never found with *N. gracilis* and *N. mirabilis. Nepenthes ampullaria* can lives with all lowland *Nepenthes* in this area (Fig. 1). This habitat preference can make some point to arrange the conservation strategy for lowland Nepenthes especially in Dayak Seberuang settlement area. P

Preference of *Nepenthes* distribution in their habitat affected by physical-chemical factors such as soil organic matter (SOM), pH, and light intensity [2,21,26]. Soil organic matter is spread out vary in each habitat which caused by a long time process of soil weathering. It affects other soil physical-chemical factors like soil acidic level (pH), canopy coverage, light intensity, temperature, humidity, etc. The distribution of SOM and other factors effected the distribution of *Nepenthes* in natural habitat [26]. *Nepenthes bicalcarata* and *N. rafflesiana* disposed to lives in habitat with high contain soil organic matter and low light intensity like peat swamp forest and primary heath forest (Fig. 1). *Nepenthes gracilis* and *N. mirbilis* commonly found in open area with low SOM and high light intensity (Fig. 1). *Nepenthes ampullaria* can be found in almost all *Nepenthes* habitat in lowland area [2,21].

Nepenthes distribution's map can be use as source/references for arrangement of Nepenthes conservation strategy. Preference of Nepenthes distribution specific to some habitat is the main point in Nepenthes conservation strategy. Specific habitat is the main target to conserve Nepenthes. For example, N. bicalcarata in Dayak Seberuang settlement area only found in peat swamp forest, its mean that the peat swamp forest is a primary target to conserve and maintain the population of N. bicalcarata (Fig.1). Distribution map is a common tools in arrange the conservation strategy and policy to be more effective and accurate on target [27].

### **Conservation Strategy of Lowland Nepenthes**

Internal factors of SWOT analysis consist of strengths and weakness. The highest score of strengths factor is that traditional people still respect the culture in the highest level and it score is 0.893 (Table 3). This factor supported by traditional events which held every year to celebrate the expression of gratitude to the Creator and Owner of universe known in Dayak Seberuang believe as Betara Puyang Gana for the harvest in that years (Fig. 2). Cultures and traditional values are important factors to conserve the biodiversity [28,29]. Otherwise, cultures degradation in young generation of Dayak Seberuang People is the highest score of weakness factor with score 0.893 (Table 3). This condition is affected by weak of awareness from young generation about traditional values. It also caused by high impact of modernization with lack guidance from elders [30,31]. Over all, total score of internal factors is 4.107 which in strong level (Table 3).

External factor which has the highest impact to *Nepenthes* conservation is the opportunities of support from local government to conserved endemic *Nepenthes* with score 0.776 (Table 4). Local government, in this case is Sintang Regency is made Nepenthes as one of their new mascot. The *Nepenthes* mascot can be found in entrance gate of Sintang Regency from Pontianak. The reason of Sintang Regency made Nepenthesas a mascot is that there were found at least 11 species with one species, namely N. clipeata is one of the most rare and endangered Nepenthes in the world [2,7,21]. The highest score of threats factors is the expansion of palm oil plantation around custom forest with score is 0.862 (Table 4). Palm oil expansion is happening massively in all over Kalimantan Island, especially in West Kalimantan. Kalimantan Island lost 30.7% of their forest in 1973-2010 and it will continue while palm oil expansion still allowed [4]. Kalimantan Island is the center of Nepenthes distribution in the world, loss of habitat and forest in Kalimantan is mean loss of Nepenthes population too [2]. The total score of external factors is 4.086 (Table 4) which means that external factors support *Nepenthes* conservation in strong level.

The combination of internal and external factors showed that lowland *Nepenthes* conservation strategy in Dayak Seberuang People settlements area is in growth phase with ratio 4.107 : 4.086 (Fig. 3). It means that the conservation strategy will be succeed if the collaboration from Dayak Seberuang people, local government, researchers from local collages, and NGO's can complements each other. This collaboration will have important roles in *Nepenthes* conservation. If conservation only done by some people/organization, the results of it will be not optimal [14,32,33].

Some recommendation for conservation Strategy of lowland *Nepenthes* in Dayak Seberuang Settlements area as follow:

- 1. *Nepenthes* which categorized as high threats based on IUCN and Salafsky conservation threats [10] should be priorities to conserve
- 2. The location of vulnerable *Nepenthes* should be protected by local wisdom (custom forest) and also by government laws
- 3. Based on IFAS and EFAS of *Nepenthes* in Dayak Seberuang People, *Nepenthes* is a potential plant to conserve especially because of high respect from local people and also the support from local government to protect and conserve the *Nepenthes* as a new local icon.

#### **Table 3.** IFAS matrix (Internal Factors Analysis Summary)

Internal Factors	Weights	Rating	Score
Strengths			
Traditional people respect the culture in the highest level	0.179	5	0.893
High support from chieftain and prominent figure of Dayak Seberuang People	0.143	4	0.571
Existence of endemic <i>Nepenthes</i>	0.107	5	0.536
Traditional people pretention to make Nepenthes as sustainable income	0.071	3	0.214
Traditional people from three village of Dayak Seberuang People wants to protect the remaining	g 0.036	3	0.107
forest with indigenous knowledge			
Weakness			
Cultures degradation of indigenous knowledge in young generation of Dayak Seberuang People	0.179	5	0.893
Limited of qualified human resources	0.107	4	0.429
People' custom which open the paddy fields with slush and burn technique	0.071	2	0.143
Most of traditional people have no knowledge of endemic species in their land	0.071	3	0.214
Lack of supporting facilities to Nepenthes development and cultivation	0.036	3	0.107
Total score	1		4.107

Table 4. EFA	S Matrix	(External	Factors A	nalysis	Summary)
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External Factors	Weight	Rating	Score
Opportunities			
Support from local government to conserved endemic Nepenthes	0.155	5	0.776
Program from Ministry of Rural Development to support GDP	0.121	4	0.483
Increasing of people interest in Nepenthes cultivation	0.086	4	0.345
Support from local academic/collages in conservation of endemic Nepenthes	0.086	3	0.259
Support from conservation NGO's to protect local biodiversity	0.034	3	0.103
Threats			
Threats from palm oil plantation expansion around custom forest	0.172	5	0.862
Forest burn caused by palm oil plantation	0.155	5	0.776
Over exploitation of Nepenthes by collector	0.103	3	0.310
Lack of coordination between village or region in biodiversity conservation	0.052	2	0.103
Limited access to large area in over three village of Dayak Seberuang People	0.034	2	0.069
Total score	1		4.086

#### Nepenthes As flagship species in tourism

Nepenthes has potential value as tourism flagship species in Kalimantan. The value of Nepenthes in flagships is attracting tourist various including interest in aspects, conservation action to support Nepenthes through numerous tourism activities. It is includes education to increase tourist awareness in Nepenthes conservation, increase tourism involvement in planting Nepenthes in natural habitat, and numerous education program to improve tourist understanding about ecology and biology of Nepenthes. It is especially important and relevant with the objective of ecotourism to support conservation.

The idea of the use of flora and fauna as flagship species has been suggested by scholars [34,35]. The charismatic species often attract tourist to visit some particular area, such as komodo in Komodo National park or Orang utan in Tanjung Puting National Park. There is also possibility to use *Nepenthes* to attract tourist. In such a case, the conservation of *Nepenthes* is crucial.

Local community, local government and tourism planer have expressed their concern about *Nepenthes* as tourism flagship species in Dayak Seberuang in West Kalimantan. *Nepenthes* are considered high priority in tourism image development as flagship species. It is based on *Nepenthes* importance in the daily live of local people in Dayak Seberuang.

#### CONCLUSION

Nepenthes conservation strategy has to be formulated from different perspective to overcoming the Nepenthes threat which become more complex every time. Nepenthes conservation status analysis can be use to determine the priority of conservation action, Nepenthes which have critical status should be priority for conservation. Nepenthes distribution data analysis used open access software QGIS 2.4 produced the range area of Nepenthes distribution center and other ecological factor which affect *Nepenthes* population.

People perception analysis about Nepenthes and it threats can be use to formulate Nepenthes conservation strategy based on indigenous knowledge perspective. People perception with IFAS and EFAS score in range 4.107 : 4.086 means that the conservation strategies of lowland Nepenthes in Dayak Seberuang settlements area are in growth phase to improve the Nepenthes population. Conservation strategies of common lowland Nepenthes in West Kalimantan should be based on people perception and indigenous knowledge which combined with natural condition like Nepenthes distribution and it preference. *Nepenthes* has significant value as tourism destination icon, especially for tourism flagship species.

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