FGD 3

Topic: DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE AND INTEGRATED CLEAN LAKE PROGRAM

In order to make integrate RUPES' projects in Singkarak, as well as to provide a comprehensive and sustainable action to protect Lake Singkarak, an initiative to establish an Education Environmental Centre (EEC) emerged. The EEC is expected to be a centre of knowledge as well as a strategy to provide better environmental education that is closer to, and integrated with, the communities' daily lives. RUPES believes that environmental education is required for the younger generation, as they will be the main actors in the future management of their own natural resources.



Figure 1. The masterplan of Environmental and Education Centre in Paninggahan area which developed by IPB and ICRAF

In addition, the EEC will provide information regarding ecotourism in Singkarak and the cultures of the Minangkabau societies. ICRAF is acting as a facilitator in establishing an EEC. The project is currently at model stage and seeking investors. The aims are to educate visitors and the local communities about the impacts of their activities on the environment, and about environmental issues in general.

Another project is integrated lake management. The aims are to bring more tourism, investment and prosperity to the area, all with environmental considerations at heart. This project brought together all stakeholders involved in management of Lake Singkarak to agree on efforts to improve the lake's condition. Later, four local governments (Solok district, Solok city, Tanah Datar district and Padang Panjang city) committed to cleaning the lake. This has opened opportunities to expand the project nationally through the Lake Priority Program conducted by the Ministry of Environment. The communities have also established working groups, which have as one of their aims providing extension programs about the importance of a clean lake for their lives and for those of other communities around Lake Singkarak.

