

Six detained for damaging protected forest

Police have detained and named six residents suspects for damaging protected Dangku forest in Musi Banyuasin regency, South Sumatra.

“We had been warning them since last year not to enter and damage the forest, but they did not obey the orders, so we took firm action,” said the province’s Conservation and Natural Resource Agency investigation division head Edi Sopian on Tuesday.

Edi said the residents were arrested on June 11 while they were inside the forest chopping down trees, establishing shelters and planting rubber. “They are now being detained at the South Sumatra Police headquarters,” he added.

He said four of the residents, identified as Samingan, Dedi Suryanto, Sutisna and Anwar, were suspected of trespassing, while the other two individuals, identified as M. Nur and Zulkifli – both of whom are leaders of the South Sumatra Farmers Council – allegedly acted as the masterminds behind the illegal activity.