

Ministry allots 40,000 ha as ‘nagari’ forests

The Forestry Ministry has designated 40,000 hectares of state forest in West Sumatra as nagari (village) forests over the past three years.

Nagari forest is the lowest level of state territory, overseen through a local community-based forest management scheme.

Forestry Minister Zulkifli Hasan officially handed over decision letters on the allocation of nagari production forests to four nagari, covering a total area of 18,985 ha, on the sidelines of a coordinated meeting of governors from across Sumatra, in Padang on Friday.

Three of the four nagari are located in Solok regency, namely Nagari Sirukam (3,398 ha), Nagari Sungai Abu (6,787 ha) and Nagari Sariak Alahan Tigo (4,300 ha). Nagari Paru (4,500 hectares) is located in Sijunjung regency.

“The decree serves as legal basis for us to manage our nagari forests. We are equipped with legal power to stop illegal logging,” said Nagari Sirukam Forest Management Council head Bukhtiar