

## **Officials warn of dying mangrove forest**

Officials have said that years of efforts to improve the poor condition of a mangrove forest in the Segara Anakan lake and Nusakambangan island area of Cilacap regency, Central Java, are likely to see disappointing results as the replanting program can not keep up with deforestation and sedimentation.

Cilacap regency spokesman Ansor Basuki said newly planted mangroves were often quickly swept away by waves.

Meanwhile, Segara Anakan Management Office head Supriyanto said water in the area had become extremely shallow because the mangroves were disappearing and the area received hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of mud annually from the Citanduy and Cimeneng rivers in West Java.

He said the area of Segara Anakan was now only around 700 hectares (ha), down from 6,460 ha in 1903. The mangrove forest has also suffered from illegal logging. To date, the size of the forest has declined from 8,500 ha to 6,000 ha.

“The extinction of the mangroves would have a huge impact on the sea biota, which becomes the main source of livelihood for small fishermen,” Supriyanto said.