

Deforestation might be drying up Lake Lindu

A park official is calling on the Central Sulawesi administration to pay more attention to the lowering water level of Lake Lindu, a prominent tourist site in the province.

The head of the Lore-Lindu National Park, Agus Harijoko, said in Palu on Thursday that he did not know the precise reason why the lake has been drying up, although he speculated that there might be a connection to local residents who have stripped nearby forests bare.

“Many forest areas around the lake have been converted into farmland,” Agus added.

The 3,400-square-hectare lake — the second largest in Central Sulawesi after Lake Poso — is located in Lindu subdistrict, around 50 kilometers southeast of Palu, and has been a favorite destination for domestic and foreign tourists for several years due to its beautiful panoramas and the rare animal species that live in the national park.

According to Agus, local authorities and the Sigi regency administration should stop local residents from converting forests into farmland and stop unregulated land acquisition.

Agus said that the local government should also offer resettlement programs to local residents to prevent them from squatting in the forests.