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History of mercury contaminant in sediment

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Lake Tilap is located near Petuk Bukit Village, in the Rakumpit sub district of Central Kalimantan. The lake is one of the important fisheries for the local people, but contamination by mercury is a potentially serious problem, because the lake is an endorheic basin of Rungan River, which is known to be contaminated by mercury.

Mercury contamination is already of concern to residents along the Rungan River. Large amounts of elemental mercury are used locally for gold extraction in the upper basin. Mercury is released to the environment from the various processes associated with gold mining activity, such as the processes of separation of gold from the soil and the heating of amalgam to vaporize the mercury. In this study, the aim was to clarify the history of the mercury contamination of lake Tilap by gold mining.