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Bukit Lagi to be declared a geopark

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GURUN: Bukit Lagi in Guar Cendawasih, Perlis, will soon be declared a geological park (geopark), making it the third such area in the northern region of Peninsular Malaysia.

Just like Gunung Matchingchang in Langkawi and Gunung Jerai in Kedah, Bukit Lagi, which is located in the district of Padang Besar, has several landmarks that are potential tourist attractions.

Nur Susila Md Saaid, information management head at the northern region's Minerals and Geoscience Department, said Unesco is expected to make the announcement sometime next year.

This will make Bukit Lagi a part of the network of about 120 geoparks globally.

This is also the culmination of an effort by the department to ensure sustainability in the area.

A geopark is an area, usually atop hills or mountains, where the rocks and fossils are deemed to have been properly preserved, and that also empowers the community around it to take up conservation principles.

Susila said Bukit Lagi was picked for its collection of fossils, known to be the richest in the peninsula.

"Each geopark has its own unique identity. Langkawi has the oldest rock formation in Malaysia while Gunung Jerai boasts unique species or plants as well as its many myths," she said.

Perlis has a large collection of rock fossils.

Each geopark also has its own waterfall from which spring water can be collected and consumed for health.