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## Double protection for FRIM and forest through gazette

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and its 80-year-old man-made forest will be gazetted as a national heritage this year.

Its director-general, Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod, said this would allow the institute and its 486ha forest to enjoy more recognition and privileges, adding that the process was in the final stage.

"We bought over the land from Selangor two years ago to protect it against encroachment but we don't know what may happen in the future.

"By putting institute under national heritage status, our forest will have double protection," said

Dr Abdul Latif during the World Forestry Day celebration yesterday.

Previously a mining area, FRIM has been rehabilitated successfully and is one of the world's oldest man-made rainforests, boasting some 15 million trees belonging to 2,500 species.

Dr Abdul Latiff said Malaysia's jungles were the envy of many advanced countries that had lost their forests during their development.

"For example, although temperatures outside of FRIM have been fluctuating, the temperatures within the forest have remained stable," he said, adding that the forest acts as a giant carbon sink.