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Four heritage sites earmarked for Unesco status

KUALA LUMPUR: Four sites – Taman Negara, Royal Belum in Gerik, Perak, the Klang Gates Quartz Ridge in Gombak and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia – are in the tentative heritage list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik said declaring these places, which had historical and heritage value, as Unesco World Heritage Sites would protect their biodiversity and uniqueness.

“We have 69 national heritage sites,” he said.

“We work with state governments to identify areas with historical and heritage value to be gazetted so that these will not be developed,” he told Senator Datuk Fahariyah Md Nordin during question time in Dewan Negara yesterday.

The National Heritage Department, said Muhammad Bakhtiar, also worked with agencies and universities conducting researches to identify such sites.

To a question from Senator Datuk Ong Chong Swen, he said at least RM1.5mil was needed to cover the costs of, among others, appointing experts, the preparation of dossier and special plan, and research and data collection before a place could be declared a Unesco Heritage site.

— Bernama