

## **Proposed Conservation of Badak Cave C, Lenggong as Vertebrate Fossil Site Extraordinary**

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Remnants of three extraordinary beds of calcified alluvial sediments containing numerous teeth and bones fossils from a number of species of mainly large herbivorous vertebrate were found in the Badak Cave C in the Lenggong Hills, Ulu Perak. These alluvial beds which appeared to be deposited at slightly different time probably in the Late Pleistocene, represent fillings of the cave floors by sediments brought in by floodwaters. The richness of these fossil remains within the three beds (from 50 cm to about 1 metre thick) is extraordinary. One or more catastrophic flood events are believed to have caused the mass death of mainly herbivores trapped in front of the tower limestone hills close to the cave entrance. The remains were then subsequently transported into the cave and deposited with the sandy sediments of granitic origin after another flood. The fossil parts of the large vertebrate consist of mainly teeth and numerous skeleton parts. There could be tens or more of individual vertebrates though identified large herbivore species include seladang (one adult and one juvenile), sambar deer, the bucking deer and probably a young elephant and other herbivores and a civet cat. Because of its richness in fossil bones and teeth and its unique occurrence, it is proposed that the Badak C cave with its fossil remains be studied systematically in detail

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and be preserved and gazetted as a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest. By itself it shows good potential for attracting tourist and in conjunction with the Paleolithic Kota Tampan and the nearby epi-palaeolithic Perak Man site, can form an archeological-geological eco-tourist complex of great significance for Malaysia.

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