

TAR AL-SAYED AREA SUITABILITY AS A GEOPARK

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ABSTRACT

Tar Al-Sayed area is one of the distinguished geological area in Iraq located some 100Km southwest of Baghdad, west of Karbala Governorate, south of Al-Razzaza Lake, and it is restricted within an area of about one square kilometer. Geological exposures in this area consist of clastic sedimentary succession related to the Upper Miocene – Pliocene Cycle, and represented by Injana and Dibdibba Formations. Tectonically the area lies within the Stable Shelf in which the bedding planes are horizontal. The area is characterized by the presence of many geomorphological, structural features, in addition to various sedimentary structures.

The geomorphological features include: mesa, butte, cliffs, caves, pseudo caves, sinkhole, and natural bridge. The structural features include: systems of joints, rock fall. Sedimentary structures include: horizontal bedding, cross bedding, convolute bedding, laminations, channels, ripple marks, mud balls, veins, mud cracks, borings, burrows, dikkaka, and flute cast.

The accessibility to the area is direct and easy due to the horizontality of the area and availability of the road network directed to this area. Accordingly we propose that this area could be possible as a geo park after completing the necessary requirements that include; mapping a labeled outline of the major features with are present in the area, construction a local network of roads and corridors that help in reaching every spot in the area, and introductory model of the area, and defining each feature by definitional signs.

This geopark may be used in several directions such as; tourism, geological comp for field work for students and researchers. Furthermore manual for the area are may be printed so as to be used a guide for the area

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