

Reconstructing the Archaeological Landscape of Shellal in the Region of the First Nile Cataract

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La ricostruzione del paesaggio antico e l'analisi contestuale delle evidenze archeologiche rappresenta l'obiettivo del presente articolo, che prende in esame il caso studio dell'area di Shellal, sulla sponda orientale del Nilo a breve distanza da Aswan. L'area si presenta profondamente modificata dall'azione dell'uomo e ricostruirne l'aspetto antico è cruciale per comprendere come i siti documentati tra il V millennio AEC e il VII secolo EC mostrino l'uso del territorio, delle sue risorse e come questo sia stato percepito dai gruppi umani che lo attraversavano. L'uso integrato di risorse topografiche, aeree e satellitari all'interno di un database GIS permette di indagare il territorio e di proporre una ricostruzione preliminare, su cui i dati archeologici possono essere posti in relazione anche con l'osservazione da remoto e con verifiche dirette, ove possibili.

INTRODUCTION

The case study of Shellal is presented here as the possible reconstruction of an archaeological landscape regarding an area, which has been heavily modified by human interventions and subsequent natural causes.¹ The reconstruction was possible thanks to the integration of geographical, topographical, and archaeological datasets by applying several digital methodologies. In a few cases, the results of the research were checked directly in the field. The use of a GIS database was fundamental to manage the relevant datasets together and to compare their technical characteristics to understand which one could be used for specific steps of the final reconstruction. Although some of the datasets were biased and could not be considered useful because of the lack of technical details, others produced valuable information for the reconstruction of the ancient landscape. The possibility to survey the area through satellite imagery proved to be fruitful to add data, which had been overlooked by previous research.

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