

EAIS Phase Two Begins	1
Northern Governorates Underway	2
Risks and Registration in the South	2
Data Systems Improved and Expanded	2
Mapping Monuments in Alexandria	3
Recent Publications	3
Institutional Collaboration	4

The Egyptian Antiquities Information System (EAIS) is part of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and has the official SCA mandate to create a bilingual (Arabic and English) Geographical Information System (GIS) for ancient Egyptian, Islamic, and modern sites in Egypt. Jointly supported by the SCA and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EAIS collaborates with other organizations but is entirely independent from groups such as CultNat, the Theban Mapping Project, and the Giza Plateau Mapping Project. The GIS is intended to aid the SCA in mapping, documenting, and protecting archaeological sites. We do not sell or buy data, and information in our system is only disseminated to institutions and professionals under strict guidelines. We invite you to read further to learn what we have accomplished and how mutual cooperation will allow you to benefit from our system.

EAIS Phase Two Begins

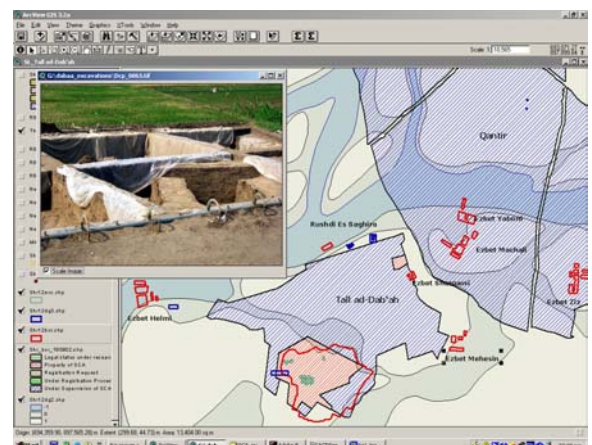
The Egyptian Antiquities Information System has entered its second phase. Phase One laid the foundation for its work, Phase Two builds on that foundation and improves its approach.

During Phase One, EAIS established methods and protocols for working with Egyptian government institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA) and the General Organization of Physical Planning (GOPP), as well as with archaeological institutions and missions. The project began with the pilot sites of Qantir, Tell Ibrahim 'Awad and Tell al-Dab'a in ash-Sharqiyyah, Tell al-Hir in al-Isma'iliyya, and Marina in Marsa Matruh, and then expanded to encompass all of select governorates. The project database was created and then thoroughly tested to make the GIS more useful to EAIS and its partners in historic preservation.

Phase Two entails further development of EAIS's role as the SCA's GIS center responsible for site registration nationwide, accessible to

both the SCA and professionals in the field. This development includes the expansion the coverage area of its project, as well as the consolidation of the technical performance of its system. Data exchange with missions and government institutions are being improved to make EAIS more useful to those working with the

the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Finnish Ministry of Cooperation, EAIS is the Egyptian government's official Geographical Information System for all of Egypt's historic sites, from the most ancient to the most modern. Directed by Team Leader Dr. Naguib Amin and National Project Director Ms. Azza Shaverby with technical assistance from the Finnish



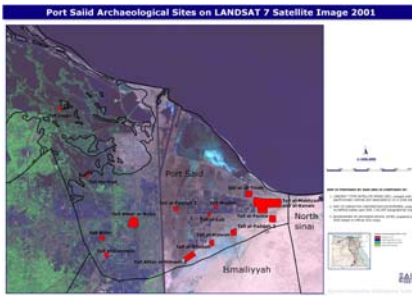
TALL AL-DABA'A MAP SHOWING THE SITE'S OFFICIAL BOUNDARIES AND LINKED TO A PHOTO.

SCA. The system is being clarified and made simplified, so that those who contribute to it may more easily benefit from it. Two additional databases, the Coptic/Islamic and the contemporary, are also being developed to include information on the fullness of Egyptian history in the GIS.

In operation for two years and sponsored by

Environmental Institute (SYKE) and North South Consultants Exchange (NSCE), it is becoming a center of excellence within the Supreme Council of Antiquities, with the SCA's most sophisticated technical framework. EAIS gradually develops Egyptian sites on a governorate-by-governorate basis from north to south, but handles projects all over the country in the form of

Northern Governorates Underway



OFFICIAL BOUNDARIES FOR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SITES DIGITIZED AND OVERLAID BY EAIS ON PORT SAID LANDSAT 7 SATELLITE IMAGE 2001.

EAIS has been working on mapping Egyptological sites in several of Egypt's northern governorates. The mapping of ash-Sharqiyyah is complete and site maps of the governorate will be added to official Ministry of Agriculture records in an attempt to facilitate the preservation of Egyptian cultural heritage while meeting national development

objectives.

The mapping of al-Isma'iliyya is also underway and EAIS has conducted site visits to locations in ash-Sharqiyyah and al-Isma'iliyya to obtain with the most current topographic, archaeological and photographic information available. Further site visits are planned and visits to other governorates will follow.

The plotting of site boundaries in the governorates of al-Ismailiyya, Port Sa'id, Fayyum and North Sinai is in progress. Missions working there, as well as those working in South Sinai, are encouraged to collaborate with EAIS's mapping and research activities and are asked to contact Peter Fiske at peter.fiske@eais.org.eg.

THE JOINT BRITISH-NORWEGIAN-EGYPTIAN MISSION 2003 HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A REPORT ON THE RISKS TO CHEPHREN'S QUARRY IN TUSHKA.

Risks and Registration in the South

The protection of historical sites is an EAIS priority, and several historical sites in the south face immediate danger.

In an example of cooperation between EAIS and international missions working in the field, the Joint British-Norwegian-Egyptian

Mission 2003 has contributed to a report on the risks to Chephren's Quarry in Tushka. The finished work will give the SCA a picture of the extent of the site, including the ancient quarry road to the Nile, and demonstrate how it is endangered by irrigation projects planned in the region.

Also in the south, mapping of relocated and unregistered Egyptological sites in Nubia is underway in anticipation of development projects in the area. Site coordinates done by the ESA will be set into EAIS maps to assist the SCA in its pursuit of legal protection of the sites.

Data Systems Improved and Expanded

EAIS's database forms an essential counterpart to its mapping work. The Egyptological Database now does more: its informational structure has been streamlined, new fields have been added, registered and non-registered sites have been defined and the search module has been updated and expanded. It now contains information on two

governorates, ash-Sharqiyyah and al-Isma'iliyya.

This revised Egyptian Database has served as a model for the new Islamic Database. The analysis and design phase of the Islamic Database has been finished and the testing and debugging phase has now begun.

EAIS has been improving data resources and its

methods of working with other government organizations. The Bibliographic and Map Archiving Systems have been refined to assist in the management of the data as well as to provide for further bibliographic information, and data reports to the Ministry of Agriculture have been updated to improve coordination efforts and the quality of information.

THE MAIN DATABASE MAIN FORM.

Mapping Monuments in Alexandria

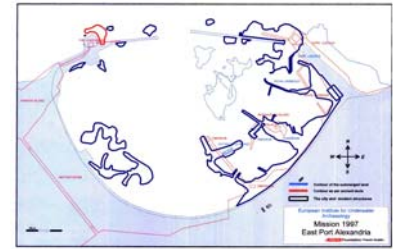
Work has begun on mapping registered and unregistered Coptic, Islamic and modern monuments in Alexandria.

EAIS is collecting data on thirty-four SCA-registered sites and structures, including the 4th and 5th-century Coptic pilgrimage site of Abu Mina; the Fatamid foundation panel of al-Attarin Mosque; the Cisterns of

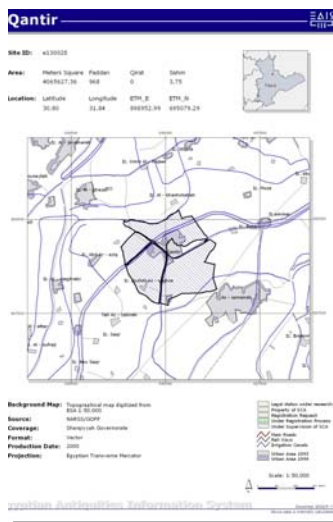
Ibn Battuta, Dar Isma'il, al-Bab al-Akhdar and Ibn al-Nabih; the Fort of Qaitbey; Alexandria's Mamluk and modern coastal defense towers; the building that houses the Greco-Roman Museum; the 1881 Synagogue of Elyahoo Hanby; and the Mahkama al-Haqqanyya established by Khedive Tawfiq in 1883.

Unregistered houses

spanning several Islamic eras in the Gumruk Quarter of Alexandria are being input into the GIS as well. Passed down from generation to generation, these homes have become part of the historic fabric of the city. Although also unregistered with the SCA, the Mosque of al-Morsi Abu al-Abbas and related Ottoman homes will be included in EAIS maps in advance of possible regis-



THE EASTERN HARBOR OF ALEXANDRIA.



A SAMPLE OF THE QANTIR ENTRY IN THE CAHIER FOR THE GOVERNORATE OF SHARQIYYAH, SHOWING A MAP AND A DATA-SHEET DESCRIBING THE SITE.

OVER 120 SITES IN THE GOVERNORATE OF ASH-SHARQIYYAH HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CAHIER OF HISTORICAL SITES.

Recent Publications

A limited printing of a *Cahier of Historical Sites* on the governorate of ash-Sharqiyyah has been produced. The cahiers are catalogues describing the whole of a particular governorate.

Three copies of the ash-Sharqiyyah cahier have been printed in-house and the document is being prepared for publication. The cahier includes site, cadastral, agricultural, topographi-

cal and official SCA maps as well as data on the sites covered by the cahier.

The cahier for al-Isma'iliyya is in production and the cahier for Port Said is in progress.



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To accomplish EAIS's mission, we are asking for the cooperation of specialists in the field in order to benefit from your current experience with archaeological sites and your experience in site registration. In return, we look forward to offering you any GIS assistance you may need. Please look at our website, www.eais.org.eg, for more information, and feel free to email any questions to eais@eais.org.eg. If you represent an institution or mission interested in collaborating with EAIS, please contact Peter Fiske at peter.fiske@eais.org.eg. You are also welcome to contact our office in Cairo directly, at 735-0287 or 735-0289.



Institutional Collaboration

EAIS would like to extend our thanks to the following institutions for their ongoing support:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Communication
- Surveying and Property Department of the SCA (Amlaak)
- Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA)
- Military Survey Department (MSD)
- General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP)
- National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS)
- Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)
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- Laboratoire d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Thebenes (LAHTES), Dr. Christian Leblanc
- École d'Architecture Paris Belleville, Prof. Phillippe Revault and Prof. Serge Santelli
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- Russian Institute of Egyptology in Cairo (RIEC)
- American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)
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EAIS would also like to thank the following missions and recent collaboration and data exchange:

- The Joint British-Norwegian-Egyptian Mission 2003 at Gebel al-Asr, Tushka, Dr. Ian Shaw and Mr. Tom Hedel, Co-Directors. The mission has been made possible through partnerships with the University of Liverpool, the Geological Survey of Norway, the University College London Institute of Archaeology and the Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Authorities.
- North Kharga Oasis Survey (NKOS), Dr. Salima Ikram and Dr. Corinna Rossi, Co-Directors. NKOS has been made possible by support from the American University in Cairo, Cambridge University, the National Geographic Society and the McDonald Institute.

...and many others. Your assistance has been greatly appreciated.

Dr. Naguib Amin, EAIS Team Leader

Ms. Azza Shawarby, EAIS National Project Manager