



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Between Water and Heritage: The ReLand Project's Response to Dam Impact in the Mosul Dam Basin

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Abstract

Artificial dam construction and resulting water impact, alongside natural disasters and conflict-related destruction, are significant contributors to the loss of archaeological heritage. Flooded landscapes and sites typically remain submerged, yet some periodically reappear due to exceptional or cyclical new reservoir water fluctuations, offering fleeting glimpses of their historical remains. This paper leverages data from the first four campaigns of the ReLand project, conducted on the Mosul Dam basin in Iraq's Middle Tigris region (KRI), to investigate the effects of dam construction on local heritage. By integrating legacy data, remote sensing, and fieldwork investigations, ReLand identifies high-risk sites, evaluates preservation states, and undertakes targeted rescue interventions. The project also develops a monitoring and protection protocol to inform future conservation strategies. The findings aim to stimulate discussions on using advanced technologies, including remote sensing, for pre- and post-flood assessments to safeguard submerged sites. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for proactive policymaker and community engagement in heritage protection, underlining the collaborative efforts necessary to manage and preserve these vulnerable 'heritagescapes'.

Keywords

Mosul Dam Basin, heritagescapes, Remote sensing, Monitoring, Salvage excavation

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