



## The Egyptian Antiquities Information System

The objective of the Egyptian Antiquities Information System Project (EAIS), established in June 2000, is to create a bilingual Geographic Information System (GIS) for the management of historical sites in Egypt. Created as part of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), with technical assistance from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the GIS is a tool to improve the SCA's ability to map, document, and register historical sites.

The key problem with site management in Egypt is that the sites are not systematically located on official maps or collected into a database. The GIS addresses this by enabling the SCA to integrate site-related information into land use planning and decision-making activities, thereby increasing historical site protection. An effective relationship between land use development, site management, and site excavation work is impossible while there is no reliable information system for historical sites. In order for the system to be viable, it is necessary to include the most up-to-date and accurate information from several different institutions and groups. The Egyptian Survey Authority supplies maps, the SCA shares legal data, and archaeologists are asked to provide archaeological data about their sites with their *Preliminary Report*.

Please read the following guidelines for submissions by archaeological missions with the assurance that data dissemination is strictly monitored by the project. If you have any questions, please feel free to email [eaais@eaais.org.eg](mailto:eaais@eaais.org.eg) with the subject Archaeological report, or call our office Saturday through Wednesday at 735-0289.

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### Datasheet Guidelines

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Foreign missions are asked to write two reports: one, the *Preliminary Report*, is given to the SCA upon the completion of one season's fieldwork. The second, the *Scientific Excavation Report*, is due three months later. Though both of these reports contain valuable and detailed information about a mission's work, EAIS needs to receive separate datasheets, directly applicable to the project and the data it needs. Though these sheets might sometimes lead missions to repeat information already stated in one or both of the above reports, the form also asks for general information not included in either report, such as a general site history and a bibliography. The purpose of these datasheets is to guarantee archaeological missions that the information they give to the SCA and to EAIS will be immediately incorporated into the GIS, will be directly applicable to the project, and will make an impact on site protection.

The information required by the datasheets is large in scope and often general. Datasheets for even the most extensive site (one which has no sub-sites and a half-page bibliography) takes about four to five pages, in table format. The author of the datasheet and their mission is maintained in the database, and cited whenever the information is used. Updates are requested at the end of each field season, and can be prepared by merely updating the form originally submitted.

Data is preferred in English or Arabic, on diskette or CD. The attached documents can be provided on diskette through calling the above phone number. Of course, paper copies or reports in another language can be accepted, but cannot be immediately entered into the system and are more open to human error through retyping and translation. In filling out the attached datasheets, please reference the attached risk list and monument type list. Both are very basic, but help guide the overview of the site necessary for site protection, and are used within the system.

All datasheets are to be given to EAIS at the *preliminary report* is submitted.

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### Map Guidelines

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Though many missions do not produce a map of their site by the end of each field season, the maps that each mission creates at some period during its work are important for site protection and monitoring. The Egyptian Antiquities Information System needs one to two maps from foreign missions for each site they work on in order to create an accurate GIS for use by the SCA in protecting sites. These maps must follow the below format in order to be included into the system:

1. Projection of all maps must be in ETM, GCS\_WGS84 or GCS\_WGS72.
2. At least 4 coordinate points must be indicated on each map, preferably more ( georeferenceable )
3. The maps must be in good condition

Maps that follow a different format are difficult or impossible to include in the GIS, and cannot be used by the SCA for aid in site protection and monitoring.

Particularly useful maps would include the following:

1. The expected archaeological extension of the site (when possible)
2. GPS points of specific findings, large standing structures, or site borders
3. The areas of high risk to the site, such as agricultural areas, recent constructions, etc.

Other types of maps EAIS is able to use in the system, and requests of foreign missions, are:

1. Magnetometer maps
2. AutoCAD renderings
3. Survey/Topographical maps
4. Any other maps made

To be used in the system they must follow the guidelines stated above, and only one to two are requested.

To aid the SCA and EAIS to understand the maps produced by a mission and the areas in which their work is conducted, we need a list of the following tools used by the mission:

1. All maps used, including source, map series, scale, year of production, year of updates, map name, and map number
2. Full information about the devices used to create the maps, especially the GPS unit. If GPS is being used, please include which coordinate system it is operating with, the projection, and how points were taken.

These data allow EAIS to correctly georeferenced mission maps and add them to the system, as well as enabling EAIS to recommend better maps if they are known to exist. All maps are to be given to EAIS when the *preliminary report* is submitted.

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### **Photo Guidelines**

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Our system also allows for the inclusion of photographs, dated and captioned, so that the current condition of the site and its archaeology can be recorded. This is useful not only for scholars, but when assembled as a body allows EAIS to analyze the encroachment upon a site. It is particularly useful when the photos are linked to GPS points, as then the data they convey may be linked with the maps. Three to six photos are to be given to EAIS when the *preliminary report* is submitted.

**Site Data Sheet**

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**ID Code :** To be filled out by EAIS employee [Number]

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**Site Name:** Modern name of site as appears on official maps [Text]

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**Other Names:**

**Ancient:** Ancient Egyptian name of site  
**Classical:** Greco-Roman name of site  
**Biblical:** Name of site IF mentioned in the Bible  
**Others:** other modern names the site is known by

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**Site Description:** *Text (one paragraph)*

This should include a description of the site as currently appears, including its proximity to villages and cultivation and its appearance. Whenever possible, try to include approximate size of site.

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<b><u>Site Period:</u></b>	<b>Period(s)</b>	<b>Dynasty(ies)</b>	<b>Ruler(s)</b>
	Rulers or even Dynasties may be omitted when unknown		

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**Site History:** *(1/2-2/3 of a page)*

Here, include whatever historic information possible. This should include not only information about the form and function of the site, but also its date of establishment and abandonment.

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**Site Location:** Distance from other sites/cities in the region (distance in km)  
Example: 8 km SW of Faqus

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**X,Y coordinates:** lat (N), long (E) coordinates  
Point should be taken from the center of the site (its center of gravity)

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<b><u>Archaeological Type:</u></b>	<b>Main type</b>	<b>Subtype</b>
	Please follow EAIS predefined lists	

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**Archaeological Description:** *(1/2-2/3 of a page)*

A more detailed text in which the architecture on-site is described. All features that were mentioned in the archaeological subtype field should be elaborated upon here. It is crucial that these descriptions are brief, but detailed and clear. This is especially important when the site is large and encompasses many monuments. Even when a small site with few monuments is described, do not become long winded — always be concise.

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**Missions History:**

Listed from oldest to most recent mission:  
Date of mission (from-to), person in charge, country/institute, type of mission

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**Bibliography:**

Please list any publications relevant to the site

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**Prod & Rev:**

Production: Data collector s name  
Revision: EAIS use only

Date: Date filled out  
Date:

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Sub-Sites data Sheet

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**Sub-Site Name:**

Modern name of the sub site [REQUIRED]

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**Other Names:**

**Ancient:**

**Classical:**

**Biblical:**

**Others:**

Different names of the sub-site

Uses the same data requirements of these fields in the main site sheet

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**Historical Dating:**

**Period**

**Dynasty**

**Ruler**

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**Standard lists, locked field**

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**Sub-Site Description:**

*Text (\_ page)*

This should include a description of the sub-site as it is in modern times, including its proximity of villages and cultivation and its appearance. Whenever possible, try to include approximate size of site.

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**Sub-Site History:**

As in the main site sheet, but specific to the particular sub-site

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**Sub-Site Location:**

Distance from other sites/cities in the region (distance in km)  
Distance from other sub-sites, when possible

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**x — y coordinates:**

lat (E), long (N) coordinates

Taken from center of gravity of sub-site

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**Archaeological Type:**

**Main type**

**Subtype**

Please refer to EAIS pre-defined lists

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**Archaeological Description:**

A more detailed text in which the architecture on-site is described. All features that were mentioned in the archaeological subtype field should be elaborated upon here. It is crucial that these descriptions are brief, but detailed and clear. This is especially important when the site is large and encompasses many monuments. Even when a small site with few monuments is described, do not become long winded — always be concise.

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**Prod. & Rev.**

Production: Data collector s name

Date: Date filled out

Revision: EAIS use only

Date:

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Risk Analysis

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**Topography:**

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<b><u>Human caused</u></b>	Main type	Subtype
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**Risks:**

Please see EAIS predefined list

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<b><u>Environmental</u></b>	Main type	Subtype
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**Risks:**

Please see EAIS predefined list

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**Prod & Rev:**

Production: Data Collector s Name  
Revision: EAIS use only

Date: Date filled out  
Date:

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## Missions

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**Site Name:** Official name of main site

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**Country:**

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**Institution:**

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**Contact Address:** Preferably, the contact address of the director her/himself. If possible, include emails and phone numbers. More than one address can be input here; if this is the case, please press ENTER between entries.

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**Person(s) in Charge:** Director(s) of the mission, sometimes with an assistant director listed.

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**Start Date:** Date on which this mission began its first season.

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**Type of Mission:**

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**Internet Links:** Please list only links which are dedicated to the mission or to the site.

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Max. 5 links

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**Prod & Rev:**

Production: Data Collector's name  
Revision: EAIS use only

Date: Date of completion  
Date:

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Supreme Council of Antiquities  
Egyptian Antiquities Information System

<b>Site Data</b>			
Site Name			
Registration Status	Registered/Unregistered		
Other names	Ancient		
	Classical		
	Biblical		
	Others		
Sub-Sites			
X, Y Coordinates			
Site Location			
Site Description			
Historical Dating	Period	Dynasty	Ruler
Site History			
Archaeological Type <i>(See Table)</i>	Type		Subtype
Archaeological Description			

Mission History	
Bibliography	
Prod. & Rev.	Production:                      Date: Production:                      Date:

Supreme Council of Antiquities  
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<b>Risk Analysis</b>		
Human Caused Risks <i>(See Table)</i>	Type	Subtype
Environmental Risks <i>(See Table)</i>	Type	Subtype
Prod. & Rev.	Production: Production:	Date: Date:

Supreme Council of Antiquities  
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<b>Missions</b>
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Site Name	
Institution	
Country	
Contact Address	
Person(s) in Charge	
Initial Permission No.	Date:
Type of Mission <i>(See Table)</i>	
Internet links <b>Max 5 links</b>	
Prod. & Rev.	Production:                      Date: Revision:                         Date:

## Sub-sites Data

<b>Sub-sites Data</b>			
Sub-site Name			
Other names	Ancient		
	Classical		
	Biblical		
	Others		
Sub-Site Location			
x - y coordinates			
Site Description			
Historical Dating <i>(See Table)</i>	Period(s)	Dynasty(ies)	Ruler(s)
Site History			
Archaeological Type <i>(See Table)</i>	Type		Subtype
Archaeological Description			
Prod. & Rev.	Production:	Date:	
	Production:	Date:	

