

# Save

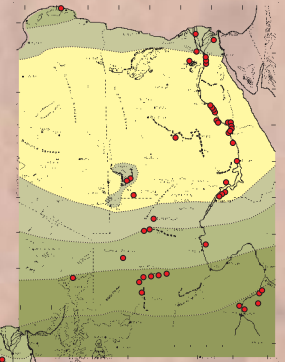
## Why

Deserts are unique archives of cultural and natural heritage ... geological and climatic records ... environmental change and human history

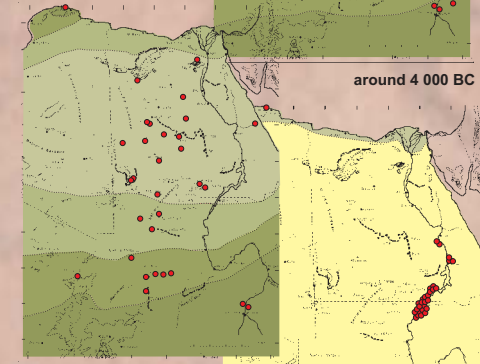
Rock paintings of cattle in the hyper-arid Libyan Desert demonstrate dramatic climate change



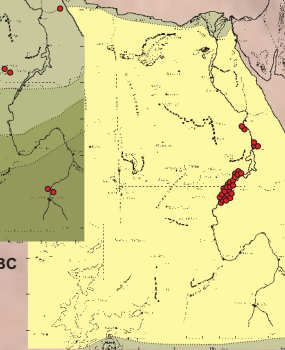
Ancient land surface with abundant prehistoric implements destroyed by seismic exploration



around 4 000 BC



around 6 000 BC



before 10 000 BC

### Past human occupation and environmental change in the Saharan desert

The changing pattern of human settlement in the Eastern Sahara clearly reflects the shifting climate zones during the last 10,000 years and demonstrates the close relation between environment and prehistory. It also helps to understand the causes and preconditions of the rise of the Pharaonic civilisation.

## Yet

Deserts are most sensitive to human impact such as mineral and oil exploitation, land reclamation and off-road tourism.

Excavations at a former river bank provide data on prehistoric strategies to cope with deteriorating climate conditions



## How

- Studying and learning from the desert
- Raising public awareness about its vulnerability
- Developing desert management plans
- Initiating Protected Areas Programmes and
- Proposing outstanding sites as World Heritage

**Help to save the desert's past for the future!**



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# Deserts