

Common Aims

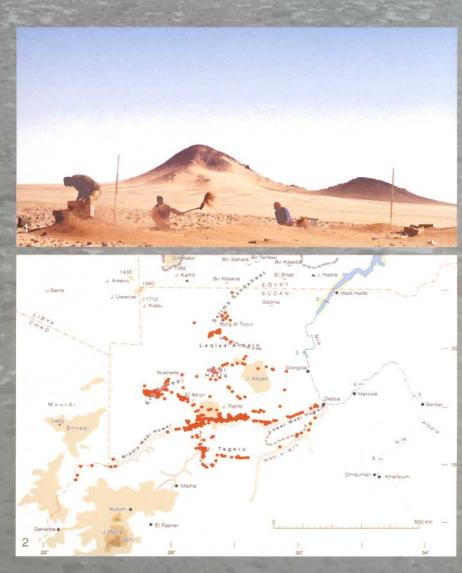
Sudanese-German co-operation in archaeology National Museum Khartoum 2003



كشف ماضى السودان فى صحر ائه Uncovering Sudan's Past in its Desert

مشاريع B.O.S. و ACACIA لجامعة كولون The projects
B.O.S. and
ACACIA of the
University of
Cologne

رودلف کوبر ﷺ ستیفان کروبالین Rudolf Kuper and Stefan Kröpelin



Three to eight thousand years ago, Sudan's vast land west of the Nile played an important role for the history of the country and the African continent as a whole. Monsoonal rains coming from the south had turned the areas now a barren desert into a savannah-like environment, which allowed people to live and settle there. Their history has been revealed during the past twenty years by the projects B.O.S. (Besiedlungsgeschichte der Ost-Sahara) and ACACIA (Arid Climate, Adaptation and Cultural Innovation in Africa). tion and Cultural Innovation in Africa).

More than 2000 sites have been discovered so far in the Sudanese desert bet-ween Laqiya Arba'in and Wadi Howar (2). Most of them consist of scatters of stone artefacts, potsherds, bones, and of fireplaces or rock pictures representing important steps of cultural, technological and economical development.

Settlements are mostly situated along the shores of former lakes and watercourses. Animal and plant remains are frequent.

frequent.

These studies of the interrelation between climatic change and human settlement can only be carried out in close cooperation of archaeologists, geoscientists, botanists and zoologists. Working, travelling and living under extreme desert conditions (1) requires special personal and technical skills and major logistical efforts made possible thanks to the support by the German Research Council (DFG) and our Sudanese partners at the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) and the Geological Research Authority of the Sudan (GRAS).

5000 years of history of the Sudanese Sahara: The case of Wadi Howar

The Wadi Howar, also called the "Yellow Nile" is an extinct river system that once connected central Africa with the

once connected central Africa with the Nile valley. Human settlements along its course allow to reconstruct the history of the interrelation between man and environment in the Sudanese Sahara (3+9). In the 6th millennium BC the first settlers in the Wadi Howar region found perfect ecological conditions: permanent water in a savannah-type vegetation with large mammals as well as fish. They obtained their food by hunting, fishing and gathering, and complemented their diet with wild grass seeds in evidence through numerous grinding stones. Their pottery was decorated with "Wavy Line" motifs, the earliest ceramic tradition in the Old World.

With the beginning of the 4th millen-

With the beginning of the 4th millen-nium BC an important economical change took place: Cattle herders are now occupying the large territories of the Sudanese Sahara (4+7). A sahelian type of vegetation persists until increasing aridity marks the end of this period.

ن و الإدامة حد تناء العشرين سنة الماضية بو B، و مشروع المناخ الجاف، في في افريقيا (ACACIA). ثر من 2000 موقع في الم

الإفتصادي. ليمت مواقع الإستيطان في الغالب على طول مواطن البحيرات و المجاري المانية القيمة. كررت مخلفات النبات و الحيوان. مكن اجراء در اسات العلاقة بين التغير المناخى و لإستيطان البشرى فقط في ظل التعاون اللصيق





دلك ممكنا؛ الشكر أدعم مجلس البحوث بي (DFG) و شركاننا السودانيين بالهيئة 4 للآثار و المتاحف (NCAM) ث الحداد م

5000 عام من تاريخ الصحراء السودانية: حالة

و أسماك. تحصلوا على طعامهم بالصيد، صيد الأسماك و الجمع، و أكملوا غذاتهم بحبوب الحشائش الطبيعية بدليل المطاهن الحجرية الكثيرة. زين الفخار بأشكال الخطوط المتموجة، و

Extended occupation sites along the banks feature countless concentrations of bones and potsherds mainly with the so-called "Leiterband" motif (5+6).

The Leiterband people were the first pastoral nomads in the region and had links to the Nile Valley and later to Chad and beyond.

In the 3rd millennium BC increasing aridity changed people's ways of life again. Sheep and goat, better adapted to a drier climate, were added to the herds in which cattle now played a minor role.

Gathering and hunting was intensively practised to make up the shortage of food. Mobility became of greater importance and donkey a part of the domestic stock.

These changes are also reflected in the pottery decoration where new types of geometric patterns indicate links to the C-group and to the Kerma culture.

The story of human occupation in the Sudanese Sahara ends about 1100 BC when climatic conditions became too hostile for permanent settlement.

A notable exception is a fortress in the lower Wadi Howar some 110 km from the Nile (8). 150 metres in diameter, it is the largest construction in the Sudanese desert. It was probably built during Meroitic times and underlines the importance of Wadi Howar as a trade or transit route to inner Africa as late as 2000 years ago.





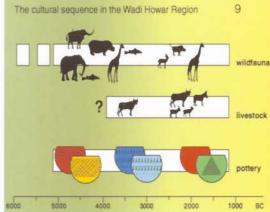


هو اقدم تقليد فخارى في العالم القديم. حدث تغيير إقتصادى هام ببداية الألف الرابعة قبل الميلاد: يحتل الآن رعاة الأبقار أراضي كبيرة من الصحراء السودانية (4-7). بقى نوع من نبات ساحلى الى أن تميزت نهاية هده الفترة بالجفاء الذات تميزت مواقع الاقامة الممتدة على طعال تميزت موقع الإقامة الممتدة على طول ب بتركيزات عظام و شقوف فخار لا رزينت بشكل ما يعرف ب" Leiterband, ورة رنيسية (6+5).

موره رئيسية (٥+٥). أول الرعاة البدو ي قوم فخار "Leiterband", أول الرعاة البدو إلى المنطقة، و لهم ارتباطات مع وادى النيل و خرا مع تشاد و خلفها. الآلف الثالثة قبل الميلاد غير الجفاف الزائد ق حياة الناس مرة أخرى، حيث تأقلمت الأغنام الماعز على الرعى، الذي لعبت فيه الإبقار دور أ غيرا، ثم ممارسة حرف الجمع و الصيد بكثافة فددة المامات

صغيرا، ثم ممارسة حرف الجمع و الصيد بكثافة لمند فجوة الطعام. المند فجوة الطعام. المسيح التتقل ذا أهمية كبرى و الحمار جزء من الثروة المستأنسة. إنعكست هذه التغيرات على زخرف الفخار، حيث نثل أنماط نماذخ هندسية بيتهى تاريخ الإستيطان البشرى في الصحراء السودانية في حوالي 1100 ق.م. عندما صارت الإستثناء الملحوظ هو قلعة في أسفل وادى هور، الإستثناء الملحوظ هو قلعة في أسفل وادى هور، تبعد حوالي 110 كلم من النيل (8)، 150 مترا من السودانية. من المحتمل أنها شيئت الثاء المهود المداوية، و تؤكد أهمية وادى هور كطريق تجارة المروية، و تؤكد أهمية وادى هور كطريق تجارة الو عبور لداخل أفريقيا قبل 2000 سنة.







التغير المناخي و

Climatic and environmental change



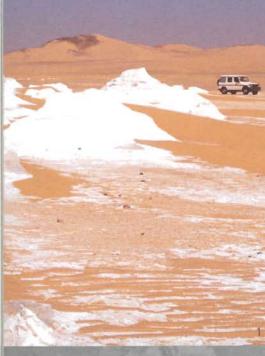
Torthwest Sudan is a key area for the reconstruction of past climates and environments of the Sahara. Field evidence obtained during the last two decades indicates now defunct watercourses and lake deposits (1) that once covered large expanses of the present-day extreme desert. These sources of water were the basis for plant and animal life, and for early human occupation.

pation.

20,000 years ago, the Sudanese desert was much larger and even drier than to-day, covering half of the country and reaching about 400 km further south than today. About 11,000 years ago (8,800 BC), an abrupt climatic change turned most of the south-eastern Sahara into a savannah. This was the result of a major northward shift of the tropical rainfall belt bringing monsoonal rains some 700 km further north than today, up to the Sudanese-Egyptian border (about 22°N). During the early-Holocene humid phase, the 1,100 km long and up to 10 km

. الهولوسين(Holocene) 1100 كلم طولا و حتى ي جاف- أكبر رافذ للنيل

لفطرون. في مره كانت لكبر بحيرة ميه عبد بشمال السودان (<5000 كلم مربع، أي نصف مساحة الجزيرة). حوالي 5300 سنة سابقة (3300 ق.م)، كان بداية الجفاف في شرق الصحراء. إنتقلت أطراف الصحراء في إتجاء الجنوب عابرة وادى هور في تحوالي 3000 سنة سابقة. تلاشت البحيرات و تحول وادى هور الى سلسلة من المستتقعات الى تحول المنج منقرضا قبل حوالي 2000 سنة مضت، تاركا كل المنطقة متصحرة. اظهرت ملاحظات حديثة على طول وادى هور









وجود نباتات مورقة ملفئة للنظر، ندل على ازدياد هطول الأمطار أثناء السنوات القليلة العاضية (2+2). يمكن أن يكون هذا أول علامة للإنجاد نحو خضرة متجددة بالصحراء، محتملا حدوثها كنتيجة لدفء كوني. wide Wadi Howar - now a dry wadi -, was the Nile's most important tributary from the Sahara . According to the geological evidence, it must have resembled present-day environments in Northern Kordofan 550 km to the south (4+5). Remains of a wide range of aquatic and savannah animals including fish (6), crocodile, hippo, elephant, rhino and giraffe, and abundant prehistoric artefacts attest to most favourable living conditions.

south (4+5). Remains of a wide range of aquatic and savannah animals including fish (6), crocodile, hippo, elephant, rhino and giraffe, and abundant prehistoric artefacts attest to most favourable living conditions.

The increased rainfall allowed for intensive human settlement and also led to a high regional groundwater table that supported numerous lakes such as the so-called "West Nubian Palaeolake" west of El Atrun - once Northern Sudan's largest freshwater lake (> 5,000 km², i.e. half the size of the Gezira).

5,000 km², i.e. half the size of the Gezira).

About 5,300 years ago (3,300 BC) was the beginning of the desiccation of the Eastern Sahara. The desert fringe shifted southward crossing the Wadi Howar about 3,000 years ago. The lakes vanished and Wadi Howar turned to a chain of marshes until it ultimately became extinct about 2,000 years ago, leaving the entire region deserted. Recent observations along the Wadi Howar, however, show a remarkably lush vegetation indicating increasing rainfall during the past few years (3). This could be a first sign of a trend towards a renewed "greening" of the Sahara, possibly as a result of global warming.

منتز ه و ادی هور القومی

Wadi Howar National Park

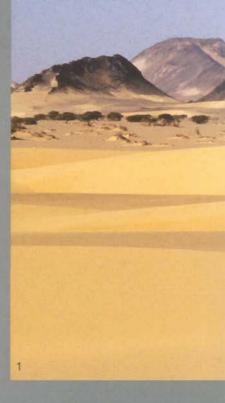
s an outcome of ACACIA's longterm commitment to contribute in the protection of the natural and cultural heritage of northern Sudan and a joint Sudanese-German mission in 1998, a Protected Area centred at the Nile's once most important tributary from the Sahara has been officially declared in 2001 ("Wadi Howar National Park"). The park area covers more than 100,000 km² and stretches over some 550 km from the Sahelian zone to the hyperarid Saharan desert. Africa's largest country now also owns the earth's largest natural and cultural reserve with an outstanding potential for conservation and economic development.

conservation and economic development. The Wadi Howar region offers a great scenic diversity and a variety of geographical, biological and archaeological features. The park area (2) includes the northern part of the Meidob Hills with their numerous volcanic craters; the Jebel Rahib which can be considered as a Geological Museum (1); the endless granite plains interspersed with inselbergs (3) and crescent-shaped dunes; and the impressive sandstone landforms of Jebel Tageru and Zolat el Hammad. The Malha and Nukheila lakes (4) as well as the oases of El Atrun and Laqiya are distinctive landmarks of the Eastern Sahara.

Sahara.

The exclaves and access zones also offer spectacular sights such as the true "forest in the desert" (5) in the upper Wadi Howar, the picturesque Selima oasis, the Great Selima Sand Sheet, the blue marble hills near Laqiya Umran, the limestone plateau of Jebel Abyad, the huge escarpment of Jebel Nagashush with Wadi Milk in its foreland, or the vast dune fields in the foreland of the Ennedi mountains.

A major reason of WHNP is the preservation, rehabilitation or reintroduction of wildlife adapted to desert environments such as addax, oryx, barbary sheep, dorcas and other gazelles, which still were abundant about 50 years ago, but also cheetah, ostrich, falcon and other species. The increasing vegetation along Wadi Howar and Wadi Magrur is a recent asset. As yet unaffected by tourism, Northwestern Sudan retains the last occurrences of intact Neolithic and Palaeolithic surface sites in the Sahara. Among the prominent archaeological features are the rock art of Zolat el Hammad and Wa-



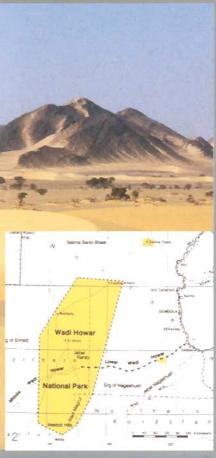
كتتاج لتعهد مشروع ACACIA طويل المدى للمساهمة في حماية التراث الطبيعي و الثقافي المساهمة في حماية التراث الطبيعي و الثقافي أيشمال السودان، و حملة سودانية – المانية مشتركة محمية متمركزة على رافد من الصحراء كان أكثر أهمية النيل "منتزه وادى هور القومي". تغطى منطقة المنتزه أكثر من 100000 كلم مربع و تمتد على حوالى 550 كلم من المنطقة الساحلية الى السحراء المغرطة الجفاف.

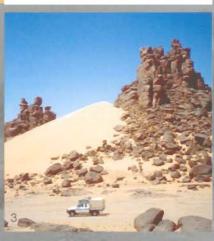
لصحراء المغرضة الجفاف. لسودين أكبر قطر في الوريقيا، و يملك الآن أكبر حتياطي ثروة طبيعية و تقافية و إمكانية بارزة لاصلاح، النظم، الاقتصاد،

يعطى اقليم وادى هور مشهد طبيعى متترع عظيم ومختلف المزايا الجغر الغير الأحيانية و الآثارية مختلف المزايا الجغر الغير الأحيانية و الآثارية الميدود و فوهاتها البركانية المديدة؛ جبل الراهب الذي يمكن أن يعتبر كمتحف جيولوجي (1)؛ لرضية (inselbergs) (3) و تلال رملية هلالية لشكل؛ و اشكال جبال تقرو و زولة الحماد من المشيرة للإعجاب تعتبر بحيرات لمائحة و النخيلة (4)، و كذلك واحات العطرون و لمائحة معالم متميزة من شرق الصحراء . تبرز لما متميزة من أسرق الصحراء . تبرز لدى هور ، منظر ولحة المدخل أيضا مناظر مثيرة لرملي العظيم، تلال الرخام الازرق بالقرب من لين المجبر الجبل اليض، تلال الرخام الازرق بالقرب من ليض منذ جبل الميض مع وادى الملك عند مقدمة الوسطة والمائلة المستحراء الميضة المحرر الجبل الميض، وادى الملك عند مقدمة، او

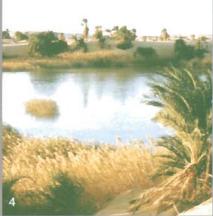
جبال عنيدى.

سبب عظيم لمشروع وادى هور القومى (WHNP) هو حماية و إعادة تعمير أو إعادة لمجال المجال ال





بسراح و تعيين مواً النقافي العالمي، البحث عز التطبيق لخطط إدارة مناسبة





di Hussein; the outstanding prehistoric dune settlements with their extremely rich archaeological remains; the presumably Meroitic fortress; or historic remains along the Darb el Arba'in, the Eastern Sahara's most important ancient caravan route.

The barely populated region also provides a unique opportunity for ecological monitoring of desert fringe environments. It could become the heart of a pilot research project with international reach, contributing to the much disputed problem of desert encroachment within Global Change programmes.

The development of the Wadi Howar area means utilizing the economic potential of a vast, presently almost waste region. It will enhance and complement the country's attraction by environmentally sustainable desert tourism. The involvement and improvement of the living conditions of the local population is a prerequisite for its success. The protection of Sudan's unique desert heritage is of utmost importance for present and future generations.

The declaration of WHNP was the cru-

most importance for present and future generations.

The declaration of WHNP was the crucial move forward to prevent any avoidable damage from northern Sudan's national heritage by uncontrolled off-road tourism, illicit hunting and industrial use that have ravaged other Saharan regions. Next steps comprise the proposal and nomination of Natural and Cultural World Heritage sites, the quest for funding, and the design and implementation of appropriate management plans.