

an appeal for international cooperation to safeguard the sites and monuments of ancient Nubia. For the first time, reference was made to the fact that the submersion of the monuments and archaeological sites of Nubia would be an “irreparable loss to the cultural heritage of mankind” and that an “international committee of eminent persons to assist in organizing worldwide” efforts to raise funds and expertise to save the heritage of humanity was necessary (UNESCO, 1959, pp. 5,11). The campaign led to international cooperation in salvaging archaeological resources. It also showed that some developments and infrastructural modifications had the potential to affect archaeological resources. The realization that archaeological resources are mainly part of a larger landscape meant that the protection of these assets required a wider and more embracing approach. This realization led to the thinking that any large-scale land disturbance and configuration would threaten existing and potential archaeological resources.

The realization that the landscape provides the context for the management and conservation of archaeological resources meant that regulations had to be put in place to reduce damage to a minimum and where possible take measures to mitigate damage. As a result, most countries nowadays have regulations and legal instruments which make it mandatory to carry out Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) studies where potential conflicts between archaeological resources and a proposed development have been identified. During this process, archaeological resources and assets are located and recorded, and the site significance is evaluated to assess the nature and extent of expected impacts. In addition, recommendations are outlined for how to manage the expected impact of property development on the site (British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, n.d.). This has led to the rapid increase

Figure 2. Archaeological sites are under threat because of dam construction on the Nile for agricultural development.

