

Flooding of Ancient Kush & Nubia

The Sudanese government is in the middle of constructing a series of dams in northern and eastern Sudan to create hydroelectric energy. However, these projects will continue to immediately flood all nearby archaeological sites, threaten to turn the flowing Nile River into a string of stagnant lakes, and begin construction without announcement because of the major protests from local affected communities, particularly Nubians who are disputing the benefits of the proposed Dal Dam (2nd cataract) and Kajbar Dam (3rd cataract). The Sudanese government has indicated that the dams will create additional electricity for the benefit of the local citizens, and *electricity is indeed an uncontested factor for a country to develop, but the means to acquire this electricity is often contested and controversial*. The local Nubians in the affected areas do not agree that these hydroelectric projects will benefit them, and this is based on their past experience with the construction of the Aswan High Dam (1970), which flooded an important Nubian region in southern Egypt and northern Sudan. The Aswan High Dam created a 340-mile long lake which flooded 39 Nubian villages displacing around 120,000 people, and submerged innumerable priceless artifacts. The Merowe Dam (2008) in northern Sudan flooded more than 2,500 ancient Kushite archaeological sites and displaced 50-70 thousand Amri and Manasir, and many of these families and farmers have never been compensated for their loss of land and livelihood. Yet, the new Upper Atbara-Setit Dam Complex in eastern Sudan is scheduled to open in 2016, and has displaced tens of thousands of people, many of whom have not received any of the promised compensation by the government.

Thus, the Nubians are convinced that the current hydroelectric projects are simply part of an ongoing scheme to erase their culture, and they have organized major demonstrations against them, particularly at the Kajbar site. The Nubian environmental scientist Dr. Arif Gamal, notes that “By flooding the last of the remaining Nubian lands...the Nubians are reduced to a group of people with no sense of memory, no past and no future to look for.” The effected communities including the Nubian voices should be respected in this matter, and the World Commission on Dams has clearly indicated in its November 2000 report that no dam should be built without “the demonstrable acceptance” of the affected people.

Project Mission

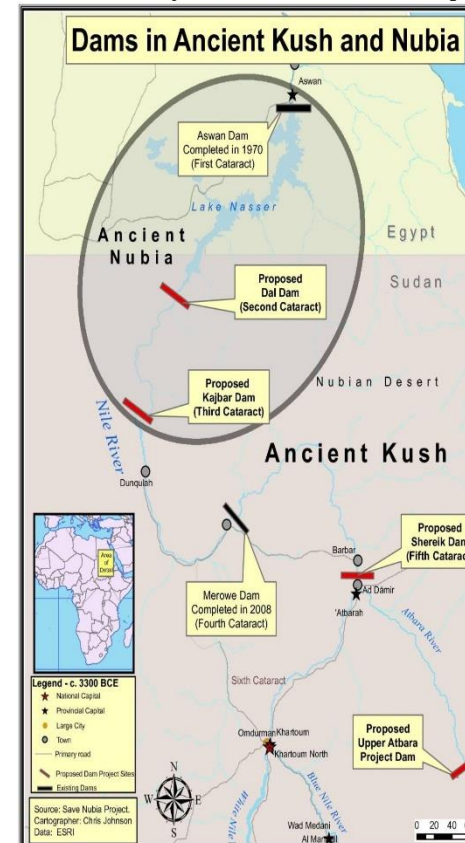
The mission of the **Save Nubia Project** (SNP) is to help raise international awareness about the ongoing flooding of the central areas of the ancient Kushite and Nubian civilizations in the Sudan. There are a series of dams (from the 2nd through 5th cataracts) along the Nile completed and scheduled for construction, each of which will create a large reservoir and flood countless ancient archaeological sites and displace hundreds of thousands of people. Thus, the **Save Nubia Project's** task is to document that the dam construction areas in northern and eastern Sudan are valuable World Heritage Areas that are in danger of being destroyed, and should be preserved.

The SNP campaign has three goals:

- (1) Conduct field research to document, record, and publish historical and archaeological evidence on the importance of the historic northern and eastern Sudan regions;
- (2) Present compelling documentation that this rich archaeological region should be designated a network of UNESCO World Heritage Sites at risk, which would help protect the region from large dam construction and inundation. There are other sources of energy available in Sudan, such as solar panels, micro-hydro, and wind turbines; and
- (3) Assist the local Nubian people near the 2nd and 3rd cataracts to build a series of museums to help preserve their heritage.

New Dam Projects in Sudan

The goal of these large dam projects is to create electricity, but there is often the associated destructive social, environmental, and archaeological impact of these projects. There are viable green energy alternatives, and the most prominent trend in the world today is to use wind and solar power for new electricity-generating projects.



Original SNP map

ASWAN HIGH DAM (1st cataract) – completed in 1970 and flooded a Nubian area in southern Egypt and northern Sudan. Many artifacts are now submerged under the waters of the newly created Lake Nasser (called “Lake Nubia” in Sudan), and 39 Nubian villages were also flooded.

DAL DAM (2nd cataract) – will flood a 40-mile Nubian area in northern Sudan. Several major archaeological sites will be flooded, and between 5-10 thousand people will be displaced.

KAJBAR DAM (3rd cataract) – will be a \$705 million project contracted with the Chinese company Sinohydro. The Sudanese government has not released project details, but unofficial estimates indicate the dam would displace 10,000 people and flood hundreds of archaeological sites. The opposition by Nubian communities has forced this project to temporarily halt construction.

MEROWE DAM (4th cataract) – completed in 2008 and flooded an ancient Kushite region which contained a minimum of 2,500 archaeological sites that were never fully excavated. Also, an estimated 50-70 thousand local people were dislocated.

DAGASH DAM – approved but still in need of funding. This is a 5-year construction project.

SHEREIK DAM (5th cataract) – will be a \$711 million project constructed by the Chinese firm, Gezhouba Corporation, but funding is still needed for this project.

ATBARA-SETIT DAMS – completed and scheduled to open in 2016. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced, but many have not been compensated for the loss of their land and livelihood.



“5,000 years of African history will be lost!”

Join our campaign:

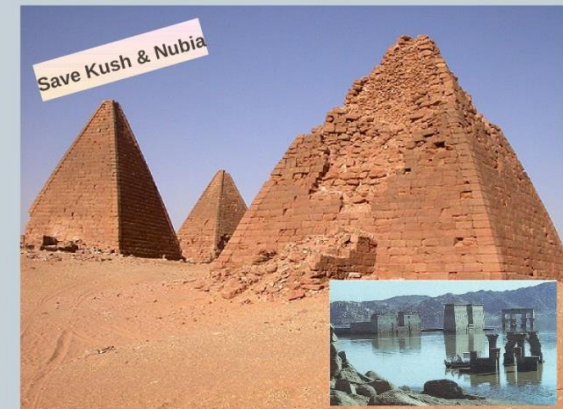
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SAVE NUBIA PROJECT



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