

Flooding of Ancient Kush & Nubia

The Sudanese government has recently secured construction contracts for several dams, and the work on these hydroelectric projects will start soon without any announcement. Once these projects are completed they will immediately flood all nearby archaeological sites. The construction will begin without notification or announcement because of the major protests from local Nubians, who are disputing the benefits of the construction of the 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 Nubian citizens 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 northern Sudan and southern Egypt. The Aswan Dam created a 340-mile long lake which flooded 39 Nubian villages and submerged innumerable priceless artifacts.

Thus, the Nubians are convinced that the current hydroelectric projects are simply part of an ongoing scheme to erase their culture. For example, 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 Nubian voices should be respected in this matter because they are the affected community, 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 pending 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) scheduled for construction, each of which will cause the Nile River to back up and create a reservoir and flood countless ancient archaeological sites and displace well over 100,000 local Sudanese people. Thus, the **Save Nubia Project's** task is to document that the dam construction areas in northern and central Sudan are valuable World Heritage Sites that are in danger of being destroyed, and should be preserved.

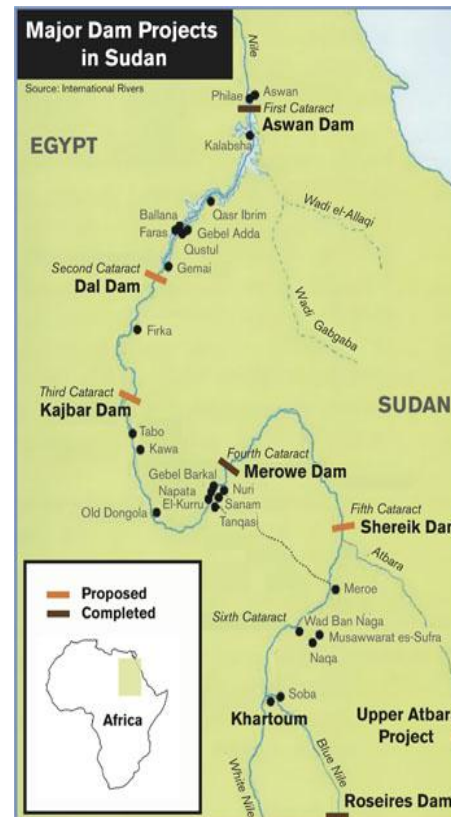
The SNP's focus is three-fold:

- (1) Conduct field research to document, record, and publish historical and archaeological evidence on the importance of this historic northern and central Sudan region;

- (2) Present compelling evidence to UNESCO, which has the authority to designate the Sudanese dam areas as World Heritage Sites under threat, which may help protect these areas from dam construction and inundation. There are other sources of energy available in Sudan, such as solar panels 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.

4 New Dam Projects in the Sudan

The goal of these projects is to create electricity, but the Sudanese government has not demonstrated concern about the social, environmental, and archaeological impact of these projects. Also, the Sudanese government has not considered cleaner, less devastating, alternative energy sources such as solar panels and wind turbines.



ASWAN HIGH DAM (1st cataract) – completed in 1970 and flooded a Nubian area in southern Egypt and northern Sudan. Although 17 Nubian temples were salvaged and relocated, many other 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. Five (5) major archaeological sites will be flooded, and between 5-10 thousand people will be displaced. Not much else is currently known about this project.

KAJBAR DAM (3rd cataract) – will be a \$705 million project constructed by the Chinese company, Sinohydro, which is the largest hydro-power company in the world. This dam is projected to be a 5-year project but the Sudanese government has not released any details about this project. However, unofficial estimates gathered by concerned Nubian activists indicate that when completed this project will flood a Nubian area of 42 square miles, and thus displace 10,000 people and flood an estimated 500 archaeological sites.

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.

SHEREIK DAM (5th cataract) – will be a \$711 million project constructed by the Chinese firm, Gezhouba Corporation, but not much else is currently known about this project.

ATBARA DAM – will be a \$838 million project constructed by a Chinese consortium, but not much else is currently known about this project.





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

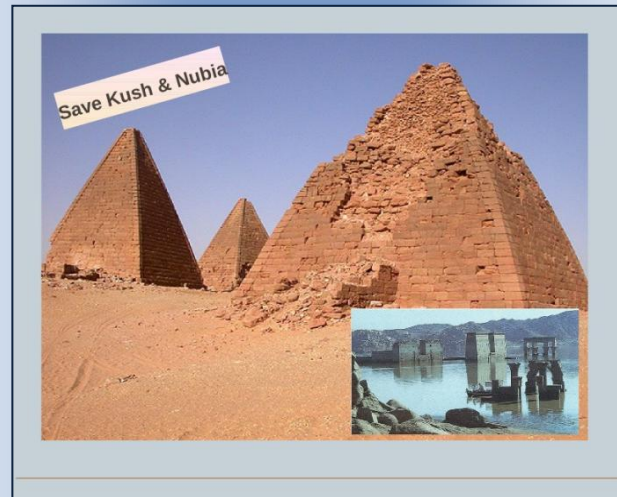
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