AN ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, THE EXAMPLE OF LIMPOPO VALLEY

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Résumé

This paper builds on the classification system pioneered by Leonardo Adamowicz in his Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments. Following the work by Adamowicz, we present a classification system of archaeological sites in terms of integrity, research potential, and threat level in a simple three grade system. Adding to this we propose the inclusion of local heritage and nature value. We test the classification system on sites surveyed from 2006-2017 in Limpopo National Park (PNL). The study includes Adamowicz's Impact Assessment surveys for the prospected Mapai Dam. Sites dating from the Early Stone Age to the Later Stone Age have been identified in the areas as well as Farming Community settlements from both the first and second millennium AD. We have also mapped historical sites and ceremonial places which we suggest should be included in Heritage Assessments as a norm. We discuss the different categories of sites and define key areas for further rescue archaeology and surveys with respect to the prospected Mapai Dam. We also discuss the potential and problems of using a similar classification system nationally in Mozambique.

Mots-Clés: Limpopo National Park, Classification system, Integrity, Scientific potential criteria, Local historical value, Site type, Impact Assessment.

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