



# LAUNCHING OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT “TURATH, ARCHEOLOGY CONNECTS” AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SUDAN

Press release

Khartoum, Sudan

19.06.2022

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## PRESS KIT

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Come with your family and join Taharqa on his tour revealing some of the treasures of Sudan's history and discover some very interesting artifacts, specifically from the Napatan period.



© Illustration by Mosab Zakaria

## BACKGROUND

Sudanese historical and archaeological heritage is almost a hidden treasure, spread across desert areas, sometimes difficult to reach. Sudanese and general international public seem to have little idea of the importance and impact of the Sudanese cultural heritage on African culture and world history, despite the fact that for decades over 20 European archaeological missions have been working in the country. Their findings brought to the attention of academia and experts, and gradually to the public inside and outside of Sudan, the considerable richness and potential of the Sudanese archaeological heritage.

Among the European countries and beside the seasonal archaeological missions, France has been running for more than 50 years, a permanent archaeological research center called SFDAS, based within the Antiquity Service of the National Museum of Khartoum.



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Turath is one of EUNIC Sudan projects. Funded by the European Union delegation to Sudan, and led by the Regional French Institute of Sudan in collaboration with The French Archeological mission Sudan antiquities service (SFDAS), National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM), and Alsoug.com.

The project aims to promote the archaeological and historical heritage of Sudan to Sudanese and international general public. In supporting and facilitating knowledge transfer, the project wishes to generate an increase of awareness about the impact and potential of such heritage in terms of empowerment of local communities and access to qualified job positions.

This dissemination project is targeting the youth from 15 to 20 years old as future actors of the awareness of the community on its cultural heritage and main contributors to the development of historical knowledge in Sudan.



## THE AUDIO GUIDE APPLICATION

The core outcome of this project is a dynamic QR code based web application -developed and hosted by Alsoug.com- accessible via phone and tablets as well as computer. To guarantee reaching a huge range of audience, the content of the application is available as text and audio in the three languages; Arabic, French, and English.

For now, this project is considered as a pilot as it covers only ten artifacts from the Napatan period. This application is a way to show the importance of Archeology and history, as well as how using technology can ease people's life and accessibility to information.

The audio guide will be available for the public at the new buildings of SFDAS inside the national museum of Sudan during the period from 27th of June to 4th of July 2022. Come with your families to join Taharqa on a tour to discover and explore Sudan's history in general, and the Napatan period in specific.



## WHY THE NAPATAN PERIOD?

In the 8th century BC, a kingdom grew up around the Nubian capital, Napata. In about 730 BC, the Nubian king Piankhy conquered Egypt and founded the 25th Dynasty of Kushite kings, who ruled for more than fifty years over a kingdom stretching from the Nile Delta to the confluence of the White and Blue Niles. The most famous of those kings is the pharaoh Taharqa.

Turath highlights the importance of this vast kingdom, located in what is now northern Sudan. It is organized in connection with the Louvre's current exhibition on the Pharaohs of Napata, celebrating the most iconic artifacts from that period at Sudan National Museum.

## THE ARTIFACTS

1. The statue of Taharqa
2. The statue of Atlanersa
3. The statue of the king Aspelta
4. The goddess Beset
5. The Ouchebtiou
6. Offering table of the king Siaspiqo
7. Funerary Shaft of Anlamani
8. The mirror of Nastasen
9. Necklace and other napatan jewels
10. Various gods of Sudan



## A WORD FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE EU DELEGATION TO SUDAN

Mr. Daniel Weiss

Sudanese and European cultural heritages are rich and diverse mosaics of cultural and creative expressions, an inheritance from previous generations and a legacy for those to come. It enriches lives of people, as it is an important part of our identity, helping us understand who we are and where we have come from. Cultural heritage, be it tangible or intangible, is also an important resource for economic growth, youth employment and social cohesion. It helps revitalise urban and rural areas and promote sustainable tourism. This is why the EU is committed to safeguarding and enhancing cultural heritage in the world and in Sudan. It does so through the EU financial support of concrete projects in culture sector, such as the Turath project, which links Sudanese history to digital technology. In concrete terms, the project will make the archaeological and historical heritage accessible not only to Sudanese, but also to Europeans and to rest of the world.

Revealing the wealth of the tangible heritage to the greatest number of people facilitates the historical understanding of our humanity. I hope that the rich Sudanese historical and archaeological heritage will be hence farther seen and reflected upon by a great number of people beyond Sudanese borders.



## A WORD FROM THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR

Madame Raja RABIA

France has supported archaeology in Sudan for over 50 years and will continue to promote any initiative contributing to a better understanding of the incredibly rich and diverse Sudanese culture.

The archaeological heritage is a fragile and non-renewable resource which is a legacy coming from very old civilizations. Promoting archaeology and scientific knowledge is key to nourish a fruitful and peaceful dialogue between people, encourage mutual respect and allow a common feeling of belonging to one human kind.

Thanks to the Turath project, led jointly by the French Institute, the SFDAS (en toutes lettres) and the NCAM (en toutes lettres) and co financed by European funds through the EUNIC Cluster, each visitor shall discover the brilliant Kush civilization which is currently under the spotlights of the Louvre Museum in Paris. Through 10 emblematic artifacts of the National Museum of Khartoum, you will have a unique opportunity to meet the legendary Pharaoh Taharqua and to open the doors on his fascinating kingdom.



### **A WORD FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF NCAM**

Mme. Ghalia Jar-Alnabi

TURATH project is a joint collaborative effort between NCAM, the EU Delegation to Sudan, the Regional French Institute of Sudan and the French Archaeological Mission Sudan. The project intends to elevate the level of knowledge on Sudanese cultural heritage by making it accessible and available to the general public. The project employs the dynamic and interactive modern QR code-based web application. This is to achieve its goals by appealing to the technology-savvy younger generations.

It currently covers a small number of objects from the Napatan period, and hopefully it will be expanded in the future to include more objects covering other historical periods of Sudan.

This project is a testimony that collaborative initiatives, strong teamwork and careful research will always yield genuine results and greater success. Our sincere thanks go to our partners in this project and we hope to receive constructive feedback to help us advance forward.



## EUNIC SUDAN

The European Union National Institute of Culture 'EUNIC' Cluster in Sudan is a collection of projects, initiated and funded by the European Union.

The Cluster aims to promote cultural exchange between Sudan and Europe through various cultural projects, Cinema, Music, Fashion and Heritage.

The cluster has planned and implemented a number of projects targeted hundreds of young creative individuals with great outcomes and impact. EUNIC has been committed to enhance the relationship between the Sudanese cultural actors and the EU and engage in mutual actions to help build a stronger relationship between the peoples of the EU and Sudan.

## EU

The Delegation of the European Union is a fully accredited diplomatic mission to the Republic of Sudan.

The EU diplomatic mission is typically known as a "Delegation", and the head of the Delegation is known as an "Ambassador". It is one of 135 other Delegations around the world that represent the European Union.

## NCAM

Founded in 1905 the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, is the institute managing and protecting the tangible cultural heritage in Sudan. It includes the Department of 'field work', 'conservation and Restoration'. As well as the 'Department of Museums' which manages a number of central and state museums, the most important of which is the Sudan National Museum.

Sudan National Museum was found 1971, and displays antiquities dating back to the Stone Age. It encapsulates Sudanese civilization through all its periods, from the stone ages to the Islamic era.

## SFDAS

Founded in 1967 at the initiative of Jean Vercoutter, the SFDAS was officially created in 1969. It was successively run by André Vila (1969-1975), Francis Geus (1975-1984), Jacques Reinold (1984-2000), Francis Geus (2000-2004), Vincent Rondot (2005-2009), Claude Rilly (2009-2014) and, since September 2014, by Vincent Francigny. In charge of cooperating with the Sudanese Department of Antiquities in its field activities (excavations and prospection), the SFDAS took part in the last rescue operations of the Nubian campaign which preceded the water impoundment in the Aswan dam reservoir. It then pursued the systematic inventory of the sites of the Nile Valley south of the lake. It has also conducted several planned excavations, namely on the sites of Missiminia (Napatan, Meroitic, X-group and Christian necropolis), Kadada (Neolithic,



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Meroitic and post-Meroitic necropolis), Kadruka (Neolithic funeral mound) and El-Hobagi (post-Meroitic burial mound).

## ALSOUG.COM

A digital platform for buying and selling everything, including property, cars, electronics, household goods and much more. On [alsoug.com](http://alsoug.com), the Sudanese people can buy or sell any goods or services they want.

As a Sudanese company, [alsoug.com](http://alsoug.com) believes in the importance of preserving Sudan's great cultural heritage, and promoting it to people inside and outside Sudan. by working with the National Museum of Sudan and the Turath Project to help bring Sudanese cultural heritage online.

## THE REGIONAL FRENCH INSTITUTE OF SUDAN (IFRS)

The French Institute promotes French culture internationally in dialogue with foreign cultures. It acts at the crossroads of artistic sectors, intellectual exchanges, cultural and social innovation and social innovation and linguistic cooperation. It supports the world the promotion of the French language, the circulation of the circulation of works, artists and ideas.

This year, the Regional French Institute of Sudan celebrates its 64 years of presence in the country by developing the French language and culture, promoting art and knowledge for the Sudanese and offering a Sudanese and offering a space open to the diversity of thought and a place for reflection and research.

