



Destruction of the Cultural-Archaeological Landscape in the Gaza Strip

**Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
State of Palestine**

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Introduction

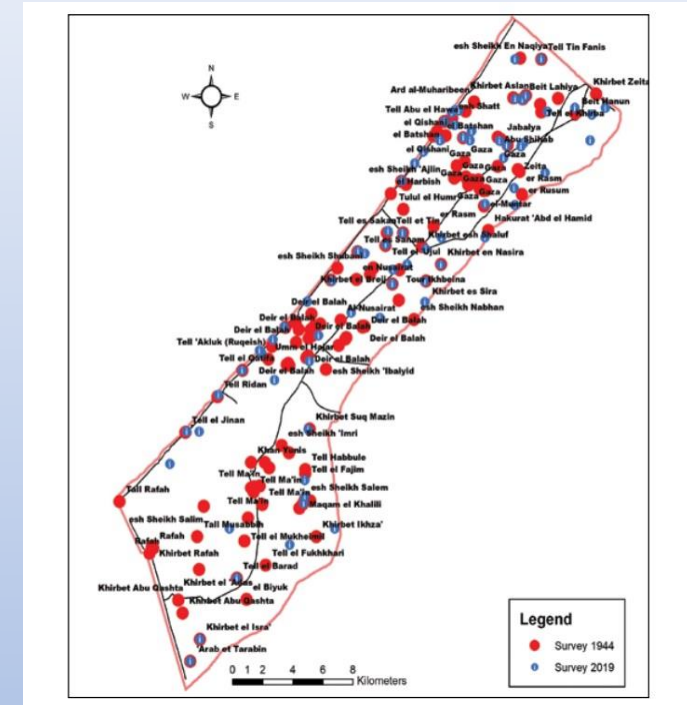
The Gaza Strip is a maritime outlet on the Mediterranean Sea, and is located on the southern Palestinian coast. It has an area of about 370 square kilometers, extending north to 'Asqlan, to the east Beit Jibrin and Hebron, and bounded to the south by the Palestinian Negev and the Egyptian Sinai desert, and to the west the Mediterranean Sea.

There are more than 83 major archaeological sites spread in the Gaza Strip. The results of surveys and archaeological excavations showed the presence of more than 140 archaeological features, and more than 300 traditional building consisting of tombs, mosques, castle, churches, and domestic houses distributed over 42 towns and refugees camps, like Rafah, Khan Yunis and Deir al-Balah.



Historical Background

Gaza has been characterized by important coastal changes since the Bronze Age. Around 6000 years ago, the coast comprised small estuaries at the outlets of the main Wades. During the Bronze Age, this indented coast spawned important maritime settlements such as Tell es-Sakan and Tell al-'Ajjul at the outlet of Wadi Ghazze, which probably served as a natural harbor. During the same period, the rate of sea level rise slowed, leading to the formation of the Nile delta and small local deltas along the coasts of the Sinai and Palestine. From the first millennium BC, the coast was regularized by infilling of the estuaries and settlements. The harbor sites became landlocked. In response, new cities, such as Anthedon, were founded on a Quaternary ridge along the present coastline.



Topic introduction

This Study presents the results of a preliminary research of the destruction processes in the cultural-archaeological landscapes in Gaza Strip. We selected Gaza due to the great damage of cultural diversity within their surrounding landscapes, which contain traditional buildings, land use, archaeological sites, and boundaries of the traditional settlements. The study will be taking for effecting the destruction of the cultural-archaeological landscape because of the ongoing war there, and will focus on military operations and local people movements due to displacement under the pressure of in it.

Gaza is still witnessing widespread destruction of all aspects of life. This choice was in line with the EAMENA project, which aims to protect the past, especially the heritage threatened in cause conflicts and wars.

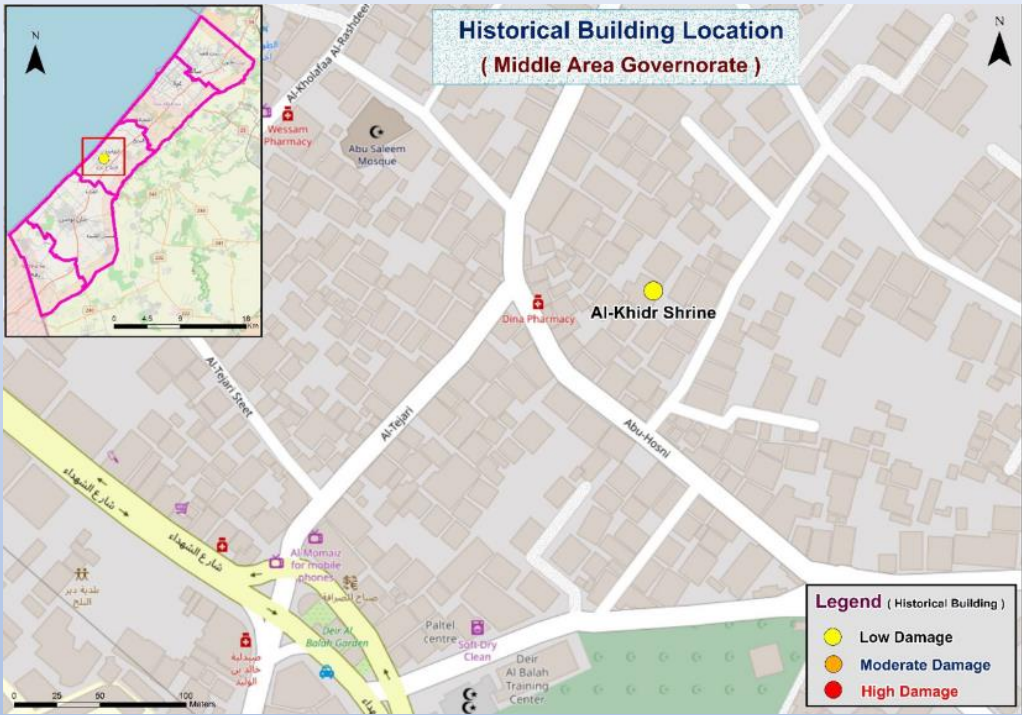
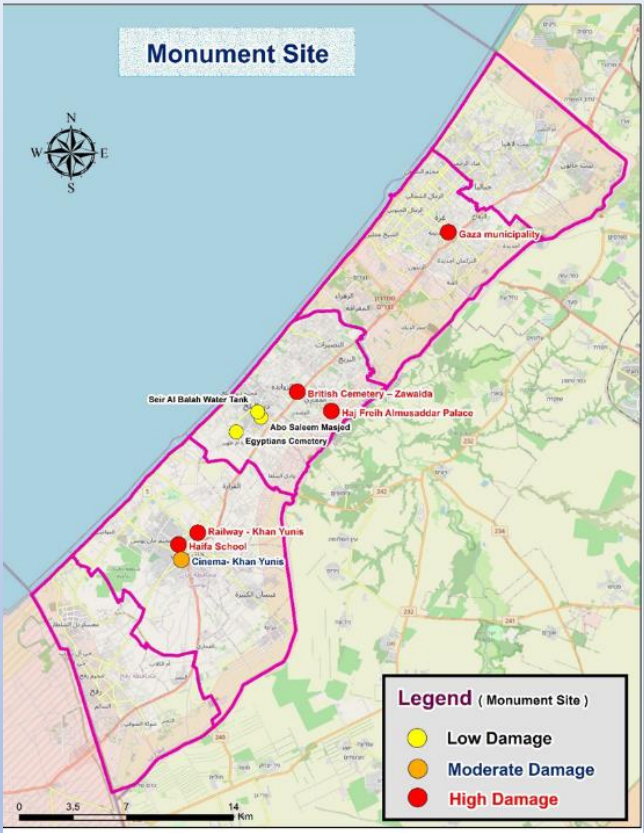
In this study we will try to shed light on the processes of destruction of the cultural landscape in Gaza strip by focusing on ten of archaeological sites using EAMENA database: Gaza Old City, Anthidon, Sant Hilarion, Tell es-Sakan, Tell el-'Ajoul, Tell Rafah, Tell Qatifa, Tell Abu el-Hawa, Wadi Gaza, and Khirbet Abu Qashta.

Why Gaza

- Gaza is a seaport under Palestinian control.
- For more than twenty years, Gaza has been experiencing a state of instability, and the extent of the destruction of cultural landscape has become large.
- As a result of the wars, the cultural heritage in Gaza are more exposed than other Palestinian governorates to acts of destruction due to military operations and the displacement of citizens.
- The most destroyed sites in the last war are: historical and traditional buildings located within the borders of the Gaza Old City.
- Some of archaeological sites located on the sea coast have become vulnerable to destruction due to the displacement of citizens.
- Gaza is a live example to selection for a test for the EMENA database on the disturbances that have occurred or are expected to occur (Item: Condition Assessment and Disturbances).

Table for the Heritage Sites impacted.

Area	Damaged sites	Not Damaged	Not assessed (Dangerous zone)	Total
North Wadi Gaza	127	85	42	254
South Wadi Gaza	25	5	32	62
Gaza Strip	152	90	74	316



Sites Distribution



Destruction of the Cultural-Archaeological Landscape in the Gaza Strip (Selected Sites/ dataset):

- Gaza Old City
- Khirbet Anthidon (Ancient Gaza Harbor)
- Tell Umm 'Amer (Sant Hilarion)
- Tell es-Sakan
- Tell el-'Ajoul
- Tell Rafah
- Tell Qatifa
- Tell Abu el-Hawa
- Wadi Gaza
- Khirbet Abu Qashta

Examples of Destruction

Qasr el-Basha (Before and After)



Al-Masjid Al-'Umari (Before and After)



Church of St. Porphyrios



Anthidon: Ancient Gaza Harbor



Hamмам es-Samra



Dar es-Saqa



PADA Workshop

S#	Site Name	EAMENA Ref.	URL
1	Gaza Old City	EAMENA-0186207	https://database.eamena.org/report/17438d03-5ec7-48ac-8633-bd9587ad64c2
2	Anthidon	EAMENA-0186596	https://database.eamena.org/report/feb88d6b-dd9f-465d-a8ce-c7d02099a7b1
3	Tell Umm 'Amer (Sant Hilarion)	EAMENA-0186222	https://database.eamena.org/report/d92bd960-69a0-4dba-9047-b6afcbda6cb9
4	Tell es-Sakan	EAMENA-0187037	https://database.eamena.org/report/816dc51d-8826-42a8-8e1a-68b6d31d04b7
5	Tell el-'Ujul	EAMENA-0186224	https://database.eamena.org/report/a7eac225-6d66-4f25-8e39-95e410378b24
6	Tell Rafah	EAMENA-0186773	https://database.eamena.org/report/f602550a-9f9b-4173-964c-8cf3b50f7465
7	Tell Qatifa	EAMENA-0186313	https://database.eamena.org/report/02f3aadd-6684-4a2b-b0a6-10eadfb4c4ec
8	Tell Abu el-Hawa	EAMENA-0187662	https://database.eamena.org/report/09769be0-019b-460c-b0e6-a480638079e7
9	Wadi Gaza	EAMENA-0186246	https://database.eamena.org/report/75bd9468-d912-40fe-8783-28637e1514a6
10	Khirbet Abu Qashta	EAMENA-0186892	https://database.eamena.org/report/d741ab78-ec21-452c-8910-6527a4779888

The screenshot displays the EAMENA database search results page. The search bar at the top shows the query 'Gaza Old City'. The results list includes three entries: EAMENA-0186207 (Gaza Old City), EAMENA-0186596 (Anthidon), and EAMENA-0186222 (Gaza Old City). The interface includes a map filter, advanced search options, and an export search results section on the right. The export section offers options for format (CSV, Shapefile, Tile Excel, GeoJSON URL), coordinate precision (6 decimal places), and report link (include report link in export).

PADA Workshop

Success! <https://zenodo.org/deposit/14267604>

The screenshot shows a Zenodo record page for a dataset titled "Destruction of the Cultural-Archaeological Landscape in the Gaza Strip". The page is part of the "EAMENA database" and was published on December 3, 2024, as Version v1. It has 20 views and 4 downloads. The dataset is described as containing 10 archaeological sites in Gaza strip destroyed during the war 2023-2024, compiled by the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities of Palestine (MOTA) team, Dr. Sufyan Deis. The page also lists contributors (Mohammad Jaradat and Georgia Andreou) and provides a link to the EAMENA data entry methodology. The right sidebar shows the version history (Version v1) and external resources.

zenodo

Search records...

Communities My dashboard

sufyandia...

EAMENA database

Published December 3, 2024 | Version v1

Dataset Open

20 VIEWS 4 DOWNLOADS

Show more details

Versions

Version v1 Dec 3, 2024

10.5281/zenodo.14267604

Cite all versions? You can cite all versions by using the DOI 10.5281/zenodo.14267603. This DOI represents all versions, and will always resolve to the latest one. Read more.

External resources

Indexed in

Destruction of the Cultural-Archaeological Landscape in the Gaza Strip

EAMENA database¹

Show affiliations

Contributors

Data collectors: Mohammad Jaradat ; Georgia Andreou

This dataset contains 10 archaeological sites in Gaza strip destroyed during the war 2023-2024. The dataset was compiled by Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities of Palestine (MOTA) team, Dr. Sufyan Deis.

Methods

EAMENA data entry methodology

Files

6 December 2024

Thank you for your attention