Review of: "A Methods Note on Remote Sensing Platforms and Large-Scale Archeological Impact Assessments (AIA) in the Philippines"

Pablo Andres Euillades[1]

1 Universidad Nacional de Cuyo

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article presents a remote-sensing based methodology for performing Archeological Impact Assessments of site that could potentially be impacted by large infrastructure projects. The methodology has three scale levels: macroscale using data acquired from satellites, mesoscale using data acquired from drones, and microscale which involves historical analysis, sites sampling and excavations. The acquired information is used to select where to make test pit excavations based in a stratified random sampling strategy.

The approach is interesting, but I found the following problems with the article:

- It is not clear for the reader how the AIA is being performed nowadays, at least in Phillipines. I believe this should be enphasized in the Introduction in order to understand if the proposed methodology is a novel one, and which are the antecedents of application even in other regions of the world.
- Once presented the methodology, I believe that the article would greatly benefit from an in-deep presentation of a study case where it was applied and allowed detecting unknown (or partially known) archeological sites. I mean, a case showing the impact of using this methodology compared with cases where it was not applied.
- The analysis of a study case would allow understand which datasets can be used, which ones were useful and which ones not, how the SRS was used to select test sites, etc. The results should be discussed in the discussion section.
- I believe figures 5-8, showing schematically different ways of acquiring mesoscale data, are relatively unnecessary. It would be more interesting to show advantages and disadvantages, along with examples, of the different approaches for acquiring the data.