

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper is of interest to the expanding field of Philipinian Archaeological Impact Assessment using Remote Sensing and GIS technologies. The article is not intended to be a scholarly analysis of the subject but rather a short note on possible methods; it is thus not a thorough analysis of the topic. Yet it presents some points of interest for different research communities and the general public. In this respect, it is a worthy paper. A few aspects should be amended, though:

- The sentence opening the "Background" section seems too forced. In my opinion, it could be rephrased to sound more natural. Moreover, the section is an introductory one that provides a background to the rest of the paper; hence, I recommend changing the title to "Introduction".
- A brief explanation of the current state of the art regarding AIA in the Philippines might improve the article. This can be easily added in the Background/Introduction section. Such a brief explanation will enhance the overall paper because it can clear up the novelty of the proposed approach.
- The following sentence can be enhanced: "Remote sensing and geographic information systems (RS-GIS) platforms in conjunction with stratified random sampling (SRS) are force multipliers in an AIA due to their ability to access and ability to navigate various spatial scales of data or multiscalar data including the macroscale, mesoscale and microscale data". For example, in "Remote sensing and geographic information systems (RS-GIS) [...] stratified random sampling (SRS)", either the initials or the full version can be gone, as they were used and specified just in the sentence above. It is repetitive. Another example is "their ability to access and ability to navigate", where the second "ability" can be deleted.
- Please, change "archeological" to "archaeological" in the sentence "The AIA operation should aim to sample the whole universe of archeological sites within the project's spread-out footprint".
- It might be useful to specify the remote sensing indicators (for the heads-up) to look at for the Philipines case.
- The author could better explain the predictive model, which, if I understood correctly, is based on hydrological modelling. The Sistemic Random Sampling should be better described as well.
- The discussion section should be more extensive; at its current state, it is more a conclusion than a discussion.
- Despite some issues (detailed above), the proposed method is quite interesting and suitable, at least in theory. However, the method should be tested against real-world practices, and the paper would have benefited from a real

case study.

Some of the paper's strong points are:

- Proposing a method that blends archival, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, and Remote Sensing research for AIA.
- Developing a sensible approach to registering and mapping possible heritage/archaeological sites or areas of archaeological interest in a context of capitalist building expansion.
- The method seems pioneer for the Philipines. Thus, even if the method is subject to improvements, it is a valuable article.

I suggest improving the paper following at least some of the highlighted points before its definite publication. Otherwise, I would recommend its acceptance.