

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

Vittorio Rosato¹

¹ ENEA

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper accounts for a strategy for performing AIA in potentially archeologically rich areas undergoing civil works, aiming at providing a comprehensive albeit efficient localization of sites where a specific care should be taken.

To this regard there is a wide literature on the use of remote sensing techniques and, in particular, the “nested” use of interferometric data (SAR images), combined with mesoscale pictures taken by LiDAR and other sensors mounted on drone or planes. In this respect, the paper does not represent a novelty in this sector. The paper, moreover, suffers of a lack of specificity (any technical detail aiming at providing a coherent and comprehensive view of the complementarity of the different techniques).

A further drawback is constituted by the lack of any ground-sensing device which should complement (and finalize) the search of archeological objects in the proximal layers of the terrain (which should be, by the way, the main objective of the campaign). There is a large use of GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) with frequencies ranging from 100 MHz to a few GHz; they represent the ultimate analysis to be carried out after a selection of the sites which, according to remote and proximal sensing activities, are associated to a larger probability to contain some archeological object. The use of such device is highly recommended, taking into consideration that there are many trailerable equipment which might allow a fast, accurate and efficient recognition even in extended areas (an accurate campaign with a trailerable GPR multi-frequency instrument can span 10 hectares per day).