



Press Release 13 June 2016: Initial Archaeological Results of the Cambodian Archaeological Lidar Initiative

The École française d'Extrême-Orient (French Institute of Asian Studies, or EFEO), the APSARA National Authority (APSARA) and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia (MOCFA) are pleased to announce that the coming weeks and months will see the publication of a number of reports, articles and peer-reviewed publications deriving from the 2015 archaeological lidar campaign in Cambodia, known as the Cambodian Archaeological Lidar Initiative (CALI). The work is entirely funded by a 1.5 million Euro grant from the European Research Council to Dr Damian Evans of the EFEO under the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 639828). It involves dozens of collaborators from various institutions under the direction of APSARA and MOCFA, with His Excellency Professor Tan Boun Suy of APSARA having overall administrative authority.

Flight operations for CALI were completed in March and April 2015, and delivery of the datasets took place in August 2015, followed by several months of post-processing and analysis. Since that time the data have been used as part of a number of joint projects between Cambodian and international teams, including programs of ground verification and archaeological excavation. A number of results of broad significance have been identified, and although analysis and fieldwork will continue for years to come, co-authors from all three institutions are currently involved in the production of material which will present the initial findings to a broad audience.

The first of these is an overview of the most significant archaeological results, authored by the Principal Investigator and technical coordinator of the CALI program, which appears today in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. The lidar has revealed urban and agricultural landscapes on an unprecedented scale, and in combination with the lidar data acquired in 2012, provides a globally-unique archive of very high resolution archaeological lidar data which reveals patterns of human-environment interaction in the Khmer world spanning at least 2000 years, from the present day to prehistory. The results are a testimony to the incredible richness of Cambodian cultural heritage. They also underscore the commitment of the three institutions in CALI to building international partnerships to achieve research results of global significance, and to keeping Cambodian and French institutions and researchers at the forefront of technological advances in archaeological science and heritage applications worldwide.

Moving forward, we expect the data to be useful across a number of disciplines and applications, including not only archaeology but also tourism and heritage management, urban planning, forest ecology, agriculture, and water management. We are currently developing a licensing process which we envisage will streamline the process of making the data available to individuals and institutions seeking to forge new partnerships with the three institutions of CALI across this broad range of practical applications and research interests.

Further information is available on the web page of the CALI program, <http://angkorlidar.org>

Accessing the Article (Free, Open Access)

The article is "[Airborne laser scanning as a method for exploring long-term socio-ecological dynamics in Cambodia](#)," by Damian Evans (10.1016/j.jas.2016.05.009). It appears in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, Volume 72, (2016), published by Elsevier.

About the Journal of Archeological Science

The Journal of Archaeological Science is aimed at archaeologists and scientists with particular interests in advancing the development and application of scientific techniques and methodologies to all areas of archaeology. This established monthly journal publishes original research papers and major review articles, of wide archaeological significance. The journal provides an international forum for archaeologists and scientists from widely different scientific backgrounds who share a common interest in developing and applying scientific methods to inform major debates through improving the quality and reliability of scientific information derived from archaeological research.