



**MAEASaM**

Mapping Africa's Endangered  
Archaeological Sites  
and Monuments

## **MAEASaM Arches Demo Data Policy**

**Document version 1**

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## Background of the project

The MAEASaM (Mapping Africa's Endangered Archaeological Sites and Monuments) project aims to identify, document, and digitally preserve endangered archaeological sites and monuments across Africa. The project covers sites information covering a timespan from the Palaeolithic/Early Stone Age to the 20th century.

MAEASaM supports long-term preservation and public access to archaeological knowledge by:

- *Digitally preserving* heritage data,
- *Publishing* it online with the principle of “*as open as possible, as closed as necessary*”,
- *Sharing knowledge and methodologies* with partner institutions to support local heritage safeguarding.

The project is coordinated by the University of Cambridge and funded by [Arcadia](#), in partnership with institutions across Africa and Europe. For details, see the [project website](#).

## About this Policy

This policy applies exclusively to data housed within the Demo MAEASaM digital repository and does not represent the full data policy for the entire project's repository or future datasets. It describes:

- What data are collected,
- How these data are processed and preserved,
- Access and licensing conditions,
- Intellectual property and responsibilities,
- Attribution and citation guidelines,
- FAIR and CARE commitments,
- Contact information

This policy was prepared by the Mapping Africa's Endangered Archaeological Sites and Monuments Project on 21/06/2025 and is published under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. It will be revised periodically to align with evolving standards in digital heritage management.

## What Data are Collected

The demo version of the repository includes a limited set of archaeological data intended for demonstration purposes only. This sample dataset consists of:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Tentative list sites and a selection of national gazetted sites from the partner countries;

- A sample of site records from Senegal, extracted from historical maps by the MAEASaM team;
- A sample of data from the systematic detection by remote sensing carried out in Senegal by the MAEASaM team

Site information is provided in the form of various data types, including:

- Geographic data (coordinates, spatial boundaries),
- Descriptive metadata (site types, chronology, materials),
- Media files (images, maps, sketches),
- Controlled vocabularies and references.

Other project outputs (e.g., publications, website, social media content) fall outside the scope of this demo policy and are documented separately.

The repository does not collect or share any personal or sensitive data.

## How Data are Processed and Preserved

The data in the demo version have been compiled from:

- Information describing sites publicly available through UNESCO and National Heritage Authority websites. The MAEASaM team has collated, curated and improved the accuracy of the information when needed,
- Remote sensing, GIS analysis, and fieldwork,
- Structured metadata based on the [MAEASaM Metadata Schema](#)

The data are curated and reviewed collaboratively by partner institutions and the MAEASaM project team.

Data were ingested into an Arches version 7.6 database and preserved in flat file formats for long-term storage.

## Access and Licensing Conditions

MAEASaM supports Open Data principles and uses Creative Commons licenses for its records.

- Default license: [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)
- Exceptions: Data providers may request more restrictive licenses when necessary.

All data are made available for:

- Academic and teaching use,
- Non-commercial research,
- Local heritage management activities.

Licence information is provided in the “Licence” metadata field, both for media files and metadata sections of each record.

In the future, access to data will be structured with varying levels of permission for researchers, developers, and AI systems. However, this sample dataset is openly accessible to all users.

## Intellectual Property and Responsibilities

The legal rights holder of each dataset is identified in the “Rights holder” metadata field on the item detail pages. The repository does not claim ownership of contributed content but ensures appropriate licensing and access control in line with the contributor's permissions.

## Attribution and Citation Guidelines

Users are expected to credit data/datasets as follows:

Rights holder + Name + MAEASaM ID + dd/mm/yyyy of Publication + Publisher  
(Repository/Collection) + Version + Persistent Identifier/URL

## FAIR and CARE Commitments

The MAEASaM repository is committed to the [FAIR](#) and [CARE](#) principles, ensuring that data are not only Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable, but also ethically governed in line with the CARE framework.

This repository acknowledges that legal ownership does not always guarantee ethical rights over heritage data. In accordance with the CARE principles and respecting the concerns of communities, contributors, or rights holders, the repository retains the right to remove, restrict, or unpublish any dataset that is considered sensitive, inaccurate, or culturally inappropriate.

## Contact and Feedback

For feedback, corrections, or licensing concerns, please contact:

[MAEASaM-info@arch.cam.ac.uk](mailto:MAEASaM-info@arch.cam.ac.uk)

For detailed information on specific datasets, you may also contact the responsible body listed in the “Rights Holder” metadata field of each record.