


# The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE) – A transnational and transcontinental project

Informal Conference

Online meeting – 11.02.2021

 Permanent Delegation  
of Austria to  
UNESCO in Paris

 **B D A** BUNDESDENKMALAMT

With the support of  
the World Heritage Centre  
ICOMOS International and  
Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)

# Welcome and introduction

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CLAUDIA REINPRECHT (AT) & MECHTILD RÖSSLER (UNESCO)

# Objectives

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- Understand the Frontiers of the Roman Empire
- Explore their significance and meaning for today
- Inform about the process of nominating frontier sections as a series of World Heritage properties under a unifying framework 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Cluster'
- Understand the potential for closer international cooperation
- Build a coalition for intensified cooperation and filing further transnational nominations of frontier sections

# Programme

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1. Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE): Origin and development
2. From a single property to a transnational project
  - Evolution of the dossier and Thematic Study
  - Overview of inscribed frontier sections
  - Overview of nominations in the pipeline
  - Overview of existing structures of cooperation
3. Questions and answers
4. Working together: next steps and way ahead
5. Conclusion

# Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE)

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RENÉ PLOYER (AT)



The Roman Empire



The Roman Empire



History and extent





Hadrian's Wall (United Kingdom)



Bonn (Germany), reconstruction



Upper German-Raetian Limes (Germany), reconstruction



Tulln (Austria)



Biskra (Algeria)



Olt river valley (Romania)



Bir um Ali (Tunisia)



Falacro (Egypt)



Qasr al-Bashir (Jordan)



Dura Europos (Syria)

# The location of frontiers

# The purpose of frontiers

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- protect the empire
- control of movement
- a membrane through which Roman ideas and artefacts percolated into the outside world, and, in return, brought goods and products into the empire



# The importance of the FRE

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- extraordinarily high cultural value – influenced western world / peoples
- important effect on urbanisation / spread of cultures
- reflects the unifying impact of the Roman Empire
- largest single monument of Roman civilization
- sign for technological and organisational abilities of the Roman Empire
- over 7,000 km Roman “response” to topography and political, military and social circumstances

# Common heritage – overall aims

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- make the Roman frontier again visible and understandable in its enormous vastness and complexity
- show that the single monuments belong closely together thus forming an organic entity and the largest single monument of Roman civilization
- extend and deepen the existing relationships among archaeologists and cultural heritage experts (protection and management)

# Common heritage – overall aims

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“ICOMOS supports the wider proposal to encourage further nominations to reflect the scope and extent of the Roman Frontier, the largest single monument to Roman civilisation, initially in Europe but in due course ... also in Africa and Asia ...”.

# Common heritage – overall aims

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The aim of the participating States Parties shall be to find, through international cooperation, a practical and sustainable way for the individual nomination of significant and distinctive sections of the Roman frontiers in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, under an overall framework of the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' that will actively encourage dialogue and shared practices.



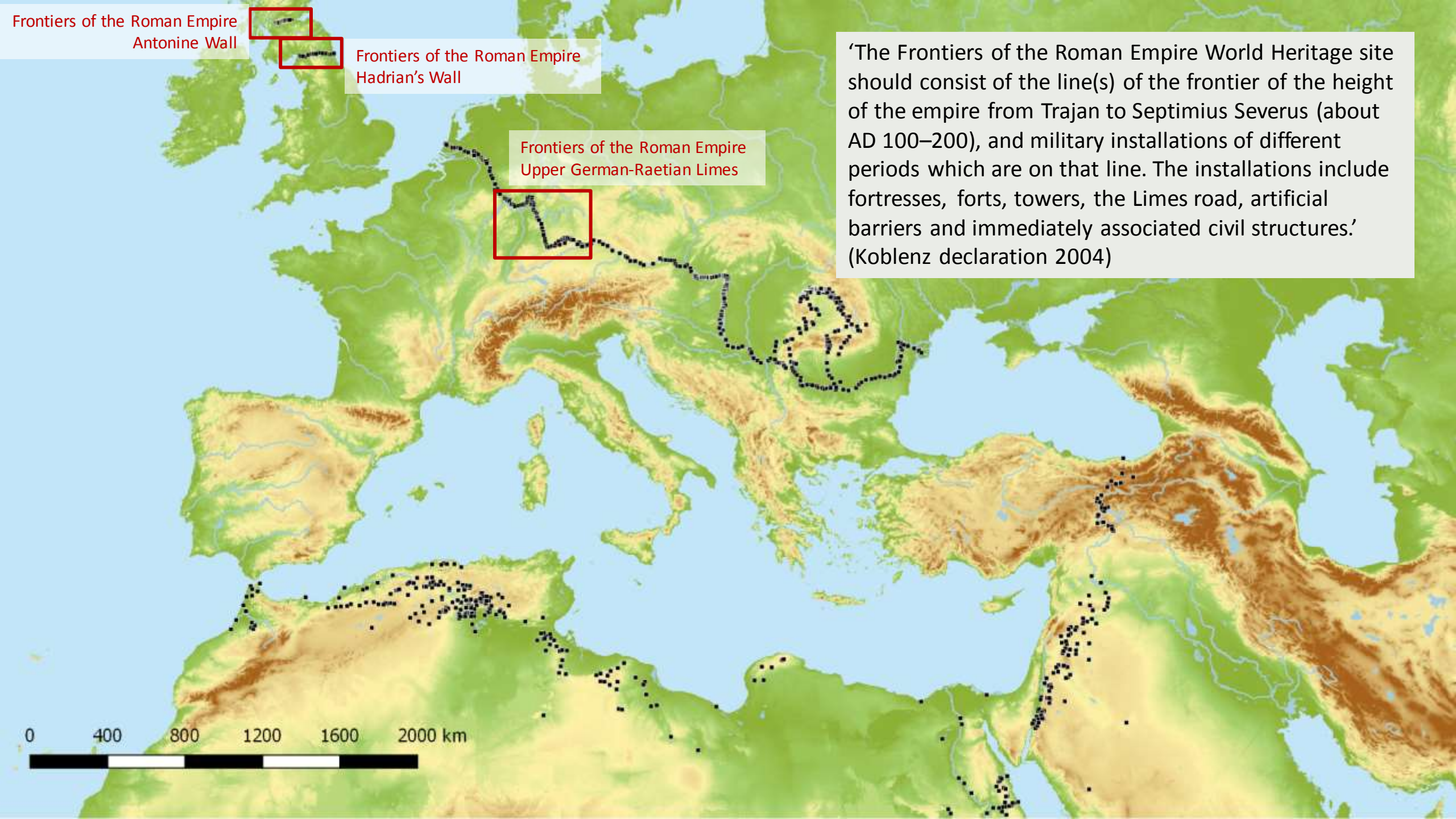
Thank you for your attention!

# Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Inscribed Segments

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C. SEBASTIAN SOMMER (DE)





Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Antonine Wall

Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Hadrian's Wall

Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Upper German-Raetian Limes

'The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage site should consist of the line(s) of the frontier of the height of the empire from Trajan to Septimius Severus (about AD 100–200), and military installations of different periods which are on that line. The installations include fortresses, forts, towers, the Limes road, artificial barriers and immediately associated civil structures.'  
(Koblenz declaration 2004)

0 400 800 1200 1600 2000 km



## 1. Distinct Linearity

Raetian Limes at Pfahlheim



1. Distinct Linearity
2. Connecting Water (Sea to Sea; River to River)

Hadrian's Wall at Maryport fort

Raetian Limes at Pfahlheim



1. Distinct Linearity
2. Connecting Water (Sea to Sea; River to River)
3. Artificial Physical Barrier

Hadrian's Wall at Maryport fort

Raetian Limes at Pfahlheim

Antonine Wall at Seabeg's Wood



1. Distinct Linearity
2. Connecting Water (Sea to Sea; River to River)
3. Artificial Physical Barrier
4. Continuous Surveillance

Reconstructed Watchtower Limeshain, Upper German Limes

Hadrian's Wall at Maryport fort

Raetian Limes at Pfahlheim

Antonine Wall at Seabeg's Wood



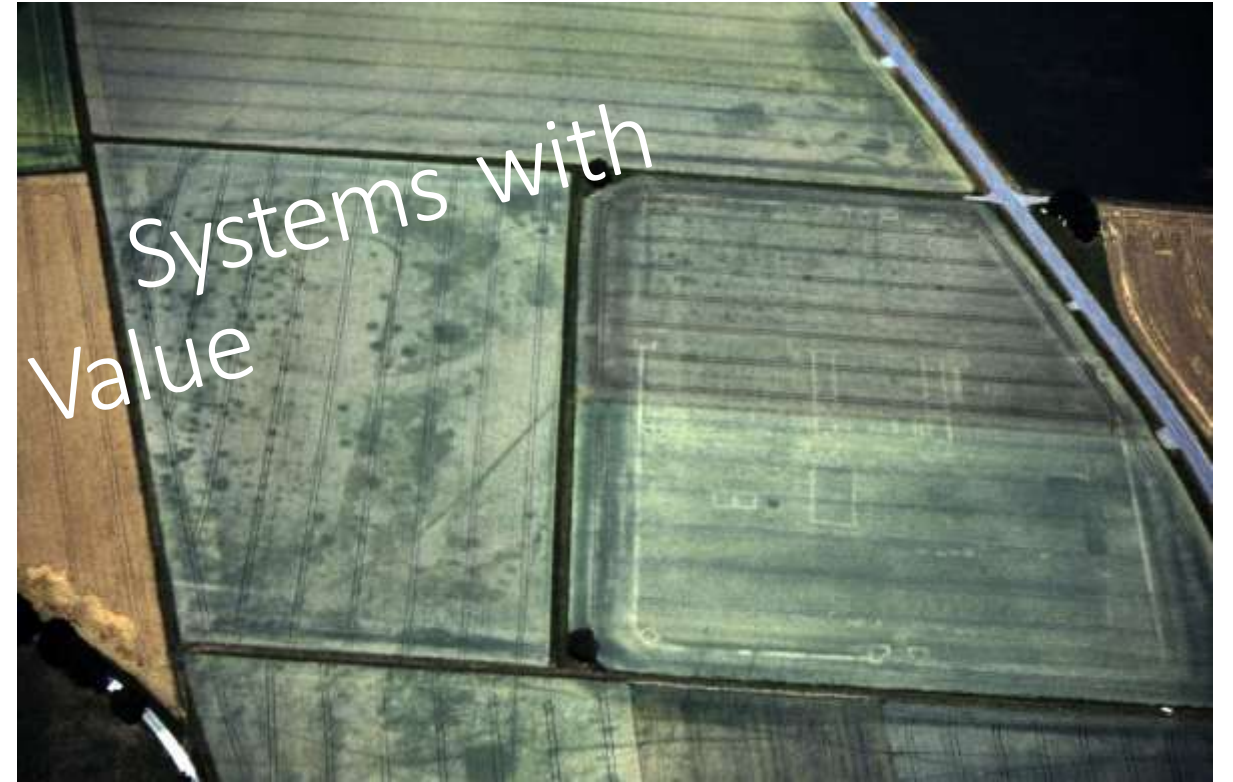
- Running through (almost) undisturbed countryside
- But also often through settlements and industrial areas



- Running through (almost) undisturbed countryside
- But also often through settlements and industrial areas
- Often without anything visible on the ground

Hadrian's Wall at Denton Hall Turret

Upper German-Raetian Limes at Theilenhofen fort



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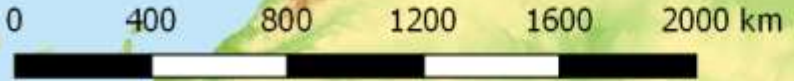
# FRE Thematic Study and World Heritage Nomination Strategy

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SUSAN DENYER (ICOMOS) & MARINUS POLAK (NL)

Hadrian's Wall

# Step-by-step Nomination strategy



# Step-by-step Nomination strategy

Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Hadrian's Wall

Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Upper German-Raetian Limes

0 400 800 1200 1600 2000 km



# Step-by-step Nomination strategy



Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Antonine Wall

Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Hadrian's Wall

Frontiers of the Roman Empire  
Upper German-Raetian Limes

0 400 800 1200 1600 2000 km

# Step-by-step nomination strategy: difficulties

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1. Each new nominated section has to be considered as a major boundary modification
2. Stable management system not feasible for continually expanding property with evolving OUV
3. Unrealistic expectation that all inscribed parts of the Roman Frontiers – along some 5,000 km of frontier – could be managed as one property

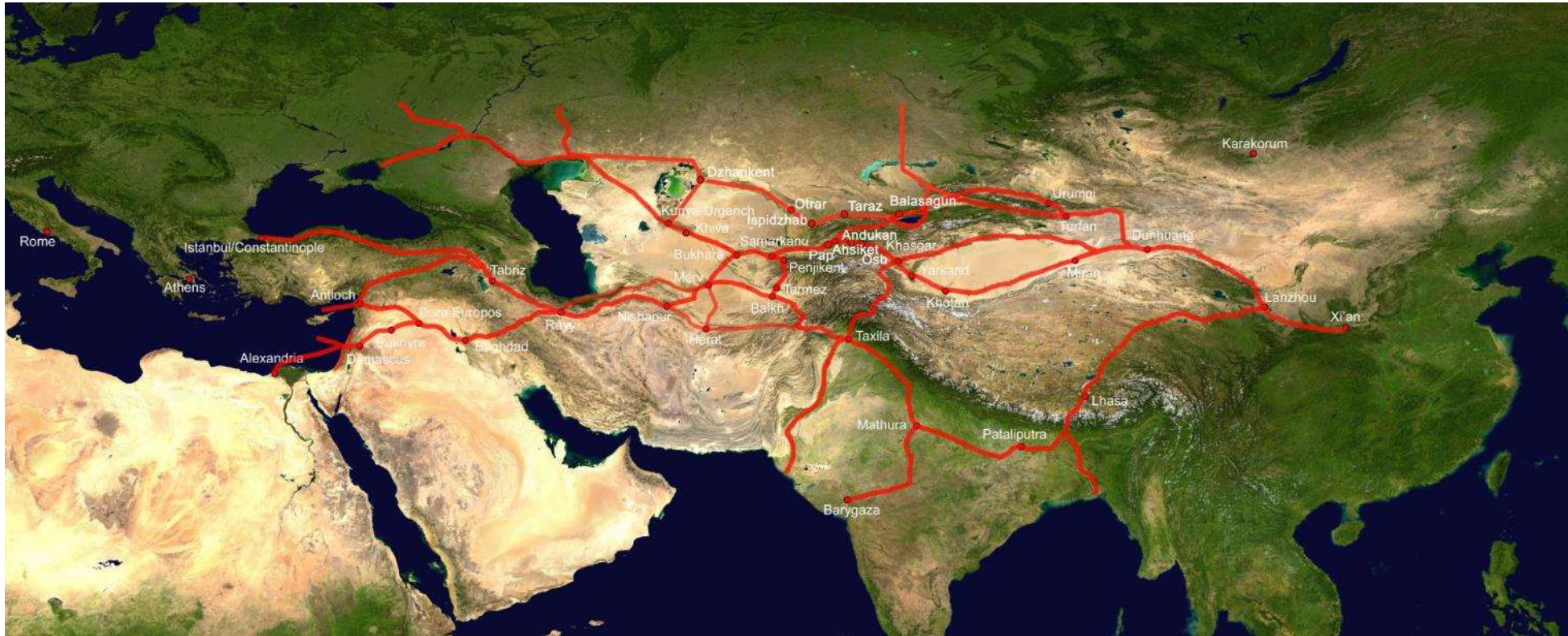
A more efficient and effective Nomination Strategy was needed to:

- Keep alive the idea of the Roman Frontiers as an entity
- Allow smaller parts of it to be nominated
- Offer States Parties manageability and an agreed and coherent way forward

# Silk Roads

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- Similar challenges in determining how to devise a Nomination Strategy
- For routes and sites that extend across a quarter of the globe



# 2010 Ittingen International Expert Meeting

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Convened to consider Large Transnational Serial Nominations

Recommended several options for nominating groups of sites to the World Heritage list:

- a. Single serial property
- b. Single serial transnational property
- c. Extension to an existing World Heritage property (either single or serial)
- d. Collection of properties under a common framework (but not constituting a single property)

Idea of a Common Framework ideally suited to the Silk Roads and the Roman Frontiers

- How might individual sections be defined for the Roman Frontiers
  - That could have the potential to justify OUV?

# Thematic Study

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Thematic Study undertaken to identify sections with potential to justify OUV

Assembled evidence on the Roman Frontiers at their greatest extent to consider:

- Precisely what they consisted of ?
- What exists now?
- How might surviving sites be combined into sections to reflect different historical circumstances, threats and regions?

Thematic Study considered three inter-locking layers:

1. Over-arching **concept** of the single all-encompassing Roman Frontiers
2. Transnational **sections** of parts of the frontier with potential to justify OUV
3. Individual **component sites** that contribute to the potential OUV of sections



# Nomination Strategy

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Following completion of the Thematic Study, one further step was needed

## **Nomination Strategy**

- Developed and agreed by relevant States Parties to
  - Present and justify the choice of sections with potential OUV
  - Set out an approach for how nominations might be phased

Nomination Strategy - *currently in detail only for Europe*- has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee

- In advance of the first sections from Europe being nominated
- Two of which are now under evaluation by ICOMOS

# Contents of the Thematic Study

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1. Overview of the frontiers across three continents:
  - History of the Roman frontiers
  - Setting of the frontiers: landscape and climate
  - Typology: frontiers and military installations
  - Surviving remains, and their integrity and authenticity
2. Roman frontiers as World Heritage: identification of sections with distinctive characteristics and potential to justify Outstanding Universal Value.
3. Outline of a Nomination Strategy, as a framework for new nominations.
4. Focus: Koblenz declaration (2004).

# Koblenz declaration

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Definition of the frontiers of the Roman Empire in the context of World Heritage, formulated in 2004 at the request of the World Heritage Centre, in the process of preparing the nomination of the Upper German-Raetian Limes, as the first frontier section after Hadrian's Wall (1987).

'The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage site should consist of the line(s) of the frontier of the height of the empire from Trajan to Septimius Severus (about AD 100–200), and military installations of different periods which are on that line. The installations include fortresses, forts, towers, the Limes road, artificial barriers and immediately associated civil structures.'

# Challenges, experiences and achievements

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## Challenges:

1. Some general overviews, but no good coverage of detail studies.
2. Lack of insight into preservation and authenticity.

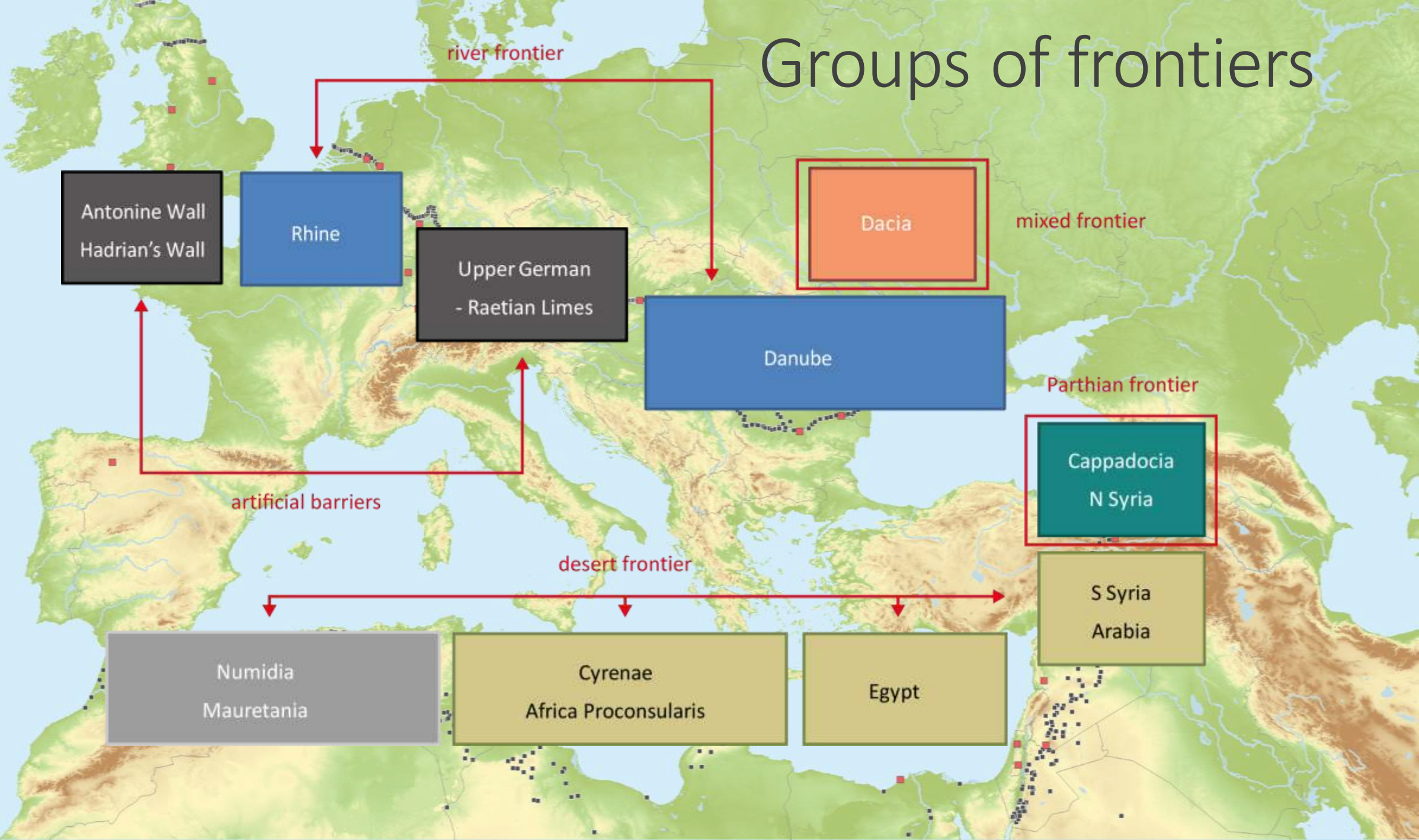
## Experiences:

1. A detailed analysis of and nomination strategy for northern Africa and the East was neither feasible nor desirable.
2. For Europe, the Coblenz declaration provided a useful framework.

## Achievements:

1. A synthesis of the Roman frontiers, from the perspective of World Heritage.
2. A better understanding of the potential OUV of individual frontier sections.

# Groups of frontiers



# Nomination strategy



# Way forward for Africa and the East

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1. Augment the Thematic Study through undertaking a detailed overview of the Roman frontiers in these areas, identifying frontier sections with distinctive characteristics and potential to justify Outstanding Universal Value.
2. Assess the state of conservation of military installations and closely associated features.
3. Select component sites (sufficient in numbers and quality) to express the potential OUV of the identified frontier sections.
4. Prepare a detailed Nomination Strategy, as a framework for new nominations, to be agreed by State Parties and submitted to the WH Committee in advance of any nominations being submitted.

# The Lower German Limes

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MARINUS POLAK (NL)





Netherlands

Germany

*Germania inferior*  
Lower Germany

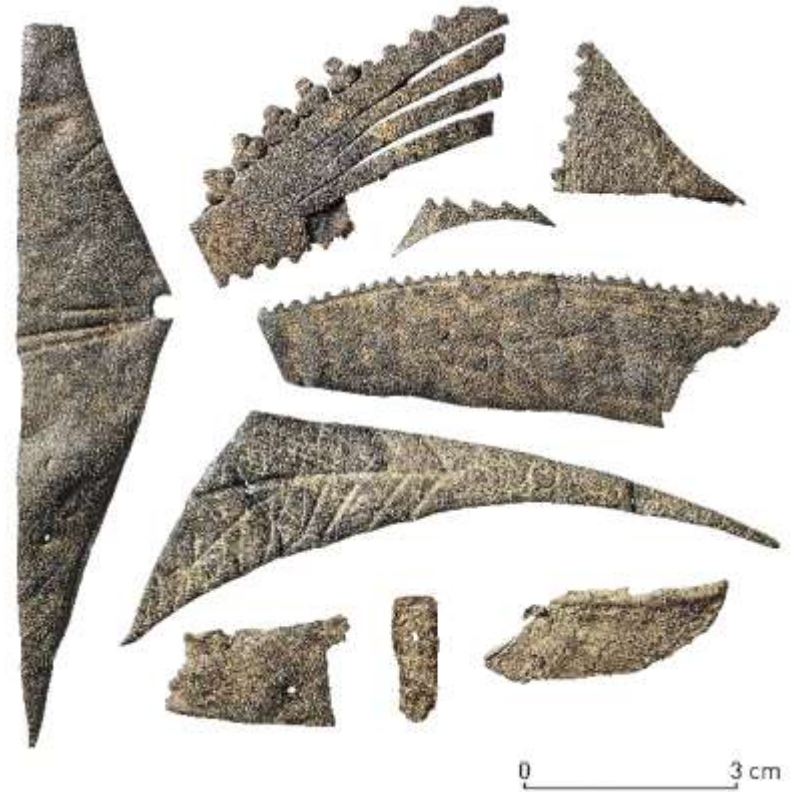
0 50 100 150 200 km



## Distinctive characteristics

Roman military construction in timber

Successive defensive ramparts of the Roman fort at Valkenburg, building periods 1, 2, 5 and 6.



## Distinctive characteristics

Treasure-chest of frontier life

Well-preserved metal objects and organic remains  
(plant remains, leather, animal bone)

# Nomination process

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1. 2010: expert meeting on potential OUV
2. > provisional site selections NL/DE
3. 2014: draft statement OUV
4. 2015-2019: additional research (desktop and field work)
5. 2017: Thematic Study > revision draft statement OUV
6. joint assessment and revision of site selection
7. 01-2020: nomination dossier handed over to UNESCO

# Benefits of the joint nomination

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## 1. Understanding

- Better understanding of cultural differences.
- Making cultural differences into an advantage.

## 2. Coherence

- Better understanding of the frontier section as a whole, across modern borders.
- Common approach, harmonisation, team play with optimal mix of skills.

## 3. Practicalities

- Exchanging best practices (management, monitoring, research, etc).
- Inspiration (presentation, communication etc.).

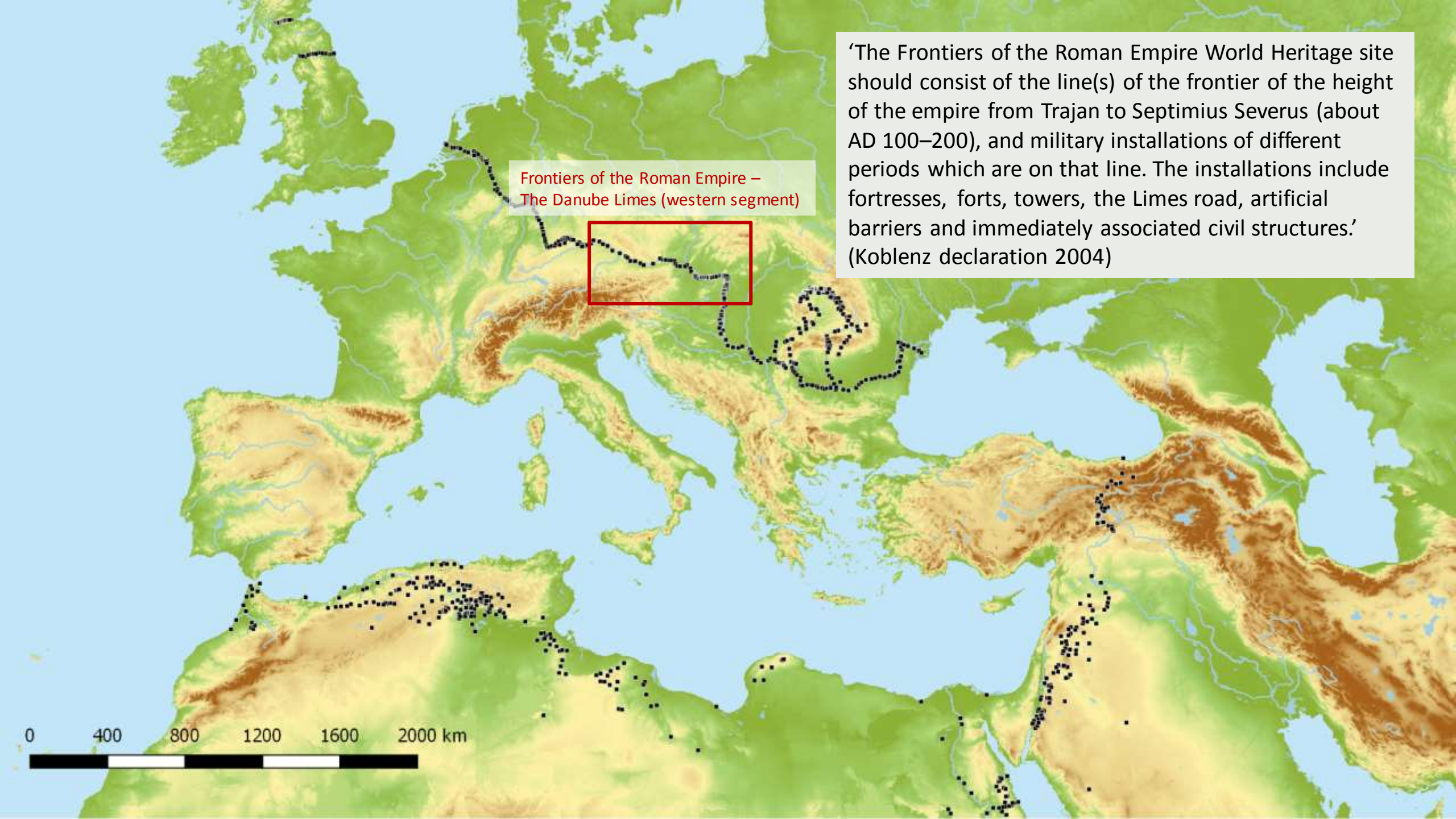
## 4. European level

- Many lessons learned from earlier nominations.
- All the benefits mentioned above.

# Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (western segment)

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C. SEBASTIAN SOMMER (DE)

A topographic map of Europe and the Mediterranean region showing the frontiers of the Roman Empire. A black dotted line traces the empire's borders from the British Isles in the northwest to the Persian Gulf in the southeast. A red rectangular box highlights the western segment of the Danube Limes, which runs from the North Sea coast in the northwest to the Black Sea coast in the east. A text box in the upper right corner provides a definition of the site, and a scale bar is located in the bottom left corner.

Frontiers of the Roman Empire –  
The Danube Limes (western segment)

‘The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage site should consist of the line(s) of the frontier of the height of the empire from Trajan to Septimius Severus (about AD 100–200), and military installations of different periods which are on that line. The installations include fortresses, forts, towers, the Limes road, artificial barriers and immediately associated civil structures.’  
(Koblenz declaration 2004)

0 400 800 1200 1600 2000 km

# History of FRE - DL

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1. Originally National (HU, SK) and Bi-National approach (AT/DE)
2. After Thematic Study/Nomination Strategy: Transnational Nomination (AT/DE/HU/SK)
3. Submission January 2018
4. Evaluation autumn 2018
5. ICOMOS recommendation for inscription spring 2019
6. However, withdrawal of one Component Part (Governor's Palace Budapest) by HU
7. Summer 2019 (Baku): WHC: Referral
8. ICOMOS Special Mission autumn 2019
9. "OUV of the series not affected" (ICOMOS Recommendation January 2020)
10. 2020: CORONA .....



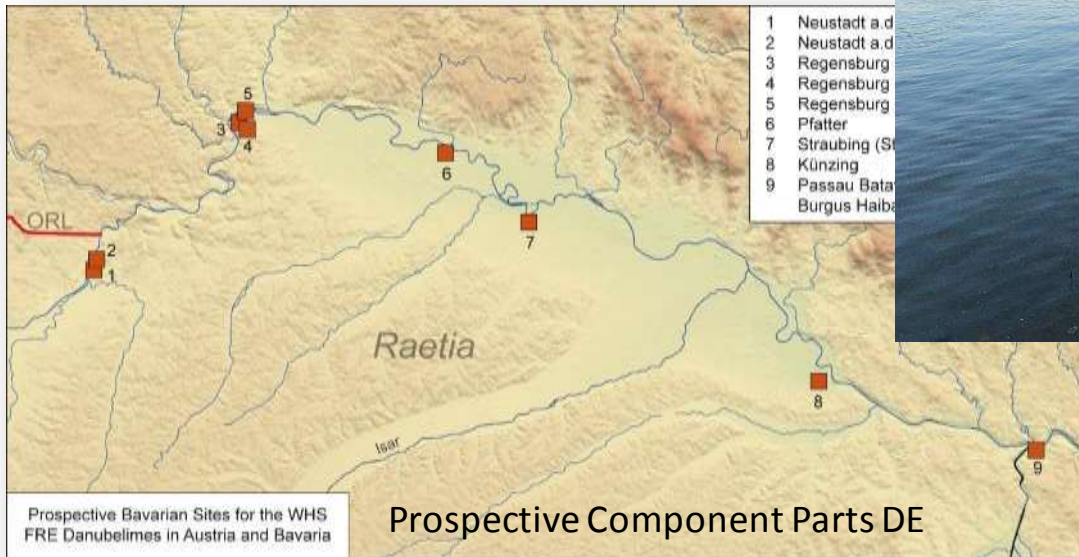
# FRE – DL (western segment): Specifics



1. Riverine frontier – “wet” natural barrier

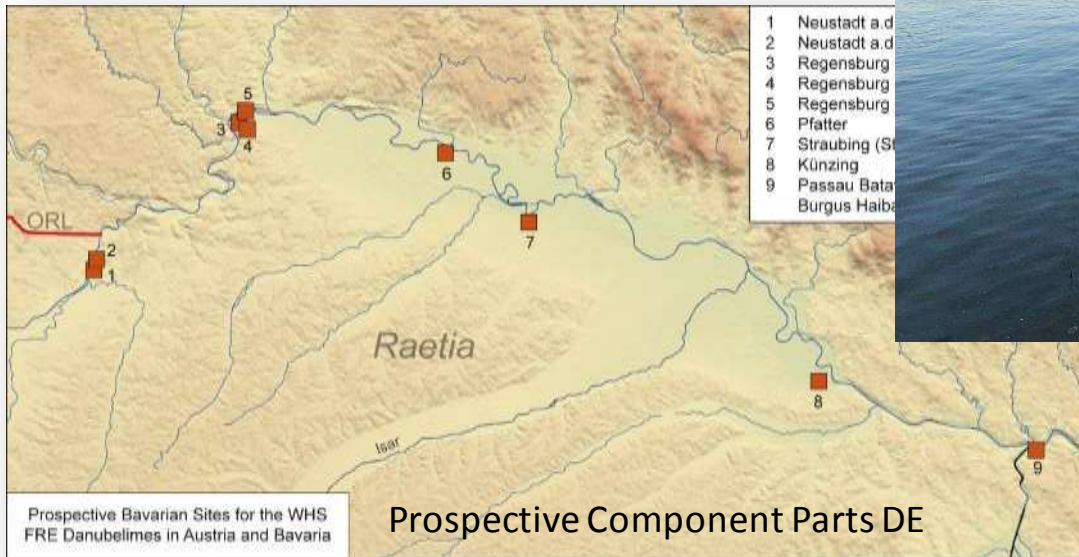
# FRE – DL (western segment): Specifics

Danube at Százhalombatta, HU



1. Riverine frontier – “wet” natural barrier
2. Military installations like “pearls on a string”

# FRE – DL (western segment): Specifics



1. Riverine frontier – “wet” natural barrier
2. Military installations like “pearls on a string”
3. Strong connection to Imperial history

# FRE – DL (western segment): Specifics

Danube at Százhalombatta, HU

Late Roman fort Mautern, AT



Marching camps, Marcommanic Wars, Iža, SK



Prospective Bavarian Sites for the WHS  
FRE Danubelimes in Austria and Bavaria

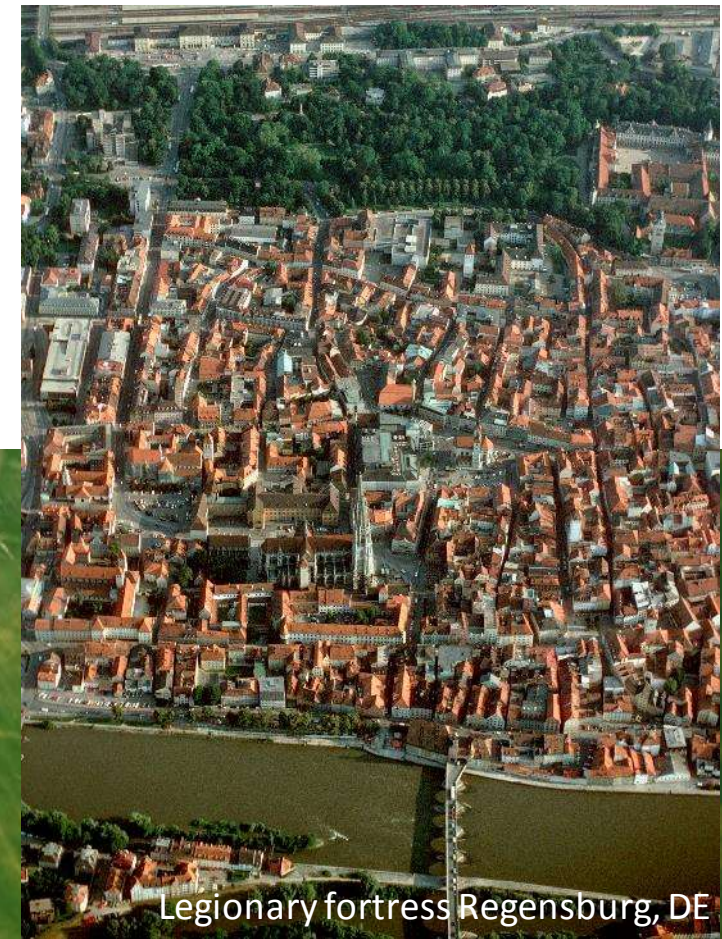
Prospective Component Parts DE

1. Riverine frontier – “wet” natural barrier
2. Military installations like “pearls on a string”
3. Strong connection to Imperial history
4. Late Roman component, partially still standing high

# FRE – DL (western segment): Specifics

Danube at Százhalombatta, HU

Late Roman fort Mautern, AT



Prospective Bavarian Sites for the WHS  
FRE Danubelimes in Austria and Bavaria

Prospective Component Parts DE

1. Riverine frontier – “wet” natural barrier
2. Military installations like “pearls on a string”
3. Strong connection to Imperial history
4. Late Roman component, partially still standing high
5. Installations often nuclei for Medieval development

# The Danube Limes Eastern Sector

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SILVA SABKOVA (BG)

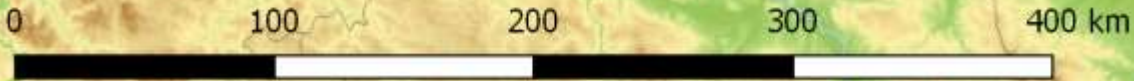
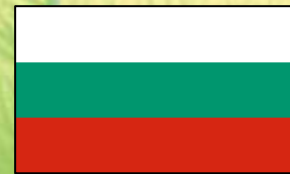
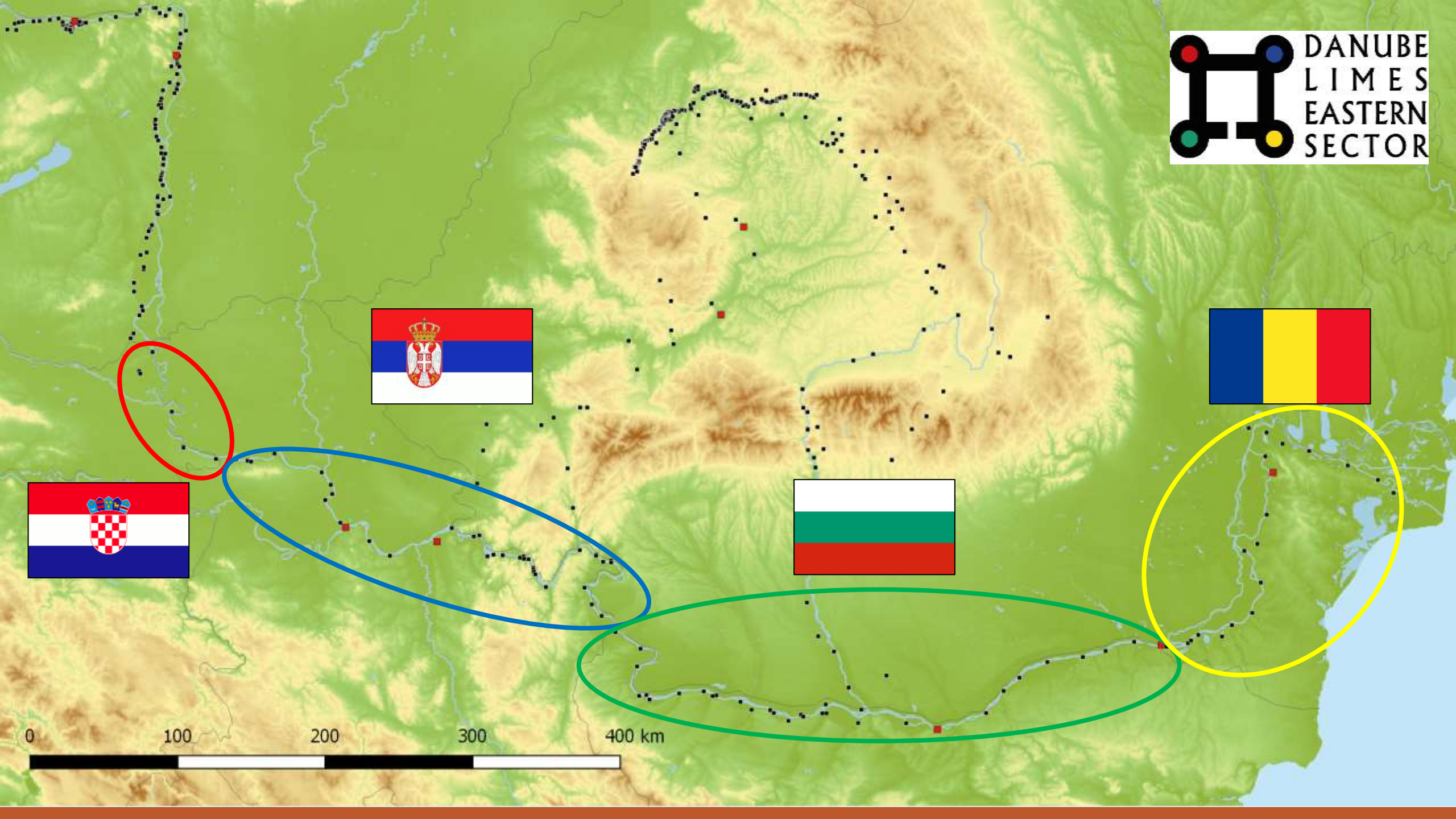


DANUBE  
LIMES  
EASTERN  
SECTOR





DANUBE  
LIMES  
EASTERN  
SECTOR







Diana, Karataš, Serbia



Transmarisca, Tutrakan, Bulgaria



Dinogetia, Gărvan, Romania



Smorna, Boljetin, Serbia



Durostorum, Silistra, Bulgaria



Capidava, Capidava, Romania

# The Lower Danube: the Byzantine component



Troesmis, Turcoaia, Romania



Novae, Svishtov, Bulgaria

## The Lower Danube: archaeological landscapes



Present state of the nomination process:

*MEETING, DISCUSSING, PLANNING.*

*WRITING, WRITING, WRITING ...*

# Benefits of the joint nomination

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1. Improved communication and increased authority:
  - Limes Commissions
  - Involvement of more institutions
2. Quality of the nomination:
  - Collegial help, sharing know-how and expertise
  - Friendly competition as a boost for greater effectiveness
3. Benefits for the sites:
  - More research, protection, management, maintenance
  - Tourism: FRE Pilgrimage



# The *limes* of Dacia

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FELIX MARCU (RO)

# Aims

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## **The province of Dacia, in modern Romania:**

- **Landscape**

The site extends circa 1500 km from the Danube, incorporating almost 80000 km<sup>2</sup>. The Romans used many of the area's topographic features to their advantage, resulting in a mixed system of frontiers. The Carpathians seem to be left out of the province, the limes being established on their inner edge, except of the Gold mining area. Due to the distances and, therefore, the different landscape features we can distinguish different types of frontiers, which is unique for one province and a important contribution to the OUV.

- **History**

Dacia, created due to strategic reasons, was conquered after the two Dacian Wars of Trajan (101-102 / 105-106 p.Chr.) and immediately transformed into province, in existence until c. 270 p.Chr. The complex defensive system in Dacia was established in steps, first the roads and the forts.

# Aims

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- **Military installations and associated features**

The structure of the limes is a complex system of towers, segments of turf rampart and walls, fortlets, the forts behind the limes basically at about 5 km away, and the civil settlements. So far, we know of more than 100 forts, 50 fortlets and more than 150 towers.

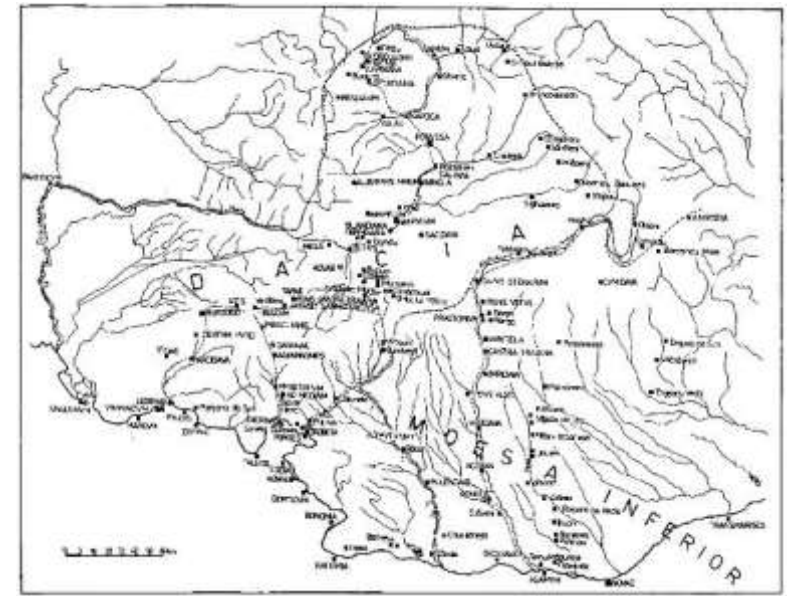
- **Surviving remains, and their integrity and authenticity**

All of the sites, except few of them, are beneath the soil surface, consequently in a very good state of authenticity and integrity. Most of them are visible features in the field or in the non-invasive measurements. Due to the rather short Roman occupation, the aspect of the Roman structures in Dacia remained more or less unchanged in terms of the internal planning. Plus, topographically, the limes is partially protected, almost no strip of it running through urban areas, resulting in very few areas overlapped by modern structures.

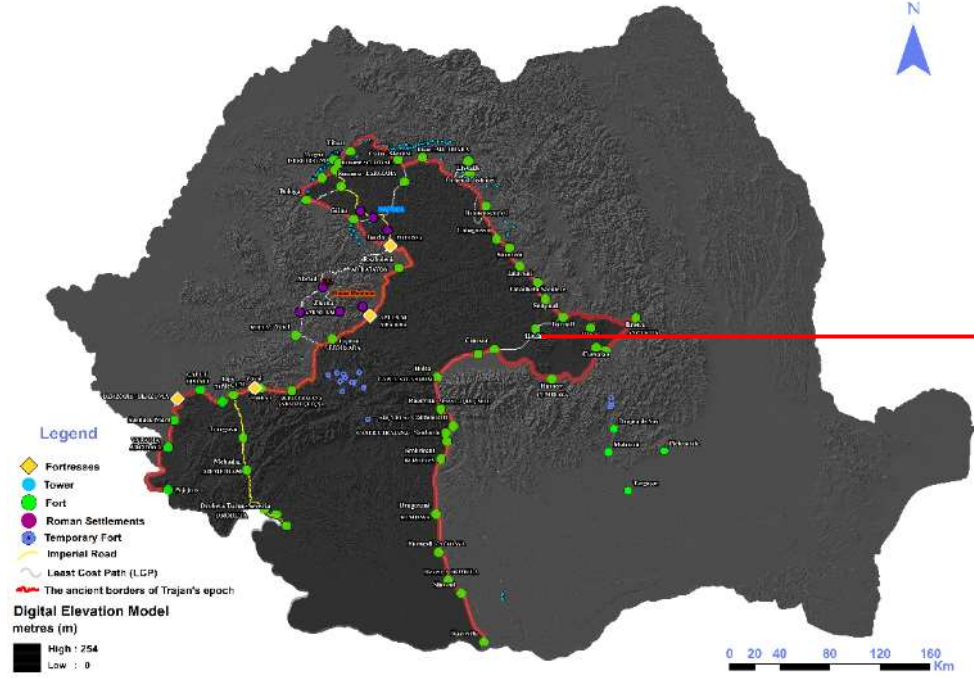
The research of the *limes* in Romania has started in late 19<sup>th</sup> C, extensively if compared with other sites after 2<sup>nd</sup> WW, but we still had a lot of lacunae, especially in respects of topography and mapping.

The LIMES national program was initiated in 2014 in the common effort to promote FRE. The main objective is to prepare the documentation for UNESCO Tentative List.

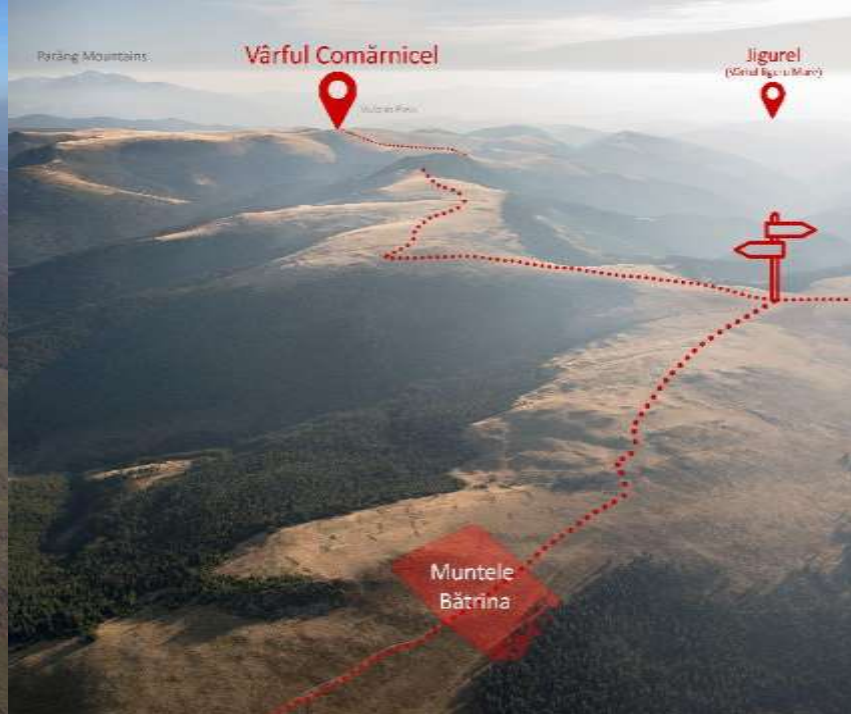
“... The first step was to prepare an inventory of existing remains which might require new non-intrusive archaeological investigation and includes determining the state of surviving remains in contexts...” (“Vienna Declaration” 5.11.2008)

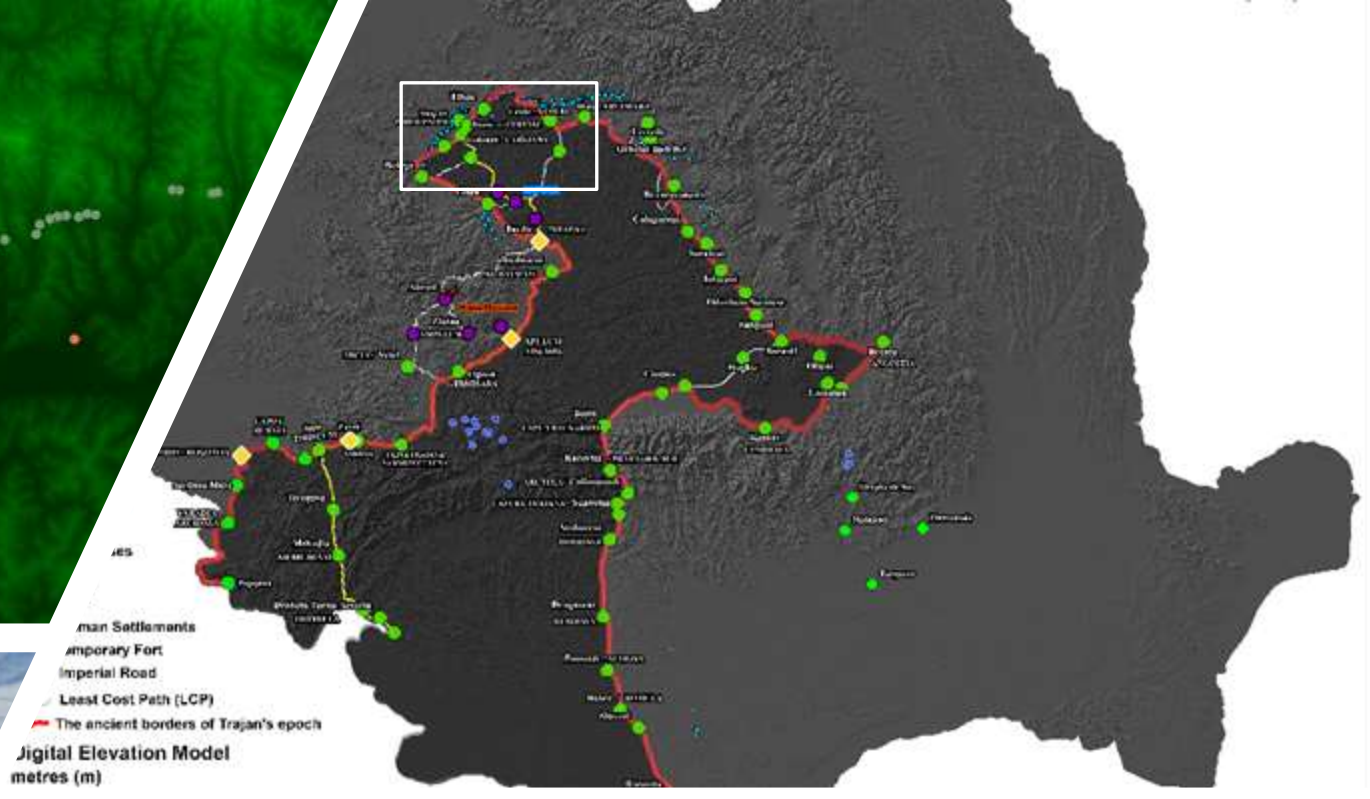
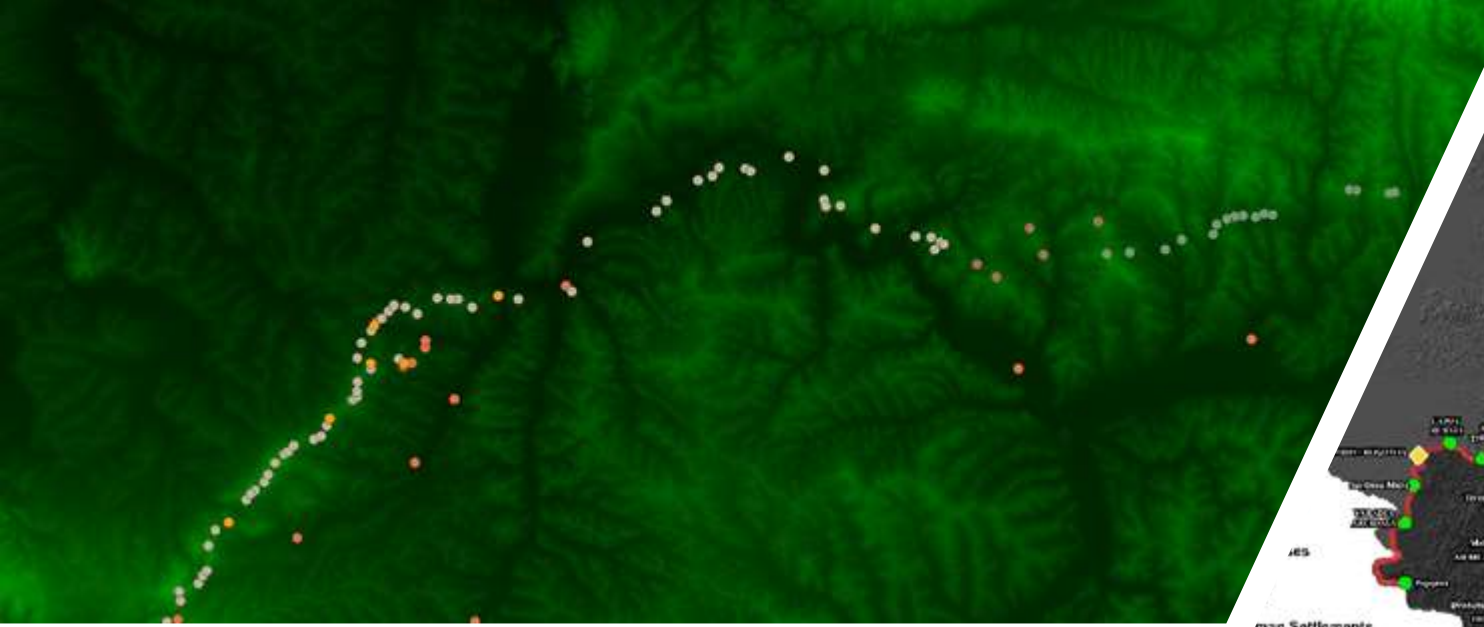


**“WorkingGroup”**









Les frontières de l'Empire romain en Afrique du Nord

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MUSTAPHA KHANOUSI (TN)

# Remerciements

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Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Centre du patrimoine mondial et la Délégation permanente de l'Autriche auprès de l'UNESCO pour l'organisation de cette conférence informelle sur les **Frontières de l'Empire Romain** qui vient relancer un projet fédérateur.

Je voudrais également complimenter la Délégation permanente de l'Autriche auprès de l'UNESCO pour cette initiative qui contribue de manière concrète au renforcement de la coopération multilatérale dans le domaine de la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel.

# Précision

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Je voudrais aussi préciser que l'appellation « Afrique du Nord » est à prendre dans sa signification géographique stricte, et que le titre « **frontières de l'Empire romain en Afrique du Nord** » est proposé uniquement à titre indicatif, dans l'attente de sa validation ou sa modification après un débat entre spécialistes.



L'Afrique du Nord est la région géographique qui comprend les quatre États qui sont d'Est en Ouest : la Libye, la Tunisie, l'Algérie et le Maroc

# Introduction

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1. La domination romaine en Afrique du Nord a commencé en 146 avant J.-C. après la prise et la destruction de Carthage punique par les armées romaines. Elle a pris fin en 439 après J.-C. avec la prise de Carthage par les Vandales. Cette domination n'a pas eu partout la même durée. Selon les provinces, la durée a été entre deux siècles et demi et plus de cinq siècles et demi.
2. En plus d'un riche patrimoine civil, cette domination a laissé **un patrimoine militaire riche et varié** dont les vestiges s'étalent le long des frontières méridionales des provinces, sur une bande territoriale plus ou moins large, et longue de plus de 3500 km.

À la fin du 2<sup>e</sup> siècle après J.-C., l'Afrique du Nord était divisée en **quatre provinces romaines**. Ce sont d'Est en Ouest:

- la **Cyrénaïque** qui appartenait à la partie hellénophone de l'Empire romain et dont la capitale était Cyrène/Shehhat en Libye,
- l'**Afrique proconsulaire** avec comme capitale Carthage en Tunisie,
- la **Maurétanie Césarienne** avec Caesarea/Cherchell en Algérie comme capitale
- et la **Maurétanie Tingitane** avec Tingi/Tanger au Maroc comme capitale

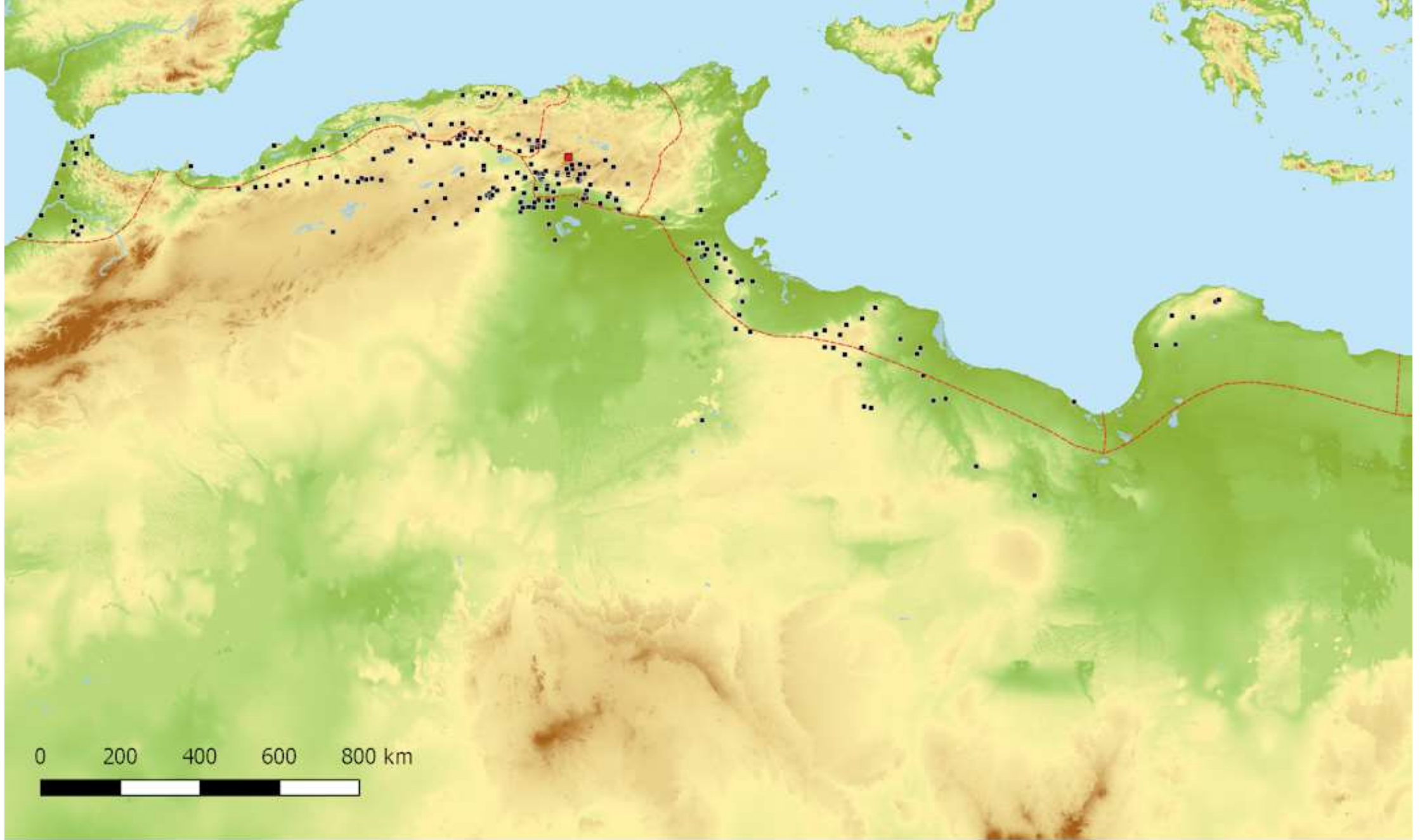




# Description

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Contrairement à une opinion encore largement répandue, les “*frontières de l’Empire romain*” dans les provinces africaines ne correspondaient pas à une frontière linéaire, ni à une barrière infranchissable. On a en fait affaire à des « frontières » plutôt poreuses et discontinues qui constituaient une « région militaire » formant une très longue bande de terrain “bi-dimensionnelle”.



Les composantes des frontières de l'Empire romain en Afrique du Nord

# Les composantes du système défensif des frontières

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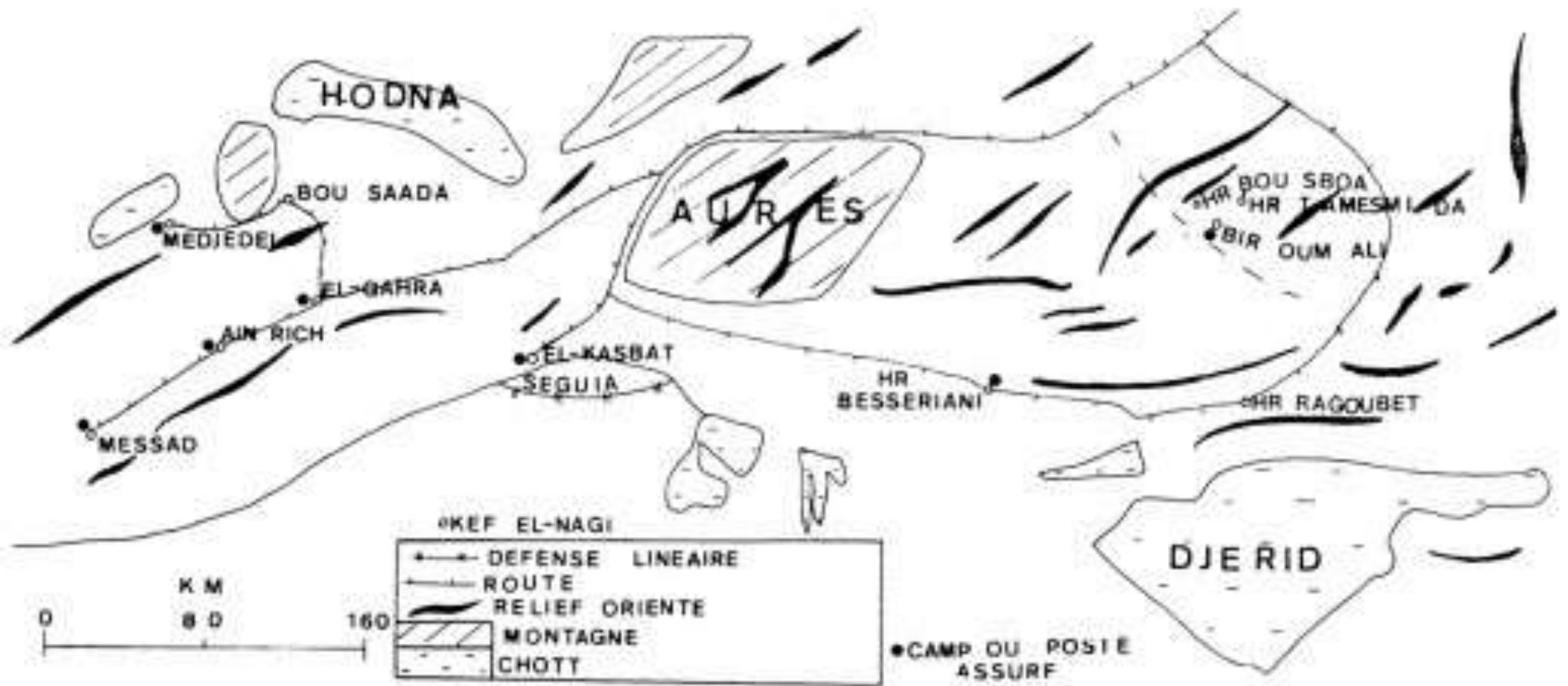
Le dispositif défensif des frontières a été mis en place de manière progressive et a évolué dans le temps. Il était composé principalement :

- de voies stratégiques,
- d'ouvrages de défense linéaires creusés (fossés-limite ou fossés-frontière),
- d'ouvrages de défense linéaires construits (murailles avec leurs tours de guet),
- de camps, de forts, de fortins,
- et d'avant-postes.

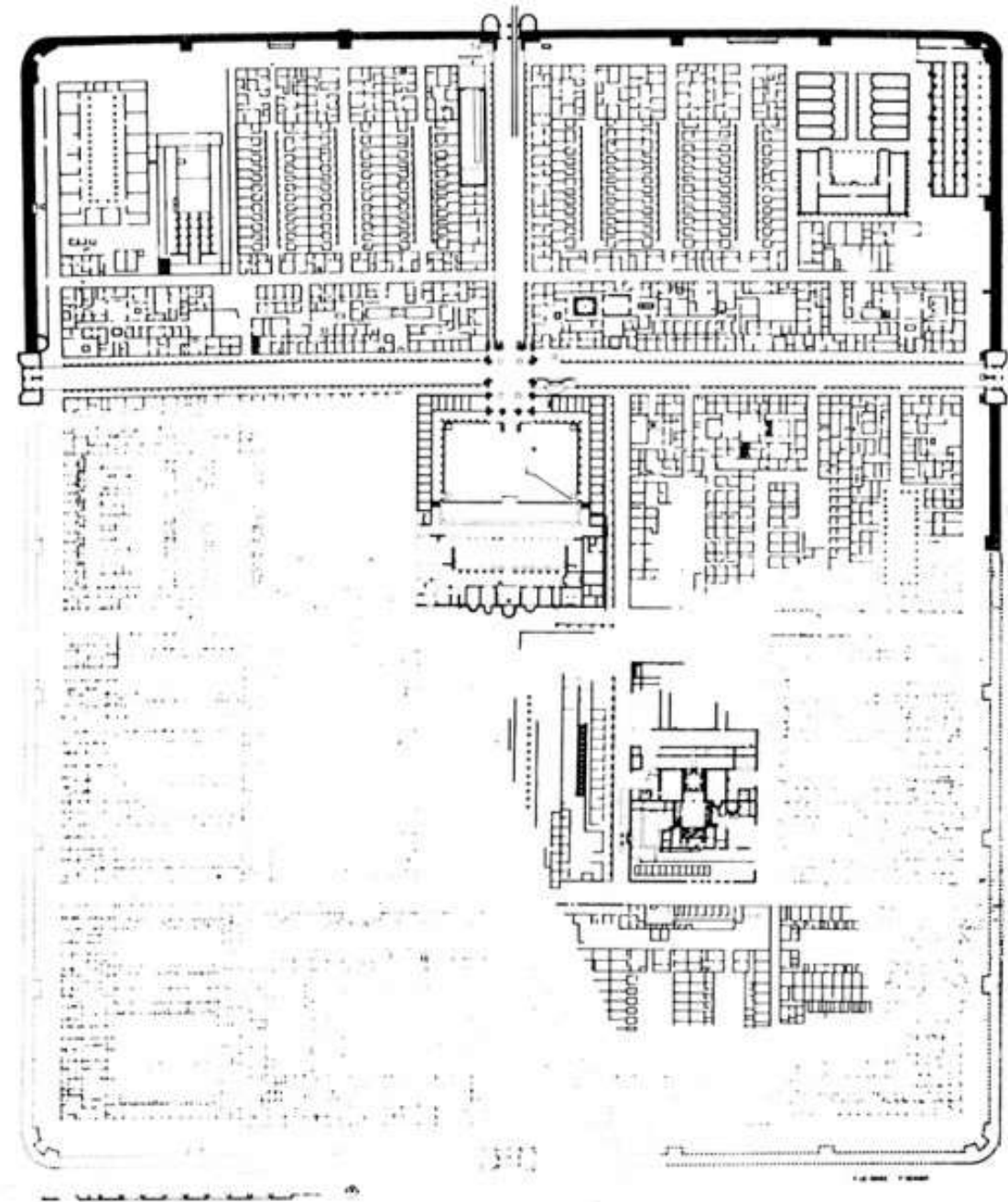
Les nombreux vestiges archéologiques de ce dispositif qui sont conservés jusqu'à aujourd'hui sont pour la plupart dans un état de conservation relativement satisfaisant.



mur (*clausura*) de Bir Om Ali - Tunisie



Les ouvrages de défense linéaires en Numidie - Algérie

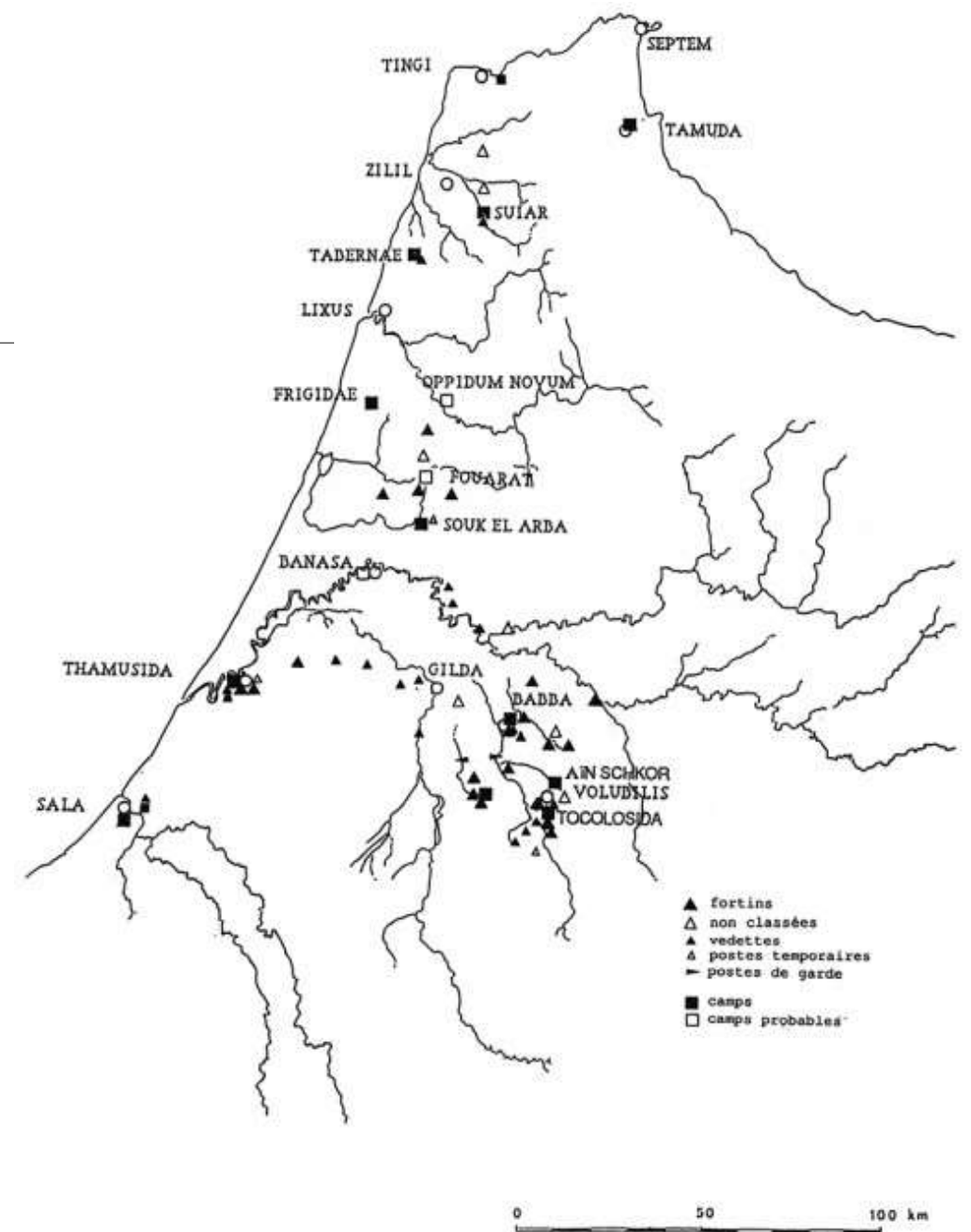
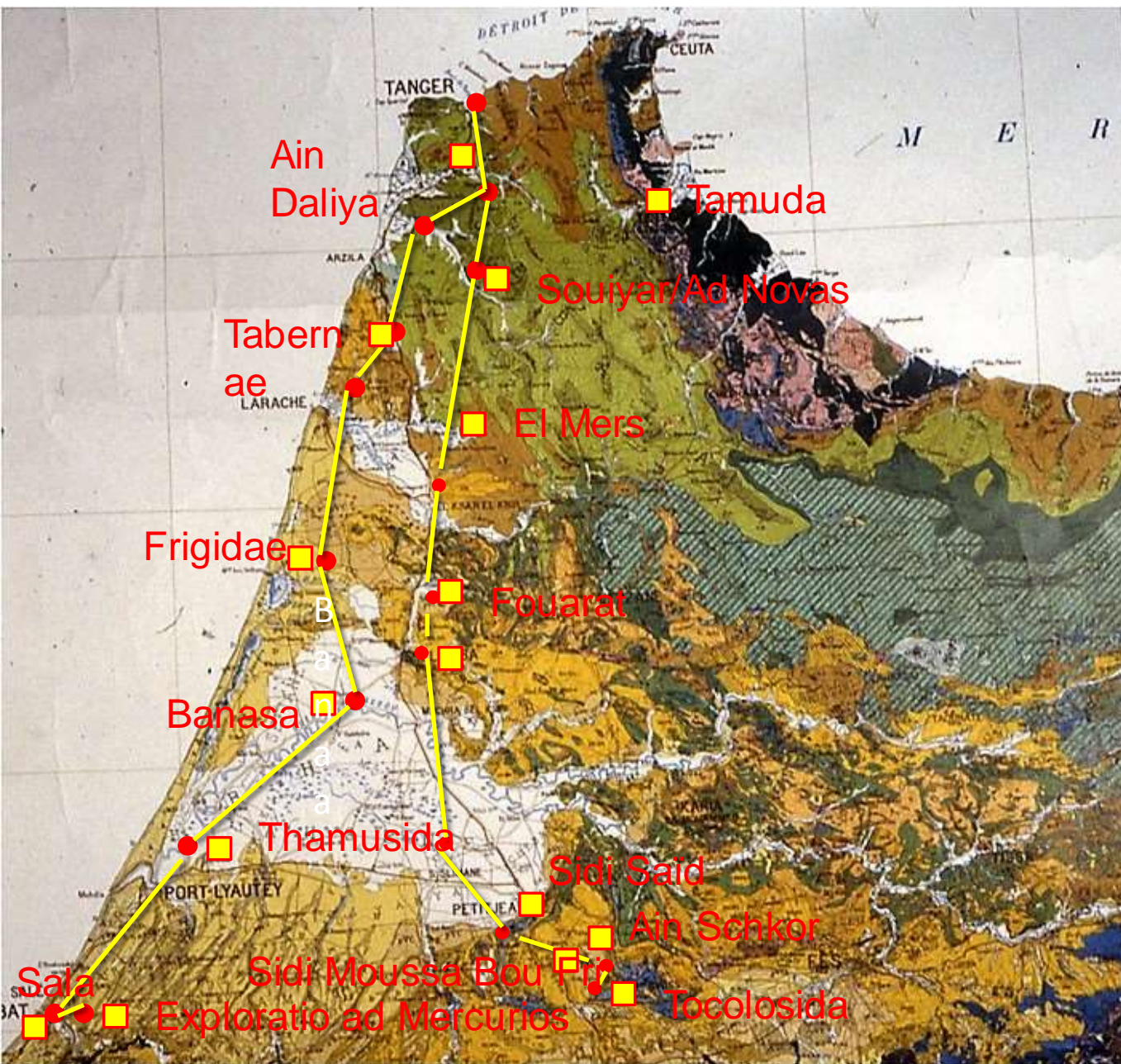


Plan du camp légionnaire et arc à quatre faces de *Lambaesis*/ Lambèse/ Tazoult-Algérie

# Une bonne connaissance scientifique

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Dans les quatre pays et depuis un peu plus d'un siècle et demi, les ouvrages du dispositif militaire des frontières méridionales des provinces romaines en Afrique du Nord ont été l'objet de recherches et d'études qui ont permis leur bonne connaissance qui est illustrée par une bibliographie abondante et une documentation satisfaisante.

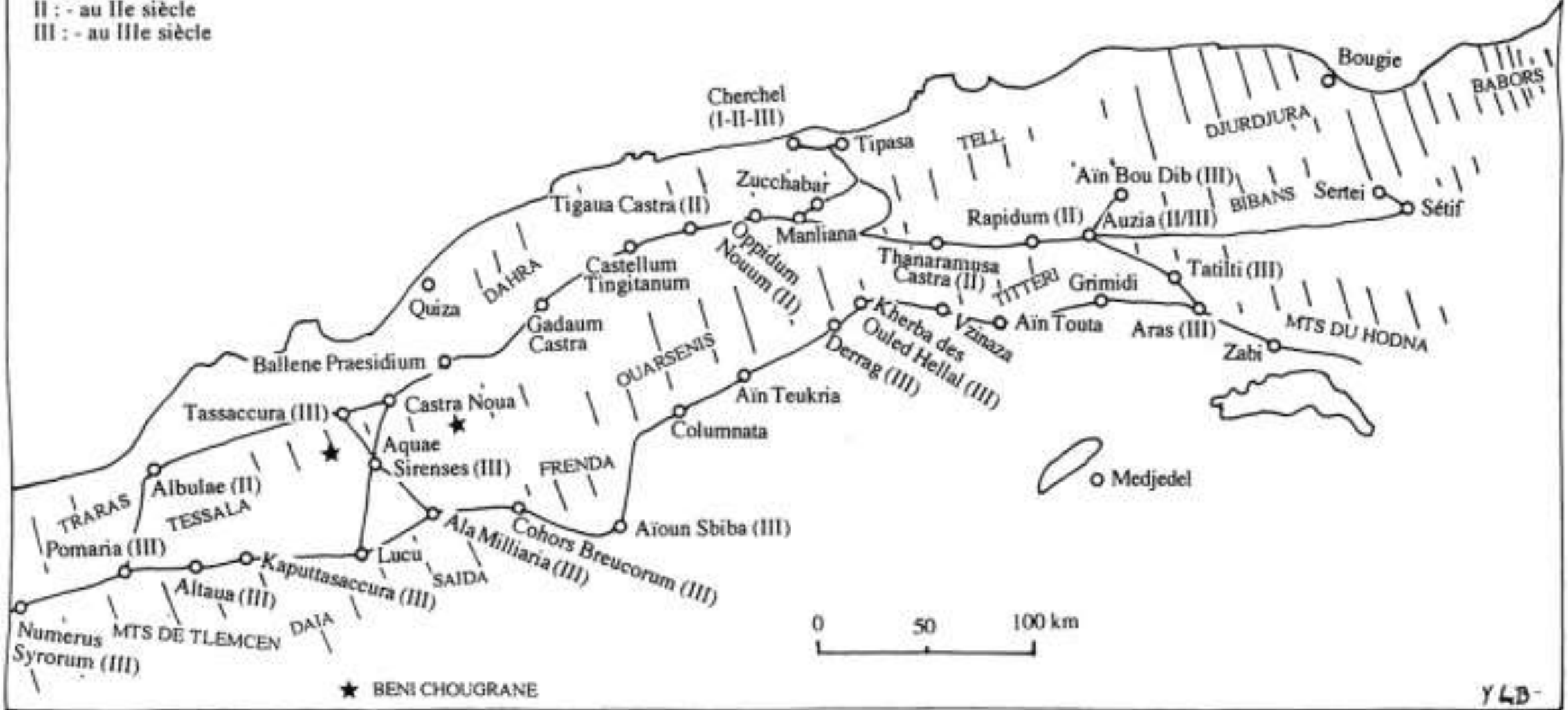


Le *limes* de Maurétanie Tingitane - Maroc



**LES SYSTÈMES DÉFENSIFS  
EN MAURÉTANIE CÉSARIENNE  
sous le Haut-Empire**

I : Présence militaire au Ier siècle  
II : - au IIe siècle  
III : - au IIIe siècle



Le système défensif de Maurétanie Césarienne - Algérie



# Une protection juridique satisfaisante

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Dans les quatre États parties, la législation actuellement en vigueur et qui a commencé à être mise en place depuis le 19e siècle, assure une protection juridique à un grand nombre d'éléments composant les **frontières de l'Empire romain** sur leurs territoires. Cette protection peut être aisément étendue aux autres éléments qui n'en bénéficient pas encore aujourd'hui.

# Une conservation à renforcer

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Si des éléments du dispositif militaire des frontières méridionales des provinces africaines de l'Empire romain ont disparu aujourd'hui, leur nombre reste limité en comparaison avec celui des éléments conservés. Un grand nombre de ces derniers ne bénéficie pas toutefois d'une conservation adéquate, ni d'une gestion efficiente en raison de leur éloignement des centres habités et des représentations régionales des administrations en charge du patrimoine archéologique. Il est donc vivement recommandé d'améliorer la protection physique de ces composantes et de renforcer leur conservation.



Le camp romain de *Tisavar* / Gsar Ghilène, protégé juridiquement en janvier 2021

# Une valorisation à développer

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La valorisation du patrimoine archéologique selon les standards internationaux demeure à ce jour négligée et connaît un grand retard dans les quatre pays. Aussi est-il urgent de remédier à la situation et d'adopter une stratégie régionale ou du moins nationale pour rattraper ce retard avec la mise en œuvre de projets ambitieux dans le cadre de la coopération multi ou bilatérale.

# L'apport des nouvelles technologies

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L'apport des nouvelles technologies dans le domaine du patrimoine archéologique est inestimable et très prometteur. Il s'étend à des domaines nombreux et divers qui vont de:

- la prospection
- et l'identification,
- à la valorisation
- et la médiation,
- en passant par la documentation,
- la restauration
- et l'archivage.

# Une inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel qui tarde

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Des quatre segments des frontières de l'Empire romain en Afrique du Nord, seul celui situé en Tunisie est inscrit sur la Liste indicative depuis 2012.

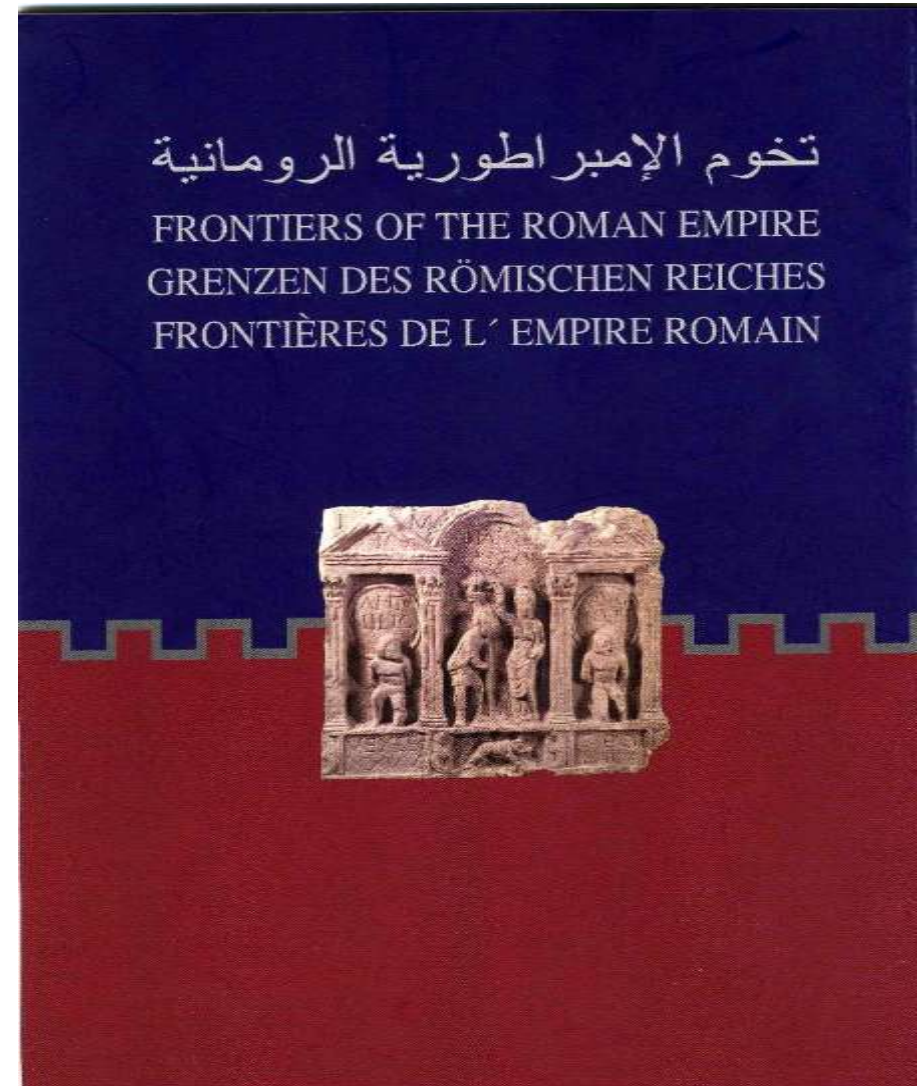


# Propositions

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- encourager les États parties dans la région arabe qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à **inscrire le segment situé sur leur territoire sur leur Liste indicative du patrimoine mondial** le plus rapidement possible;
- demander à ICOMOS de réaliser dès que possible une **étude thématique** sur les frontières de l'Empire romain dans la région **Afrique du Nord et Moyen-Orient (MENA)**;
- appeler à la **constitution d'un comité scientifique maghrébin d'orientation et de conseil pour l'inscription des FERAN** sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel;
- engager un projet de coopération internationale ou bilatérale d'actualisation de la connaissance et de la documentation grâce aux nouvelles technologies
- inviter les États parties concernés à saisir l'occasion pour la **préparation d'un dossier conjoint de proposition d'inscription** des « frontières de l'Empire romain en Afrique du Nord » sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Ce qui sera une première dans la région arabe pour le patrimoine mondial tangible.

# Merci de votre attention





# The Middle East Frontier

FAWZI ABUDANAH (JO) & MARK DRIESSEN (NL)



# The Middle East Frontier - Strengths

1. More or Less Complete Preservation - Iconic Monuments - Outstanding Universal Value
  - for both the structures themselves and associated features
  - for the integration in ancient/current landscape
2. Remoteness, resulting in limited overbuilding throughout time



# The Middle East Frontier - Weaknesses

The background of the slide is a collage of four photographs showing ancient ruins in a desert. The top-left photo shows a large stone building with an arched doorway and several windows, surrounded by rubble. The top-right photo shows a long, low stone wall stretching across a vast, flat desert landscape. The bottom-left photo shows a close-up of a stone wall with a small archway. The bottom-right photo shows a stone wall with a small archway, with two people standing on top of it for scale.

1. More or Less Complete Preservation - Iconic Monuments
  - complicated/expensive maintenance
2. Remoteness, resulting in limited overbuilding throughout time
  - complicated/expensive maintenance and guarding/stewardship
3. Antagonist/different politico-religious regimes / visions

# The Middle East Frontier - Opportunities

Archaeology &  
Heritage Management

Sustainable Tourism

Local Community  
Development

Multi Stakeholders & Sustainable Approach  
Citizen Science

# The Middle East Frontier - Opportunities

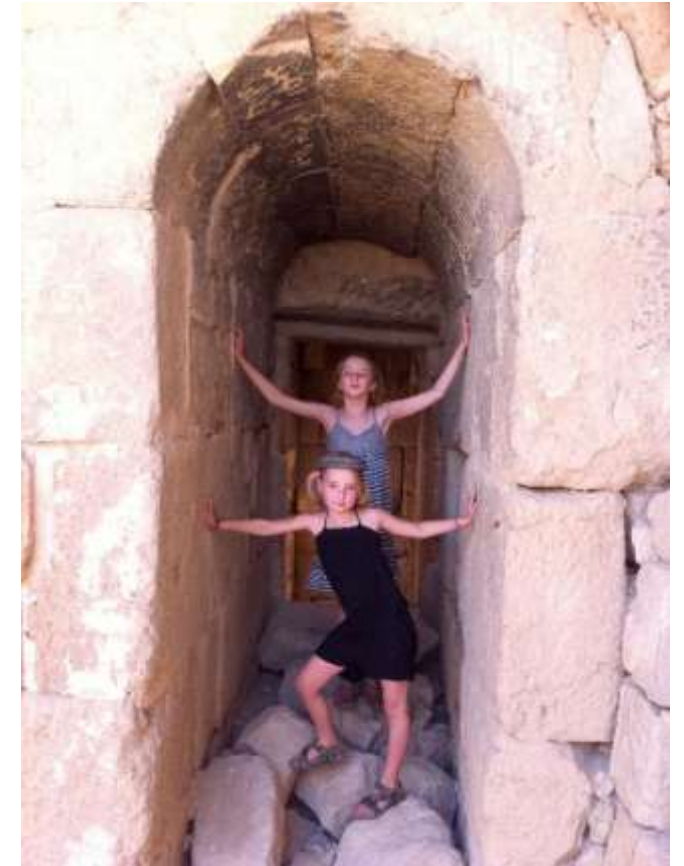


## Sustainable Tourism

### Example Petra / Wadi Musa (Jordan)

Functional value archaeological heritage

- “Cash cow” Jordan
- 1000’s visitors/day
- Wishes → Dispersion of visitors
  - Longer stay
  - Regional archeo-touristic experience (satellite sites)
  - Sustainable community-based tourism
- 5 Iconic Roman Frontier Sites < 1 hour drive: Udhruf, as-Sadaqa, Humayma, Da`janiya and Bir Madkhur





# The Middle East Frontier - Opportunities

## Local Community Development Water Management – ‘Learning from the Past’

Access to fresh water is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Apply the gained knowledge on the ancient agro-hydrological systems – in close cooperation with the local community – for future planning of sustainable agricultural and water management solutions.



# The Middle East Frontier – Threats/Problems



- a) Looting / Treasure Hunting
- b) Ignorance / Lack of Interest
- c) Improper Conservation
- d) Iconoclasm / Deliberate Destruction



# Bratislava Group

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REBECCA JONES (UK)

# Purpose of Bratislava Group

(created in 2003, named after where first met)

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## Membership

Core membership: Experts in the history and archaeology of the Roman Frontiers and those involved in its management.

Linked to IGC for developing new applications.

## Purpose

- To share knowledge and experience of Roman Frontiers and their identification, protection, conservation, management and presentation → common viewpoint.
- Through technical and professional advice provide the scientific framework for the whole WH property
- To support States Parties in the creation of the FRE WH property:
  - Advising States Parties on the significance of Roman Frontiers and the development of best practice for their management and improved understanding.
  - Developing support structures for research.

Meetings when required.  
Expert advisors to FRE  
WH property.  
Recognised by WH  
Committee.

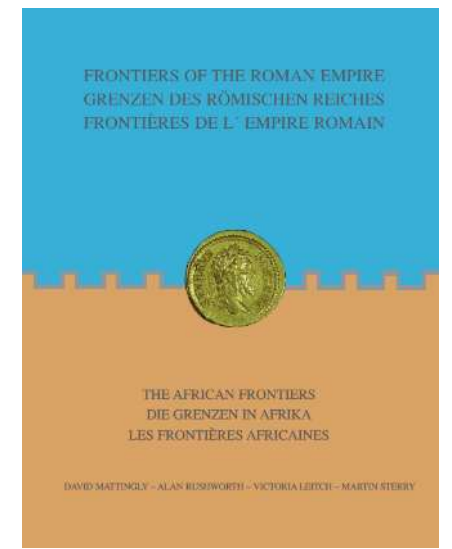
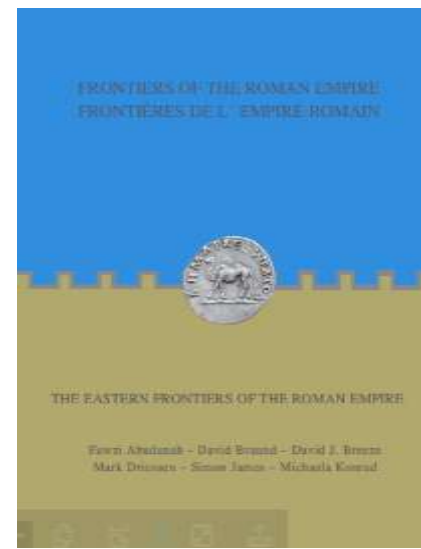
BRATISLAVA GROUP MEETINGS  
UNESCO IN PARIS 2006  
BUDAPEST IN 2017





FRE booklet series

LIMES



Available for download:

[www.univie.ac.at/limes/html/resources.php](http://www.univie.ac.at/limes/html/resources.php)

Multi-language series of books on Roman Frontiers  
Background to FRE World Heritage

# THE FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

A THEMATIC STUDY AND PROPOSED  
WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION STRATEGY

RENÉ PLOYER, MARINUS POLAK  
& RICARDA SCHMIDT

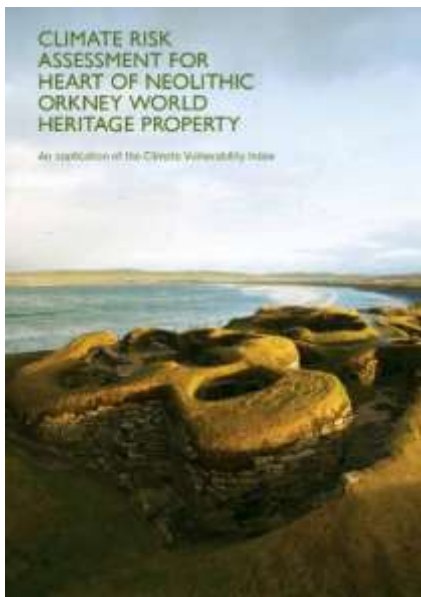
## Areas for collaboration include:

- Definition of WH property
- Site protection
- Support for Tentative Lists
- Thematic Study and Nomination Strategy



Future areas for collaboration include:

- Definitions
- Shared research priorities
- Management challenges, for example: Climate Change and Climate Vulnerability



LIMES CONGRESSES:  
2022 NETHERLANDS  
<https://limes2022.org/>

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS:  
<https://cvi-heritage.org/>  
<https://cvi-africa.org/>



# Hexham Group

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PATRICIA WEEKS (UK)

# Agreed Terms of Reference

(as set out in April 2010)

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## Membership

Core membership: managers of the currently inscribed sections of the FRE WHS and those working on inscription (as observers / to learn).

Observer status: members of the IGC and other interested parties from the FRE WHS.

## Purpose

- Advising the IGC and the States Parties on relevant policy and management practice including: protection & conservation; site and landscape management; visitor access and management; interpretation and education; community engagement; tourism and marketing.
- Developing and sharing best management practices as required by UNESCO: Periodic Reporting; Monitoring Indicators; Statements of Significance / Attributes; and all other required areas.
- Seeking funding and developing partnerships to deliver trans-national projects
- Providing information and support to States Parties seeking inscription

Annual meetings.  
Best practice site visits.  
Peer-to-peer learning.



HEXHAM GROUP MEETINGS  
ON HADRIAN'S WALL,  
THE GERMAN LIMES AND  
THE ANTONINE WALL





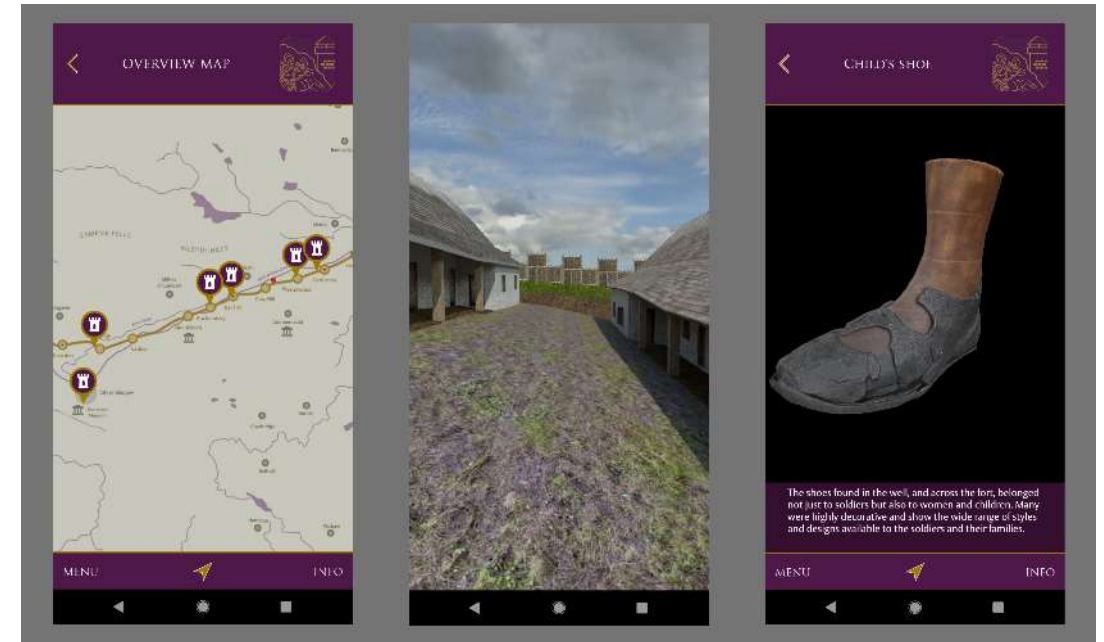
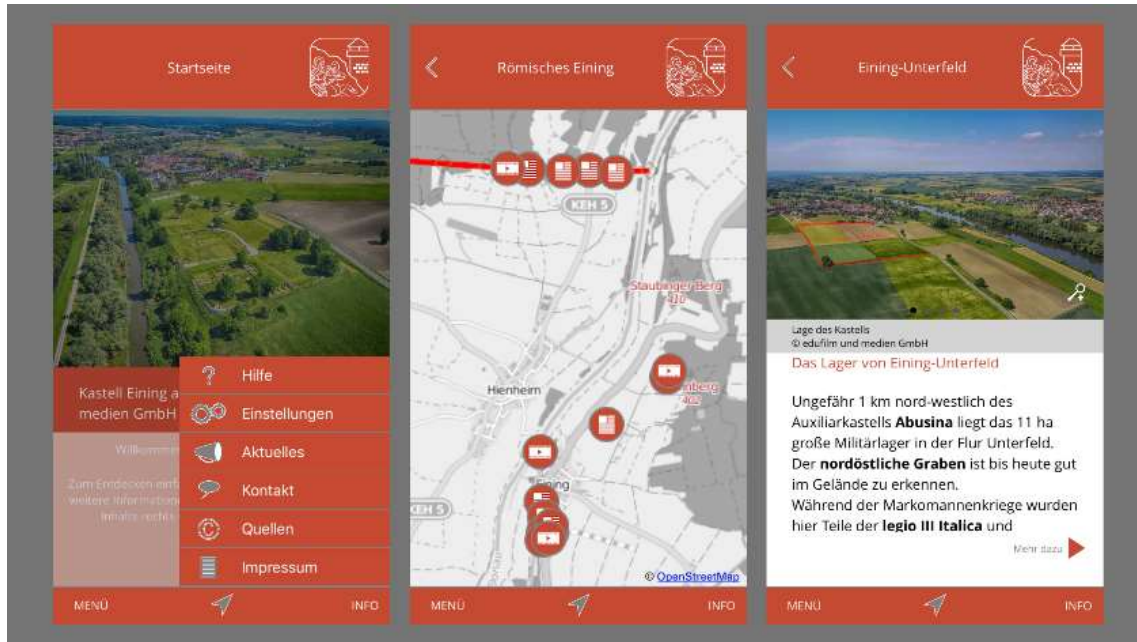
A common area for all site managers to meet, to share information, to plan and to collaborate.



HEXHAM GROUP MEETINGS  
IN SCOTLAND AND GERMANY



Assisting with development plans, providing advice, sharing experience  
Advising on the interpretation planning for the Austrian and Hungarian sites




Opportunities for trans-national collaborative projects and  
funding applications for the FRE WHS

Advanced Limes Application project (ALApp), funded by creative Europe

# The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE) – A transnational and transcontinental project

Informal Conference

Online meeting – 11.02.2021

 Permanent Delegation  
of Austria to  
UNESCO in Paris

 **B D A** BUNDES DENKMALAMT

With the support of  
the World Heritage Centre  
ICOMOS International and  
Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)