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## **The Archaeological Project Guadalupe: Excavations in Honduras 2017-2018**

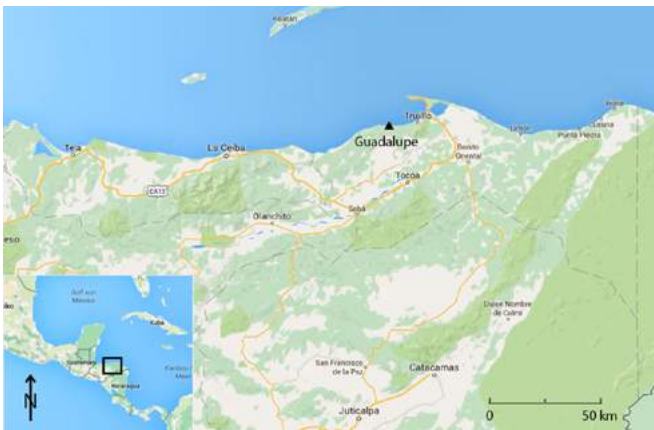
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# The Archaeological Project Guadalupe – Excavations in Honduras 2017–2018



1 Map of Honduras (Franziska Fecher, Universität Zürich).

*Where Columbus encountered terra firma in the Americas for the first time in 1502, is where the Archaeological Project Guadalupe (PAG) is undertaking investigations in order to find out more about the people who lived in this region before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors. Excavations are carried out in the Cocal-period settlement Guadalupe on the Honduran northeast coast.*

*Franziska Fecher, Markus Reindel (DAI), Peter Fux (MRZ)*

Northeast Honduras is not just playing a special role in history, it is also particularly interesting in an archaeological perspective. The region represents a zone of transition between the culture areas of Mesoamerica and the Isthmo-Colombian Area. Nonetheless, only a few research projects have been carried out so far, and little is known about its pre-Hispanic inhabitants. Since 2016, the PAG is contributing to the knowledge on cultural developments in northeast Honduras by addressing basic research questions.



2 Drying ceramics in Guadalupe (Markus Reindel, KAAK).

The PAG is directed by Markus Reindel (German Archaeological Institute) and Peter Fux (University of Zurich / Museum Rietberg), and funded by the Swiss-Liechtenstein Foundation for Archaeological Research Abroad (SLSA). Further project partners are the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia and the National University of Honduras.

The investigations focus on the settlement of Guadalupe, located on the Honduran Atlantic coast. In 2017 and 2018, field seasons of 11 weeks respectively were carried out. The international team was formed by students



3 The Guadalupe team 2017 (Markus Reindel, KAAK).



4 Zoomorphic ceramic applications (Marcel Müller, Universität Bonn).

from Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Honduras. The excavations showed that the settlement dates to the so-called Cocal phase (c. AD 1000–1525), the eventful period between the decline of the Classic Maya culture and the arrival of the Spaniards. Moreover, the excavations uncovered an extraordinary amount of artifacts, including mollusks, animal bones, obsidian blades, jade beads, metal objects, and ceramics. The latter represent by far the largest category of finds. Ceramics are decorated with incisions and appliqué, which are executed in the form of animals and stylized human heads. The

diverse findings allow to reconstruct subsistence, economic strategies and relations to neighboring areas. The preliminary results also show that the region has a great potential for future research.

We would like to thank the staff and all the project partners for the great collaboration!

#### Bibliography

- Reports of the Archaeological Project Guadalupe in the SLSA annual reports 2016, 2017, 2018  
> <http://www.slsa.ch/publikationen>