

**-1-**

**Prehistoric shell middens, seascapes and landscapes at  
Lake Siranda (Las Bela, Balochistan)  
Preliminary results of the 2011 fieldwork season**

Paolo Biagi, Alberto Girod and Renato Nisbet

**Abstract**

*The first season of archaeological surveys carried along the shores of Lake Siranda (Las Bela, Balochistan) in January 2011 has shown the presence of two prehistoric shell middens characterised by fragments of mangrove and marine shells as well as chipped stone artefacts. The shell middens were AMS dated to the middle Holocene by one single specimen of *Terebralia palustris* gastropod. Their presence indicates that mangrove environments exploited by groups of shellfish gatherers existed in the area at least since the above period, and that the present-day lake depression was in fact a shallow tidal lagoon of the Arabian Sea, the shores of which had been settled at least during part of the Neolithic.*