The purpose of the project is to study two site complexes – remains of prehistorical pastoralists living in the Egyptian Western Desert. In the period of the early stone age, Neolithic, between 7000 and 4000 B.C., the climate of today's desert was much more humid than currently. A savannah covered with vegetation came to being, where grass-eating animals lived. Along with them, people living mainly from hunting and cattle breeding appeared. Archeological research to date on these areas initiated in 1973 by the Polish-American Combined Prehistoric Expedition proved the existence of settlements made up of an array of primitive homes, along with their utility pits and wells. In the vicinity, we found cemeteries with burials which often were accompanies by rich burial gifts.

The proposed project foresees the research of the settlement complex today called Berget el Sheb and sites situated and the foot of a steep cliff from the Eocene period which was the source of stone materials necessary for life and the activities of Neolithic peoples. In both complexes, surface survey research will be conducted, allowing us to discover additional sites or their elements, as well as regular excavation. Aside from archeologists, specialists from various auxiliary scientific fields will participate, such as an anthropologist studying human remains, archeozoologist defining animal remains, archeobotanist studying plant remains and a geologist-geomorphologist who will determine the structure and resources of the cliff. All this will allow us to recreate the lifestyle of Neolithic pastoralists, their culture, economic basis, social organization, beliefs, contacts with the outside world and even the anthropological type, methods of acquiring materials for the production of tools and even diet, health level and lifespan.

The results of the study will also shed some light on the beginning of the ancient Egyptian civilization. Certain elements of the culture of prehistoric pastoralists of the Western Desert can be found in beliefs later embraced by Pharoah's Egypt. We can assume that people who were forced to leave by the return of the drought around 3500 B.C. returned permanently to the valley of the Nile and took these elements with them. Therefore, they took part in the development of one of the largest and oldest ancient civilizations.

The final effect will be a series of analytical reports, as well as synthetic articles (including popular science) in international journals with a high impact factor (e.g. from the Philapelphia list or ERIH) and will pertain to the reconstruction of the environment's paleohistory, social and cultural changes, as well as the chronostratigraphy of settlement in the region. They will make a large contribution to the knowledge of cultural development of not only the Western Desert in Egypt, but also northeast Africa and will bring this knowledge closer to the scientific community, as well as the part of world society interested in the beginnings of civilization.