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Data Report: Stone Toads of the Sacred Cenote

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Stone Toads of the Sacred Cenote

CHEI

CULTURAL HERITAGE ENGINEERING INITIATIVE



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

These data are part of the
Chichen Itza 3D Atlas project
<https://doi.org/10.34946/D6B88P>

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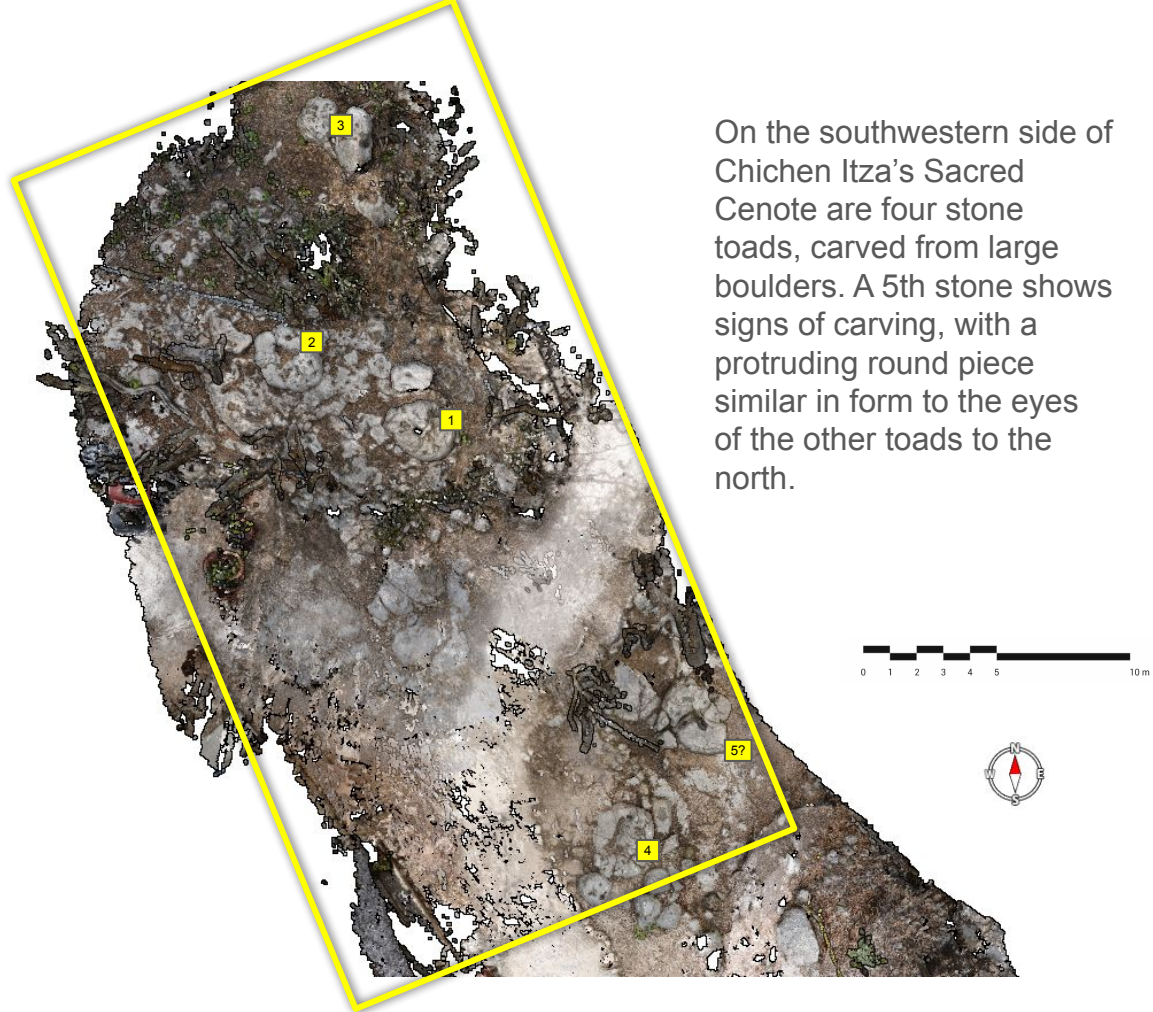
Falko Kuester



Photogrammetric models of toads 1 and 2.
Dominique Rissolo February 2023



DTM derived from 2024 LiDAR, NCALM



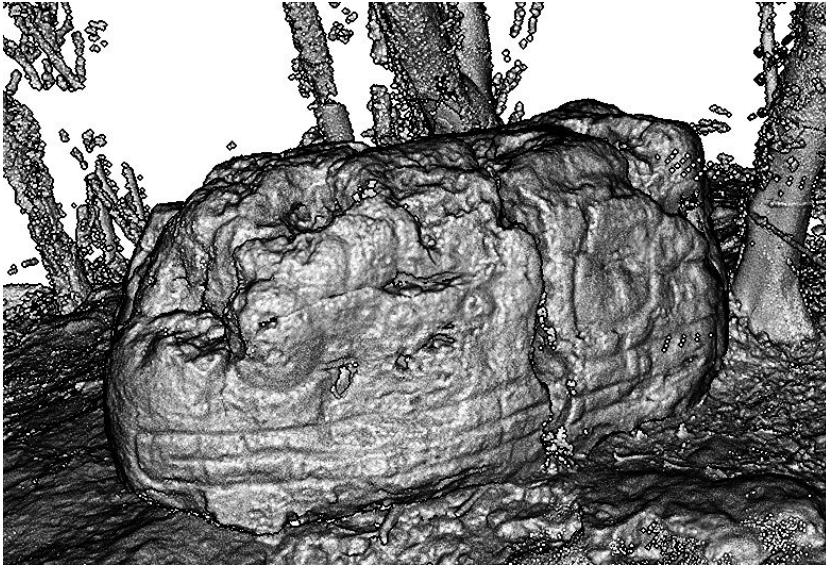
On the southwestern side of Chichen Itza's Sacred Cenote are four stone toads, carved from large boulders. A 5th stone shows signs of carving, with a protruding round piece similar in form to the eyes of the other toads to the north.

Photogrammetric drone survey by Luis Alberto Catana 2024

In 2023 and 2024 field seasons, we documented these carvings using photogrammetry and structured light scans (Artec Leo, 0.7mm avg resolution).

The toads can be difficult to identify in person, but their features are easily recognizable on digital models. As complex structures, their shapes are more easily understood when viewed in 3D.

A video showing the 3d toads in their original context is available [here](#)

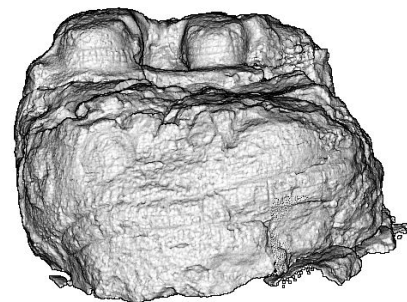
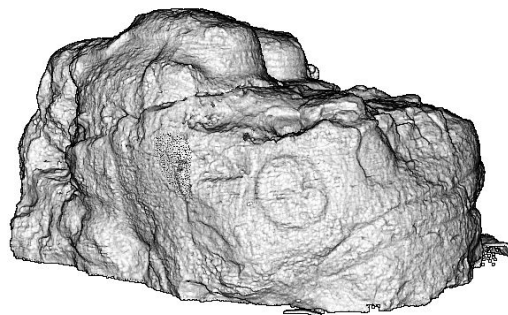
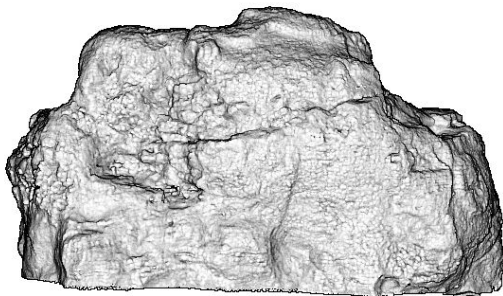
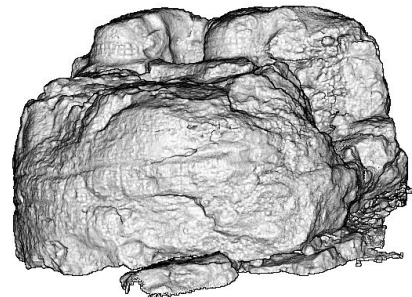
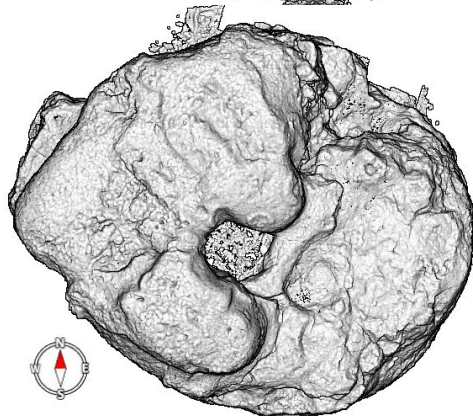
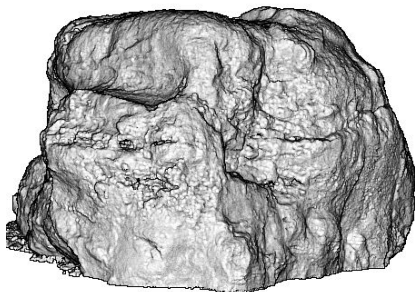
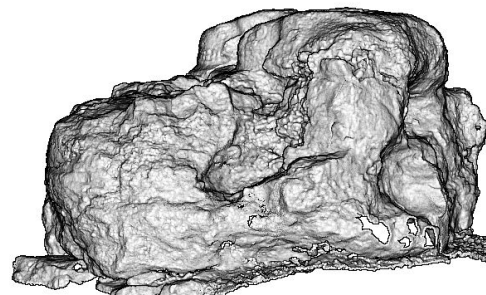
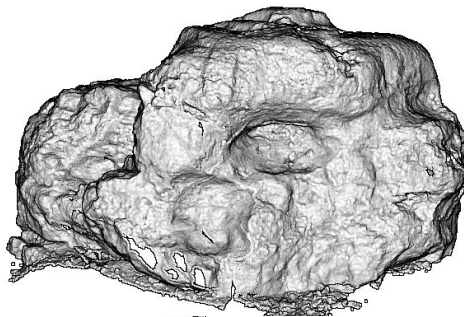
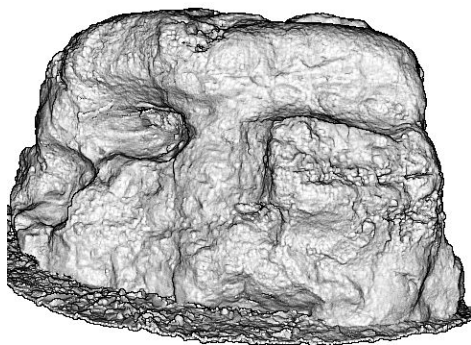


Toad 1

Facing southeast
with two smaller
toads on its back. The
northeastern side is
complex, with large
indentations.

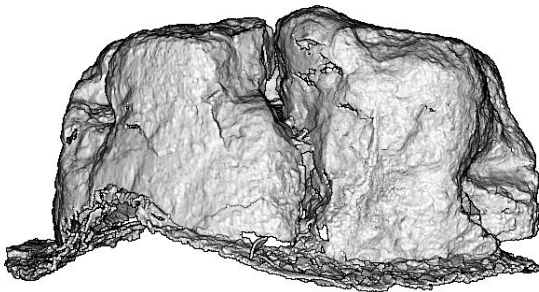
Rough dimensions:

102 cm tall
180 cm long (NW to SE)
141cm wide (SW to NE)



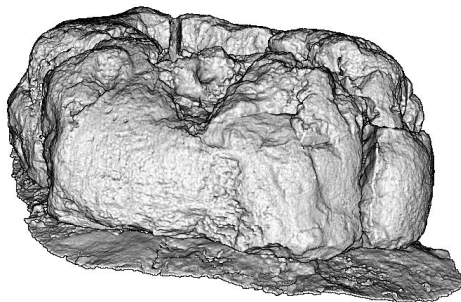
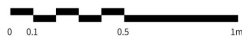
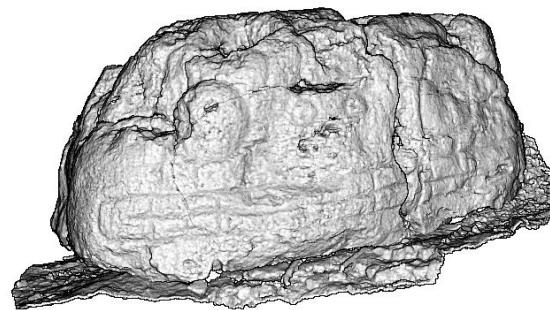
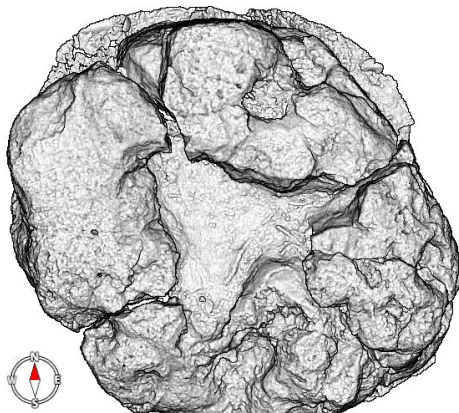
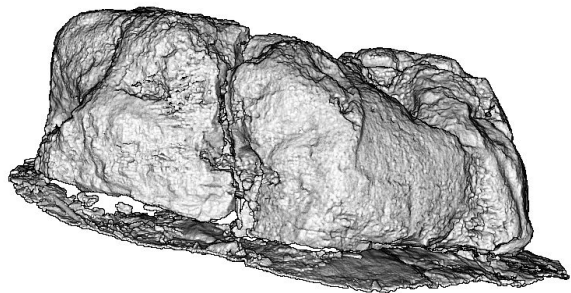
Toad 2

On a slope rising northwards.
The face of the toad is on the
northeastern side. A triangular well
is carved into the top,
approximately 20cm deep.



Rough Dimensions:

75 cm high
182 cm long (SW to NE)
145 cm wide (NW to SE)

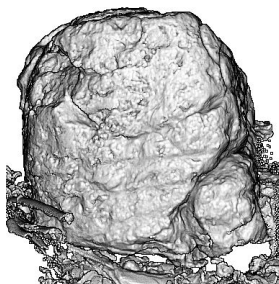


It seems as though a smaller frog is
carved climbing up the southern
side.

Toad 3

Facing north, with smaller toad on its back.

This stone is wedged against another, with no discernable carvings.

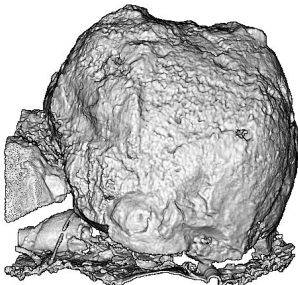
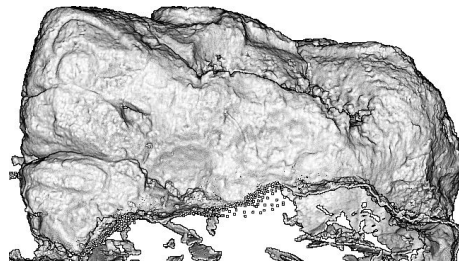
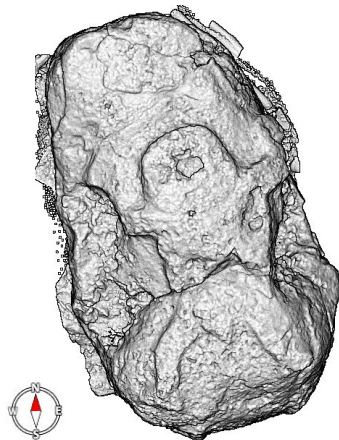
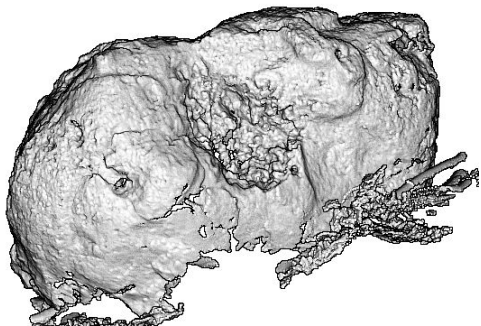


Rough dimensions:

70 cm tall

130 cm long (N to S)

76 cm wide (W to E)



Toad 4

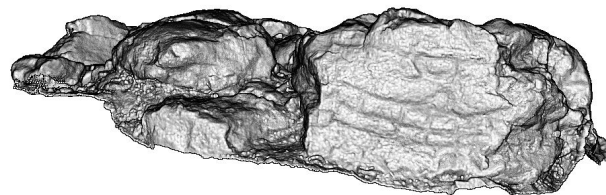
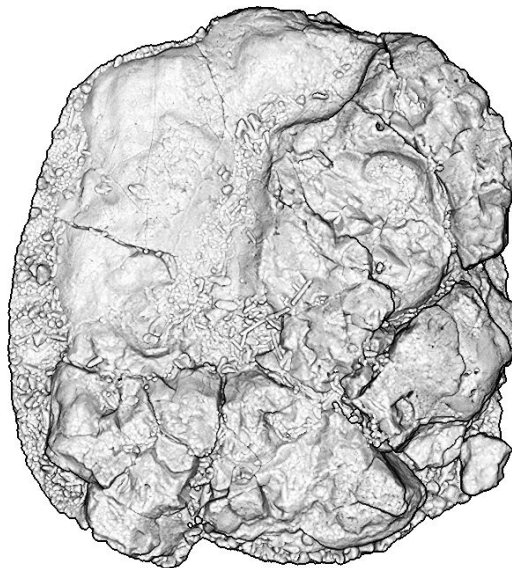
Part of a large flat stone, there is a face on the northeast corner factoring the cenote, with a carved indentation on the top, just behind the face. The eye on this stone seems different in form from the others, inset instead of protruding.

Rough Dimensions:

42 cm high

200 cm long (N to S)

168 cm wide (E to W)



Toad 5 (not confirmed)

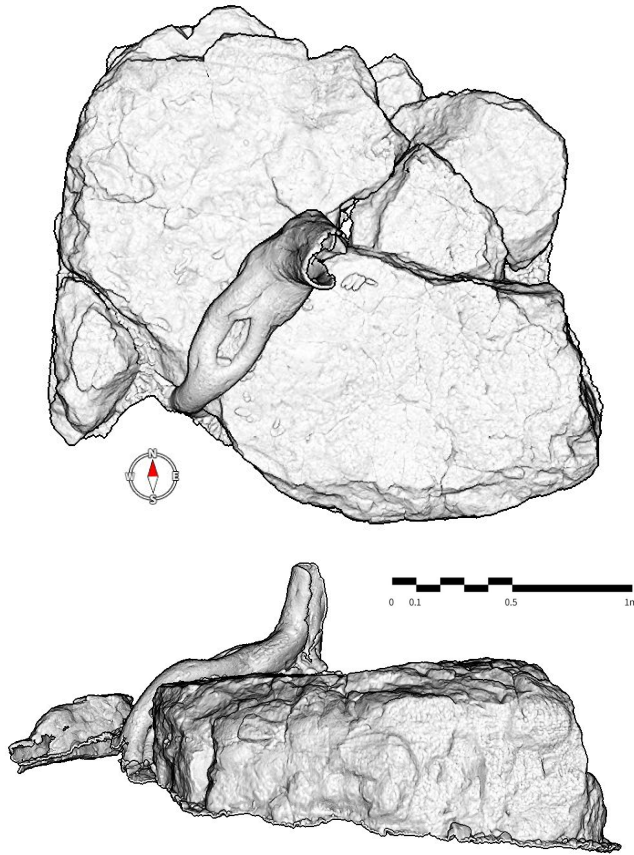
The hemispherical shape on the southeastern face seems similar in form to the eyes on other toads. The shapes to the west of this feature could be the remains of a smaller frog climbing up onto its back.

Rough Dimensions:

50 cm high

240cm long (NW to SE)

175 cm wide (SWto NE)



References

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