

# RISING FROM THE DEPTHS



**KENYA MEETING, 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**



## Rising from the Depths

Utilising Marine Cultural Heritage in East Africa  
to help develop sustainable social, economic and  
cultural benefits



### 1. Introduction

The ***Rising from the Depths*** network aims to identify ways in which marine cultural heritage can directly benefit coastal communities in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar. Despite its richness marine cultural heritage is one of the most unknown, underappreciated and under-exploited cultural resources in East Africa. Critically, this heritage is under threat from natural forces and climate driven coastal change as well as recent intensification in coastal and offshore development.

The project will establish and maintain a trans-boundary and cross-sector network of arts and humanities-led researchers, government officers, scientists, policy makers, UN officials, NGOs, ICT professionals and specialists working in heritage, infrastructure and the offshore industry, to identify new opportunities and methodologies for protecting and utilising the marine cultural heritage of East Africa to stimulate alternative sources of income, foster local identities, and enhance the value and impact of overseas aid in the marine sector.

The University of Nottingham, UK, is leading the network in collaboration with University project partners (Roehampton, Bournemouth, Ulster, York in the UK, Uppsala in Sweden and Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique) and a range of international organisations and groups in the region (including The World Monuments Fund, The British Museum, the British Institute in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association).

This network is different to others in that we want to fund local groups and international collaborations to do research – we will not be running the projects ourselves. UNESCO is a major project partner in helping us achieve this goal.

In terms of the project we have really just started in terms of scoping what kind of activity we could potentially fund – with this in mind we will have our kick off meeting at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa on Friday 23rd February.

The first year is about setting up and expanding network contacts and identifying opportunities to set the research agenda (in conjunction with local partners and groups). We will then set up project calls based on this agenda and groups will be able to apply for the funding. The first calls should go out in August next year so there is still plenty of time to influence the agenda. Unlike other grants the idea is that we are directly funding activity. The main network project team cannot apply for the money - we will simply be overseeing the distribution of the funds. So the opportunity exists now to directly suggest initiatives we could fund. We will be particularly keen on projects that feature a range of local partners. We anticipate we will fund around 3-4 larger projects and then a range of smaller ones. Money is also ring fenced for Arts projects related to the Sea. So any ideas you have - no matter how large or small - would be of interest.

**In order to discuss what the potential research agenda for the project will be the network team will meet with partners and interested stakeholders at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa on Friday 23rd February.**

## **2. Concept note**

### **2.1. Objective**

To consult a wide range of academic and stakeholder groups to ensure the co-creation of a Marine Cultural Heritage research framework that addresses real community needs.

### **2.1. Scope**

Our consideration of the reach of Marine Cultural Heritage is broad and includes its relationship to economic development, environmental management, social justice, education and identity. Incorporating expertise from a range of disciplines (archaeology, anthropology, coastal engineering, climate science, geography, law, natural sciences, museum and material culture studies). The network will bring together a number of international and African-based research teams to work with local communities, NGOs, third sector partners and marine industry stakeholders to utilise the full potential of MCH and bring widespread and sustainable benefits to the region.

Globally, the potential and importance of MCH has not yet been realised anywhere. Critically, MCH is under threat everywhere, especially in the Western Indian Ocean, from natural forces and climate driven coastal change as well as intensification in coastal and offshore development. We are losing the resource before we have had a chance to harness its potential.

Taking a holistic approach to marine heritage, this project seeks to integrate scholarship on East Africa's coastal built heritage, underwater sites, environments, natural resources, material practices and living traditions into new conversations, resulting in an enhanced understanding of the region's MCH.

## 2.2. Methodology

- 1) Co-creation of a research agenda, potential projects and activities is central to the ethos of Rising from the Depths network - we aim to ensure a strong local voice in the development of the project.
- 2) Sustainable development is at the heart of the SDG 14 to 'conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources'. Arts and Humanities approaches are essential to strategies related to SDG 14 as they provide a strong cultural awareness and deep time perspective.
- 3) We have assembled an interdisciplinary project team – covering archaeology, history, anthropology, geography, heritage studies, coastal management, climate change, environmental science and development law. We aim for mutual iterative exchange between science and scientific methods and humanities, archaeology, anthropology, history and law. Not about prioritising one discipline over another but rather about identifying new ways of working together in an interdisciplinary way.

**3. Venue:** Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa, Kenya.

## 4. Coordination and Contacts:

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## 5. Provisional Agenda

### 9:00-9:30

#### Opening session:

- UNESCO Representative- Kenya
- KMFRI representative
- WIOMSA representative

### 9.30-10.00 The Rising from the Depths Project: Overview and Aims (Jon Henderson)

Presentation on the overall aims of the RftD project: scope, objectives and mode of operations: i.e. what should the network members expect?

### 10:00-11:00

Format - short presentations on key aspects of the project (10 mins each followed by discussion):

- **Marine Cultural Heritage: definition and scope** Paul Lane
- **Value of anthropological approaches** Garry Marvin

### 10.30-11.00 coffee break

### 11.00-12.30

- **Marine and coastal zone challenges** Luciana Esteves
- **Marine Cultural Heritage and SDG 14** Jon Henderson
- **Aid, private financing and development in the marine and coastal zone** Annamaria La Chimia

**Lunch**

**14:00-15:00**

**Discussion: Building a research agenda**

Paul Lane, Stephanie Wynne-Jones: **Current work and the potential MCH research in Kenya and Tanzania**

**Brief presentation by our partners and break-up in small working groups**

Chance for partners to say what activities and current work they are doing which would fit in with the RftD network aims. We could set a cut-off date (2 weeks before workshop) for partners to let us know if they want to present and we can draft the session accordingly.

**15:00 – 16.30 Break-out groups and discussion**

Once we know who is coming we could either have an open session or break out groups led by Co-Is and/or Project Partners - to identify and discuss more closely specific activities related to particular research areas.

**16.30 – 17.00 coffee break**

**17:00-18:00**

**Closing session – What would a research agenda for Kenya and Tanzania look like?**

Report back session from break out groups or open session. Begin to scope a MCH research agenda for East Africa.