

Uppsala universitet

# Human Responses and Contributions to Environmental Change 1994-1997

Executive summary

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This programme builds upon archaeological research carried out under the Urban Origins in Eastern Africa programme and Bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka. Researchers from the following countries are directly involved: Botswana, Comores, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar), Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Sweden.

The proposal is structured in four parts. Part 1 covers the programme as a whole and Parts 2, 3 and 4 comprise the Southern Africa, Eastern Africa and Sri Lanka proposals in more detail. The proposals represent the current inter-regional consensus and are intended to be implemented jointly. Efforts will continue to find more common ground within and between the different regions. It is important at this stage to recognize the complexity of the themes dealt with and to accommodate and encourage the processes of concentration upon the regionally significant scientific issues.

The programme aims:

1. To better understand human responses and contributions to environmental change over the last 2000 years in eastern and southern Africa and Sri Lanka.
2. To strengthen regional scientific cooperation and networks in eastern and southern Africa and Sri Lanka and Sweden by supporting scientific capacity and the research of post doctoral researchers, by training African and Sri Lankan researchers and technicians and arranging workshops and conferences.

Research will be organised according to the following themes implemented at different scales from the inter-regional to local levels where appropriate:

Theme 1 Paleo-environmental framework To what extent did the environment of the research areas change in the past? Were these changes similar in the different study regions?

Theme 2 Settlement systems and environmental change How were human settlement systems affected by environmental changes? Were changes in the distribution of settlement coincident with environmental changes? Are there any apparent inter-regional similarities?

Theme 3 Long term shifts in resource utilisation What was the impact upon the environment of the long term practice of activities such as food production and metal working? Were changes in e.g food procurement strategies coincident with environmental changes? How resilient were societies in the different regions in coping with risk and environmental change?

Management and implementation of the programme will be the responsibility of national and regional coordinators supported by Swedish participants. 2.6 million SEK was granted by [SAREC](#) in mid 1994 for planning the new joint programme with eastern and southern Africa and Sri Lanka in the field of environmental archaeology. The programme is planned for a 4.5 year period (2.5 + 2).

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