



# Bridging Ages Conference 26-28 August 2014 Ngurunit, Kenya

Organizers: BANK, Bridging Ages Northern Kenya, National Museums of Kenya and Kenyatta University. Support from Marsabit County



Welcome to Ngurunit!

## Ngurunit conference, A chance of a life time

In Ngurunit you will experience the lifestyle of the Samburu and Rendille nomads. You will have a chance to see a culture that is gone in most parts of the world, but in Ngurunit still vibrant and alive, for example building of a hut, make fire with sticks, store fresh milk in the hot desert, make rock paintings, watch the blacksmith with his stone forge. And of course try the spectacular dances, the colourful dresses, listen to the legends, and taste the good food.

It is with lots of pride that the Ngurunit community welcomes visitors from all over the world to their community. They will do everything to make you feel at home.

## Topic of the conference: Education and Community Building

There will be presentations and engaging workshops on collaboration between education, heritage and community, examples from Kenya and other countries in Africa, Europe and other continents. Both best practices and recent research on the benefits of working together, education and community.

- the role of the local community and local heritage in education
- how education and local heritage support in developing the community

The Time Travel will be held at one of the local homesteads, a manyatta.

The conference will end with a big cultural event, an extraordinary experience.



## PROGRAM

24-25 August	Transport from Nairobi to Ngurunit (organized by BANK)
26 August	Day one: opening of the conference, presentations and workshops
27 August	Day two: Time Travel to today, at a manyatta; Presentations and workshops, evening program
28 August	Day three, Am: Concluding workshops Pm and evening: Big cultural event with Samburus, Rendilles and other tribes in northern Kenya, performances, songs, dances Traditional market
29 August	A day in Ngurunit and surroundings, visiting the pool, town, mountains, manyattas, schools, depending on interest
30 August	Transport Ngurunit-Nairobi (organized by BANK)

### Safety, Accommodation and Fees

Ngurunit is a safe place in the middle of the Samburu and Rendille communities. The organizers will provide transport from Nairobi to Ngurunit. There is local security and a clinic.

Accommodation in Ngurunit will be in one of the local camps.

**Conference fee:** 10 000 Kenyan Shillings (Africans), 20 000 KShs (non-Africans)

**Accommodation and food in Ngurunit, 5 nights:** 15 000 KShs

**Accommodation in Isiolo** (on the way to Ngurunit): 5000 KShs

### Call for Papers, Information and Register

There will be a Call for Papers in late December or early January

Updated information you will find on the Bridging Ages website

[www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)

The conference will be open for registration from beginning of April 2014

*Welcome!*

Steven Labarakwe, *BANK, Marsabit County Government*



Superb Starling.



The blacksmith at work.



Learning how to drill a milk container, a guord.

## First Time Travels in Uganda

2 October 2013 the first Time Travels were held in Entebbe, Uganda. The place for the Time Travels was at the Freedom Tree in the middle of town and the topic was on Independence and Freedom. The year was 1954 when there were rallies at the Freedom Tree as a part of the struggle and preparations for independence in Uganda.

The Time Travels were organized by the Bridging Ages working group in Entebbe consisting of Entebbe Municipal Council, teachers from Entebbe Secondary School, Nakiwogo and Kigungu Primary Schools, three cultural groups: Lunnyo Women's group, Golden Production and Lunnyo Youth Apostolic Group together with Swedish partners, Kalmar County Museum, Kalmar Regional Theatre and Kalmar municipality.

The Time Travels in Entebbe are part of a two-year project called "Sites and Stories", focusing on how to use local sites and stories, and engaging people in interviews, drama, Time Travels as a way to root democracy and develop the communities. Educational and cultural organizations in Entebbe, Uganda and Kalmar, Sweden work together with the municipalities.

### Facts and Scenario, The Freedom Tree 1954: Our way to freedom and independence!



A gathering at the Freedom Tree in Entebbe.

The tree was the place for political meetings and rallies before independence in 1962 and has become a symbol for freedom and independence.

"Saturday afternoon. Mr Ignatious Musaa-zi has called for a meeting at the big tree. People come walking, riding on bicycles to spend a couple of hours by the tree before leaving for home. Two years ago Andrew Cohen was appointed Governor of Uganda but last year he sent the king of Buganda, Kabaka Muteesa II on exile to England.

Musaazi and his friends want a new strategy in the struggle for freedom: "It is the time to mobilize people to develop the way to freedom and independence", they say. "What are the challenges and problems in Uganda? How do we address it? Responsibilities? Actions?" Today the path to the future will be outlined in the shade of the tree."

### Goal of the Freedom Tree Time Travel:

Make people reflect on the meaning of Independence and Freedom, compare today and the past. Emphasize the importance of the Freedom Tree as a heritage site in the independence struggle. Facilitate creative reflections on the needs and solutions of challenges in the country.

### Desires for Uganda from the pupils, adopted in the Time Travel:

- Better education
- Improved health services
- Good roads and buildings
- Peace and unity
- Leaders with good visions

We need one another regardless of race, tribe and age.

We need to be courageous and confident when expressing our views.





# LANDSCAPE EDUCATION

## Exploring Cultural and Natural Heritage

Connecting Stories, Connecting People, Connecting Landscapes. Parkington, J; Westergren, E; Avery, G; Marais, L.; Gouza, J; Basson, S; Fportuin, A; Dywili, V; Farr, T; Henning, S

**The Western Cape** is a culturally and biologically diverse province and home to a large part of the Cape Floristic Region Protected Areas, World Heritage site.

Environmental Education plays a critical role in getting conservation and environmental management messages across to the broader public. The issues relating to and affecting natural systems are sometimes quite complex and there is a need to look at alternative mechanisms to convey these messages. Specific issues such as climate change, natural resource flows and human impact require an understanding of temporal and spatial scales. This can prove challenging when trying to explain to younger learners. There is also a need to provide learners with the opportunities for experimental learning.

In 2006 CapeNature and Bridging Ages International in conjunction with the Kalmar läns museum, Bridging Ages Western Cape and the University of Cape Town started collaborating around Historic Environment Education, linking history, environment and human evolution.

### Knersvlakte Time Travel – 1000 years ago.

**Goals:** To make participants reflect on limited availability of resources and to find common solutions for sustainable use.

**Scenario:** The scenario is an interaction between the San and the Khoi at Quakamma waterhole, 1000 years ago, as both groups converge on this reliable dry season waterhole.

The groups have very different ways of doing things, the San as hunter-gatherers versus the Khoi as pastoralists, seeking water and grazing for their herds. The two groups have very different ideas of what they want to use the site for. The two expectations appear to be in conflict with one other.

What was needed was some careful and considered discussions to come to a mutually agreement. The solutions in this scenario are found through sharing skills, stories and agreeing to share use of the water and surrounding resources.

#### Key questions

- How to share skills in order to make life easier for everyone?
- How to make sure that people get on well together?
- How to use our resources so that they are not damaged?
- How to find and develop harmony, balance and sustainability? Between people, between people and nature.

Similarly today various interest groups want to use the often limited resources differently. Even today, sharing of resources and considering the sustainability of these resources still remain very pertinent issues.



Recent research around how knowing and experiencing nature affect human wellbeing, note that the effects of nature on mental and physical health have been rigorously demonstrated, whereas other effects (for example learning) are theorised but seldom demonstrated.

Time Travel is an educational method, where the participants actively research and role play going back in time to an historical event, in order to learn about themselves, their environment and society.

CapeNature is implementing and refining a program on Landscape Education, utilizing Time Travel as a method to convey issues affecting people and their natural environment including climate change, natural resource utilization and access. The Time Travel scenarios are developed with the key role players that will participate in the Time Travel.

### Walker Bay (Klipgat) Time Travel – 1800 years ago.

**Goals:** To encourage participants to reflect on the sustainable use and sharing of marine resources.

**Scenario:** The scenario focuses on two different groups (San and Khoi) meeting at the Klipgat cave site, around 1800 years ago, in an area with rich marine resources. The group of San hunter-gatherers arrived first and has been using this site every year for some weeks at a time. They have done this for generations, so they consider this place as theirs. The area is rich in marine resources and the clan most often congregates here. This year is no exception. Though the last years have been more difficult for the hunter-gatherers, as more groups are coming to the area with numbers of sheep and some cattle. The groups are bigger and also stay longer. The hunter-gatherers feel concerned.

#### Key questions

- Can the two groups stay here together and use the same resources? Is there enough? Is there a limit to the resources?
- Do we need an agreement to establish the best use of the resources for the future?

These questions around marine resources use are still around and at the height of discussion in our coastal environments today.



### The way forward:

- Strategically position Landscape Education as a key programme of work to meet multiple outcomes.
- Further strengthen relationships with tertiary institutions and partners to support implementation and explore opportunities to develop new partnerships.
- Consolidate existing efforts with Landscape Education and build capacity to further roll out the programme.





# Time Travel and Community Building

## A South African Perspective

**“Democracy is based on the majority principle. This is especially true in a country such as ours where the vast majority have been systematically denied their rights. At the same time, democracy also requires that the rights of others of political minorities to be safeguarded.” Nelson Mandela**

One of the most critical issues in the 21st century is to guard our democracy.

The Port Shepstone Twinning Association, Port Shepstone, Kwa Zulu-Natal prides ourselves and was born as a result of our new democracy, 1994. A vision that upholds who we are:

“To empower individuals and organisations in the development of personal dignity, value, respect and understanding of each other through the sharing of experiences in a global context in order to contribute towards the building of a more equal and tolerant society locally.”

Introduction of Time Travels and Historic Environment Education in 2007 has achieved this vision. Dedicated members of Kalmar Läns Museum and members of our community have over the years developed the following Time Travels through intense research: South Wharf, Port Shepstone 1905; Port Shepstone Railway Station 1973. Court Martial, Mtwalume 1906; Gamalakhe Tin Town 1968; Betania Mission 1912; Fort Nonqayi, Eshowe 1906; King Shaka Isivivane, Umzumbe 1828.

### Time Travel facts, scenarios and key questions:

[www.bridgingages.co.za](http://www.bridgingages.co.za)

[www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)



King Shaka Isivivane 1828, war or peace? A Time Travel open to the public. The first year in 2012 about 600 persons attended the spectacular performances and fascinating activities in Umzumbe, this year almost 1200. Hopefully the Time Travel can be a yearly event, and maybe even a tourist attraction.

## Funding and achievements

The Port Shepstone Twinning Association has received major funding for 2013 from The National Lottery Board. The funding made it possible to implement the Time Travel method mentored by Kalmar Läns Museum.

Since February 2013 we have organized 16 Time Travels with learners and 4 Public Time Travels. We have made 27 Time Travel presentations to spread the concept. There has been training on study circles, oral history recording, research methodology, filming and videoing. Staff from University of Kwa Zulu Natal has been able to assist, guide, train and mentor our research team, in addition to research undertaken.

5 persons are now able to facilitate Time Travels and 24 persons work as activity leaders. 105 persons have been employed part time or provided a service, hence contributing to employment.



The Time Travel to 1973 at the Port Shepstone Railway Station with Discrimination as the topic was part of the national conference. 140 adults and 20 learners took part.

## The National Bridging Ages South Africa Conference

### October 2013, hosted by The Port Shepstone Twinning Association

Time Travels and Community Building was the theme of the conference. Economic development and job creation are essential in SA with a high unemployment rate. Approximately 200 persons attended the conference and were offered excellent presentations and inspirational talks on: Importance of Oral History, Integration of Time Travel within the curriculum, Legislation in Policy Matters pertaining to Heritage Sites, Sustainability of Organisations.

### Guideline of Time Travels and Bridging Ages in South Africa, 2013-2016

Adopted by the delegates at the Bridging Ages South Africa national conference in Port Shepstone, 17 October 2013

#### Excerpt:

##### Vision Statements

- Use Time Travel as an educational tool to reflect on important and sensitive issues in society
- To give a voice to communities in order to take ownership of the heritage
- To improve the quality of education in South Africa by employing the Time Travel method
- To elevate the role of museums ...in championing the use of the Time Travel method.
- To raise awareness on some of the social issues and make use of Time Travels as a tool to address them
- Use Time Travels in understanding the environment, in order to reach sustainable resources.

##### Actions

- Approach key stakeholders on all levels
- Trainings and capacity building for Time Travel committees
- Training of teachers and community members as part of the preparations of each Time Travel
- Conduct Time Travels on a regular basis
- Institutionalize the Time Travel method, when possible
- Research and record (untold) stories from communities
- University course in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels

**Gulshera Khan, Port Shepstone Twinning Association, South Africa**



Prof. Zulu, University of KZN.



## TIME TRAVEL TO 1682 AT PALAZZO DI VENEZIA

### VENETIAN EMBASSY, ISTANBUL



The association Bridging Ages-Venice and the Italian High School IMI of Istanbul, in collaboration with professors of Ca'Foscari University, representatives of other Venetian Institutions and independent scholars, organized a Time Travel with 40 participants in Istanbul October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at Palazzo di Venezia, the seat of the Italian General Consulate.



*It's the first day at the school of the Italian Embassy in Istanbul for some new students from Venice. Ambassador Giambattista Dona invites the Turkish and the French delegations.*

This Time Travel focused on the history of the first school for interpreters of Oriental languages, created by the Venetian Republic in 1551 in Constantinople and restored by the ambassador Giambattista Donà about a century later. The theme of Giambattista Donà's embassy and his school for giovani di lingua has been chosen to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Italian school in Istanbul and the increasing teaching of Turkish culture. The Turkish students, in their roles as Venetian students, discovered the Ottoman culture and the world of the Venetian diplomacy in Istanbul. A reflection after the Time Travel:

- Both Venice and Istanbul have been for a very long time exposed to other cultures thanks to their tradition of overseas trade and to the presence of people from many countries. Their mutual influences have enriched both cities.

Since 2007, a great interest for Time Travel activities has developed in Venice and events related to the history of the Venetian diplomacy and its relationships with the Ottoman world, has been organized. The main institutions of the city collaborated with us: for instance the Venetian State Archives, the Arsenal, the Marciana Library, the Venetian Civic Museums Foundation and the University Ca'Foscari. The General Consulate of Turkey in Venice has always given us its generous support.

**Cécile Franchetti**, *Bridging Ages Venice*

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