1 Climatic Change on the Coast of East Africa Since 3000 BC: Archaeological Indicators

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This work is concerned with climate change that took place over the coast of East Africa for the last five thousand years beginning from about 3000 BC. Data for this time period for the rest of the region of eastern and southern Africa has been collected and discussed by different scholars. Bryson and Bryson (1997) and Hassan (1997a) have examined the general African trend in the Holocene. Robertshaw and Taylor (2000) have specifically examined the Great Lakes Region. Butzer *et al* (1972), Livingstone (1975), and Hamilton (1982) have discussed the Rift Valley and the Great Lakes Region. Bell (1970) and Hassan (1981) report about the Nile valley. Deacon and Deacon (1999), Tyson and Lindesay (1992) and Huffman (1996) have written on southern Africa and Maley (1993) on the equatorial region. Using archaeology, palynology, geology and more recent historical sources, a climatic record spanning many thousands of years has been established. Bryson and Bryson (1997) have used what they have called "macrophysical climatic modelling" method.

The definition of what is climate has been discussed by various scholars including Lamb (1972) and Bryson and Bryson (1997). It suffices here to use Lamb's (1972:5) definition of climate as "the sum total of the weather experienced at a place in the course of the year over the years.

As far as I am aware, no climatic data has until now been reported from