



# Threats and Damages to Maritime Archaeology - Introduction

## INTRODUCTION TO SECTION

This section examines some of the key challenges in managing maritime heritage. It identifies drivers for damage and destruction impacting in particular the Middle East and North Africa. These factors are divided in:

- a. Anthropogenic: The result of human interventions on the landscape (e.g. construction, development etc.)
- b. Natural: Natural processes altering the landscape at different scale, pace and time (e.g. coastal erosion, sedimentation)

It is important to note that most archaeological sites are impacted by a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors and often it is not possible to identify specific drivers for damage. The same applies to the impact of climate change on maritime archaeology. It is often not possible to distinguish whether certain damage (e.g. erosion, flooding) has been accelerated by prolonged or more recent anthropogenic interventions on the environment.

This section concludes with low-cost suggestions for the rapid documentation of maritime heritage in areas impacted by severe financial and other constraints. We will use the Gaza Strip as a case study, where we have conducted research between 2021 and 2023.

**Disclaimer:** The materials and information presented in these lectures have been compiled from a range of academic sources, which are listed in the Bibliography and Further Reading section of this course.