



**Maharees Conservation Association**  
Protecting | Enhancing | Preserving

# CREATIVE COASTAL RESILIENCE ARTIST'S BRIEF



**FUNDED BY**

*Creative*  
Climate Action



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



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# INVITATION



We invite socially engaged artists from all disciplines to apply for the opportunity to become an embedded artist within the unique community and ecosystems of the Maharees on the West coast of Ireland. This creative climate project calls for an artist(s) whose practice centres deep listening and co-creation, as we navigate the complexities of imagining and creating new perspectives and behaviours with which to relate to our changing world.

The selected artist(s) will work closely with representatives of the Maharees community, supporting and reflecting the exploration of their current and future roles in adapting their landscape and protecting local biodiversity in the face of climate change and projected sea level rise. The artist(s) will join ten representatives of the community on a capacity-building journey, coordinated by a local steering group, exploring coastal adaption with experts and other coastal community-led projects to encourage transdisciplinary and holistic perspectives on pathways into the future.

As the role of an embedded artist is process-oriented, we do not require specific creative output at the project's close, but we ask artists to consider how their artistic work could ripple outwards from the participating community members to the wider Maharees community, as well as inspiring and supporting other communities to create resilient coastal places.

**WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS, GROUPS, OR COLLECTIVES.**



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# CONTEXT

This project is situated within the Maharees, a low-lying tombolo on the southwest coast of Ireland, dominated by an extensive sand-dune system which carries several environmental designations due to the significance of its coastal habitats and the diverse wildlife species they harbour. The area holds a year-round population of about 300 individuals but is also a sought-after tourist destination, renowned for water sports and its long sandy coastline.

The influx of a growing number of visitors each summer, coupled with minimal visitor management and exposure to an increasing number of Atlantic storms, have taken a toll on the sand dune system's integrity.

In response to this challenge, the Maharees Conservation Association CLG (MCA) emerged as a community-led charity which takes action to directly strengthen the sand dunes as well as raise awareness of the importance and fragility of the wildlife habitats and dune systems with locals, visitors and other coastal communities.

Now an internationally recognised exemplar in community-led climate adaptation, the MCA is partnering with Dingle Hub, key partners of the Corca Dhuibhne Inbhuanaíthe embedded artist project in 2021-2022 to build upon the success of this model of creative engagement, with the goal of strengthening the coastal resilience of the Maharees.

## CHALLENGE

The project will explore how a creative approach can effectively engage community members from a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives to co-create solutions and a shared vision for the future of the Maharees. The aim of this learning journey is to create the space and time for dialogue and exchanging of knowledge to identify shared challenges and build effective ways to communicate climate information that promotes behavioural change.

The ultimate aim of the project is the facilitation of consensus-based adaptation strategies and solutions that foster ownership and commitment among Maharees stakeholders that could be replicated in other coastal communities.





# PROJECT AIMS

1

To build on and amplify the work being done locally to develop appreciation of the environmental sensitivity and biodiversity value of Irish coastal areas among the visiting and resident communities

To bring about a deeper understanding among the visiting and resident communities of Maharees with regard to the future impacts of climate change on the Maharees tombolo and on the role that the management of coastal dunes will play in achieving climate resilience

2

3

To support other coastal communities by developing a template and/or guidelines for the most effective approaches and communications to drive behaviour change for the benefit of the coastal environment.

THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE PROJECT IS THE FACILITATION OF A CREATIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING JOURNEY THAT COULD LEAD TO CONSENSUS-BASED ADAPTATION STRATEGIES THAT FOSTER OWNERSHIP AND COMMITMENT AMONG MAHEREES STAKEHOLDERS, WITH A REPLICABLE APPROACH FOR OTHER COASTAL COMMUNITIES

## PROJECT AUDIENCE

The key audience are members of Maharees resident and visiting communities. These include fishing, farming, hospitality and watersports tourism industries, day-trip visitors, campers, watersports enthusiasts, long-time residents and newcomers. We will also connect to other coastal communities to share our adaption journey and learnings as they emerge, as well as the general public, to spread awareness of the impact of tourism behaviours in coastal ecosystems.



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# PROJECT PARTNERS

## MAHEREES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

ADAPTION PARTNER

Maharees Conservation Association CLG (MCA) is an award-winning, community and volunteer-led registered charity which was set up to protect the Maharees tombolo on the Dingle Peninsula. It is now an internationally recognised exemplar in community-led climate adaptation and successful community-deployment of Nature-based Solutions. With help from state agencies, NGOs and academics, the group has been experimenting with different methods of community engagement including maram grass planting, biodiversity learning events, chestnut fencing construction and maintenance and community research.

## DINGLE HUB

CULTURAL PARTNER

Dingle Hub is a not-for-profit, community enterprise exemplar for rural community innovation and transition. Their mission is to build a creative, liveable, sustainable and inclusive community, fostering a vibrant and diverse ecosystem of stakeholders to facilitate the creation and maintenance of well-paid, year-round incomes on the Dingle Peninsula. Dingle Hub have created a living lab ecosystem that facilitates projects under three thematic pillars: Sustainability, Adaptation and Resilience; Digital Transformation and Creative Practice.

## DR. CLARE WATSON

REFLECTIVE LEARNING &  
EVALUATION PARTNER

Clare has a background in community environmental projects and a PHD on community engagement in energy transitions. From 2018 to April 2023, she led the MaREI engaged research team in Dingle Peninsula 2030, supporting the sustainable transition on the peninsula. She established a process of reflective learning within the partnership and co-created a series of learning briefs, which tracked the benefits, challenges, experiences, learnings and achievements. Clare now works on a freelance basis.

## CREATIVE COASTAL RESILIENCE STEERING GROUP

Project oversight will be provided by this steering group, comprised of representatives from MCA and Dingle Hub. Their role is to support the work of the project coordinator and selected artist(s), providing project direction, networks and advice.

The project coordinator will provide additional support to the artist(s) throughout the process, including but not exclusively; facilitating the capacity-building journey of events for artist(s) and participating community members; ensuring reflective evaluation processes and project documentation are implemented continuously, and general project management.

# ROLE OF THE EMBEDDED ARTIST(S)

**"WE NEED NOVEL, CREATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL WAYS TO ENSURE OUR TRANSITION TO AN ADAPTED FUTURE IS SUCCESSFUL... THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST(S) IS TO USE 'CREATIVE LOGIC', CREATIVE THINKING WHICH DELIBERATELY SEEKS TO WORK IN AN INNOVATIVE WAY, OUTSIDE OF EXISTING PARADIGMS AND FRAMEWORKS."**

We envisage the role of the artist(s) as supporting and developing a creative and collaborative exploration of the future of the Maharees with the local community, particularly in regards to climate resilience.

We expect the artist(s) to support the wider project aims, while exploring attitudinal and behavioural shifts within the project participants which enable local and collaborative climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to emerge.

There will be a period of engagement to co-design elements of the project after the artist(s) is selected. The artist(s) and ten participating community members will take part in a capacity building journey in collaboration with MCA and the project steering group around key project themes between May and September, 2024. There will be opportunities to experiment with creative tools and processes during this initial phase.

September will be a period of reflection, evaluation and co-designing between all project participants, where it is imagined the artist will take a more central role in determining creative tools and processes to engage the wider Maharees community with in 2025.

FROM "A TOOLKIT FOR INITIATING AND UNDERTAKING EMBEDDED ARTIST PROJECTS" CREATED AS PART OF THE CULTURAL ADAPTION PROJECT

## PROJECT LOCATION

**THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE DINGLE PENINSULA ON THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF IRELAND.**

The project activities will be based primarily in the Maharees, with office space available at Dingle Hub if required. The artist does not need to be present in the Maharees throughout the entire project timeline. However, as the role is for an embedded artist, sufficient time will need to be spent within the community of the Maharees to engage, listen and reflect on their climate context. It is anticipated that the majority of the time in-situ will be between April and September each year. We ask applicants to only apply if they are able to commit to a minimum of 60 days in the Maharees each summer.





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# NECESSARY SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Strong evidence of creative and imaginary practice
- Ability to actively listen and collaborate with a wide variety of stakeholders
- Significant experience working with communities and in non-arts contexts
- Comfortability speaking at public events and addressing complex issues with a variety of audiences
- An awareness of, and interest in developing knowledge within key project themes; challenges and opportunities for the sustainability of coastal places, climate change adaption and mitigation, coastal biodiversity and regenerative tourism

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

We envisage the embedded artist(s) as supporting these outcomes through their creative process:

- The ten participating community members will feel, and be able to articulate, the need for a community-led vision of adaption / change
- The wider Maharees community will develop an awareness of future predictions for the area, and possible strategies to adapt or mitigate negative changes
- The artist will assist the steering group in developing, testing and disseminating a range of creative tools and practices to assist coastal communities in envisaging and collaborating on community-led action plans

While the embedded artist(s) is not expected to produce a prescribed artwork at the end of the project, it is envisaged that they will take a central role in the exploration of how best to communicate climate change information with different audiences and facilitate cohesive community-led adaption planning through creative and inclusive processes.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are invited from individual artists or groups/collectives of artists (the same budget will apply) from all artistic disciplines.

Please provide the following information in the form of a PDF (no larger than 10MB) to [zoe@dinglehub.com](mailto:zoe@dinglehub.com)

- CV with contact information, outlining qualifications and experience to date (2 pages max.)
- Three relevant examples of previous work, for example, community engagement etc. Please keep film / video and audio work to 5 minutes in duration and be mindful of file size.
- A personal statement outlining your motivation and initial vision for the project – up to 500 words.

The closing date for applications is on **Sunday 25th February**. Applications are email only, postal applications or late submissions will not be assessed.

**Shortlist:** Up to 5 artists will be shortlisted.

**Feedback:** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified as early as possible, however we will not give feedback on individual applications.

**Queries:** Any queries on the application process can be sent to Zoë Rush at [zoe@dinglehub.com](mailto:zoe@dinglehub.com)

## SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality and ambition of the proposal
- Experience of creative work in socially-engaged settings or with communities
- Capacity to engage and communicate with diverse stakeholders: evidence of previous collaborations and outreach
- Demonstrated ability to inspire change or build consensus through artistic practice
- Knowledge of and interest in climate change and biodiversity – particularly coastal ecosystems
- Experience with volunteerism and awareness of regenerative tourism
- Knowledge and interest in the Irish language is an advantage

Five artists will be shortlisted in the first round and invited to develop their proposals further. Artists on this shortlist will be required to deliver an online presentation to the Steering Committee on **March 22nd**. A fee of 200 euro will be paid to each shortlisted artist.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY ACCESS NEEDS THAT REQUIRE YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL IN ANOTHER FORMAT, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO DISCUSS YOUR NEEDS FURTHER.**

## BUDGET

There is an artist's fee of up to €62,500 over the 18 month period and an additional sum of up to €1,500 available to cover accommodation, travel, mobile phone and broadband costs where the artist is not based on the Dingle Peninsula. In addition, there is a budget of up to €2,000 available for materials. The budget remains the same regardless of the number of artists in the successful application. Final fee will depend on artist's availability and starting date.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

A carbon budget and sustainability policy will be adapted from the successful Corca Dhuibhne Inbhuanaithe policy and tracked for the duration of the project. The artist(s) is expected to support the development and implementation of this throughout the project.





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# APPENDIX A: CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Creative Coastal Resilience is a recipient of the Creative Climate Action fund, an initiative from the Creative Ireland Programme. It is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The fund supports creative, cultural and artistic projects that build awareness around climate change and empower citizens to make meaningful behavioural transformations.

The projects:

- Encourage everyone to rethink their lifestyles.
- Connect with the biodiversity crisis.
- Enable a fair and just transition in making lifestyle changes.
- Assist citizens to understand the climate crisis.
- Adapt to effects of climate change.

## Creative Ireland Programme

Creative Ireland is a five-year programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. We are an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme that inspires and transforms people, places and communities through creativity. We are committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential.

Further information on the Climate Action Fund is available at the following link:

[www.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie)

Department of Environment, Climate and Communication's, Climate Action Fund  
The Climate Action Fund was established on a statutory basis in 2020 to provide support for projects, initiatives and research that contribute to the achievement of Ireland's climate and energy targets, and for projects and initiatives in regions of the State, and within sectors of the economy, impacted by the transition to a low carbon economy. The Fund is resourced from from a number of sources, including proceeds from the levy paid to the National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA) in respect of relevant disposals of petroleum products, after the funding requirements of NORA have been met.

Further information on the Climate Action Fund is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/de5d3-climate-action-fund/>



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ZOË RUSH AT [ZOE@DINGLEHUB.COM](mailto:ZOE@DINGLEHUB.COM)

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN SCHOPPLER

# Creative Climate Action

