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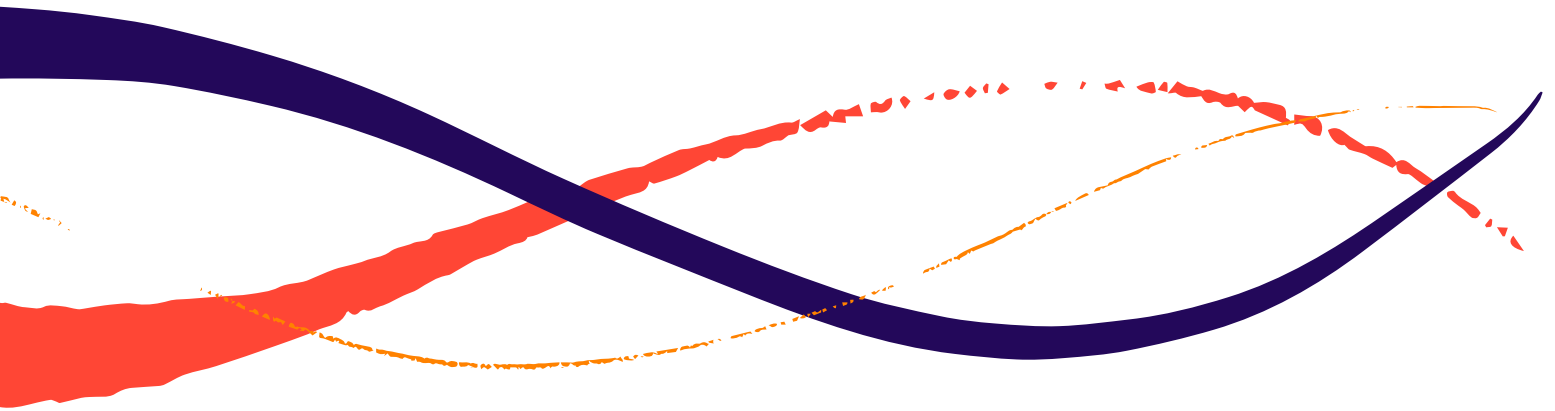
Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Cultural Protection Fund

A close-up portrait of a smiling woman, likely of Maasai descent, wearing traditional attire. She has a large, dark feather headdress with a silver cone at its base. Her face is adorned with a silver chain headband featuring teardrop-shaped pendants and colorful beads. She wears multiple necklaces, including one with large silver coins and another with colorful beads. Her hair is styled in braids with orange and green flower-shaped ornaments. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting.

Annual Report

2022–2023



Front cover image: Baggara Hawazma are cattle nomads in Kordofan, Sudan. The occasion is a Hawazma wedding in February 2023 near the northern end of their migration route.

Photographer: Sahar Ahmed (February 2023) - part of the Safeguarding Sudan's Heritage project, funded by the Cultural Protection Fund.

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Message from Stephanie Grant Director, Cultural Protection Fund

It has been a strong year for the Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) as we successfully completed the first year of our current 2022–2025 programme. As I write this, I am approaching one year in the new role of CPF Director, having previously navigated two years of relative uncertainty during Covid times as the fund's Senior Programme Manager, under the attentive leadership and stewardship of Stephen Stenning OBE, British Council's Global Director of Culture in Action.

I am always amazed by what our fund and funded projects can achieve, even during short time periods and with all the unexpected challenges that come with working in places significantly impacted by conflict, instability, and climate change.

For CPF, 2022–2023 has been a year of discovery and learning. In a project led by *Première Urgence Internationale*, a lead sarcophagus was uncovered at the site of a 2000-year-old Roman necropolis in the Gaza Strip. We've seen the value of international knowledge exchange in action as project lead INTO (International National Trusts Organisation) hosted a UK residency for heritage professionals from sites across six countries to share best practice in protecting them against climate change. CPF projects have continued to provide a platform for otherwise unheard voices, and we've awarded more projects protecting languages, traditions and stories of marginalised and displaced communities that face multiple risks.

There have, as always, been abundant challenges and some heartbreaking, catastrophic events in the countries where our work is taking place. The enormous earthquake that shook much of Syria and Turkey, the eruption of armed conflict in Sudan and the continuing war in Ukraine have caused irreparable loss and damage to lives, livelihoods, and cultural heritage.



These events are a compelling indication of how urgent the need is for heritage protection work to continue. They also reinforce the unprecedented level of demand for funding for the work we support. The 999 expressions of interest we processed in just a few months is almost as many as we received in the first three years of the fund. I acknowledge that this means a lot of disappointment for those to whom we haven't been able to award grants, so we have directed some of our energies this year into piloting other ways to support heritage actors. These include our capacity building activities and our What Works evidence and learning programme. Now we must also focus on securing future funding and partnerships in order to cope with the increasing need for our work and our desire to protect heritage in more places.

We approach this forthcoming year with a full complement of 33 funded projects, a sense of optimism and excitement and a full team of dedicated staff whose impressive energy, flexibility and passion powers the engine of our small but high-performing programme.

The British Council teams in the CPF's target countries continue to be a great source of knowledge and insight and their support and expertise are a great asset to our fund. It is these collaborative elements of CPF, and our valuable partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), that make the Cultural Protection Fund both impactful and unique.



Executive Summary

The main focus of this report is to summarise the outputs, finances and impact of the Cultural Protection Fund's activities in the financial year 2022-2023. It includes quantitative data and analysis relating to budget information, submitted funding applications and funded organisations, as well as impact stories from projects delivering activities in 2022-2023.

Since the last full annual report was published in 2019, the background section in this report also contains a summary of activities that took place in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

In 2022-2023 the total budget for the Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) was £4m, of which £3m was allocated to funded projects. Out of the fund's 16 current target countries, 15 have benefitted from funding and activities in 2022-2023. Most projects funded in this year focus on built heritage and intangible heritage, but archaeological sites and museums, libraries and archives are also represented in the portfolio.

The report presents data on the location of the lead organisation of funded projects and shows that 35% of current lead organisations are based in the UK. In the first phase of the fund from 2016-2020, 55% of lead organisations were based in the UK. While the 2022-2023 report looks at a small sample of 17 projects, the increase in lead organisations from outside of the UK could be indicative of increased awareness of and access to the CPF in the fund's target countries over the last three years.

For open funding calls, the Cultural Protection Fund team experienced a high level of demand and consequently there was a low success rate for applicants. Applications were split relatively equally across all heritage types, but the majority of applicants (65%) focused on heritage at risk due to conflict, as opposed to heritage at risk due to climate change.

Data collected from projects delivering in the 2022-2023 financial year shows that CPF funded activities have created 199 new roles and reached 9000 people in training and awareness raising activities, evidencing the potential for heritage protection work to also have a social and economic impact. Case studies have been presented, describing activities in countries including Kenya and the UK.

As well as funding projects, the Cultural Protection Fund has delivered capacity building activities, contributed to cultural heritage emergency response efforts and has piloted scoping work in new target countries in South Asia. The fund also launched its What Works approach programme of gathering and sharing research, evidence and learning around heritage protection and the wider impact of delivering a heritage protection programme.

Finally the annual report looks to the future, firstly describing the current model and what the CPF team has learned, then looking at how this learning might inform a future model for the Cultural Protection Fund.

Background

The Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) was launched in 2016 to protect heritage at risk due to conflict in 12 countries, mostly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The original funding for CPF was awarded from 2016 to 2020 and during this period the fund awarded £24m to 51 projects across the fund's 12 original target countries.

A full evaluation of the fund's first phase can be found [here](#).

This annual report is predominantly about CPF activity in the financial year 2022–2023, but this background section details activities in the two previous years. During this period, the fund received two sets of one-year funding settlements from the UK government; these are described as 'rollover' years.

During these two 'rollover' years the CPF focused on enhancing and evaluating the impact of previously funded work, piloting an expansion into East Africa and introducing the theme of climate change. The team also explored development and capacity building programmes to increase accessibility to CPF's future funding rounds.

In 2020–2021, the fund had three competitive rounds:

1. Impact Round

Open to all 51 previously CPF-funded projects, organisations could bid for one-year projects to enhance the impact of their existing funded work. The fund awarded £6.2m to 17 projects which ran until March 2021.

Budget breakdown table for 2020–2021

Activity	1 April 2020–31 March 2021 £m
Grant disbursement:	
Impact and Legacy Fund	5.8
Insight Fund	0.5
Disaster and Climate Change Fund	0.5
Evaluation and Research	0.4
Stakeholder Engagement	0.4
DCMS contribution to staff costs	0.4
Total amount awarded	8.0



Woodworker Nesreen Sharara pictured with a tea box she created. The box was inspired by Mamluk designs which were documented and protected by Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation as part of their 2020 Impact Round project.



Two of the young girls from the embroidery workshop in the Yemeni Traditional Embroidery Preservation project awarded in the CPF Insight Round and led by Felix Arabia International.

2. Insight Round

Recognising the challenging circumstances for projects operating in Libya, Syria, and Yemen, the CPF designed a funding round dedicated to heritage protection activities benefitting those three countries. The fund awarded £471k to seven projects which ran until March 2021.

3. Disaster and Climate Change pilot

The CPF invited proposals to protect heritage at risk due to climate change and natural hazards in seven countries in East Africa, with a focus on preparedness for future threats. The fund awarded £514k to five projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, which continued until July 2022.

In March 2020 the Covid-19 global pandemic put a halt on many activities as countries went into lockdown. Despite the huge challenges, CPF projects continued to deliver and have a strong impact on heritage, society, and economy.



Three library workers going through the collections in McMillan Memorial Library Nairobi. This project was awarded CPF funding in the Disaster and Climate Change pilot in 2020 and was led by Book Bunk Trust.

Emergency Response in Beirut

In August 2020 an explosion in the port area of Beirut caused insurmountable damage to the city's people and their cultural heritage. The Cultural Protection Fund supported the rehabilitation of Beirut in the following ways:

- A grant to the Lebanon Solidarity Fund, which distributed small grants of up to \$40k to cultural institutions in Beirut, to support them with reconstruction activities.
- A contribution to a pooled heritage initiative led by Prince Claus Fund's Cultural Emergency Response. This distributed over €200k to small emergency interventions to evacuate collections, repair infrastructure and support the cultural heritage workforce.

This approach to collaborative funding paved the way for future joint initiatives to support emergency response for heritage. **See 2023–2024 Emergency Response section, page 30.**

Grant Disbursement 2021–2022

With an annual budget of £2.5m, and Covid-19 continuing to add challenges and uncertainty, the Cultural Protection Fund devised a one-year plan of project funding, alongside capacity building, stakeholder engagement and research activities.

The 2021–2022 grants round was open to previous CPF grantees in a reduced pool of ten target countries across MENA and East Africa. The aim of the round was to build on existing CPF activity, incorporating one or more of the following themes:

- International knowledge exchange
- Local capacity building
- Influencing change

The fund awarded £2.4m to 20 projects which ran until March 2022.

Budget breakdown table for 2021–2022

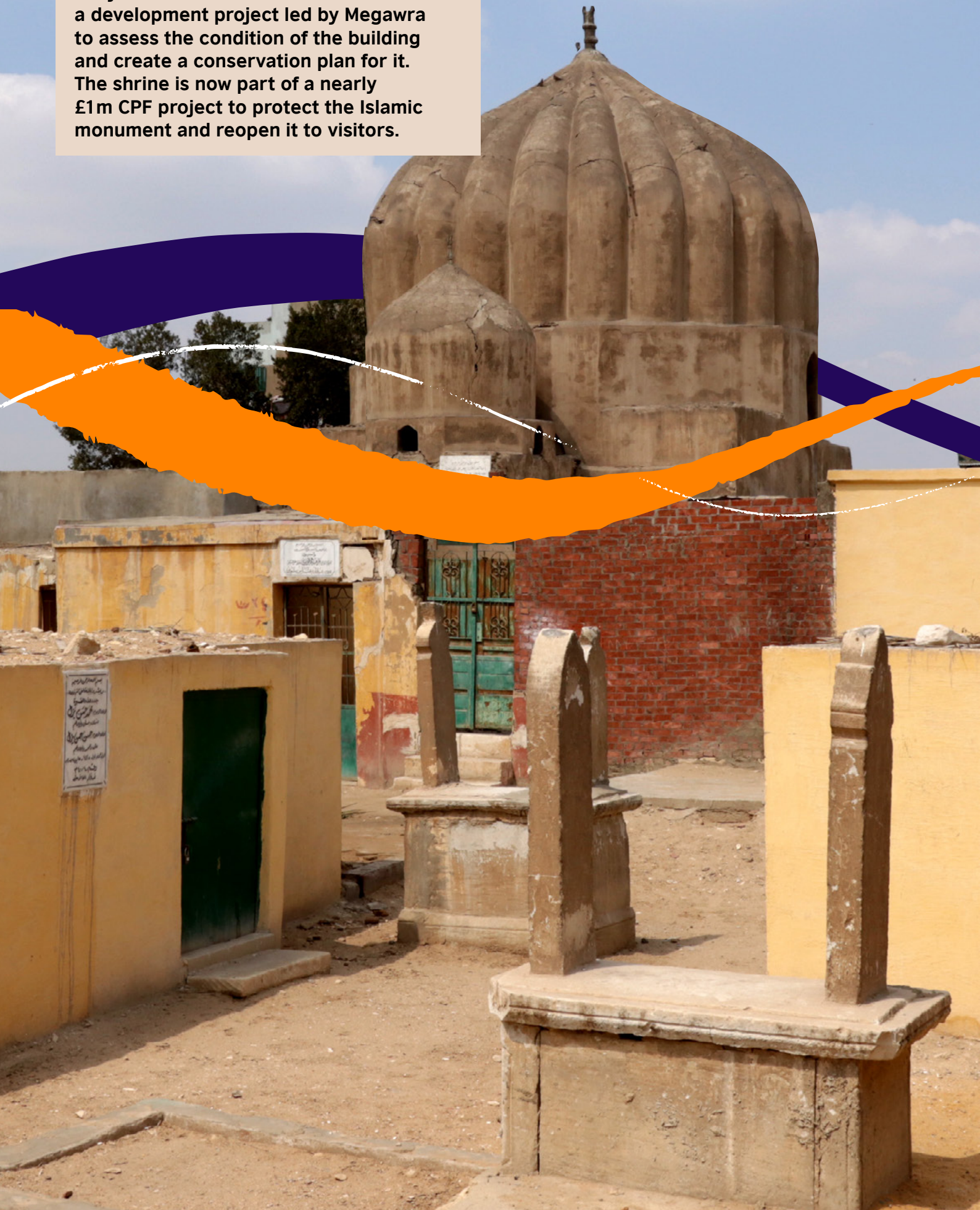
Activity	1 April 2021–31 March 2022 £m
Grant disbursement: Impact and Legacy Fund	1.9m
Exit costs (costs set aside in case the fund was to cease)	0.3m
Staff costs and Operational Expenses	0.3m
Total amount awarded	2.5m



A Bedouin member of the Al Weis tribe playing the Rababa as part of the Cultural Corridors of Peace project awarded CPF funding in 2021. The project was included in the Paris Peace Forum in November 2022.

<https://parispeaceforum.org/projects/cultural-corridors-of-peace/>

Yahya al-Shabih shrine was the focus of a development project led by Megawra to assess the condition of the building and create a conservation plan for it. The shrine is now part of a nearly £1m CPF project to protect the Islamic monument and reopen it to visitors.



In addition to the 2021–2022 grants round, CPF designed and delivered development and capacity building activities, in collaboration with British Council teams based in the fund's target countries. Grants of up to £15k were awarded for the delivery of activities such as:

- Research and analysis of heritage and audiences, including scoping and mapping
- Capacity building activities such as training, networking, and organisational review
- Planning activities, for example preparing business, management, or project plans.



King Charles III visiting a CPF exhibition at the British Council's headquarters in London in October 2021. The exhibition was later enlarged and displayed at the UK House of Commons in June 2022.

The 2021–2022 'rollover' years strengthened the model of CPF, particularly as Covid dictated the need to act more quickly and be more flexible. The expertise gained in the British Council along with the strengthened partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and with other funders and stakeholders, led to the decision to pivot from having a formal advisory group for the fund to more regular consultation with grantees, other UK and international organisations and the fund's network of specialist assessors. This move has created several new entry points for external expertise to inform CPF.

The lessons learned from the expansion into East Africa and the new climate change focus, as well as the fund's exploration of new activities such as capacity building and emergency response, fed into the successful bid to the UK government for a new £30m three-year programme. 2022–2023 is the first year of that programme and the CPF is committed to developing the model of the fund and exploring the value of its work. **See future of the CPF-page 34.**



The Tendaguru Dinosaur Site in Tanzania, which was the subject of a development project in 2021 led by National Museums Tanzania. The project developed the first map of the site since 1937 and successfully applied for the site to be included on the UNESCO Tentative List.

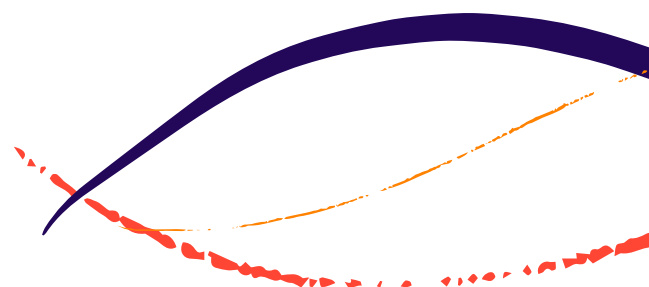
Summary of 2022–2023

At the start of 2022–2023, the new three-year Operational Alliance Agreement with DCMS allowed the CPF to plan for multi-year funding and to develop the initiatives piloted in the ‘rollover’ years.

The team agreed an expansion of CPF target countries to include Algeria as well as development activities in South Asia. Alongside open funding calls, the CPF has committed to continuing delivery of capacity building activities and introduced What Works, an innovative new programme of research, evidence and learning. To support the agreed activities, the fund created a schedule of funding approved by the CPF Programme Board, which is set out in the table below.

Budget

The current £22m Cultural Protection Fund programme is from 2022–2023 to 2024–2025. The budget breakdown for each year is set out in the table below.



Financial year	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	Total
Grant Disbursement	£	£	£	£
Target countries open calls	3.6m	7.3m	7.1m	18m
What Works programme	0.5m	0.1m	0.0m	0.6m
Target countries capacity building	0.3m	0.1m	0.0m	0.3m
Direct award - new country set up	0.3m	0.1m	0.0m	0.3m
Heritage First Aid support	0.5m	0.0m	0.0m	0.5m
Total of Grant Disbursement Funds	5.0m	7.1m	7.1m	19.2m
Staff costs and Operational Expenses for Grant Disbursement	0.6m	0.5m	0.5m	1.6m
Staff costs and Operational Expenses for What Works programme	0.4m	0.1m	0.1m	0.6m
Exit costs (costs set aside in case the fund is to cease)	0.0m	0.0m	0.2m	0.2m
Total programme budget	6.0m	8.1m	7.8m	22m

In 2022–2023, the original budget of £6m was revised to £4m during the financial year. This was due to the late start of funded projects following the signing of the new three-year Operational

Alliance Agreement with DCMS and the set-up of the new programme and funding rounds. The CPF budget therefore for 2022–2023 is as follows:



Financial year	2022–2023
Grant Disbursement	£
Fund 1 Target Countries open calls	1.8m
Fund 2 Direct awards 'What Works'	0.5m
Fund 3 Capacity building	0.3m
Fund 4 New country set-up	0.1m
Fund 5 Heritage First Aid support	0.3m
Total of Grant Disbursement Funds	3.0m
Staff costs and Operational Expenses for Grant Disbursement	0.6m
Staff costs and Operational Expenses for What Works Programme	0.4m
Total programme budget	4.0m

2022–2023 Investment Profile

From a funding round launched in July 2022, the CPF awarded 17 new large projects, which started in October 2022. Details of the funding round and applications received are **in the next section of this report**.

The Cultural Protection Fund currently supports activities in 16 target countries and this section of the report gives a geographical breakdown of those 17 new large projects.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen

East Africa

Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda

South Asia

Afghanistan

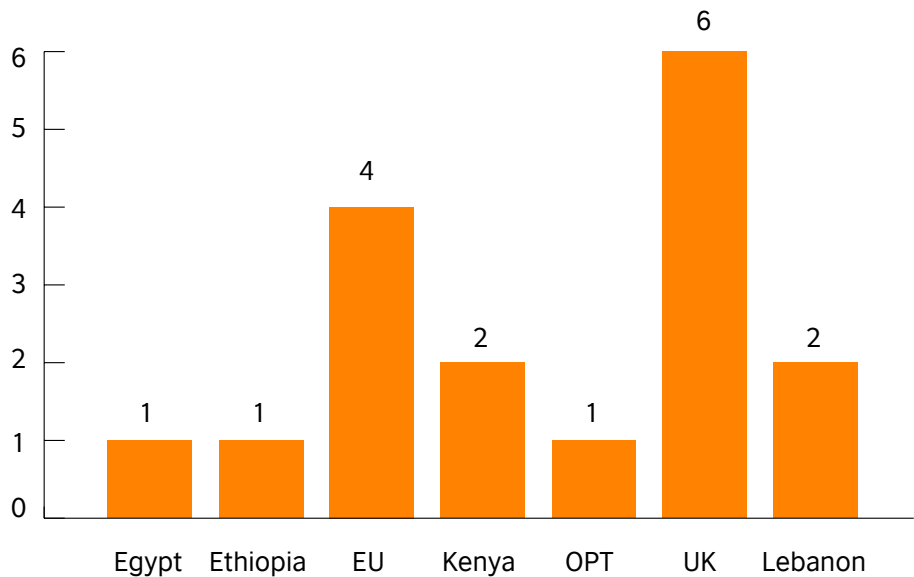
CPF target country	Number of projects	Total Grant 2022–2023	Percentage
Algeria	5	£ 54,468.18	3%
Egypt	5	£ 191,999.58	10%
Ethiopia	2	£ 64,918.80	3%
Iraq	4	£ 220,914.33	1%
Jordan	4	£ 96,250.18	5%
Kenya	2	£ 148,328.63	8%
Lebanon	2	£ 27,432.68	1%
Libya	2	£ 25,283.19	1%
Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)	4	£ 261,887.47	14%
Sudan	1	£ 375,738.57	19%
Syria	5	£ 190,094.42	10%
Tanzania	1	£ 26,269.50	1%
Tunisia	1	£ 13,363.01	1%
Uganda	1	£ 26,269.50	1%
Yemen	1	£ 211,470.00	11%

*Total number of projects equals more than 17 as this table counts all countries within multi-country projects. The total grant column is calculated by dividing the project grant equally between the number of countries benefitting from the project, which is an approximate calculation and may not be reflective of the total grant value received in each country.

Funded lead organisations by country

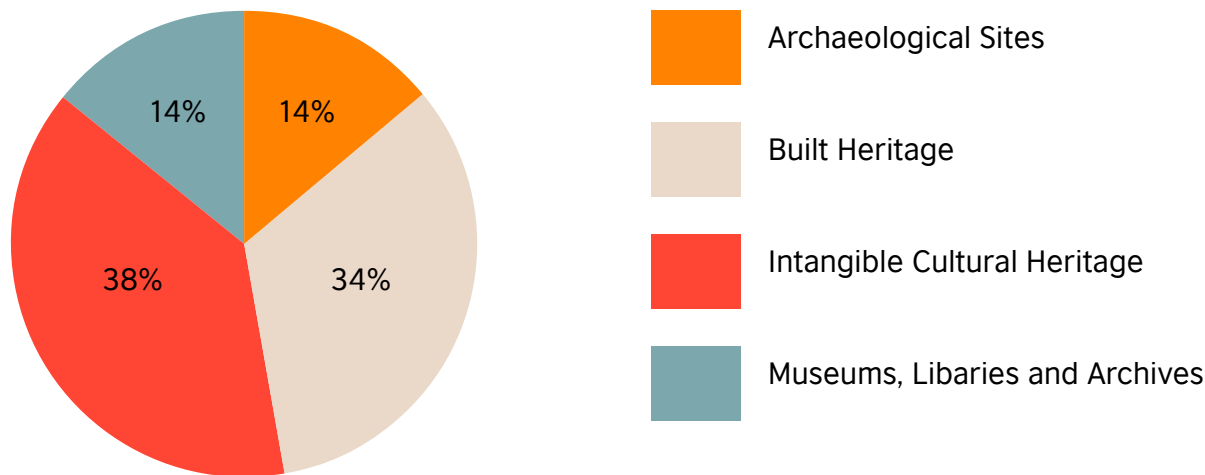
Organisations can apply to CPF from anywhere in the world. If applicants are not based in the target country, they must work with local partners

on their CPF project. A third of the large projects awarded in 2022–2023 are led by UK-based organisations.

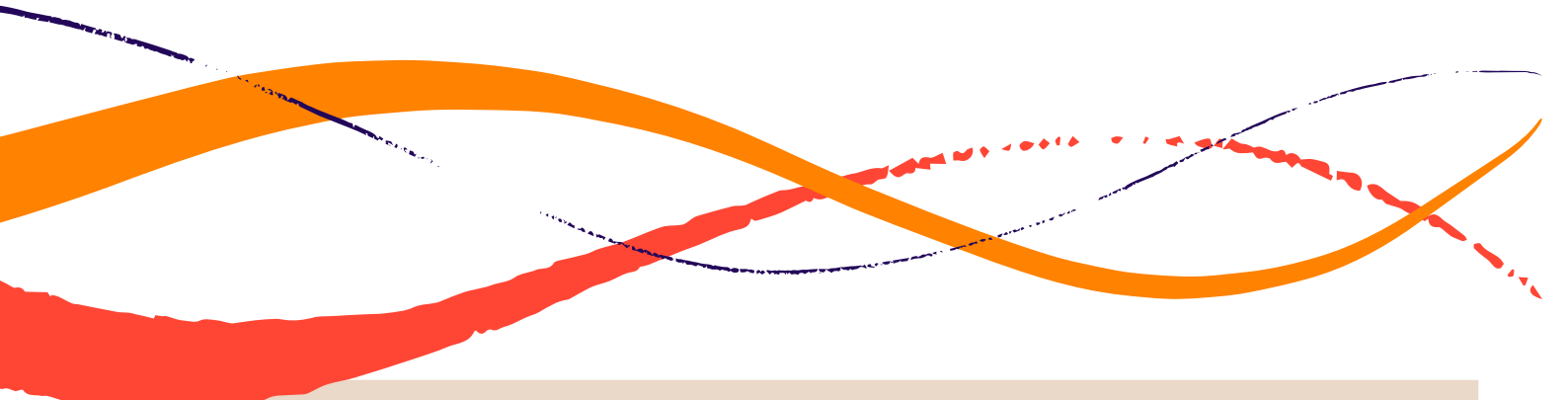


The CPF protects a wide range of heritage, from buildings and monuments, to manuscripts, objects, languages, stories and music. Projects are grouped into four broad areas in the chart below.

2022–2023 Funded projects by heritage type



The CPF assesses projects against a set of pre-determined outcomes under the themes of Heritage, Society and Economy. There are nine sub-outcomes under each theme and the table below shows the percentage of projects funded in 2022–2023 which meet each of those sub-outcomes:



Outcome	Sub-outcome	% of projects achieving this outcome
Heritage	Cultural heritage at risk is safeguarded for future generations	100%
	Cultural heritage at risk is better managed and prepared for potential threats	82%
	Local organisations and communities have increased capacity and/or resilience to care for and protect cultural heritage	100%
Society	Local people have developed skills, potentially leading to increased professional or other opportunities	94%
	The profile of people engaging with cultural heritage is more diverse with respect to gender imbalances, age, ability, sexuality, ethnicity and social/religious background where appropriate	94%
	Local communities have a better understanding of their cultural heritage and value it more	100%
	Local communities have played a more active role in protecting their cultural heritage or sharing it with others, potentially leading to increased social cohesion and a greater sense of well-being	88%
	The local area is enhanced for the benefit of communities and visitors	71%
Economy	The local economy has been diversified	94%

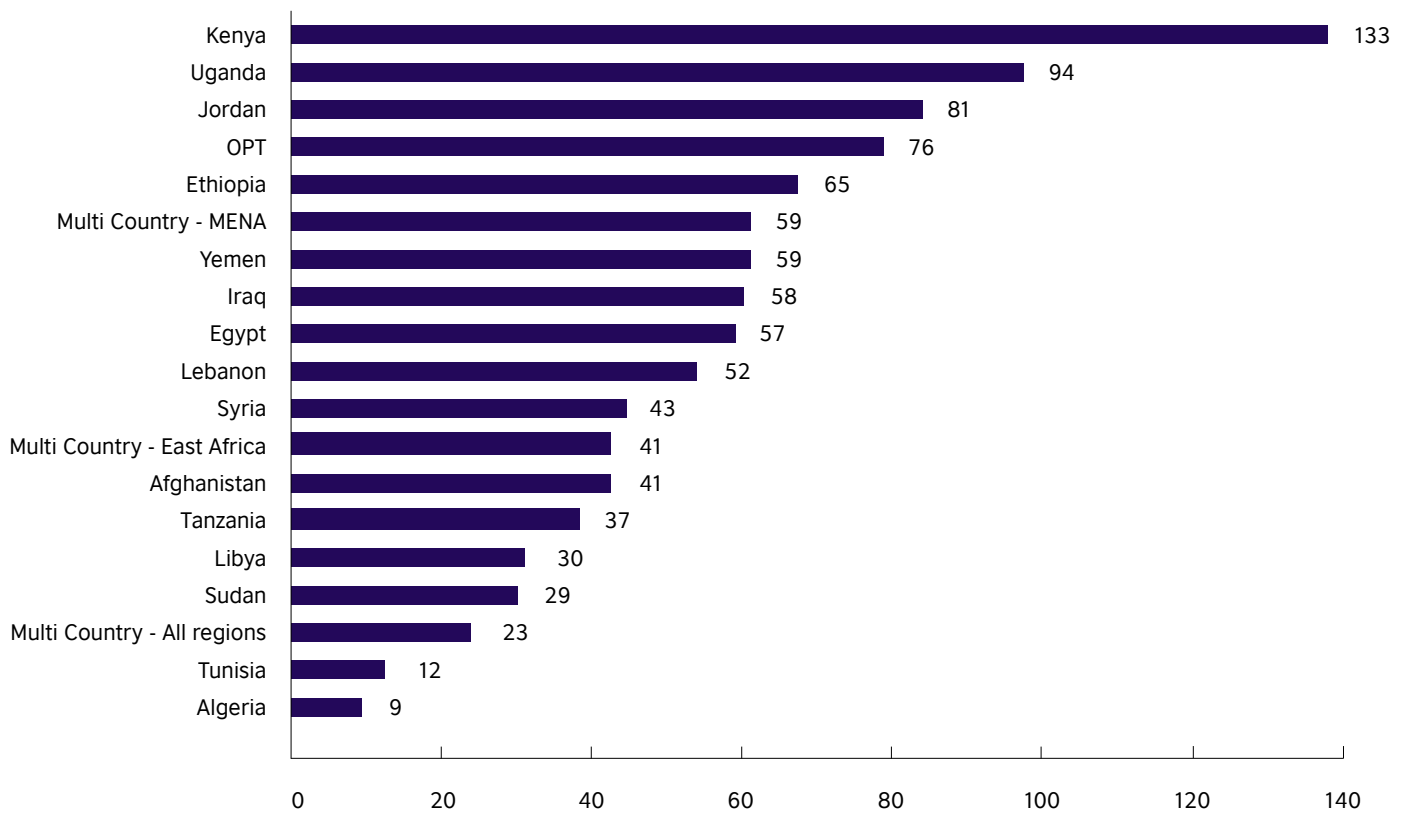
2022–2023 Overview of funding calls

This year the Cultural Protection Fund experienced unprecedented demand for funding. The funding request total from the 999 Expressions of Interest (Eols) which the CPF team received and assessed this year, is almost 20 times the budget for the entire three-year programme.

The CPF is committed to regularly reviewing application and assessment processes to ensure that the need for rigour is balanced with accessibility, transparency and a positive experience for applicants. Given the level of demand and consequently the low success rate for applicants in the fund’s completely open calls, the CPF is exploring how it can focus future rounds and make the Eol process more robust so that the demand the fund receives is more aligned with the capacity and resources it has available.

The fund launched one Large Grants round for grants between £100,000 - £2 million and two Small Grants rounds for grants less than £100,000. All three rounds were subject to two phases: an Eol phase in which the team assessed the eligibility and competitiveness of proposals, followed by a full application for those projects invited to apply based on their Eol. The highest number of Eols came from Kenya and the lowest from those projects with proposed activities in Algeria. As Algeria is a new target country for CPF this year, it is likely there was less awareness of the opportunity. In future rounds the fund will do more to increase the visibility and accessibility of CPF in Algeria and other parts of North Africa, as projects benefitting Libya and Tunisia also submitted fewer Expressions of Interest.

Total Expressions of Interest by target country

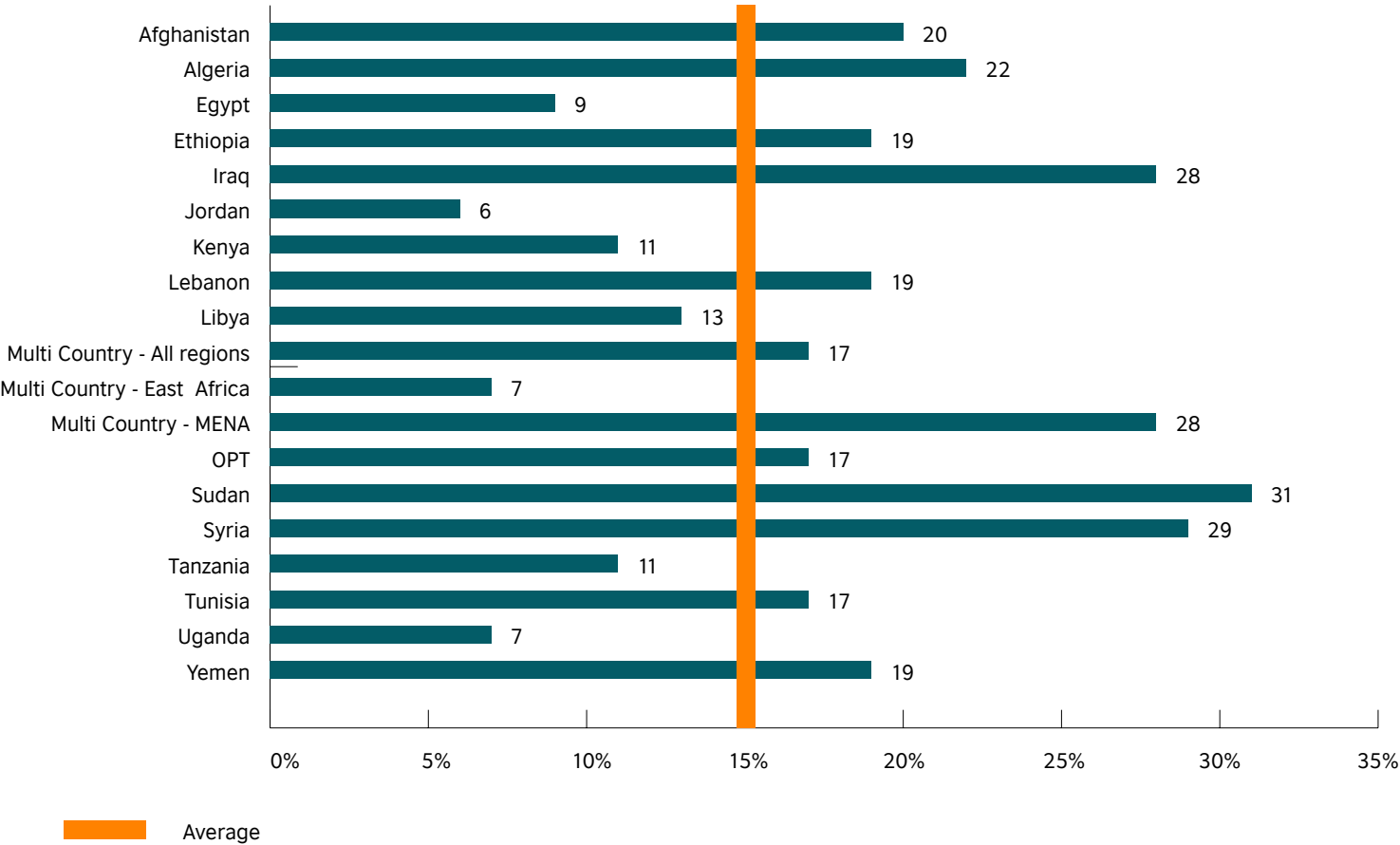


Success Rate

The average success rate for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) being invited to make a full application was low at 16%. This was likely due to the fact that this was the first open call for multi-year CPF projects since 2018. Budget and capacity constraints also limited the number of full applications which could be accepted by the CPF team.

Projects proposing work in Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and those across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region saw the highest success rate. It is interesting to note that the fund received relatively few Expressions of Interest from projects benefitting Sudan, and the high success rate for applications from that country could be related to capacity building training developed by CPF and the British Council Sudan team in 2022.

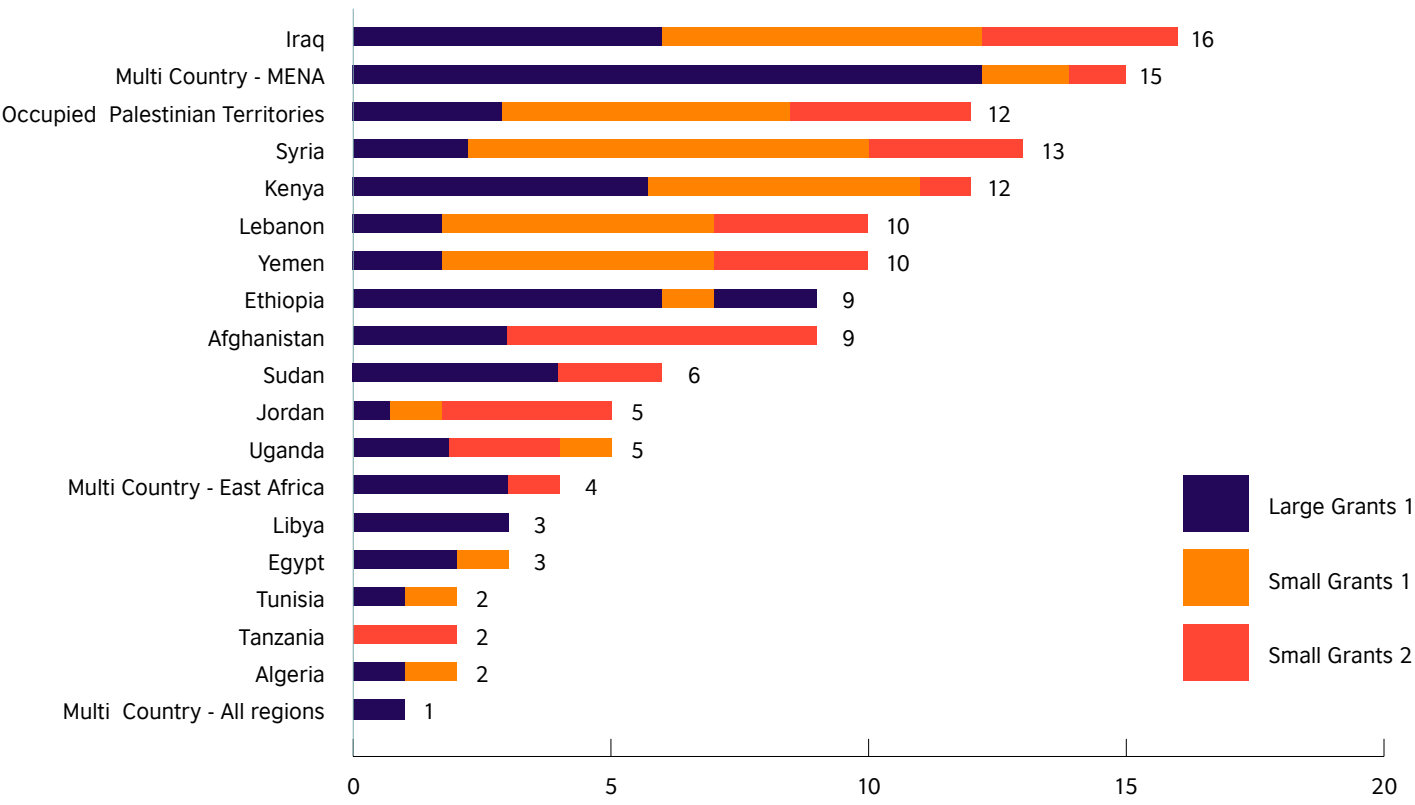
Success rate Eoi to application by target country



In 2022–2023 the CPF team received 139 full applications. The fund received the largest number of applications from projects protecting heritage in Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Syria as well as those with a multi-country focus across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Since the CPF has been operating in MENA since 2016, organisations based in and/or working in this region likely have better knowledge of the fund’s requirements for funding and are more experienced at applying for CPF funds than those in East Africa.

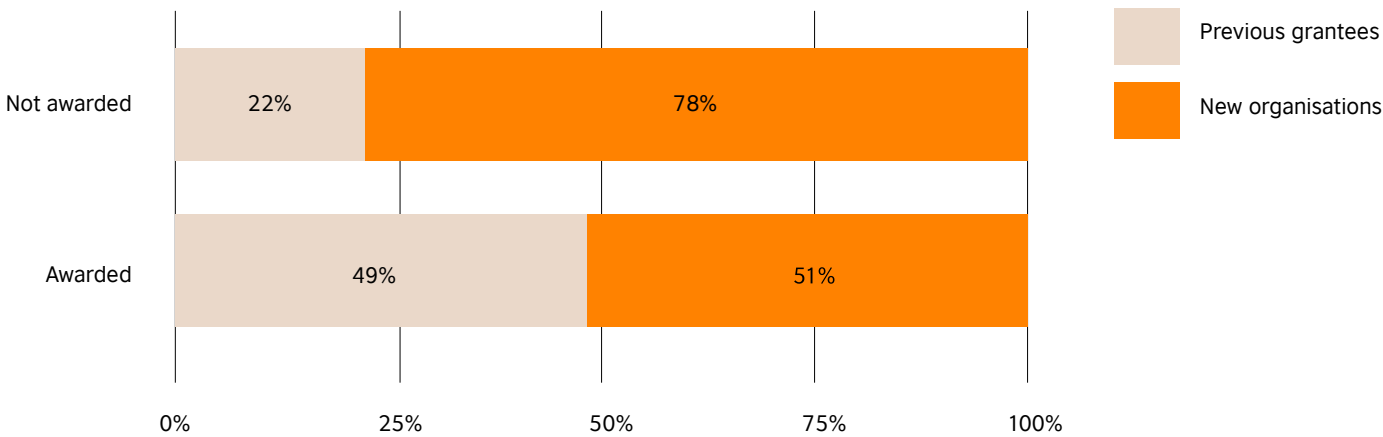
Full applications by target country and funding round



In 2022-23, 29% of all full applications were submitted by organisations that had previously received CPF funding, while 71% were submitted by applicants which were new to the fund.

Of the successful applications, 49% were written by previous grant recipients, with 51% being completed by new applicants.

Applications received from previous grantees



Large Grants Round

From 442 Expressions of Interest, the fund invited 58 proposals to make a full application, with a combined funding demand of £41,766,822.

A breakdown of applications by target country, heritage type and risk type is set out below. Every target country eligible in this round is represented, either as a single target country or within the multi-country projects (e.g. Tanzania).

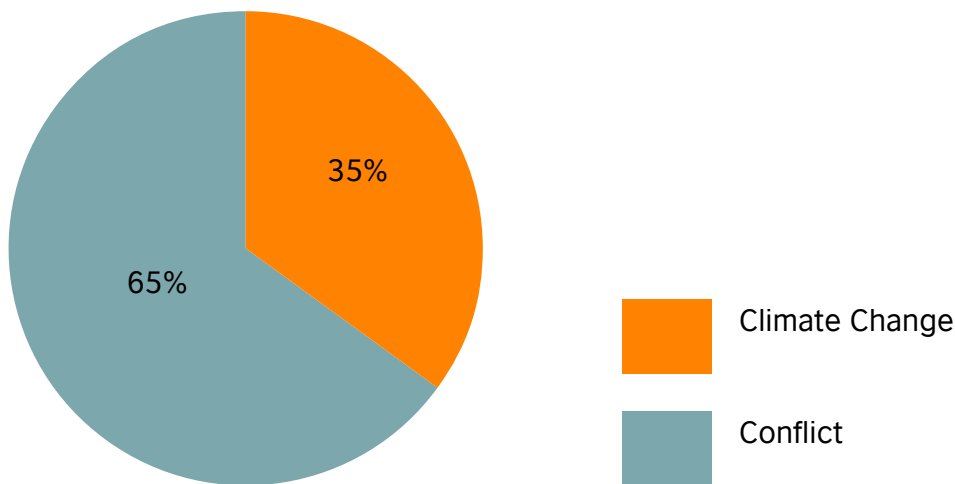
Target country	Applications	Grant request
Afghanistan	3	£3,221,120
Algeria	1	£399,426
Egypt	3	£1,465,268
Ethiopia	5	£2,408,173
Iraq	6	£3,176,377
Jordan	1	£615,214
Kenya	6	£1,257,355
Lebanon	2	£1,756,277
Libya	3	£2,356,052
Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)	5	£5,464,915
Sudan	4	£3,603,713
Syria	2	£690,000
Tunisia	1	£516,800
Uganda	2	£460,000
Yemen	2	£1,173,445
Multi-country	1	£1,597,430
Multi-country - East Africa	2	£1,529,082
Multi-country - Middle East and North Africa	9	£10,071,175
Grand Total	58	£41,766,822

The pie charts below show the CPF applications by heritage focus and risk type - i.e. conflict or climate change. The majority of CPF applications focus on physical heritage, including archaeology, museums and other built heritage, with around a third of applications focused on intangible cultural heritage. In a large funding round, the team would expect that many projects would focus on tangible conservation and restoration work, which

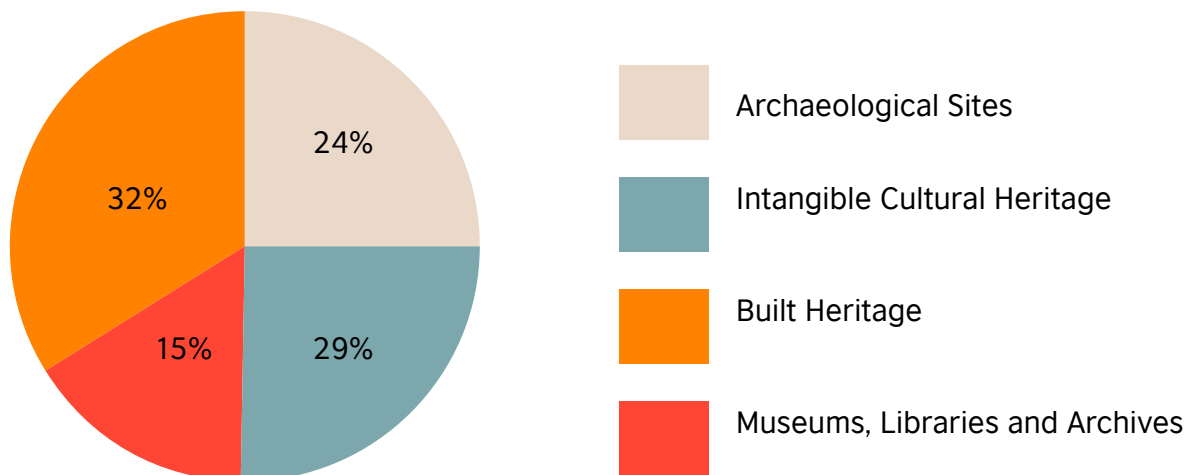
usually costs more than activities in projects with a focus on intangible cultural heritage.

While the majority of applications (65%) focused on protecting heritage against conflict as the main risk, many applications acknowledged that both conflict and climate change were live and serious risks to the heritage they were proposing to protect.

Large grants round applications by risk type



Large grants round applications by heritage type



Small Grants Rounds

From 557 Expressions of Interest across the two small grants rounds, the team invited 79 to make a full application, with a total financial demand of £6,726,049.

The CPF received the highest number of applications from projects with activities in Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

As with the large grants round, applications with activities in North Africa were low, with none focusing on Libya as a single country and only one of the multi-country MENA (Middle East and North Africa) applications including activities in Libya.

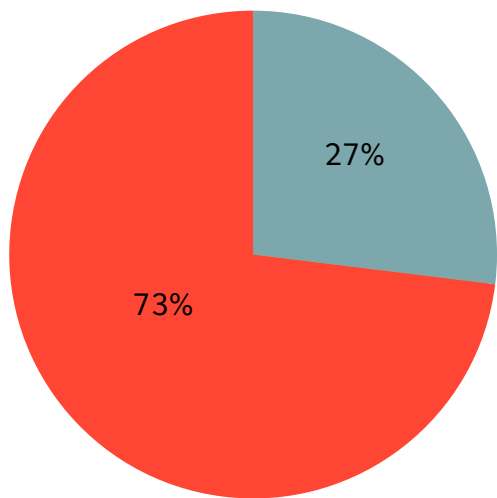
Target country	Applications	Sum of Grant request
Afghanistan	6	£471,102
Algeria	1	£58,600
Egypt	1	£99,727
Ethiopia	3	£291,377
Iraq	10	£772,008
Jordan	4	£357,442
Kenya	6	£572,207
Lebanon	9	£880,152
Libya	9	£778,473
Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)	2	£199,649
Sudan	10	£724,629
Syria	2	£180,190
Tunisia	1	£96,500
Uganda	3	£270,991
Yemen	8	£601,015
Multi-country - East Africa	1	£98,050
Multi-country - Middle East and North Africa	3	£273,938
Grand Total	79	£6,726,049

The pie charts below show the percentage of small grants round applications by heritage focus and by risk type. Similar to the large grants round, most applications here focused on protecting heritage at risk of conflict, with around a quarter predominantly focusing on heritage at risk due to climate change.

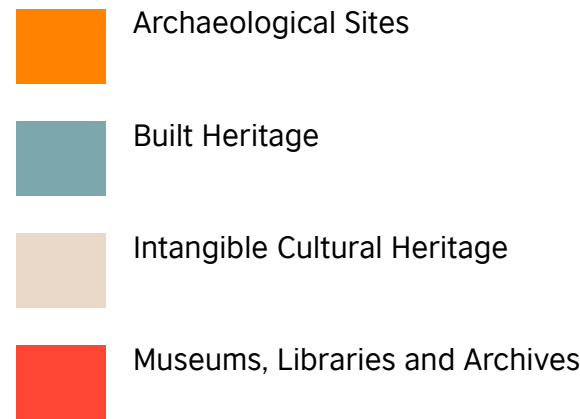
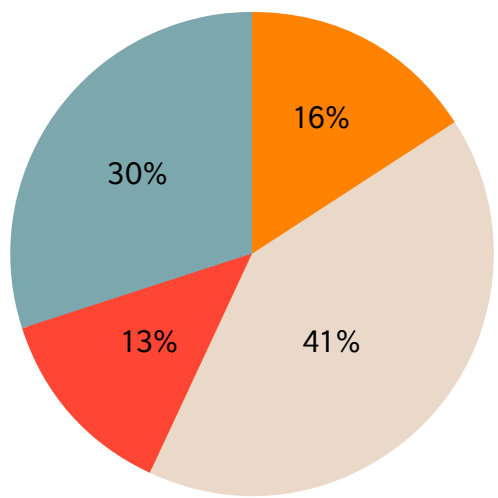
A large proportion (41%) of the small grants applications were proposing activities to protect intangible cultural heritage.

The decision panel for the first small grants round took place in February 2023 and the full list of awards is at [Appendix 2](#). The decision panel for the second small grants round took place in May 2023 and will be announced in early 2024. More detailed descriptions and reports on these projects will be available in the next annual report for 2023–2024.

Small grants round applications by risk type



Small grants round applications by heritage type



Project Highlights

The 17 large projects were awarded in October 2022 and started activities from November onwards. Despite a short time to deliver in this financial year, the projects have accomplished significant achievements against their objectives. From November 2022 to March 2023, projects reported conservation on 15 sites, 33 objects and 25 skills. 199 new roles were created, 115 paid interns engaged, over 3000 people reached in person with project activities and a further almost 6000 people reached online.

Case study Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)

In Gaza, Première Urgence International (PUI) and its partners began their three-year, £1.4 million CPF project delivering preventive and emergency interventions at three important archaeological sites.

In just the first few months the team's excavations in the Roman Necropolis of Ard-al-Moharibeen uncovered 85 tombs, of which 12 were opened and a rare lead sarcophagus was discovered.

'Six months ago, none of the participants in the preventive archaeology programme would have believed that an exceptional necropolis, over 2000 years old, would come to light in the heart of the Gaza Strip. Yet the team of young archaeologists of the INTIQAL program, trained in funerary anthropology techniques, has uncovered 130 burials, ranging from the 2nd century BC to the Roman Emperor Hadrian.

Day after day, the necropolis reveals its secrets, its sarcophagi, and the treasures of men, women, and children from Gaza, that was once at the crossroads of Arabia and the Mediterranean.'

– Anthony Dutemple – Head of Mission,
PUI Palestine



**Work taking place on the site of the Roman necropolis in Gaza.
Photo credit: Première Urgence Internationale.**

The project is led by PUI in partnership with the French Biblical School of Archaeology of Jerusalem - École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (EBAF), the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, the National Institute of Applied Sciences - Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Strasbourg in Strasbourg, the University of Palestine and Islamic University of Gaza.

PUI has been a Cultural Protection Fund grantee since 2017 and has carried out extensive work on two sites in Gaza: - the Saint Hilarion Monastery and a Byzantine Church in Jabaliyah - working with students, graduates and volunteers to excavate and restore the sites.

In the project awarded this year, PUI extended its work to more heritage sites and to intangible heritage, offering oral history training to young people in Gaza and connecting them to others in the West Bank.



Case study

Twaweza Communications

This year Twaweza Communications has been awarded a CPF grant for the first time. Its project is working directly with local communities in the northern area of Kenya's Swahili Coast, to record and document the Bajuni dialect spoken by more than 15,000 people in the region.

The project will work with teachers and the government to embed education about indigenous languages in schools and will conduct public performances of Bajuni poetry to celebrate this endangered cultural heritage.

Twaweza is an organisation based in Nairobi which is committed to using arts, culture and media to promote positive social transformation. The organisation has extensive experience in cultural protection, particularly around endangered languages.

In the first few months of the project Twaweza produced video documentation of cultural dances, narratives of cultural activities related to birth, marriage, and death as well as poetry, songs and ceremonies. They have also trained 22 community members in cultural heritage documentation and have delivered advocacy activities including a talk show on Radio Lamu, the local community radio station, which has a reach of approximately 50,000 listeners.

Twaweza Communications and project team on air at community radio station Radio Lamu.

‘Day after day, the necropolis reveals its secrets, its sarcophagi, and the treasures of men, women, and children from Gaza’.

– Anthony Duteuple – Head of Mission, PUI Palestine

Case study

International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

As part of its £1.5m, multi-country CPF project, the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) gathered heritage professionals together from several international sites including Ethiopia, Jordan and Tanzania. Over the course of two weeks they collaborated, shared and worked together on important challenges such as how to tackle the impact of climate change on heritage sites.

INTO's original CPF project was awarded in 2019 as part of the pilot round in East Africa. The focus was on two communities near the Rwenzori mountains in Uganda and how their sites, traditions and beliefs are at risk due to the melting snow on the nearby mountains.

The project, led by INTO in partnership with the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, worked closely with local people to protect their sites from further damage and discuss the implications and actions for the future of their intangible cultural heritage. The work won a Green Heart Hero award from the Climate Coalition, which

was presented at the UK Houses of Parliament in February 2023.

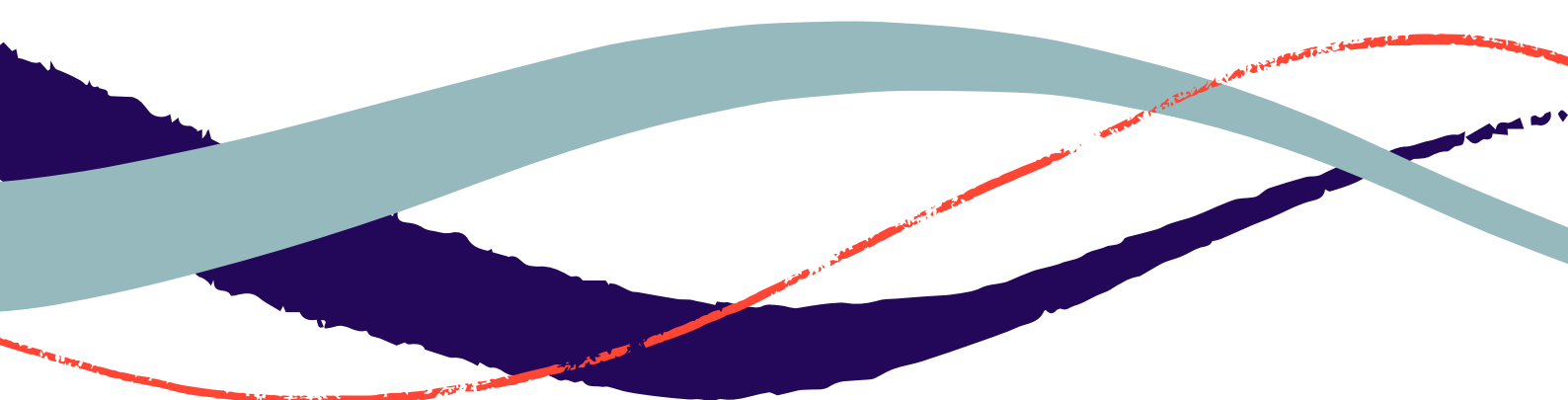
Learning from the previous project, INTO developed a large-scale proposal for the CPF's large funding round, bringing in more partners from their extensive international network.

The purpose of the project is to share expertise in cultural heritage protection across the network, learning from each other about how to tackle urgent issues such as climate and flood related damage, while at the same time carrying out vital restorative and preventative actions at their respective sites.

'A visit to remember! A significant learning experience that demonstrated the direct impact of climate change on culture heritage. Educated about the amazing similarities and differences of cultural heritage not only in the UK but also around the world!'

– Zeina Al-Khashashneh from Jordanian project partner Petra National Trust

Small projects awarded this year started activities in the 2023–2024 financial year and will feature in the next CPF annual report.



**‘A visit to remember!
A significant learning
experience that
demonstrated the
direct impact of
climate change on
cultural heritage’.**

– Zeina Al-Khashashneh from INTO’s Jordanian
project partner Petra National Trust

**26 April 2023 Study group on walking
tour of Porthdinllaen.**

Capacity Building

Recognising gaps in infrastructure, skills and readiness for applying across the CPF target countries, the team allocated £400k of the annual budget to capacity building activities, to be designed and commissioned in collaboration with British Council in-country teams.

In Iraq, consultants Counterculture delivered a programme of workshops and training for directors and senior staff of 15 public museums in Baghdad, Basra and Sulaymaniyah, focusing on development of organisational strategy, digital strategy and professional skills. The work is continuing into 2023–2024 to formalise the network of museum professionals and support them further in strategy and fundraising.

In Lebanon, CPF supported part of Johouzia, a training programme to strengthen the capacity of heritage and emergency professionals, which brought together archaeologists, museologists, archivists, fire brigades, police officers and army officers. CPF supported 100 participants to be trained at Level 1, which raises awareness of the importance of cultural heritage and the impact of its loss. A further 30 participants were



Trainees in the Jouhouzia project, Lebanon. Photo credit: Biladi.



Traditional Reed House in Iraq, taken on Counterculture's visit in 2022. Photo credit: John Newbigin.

trained at Level 2, which focuses on emergency response and provides skills and strategies for protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

Megawra delivered workshops to 23 participants in Jordan and 25 participants in Sudan, to develop organisations' capacity in project design and proposal writing with a specific focus on protection and preservation of heritage. The week-long workshops were well received, and participants learned to formulate ideas in project descriptions with clear goals, outcomes, outputs and activities. The workshops are of interest to other CPF target countries, and it is likely that the fund will deliver more of them through the rest of this programme.

Cultural Protection Fund in South Asia

The 2022–2025 programme includes Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan as countries where the fund intends to carry out scoping activities and pilot funding schemes to inform the potential of including them as target countries in future programmes. Scoping reports have been commissioned on heritage and the risks to it for each of the three countries. In July 2022, roundtable events in Karachi and Islamabad brought together a range of heritage actors to discuss the challenges and opportunities in heritage protection. A similar event took place in Kathmandu in September 2022. Both events were hosted and supported by the British Council offices in each country.



Members of the Open Institute in Nepal, together with the Deputy Mayor of Kathmandu at the CPF roundtable event in Nepal.

Emergency Response

The escalating conflict in Ukraine has drastically intensified the risk to the country's cultural heritage, identity, and memory. A significant number of sites have been intentionally damaged and destroyed, along with important artworks, historical artefacts and archives housed in cultural institutions and private collections. The CPF has supported the emergency stabilisation, evacuation, and protection of heritage in Ukraine through a pooled funding initiative led by Cultural Emergency Response (CER) in the Netherlands.

In February 2023, several devastating earthquakes struck southern and western Turkey and western Syria, impacting 14 million people, and causing untold damage to cultural heritage. The CPF supported damage assessment, emergency stabilisation and coordination activities through Cultural Emergency Response and Blue Shield International. Phase 1 of CER's action plan for Syria and Turkey is currently underway and is continuing into the financial year 2023–2024.

To follow on from previous emergency funding, the CPF has also awarded a grant to Beirut Heritage Initiative, to support the restoration of cultural heritage damaged by the August 2020 explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. The project will carry out consolidation and repair works on two buildings in Beirut - Rmeil 360 known as 'The Pink House' and Sursock Palace. The team will also offer workshops on damage assessment and reconstruction, sandstone masonry, and Baghdadi ceiling restoration which will be completed in the financial year 2023–2024.



Heritage emergency response in Ukraine: Photo provided by the Maidan Museum archive.

What Works

Developing a What Works Approach for International Cultural Heritage Protection

During 2022–2023 the Cultural Protection Fund started the development of a multi-year What Works Approach around International Cultural Heritage Protection. This initiative built on the learning and evaluation work which the fund had previously undertaken.

The What Works Approach aims to support better outcomes for cultural heritage protection and local communities by bringing the best available evidence and learning to practitioners and other decision makers across the international sector. The initiative does this by sharing and translating informed research, decision-making approaches, best practices, and lessons learnt. Further collaboration is planned, contributing to more coordinated impact across the cultural heritage protection and development sectors. The What Works Approach has four overarching evidence themes:

- International Cultural Heritage Protection contribution to sustainable development
- International Cultural Heritage Protection responding to climate change
- International Cultural Heritage Protection through cultural relations approach
- Developing approaches to evaluating and researching international heritage protection

The What Works Approach is centred around improved access to high quality usable evidence and learning in cultural heritage protection, increased motivation to use evidence, improved capability to use evidence well and increased opportunities to use evidence in decision-making.

Working with CPF grantees and Economic Research Services Ltd. (ERS), the fund has co-developed an overarching programme evaluation framework, evaluation support training and an evaluation toolkit for Cultural Protection Fund projects.

This will enable grantees to develop stronger evidence, insights and learning from their projects, which will be rooted in a people-centred approach to evaluation and learning.

The fund has also invested in a digital storytelling platform called Folktale (<https://www.folktale.io/>), which will enable projects, participants and stakeholders to tell their own stories.

During 2022–2023 the fund invested almost £200k in six Cultural Protection Fund Evaluation Follow-on Grants. These have enabled CPF projects to explore how to gather evidence in the medium term and to interrogate the evidence and learning post-project delivery. These projects completed their work in September 2023. The CPF will convene a sharing and learning event in early 2024 to inform its evaluation approach.

Trainees from the Beirut Heritage Initiative project, working on the restoration of the Pink House in Beirut which was destroyed by the August 2020 explosion.



What Works

Developing a What Works Approach for International Cultural Heritage Protection

On the research side, the fund has partnered with Leeds University and De Montfort University to host two Cultural Heritage Protection and Sustainable Development Research Fellowships, exploring heritage protection projects in Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The fund has commissioned Tripleline to undertake a systematic international literature review of the impact of climate change on both intangible and tangible cultural heritage. This work will help future CPF projects and the wider cultural heritage sector to respond to the challenges of climate change resilience and climate mitigation.

Continuing the focus on learning and insights, the fund has co-developed the Connecting Cultural Heritage programme, an international peer and collaborative learning programme for people involved in protecting cultural heritage, with participants from 16 countries. The programme was commissioned by the British Council as part of CPF's work to develop the confidence, knowledge, and networks of practitioners. The initiative will also help to inform learning and best practice for the British Council's approach to peer and collaborative learning. It is being delivered by The Audience Agency, Bayimba, Asia-Europe Foundation and Culture Resource.

Over the past 12 months, the fund has started to share some insights and learning with the wider sector through articles, webinars and conferences such as the UNESCO Mondiacult Conference in Mexico and COP27. In July 2023, CPF convened its first What Works Learning Gathering in Kenya, bringing together the various strands of the fund's projects over three days.





Young people being trained in digital photography and audio-visual recording as part of a CPF-funded project led by Twaweza Communications.

The future of the Cultural Protection Fund

In 2016 when the Cultural Protection Fund was being set up, the driving energy was the need to respond to the barbaric destruction of humanity's treasures by Daesh. The realisation that over 150 sites had been plundered between 2011 and 2015 and footage of horrors such as the destruction of part of the ancient cities of Palmyra in Syria and Nimrud in Iraq were a call to action. This was demonstrated by the words of The Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP OBE (then Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport) launching the consultation into the then potential new fund:

'Throughout history, culture and heritage have often been targeted for destruction by those who oppose others' values, beliefs, and ways of life. Removing cultural heritage including valued objects, and stifling freedom of expression attacks peoples' shared sense of history and identity, and undermines social cohesion, making reconciliation less likely.

Unfortunately, we are witnessing such acts here and now. Cultural sites and heritage across the Middle East and North Africa region are at significant risk of attack, degradation and destruction.

Cultural heritage has immense symbolic significance, aesthetic importance, and comprises priceless assets for humanity. It should be recognised that during conflict the risk to cultural symbols is heightened; yet they are crucial for community and individual resilience. Protecting these objects and sites will protect potential sources of future tourism revenue and foster economic development. This will ensure local people continue to hold a stake in their cultural heritage, which will in turn provide vital longer-term prosperity and security.'

As a result of the successful consultation, the Cultural Protection Fund was established just as the UK ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The overall objective of the fund, shaped by its Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding, was to 'create opportunities for economic and social development through building capacity

to foster, safeguard and promote cultural heritage in conflict-affected regions overseas'. The fund's different approach to cultural protection raised a number of questions including:

- Whether an open, transparent fund would attract applications and would generate projects of quality?
- Whether cultural heritage and cultural protection work would be an effective way of generating social and economic benefits?

From the opening of the initial funding round, CPF has been over-subscribed. It has established itself as a model of 'not just good practice, but best practice' (Markus Hilgert) which has been closely followed by other emerging international cultural protection initiatives.

The most exciting discovery in the fund's development to date has been the wider potential of cultural heritage protection work. With a fully integrated approach, cultural heritage protection can become an engine for social cohesion and create inclusive and sustainable growth, offering the opportunity to do development differently.

'Removing cultural heritage including valued objects, and stifling freedom of expression attacks peoples' shared sense of history and identity, and undermines social cohesion, making reconciliation less likely'.

Integrated Approach

The CPF model is one that encourages partnership, often with UK expertise enhancing the capacities of locally based organisations which are working directly with communities in the fund's target countries. This method encourages a 'bottom-up' approach, where organisations are able to work in places that international and government agencies cannot.

This approach has revealed how knowledge of working in the geographic context, understanding of what works and what is needed locally and the ability to integrate with the cultural infrastructure generates huge impact via smaller, cost-effective partnerships. It has also revealed the potential to create a new, much more integrated, co-ordinated and dynamic model driven by insight, research, innovation and evidence.

The ambition is to go beyond the usual collection of individual time-limited projects and to create regional or sub-regional hubs so that every new project is, from the first, working alongside other initiatives and creating a co-ordinated route to legacy.

The hubs would each develop What Works Centres, sharing and developing insight and relevant research. This would create a knowledge bank which will ensure that any new proposed work can be informed by a knowledge of what has been done and adds to the combined impact and collective knowledge of the hub network.

The What Works Centres would also bring deliverers together in order to share practice, collectively problem solve and identify new potential collaborations that can collectively generate additional transformational benefits.

A network of regional What Works Centres, coordinated in the UK, would not just draw together available insight and research but also ensure consistent approaches in areas such as data collection, mapping, and best practice.

The biggest opportunity with this integrated approach is for a variety of sectors in the UK as it would provide a route to working internationally and expanding their global influence. An example of this is that the vastly increased role of digital technologies (such as virtual reconstruction, digital mapping, data capture and virtual tourism) highlights the demand for a Digital Heritage Lab offering opportunities not just to UK heritage and higher education institutions but to SME's, creative and social enterprises and tech start-ups.

‘Our conclusion is that there is much greater scope for drawing together heritage, diverse local identities and economic development’.

– Recently published RSA report which looks at a pilot project led by British Council (building on the work of CPF) alongside heritage programmes in the UK



Traditional basket making on the Tanzanian coast © Citizen Science Tanzania: A strategy to monitor and mitigate the impacts of climate change on coastal heritage led by St Andrews University.

Doing Development Differently

In the early days of CPF, exploring cultural protection as a route to economic and social betterment for communities in Official Development Assistance (ODA) countries was something of an experiment. Very quickly it was recognised that the fund had happened across a dynamic relationship: cultural heritage is intimately connected to identity and self-image, to place and place-making. The protection and management of cultural heritage can offer an inclusive route to better social cohesion and resilience. It can also identify and create value from cultural assets, resulting in benefits for human capacities and economic growth.

This link is also highlighted in a recent report from the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), which looks at a pilot project led by the British Council (building on the work of the CPF), alongside other heritage programmes in the UK. The report states:

‘It provides a powerful and timely model for addressing social, economic, and environmental inequalities while also recognising the cultural, symbolic and emotional factors which shape the identities and experiences of individuals, communities and places.

There are some high-profile examples of places which have taken a heritage and culture-led approach to economic development and placemaking, such as Hull and Liverpool in the UK. Our conclusion is that there is much greater scope for drawing together heritage, diverse local identities and economic development.’

The pilot programme Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth has been exploring the wider value of heritage protection and heritage management in three different contexts over the past two years. The reports on those pilots have now been published. It is already apparent that working on heritage programmes offers a different approach to International Development. CPF has taken a ‘bottom-up’ approach to cultural protection with a grant mechanism that was also heavily informed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s ‘people-centred’ approach to heritage. CPF sees the discovery of aspects of people’s culture that they cherish, that give value to their lives and that they wish to pass on to future generations as not purely an exercise in respecting the past, but also as a driver of development.

Appendix 1

Full list of large grants awarded in 2022–2023

Withstanding change: heritage amongst climate uncertainty

Led by the International National Trusts Organisation, this project will restore six historic buildings in six countries across the Middle East, North Africa and East Africa, protecting them against the severe impacts of climate change, installing new exhibition spaces to engage local communities. Positive connections will be made between National Trust properties in the UK and the sites in each country enabling knowledge sharing around safeguarding the heritage in the face of climate-induced threats. The project will culminate in a conference to cement learning and strengthen international relationships.

Grant awarded
£1,597,430

Lead organisation
The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

Partner organisations
The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, Uganda; Heritage Watch Ethiopia Association, Ethiopia; The Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society, Tanzania; Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation, Egypt; Petra National Trust, Jordan

Target countries
Egypt, Ethiopia, Syria, Jordan

Middle East People’s Culture Conservation Collective

This project will empower young people across Syria, Iraq and Egypt to protect the heritage of marginalised religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities within their own communities. Where heritage is at risk due to the effects of conflict, training in digital archiving and data preservation will mean that oral histories, interviews, photos and videos capturing dance, language, festivals, feasts, music, pilgrimages and more are archived and preserved for future generations.

Grant awarded
£1,000,798

Lead organisation
Institute of Development Studies

Partner organisations
Refcemi, UK; The University of Duhok

Target countries
Egypt, Syria, Iraq

Safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Bajuni dialect of Swahili, oral traditions and poetry

Working directly with local communities in the northern area of Kenya’s Swahili Coast, this project will record and document the Bajuni dialect spoken by more than 15,000 people in the region. The project will also work with teachers and government to embed education on indigenous languages in schools as well as conduct public performances of Bajuni poetry to engage community members more widely.

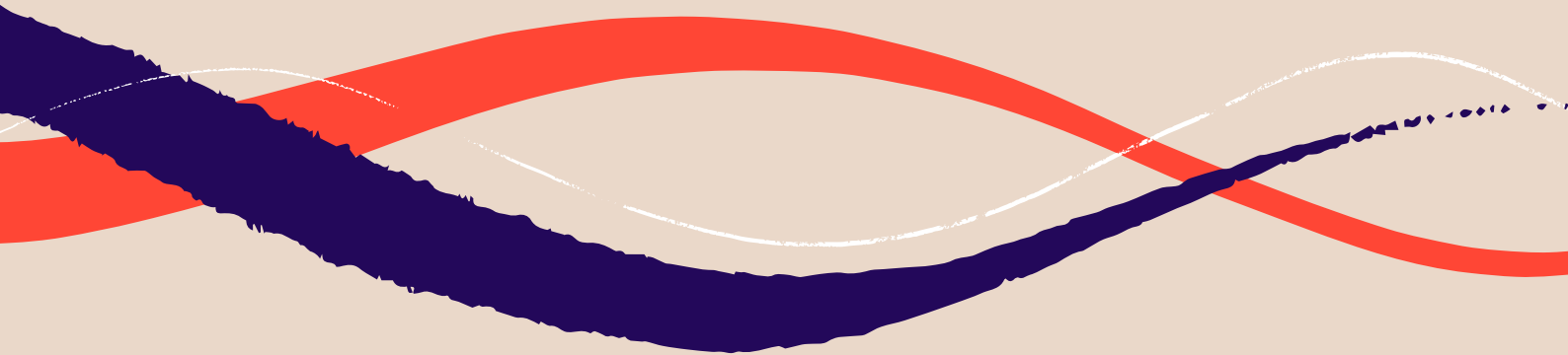
Grant awarded
£157,227

Lead organisation
Twaweza Communications Center Ltd

Partner organisations
Swahili Resource Center, Kenya; Shungwaya Welfare Association, Kenya;

Partners
Swahili Resource Center, Kenya; Shungwaya Welfare Association, Kenya;

Target countries
Kenya



EAMENA: Mitigating Conflict and Climate Change Risks Through Digital Heritage, Capacity Building, and Consolidation

This project will build upon the transformative work undertaken by the EAMENA project across the Middle East and North Africa, working with national NGOs and governments to embed critical skills in the management of built historic and archaeological assets in six countries. A range of heritage professionals will be engaged to assess the condition of nationally important sites that have been damaged as a result of climate change and will utilise these as case studies to inform future safeguarding work across the region. This will result in a more robust EAMENA database, capable of rapidly tracking changes to sites, enabling swift intervention to prevent further damage. A conference will bring government officials together to influence policy change at a regional level to ensure the better care of their globally important heritage assets.

Grant awarded

£999,769

Lead organisation

University of Oxford

Partner organisations

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Palestine; Department of Antiquities, Libya; University of Tipasa, Algeria; ICOMOS Jordan; Ministry of Culture – Directorate General of Antiquities, Lebanon; Heritage for Peace, Spain; St Catherine's Monastery and St Catherine's Foundation, Egypt;

Target countries

Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria

Partnership for Heritage: Safeguarding Traditional Architecture and Intangible Heritage of Tataouine (Tunisia) and the Nafusa mountains (Libya)

The rich and varied heritage of the indigenous Imazighen communities living in the Nafusa Mountains (Libya) and in Tataouine, Tunisia will be documented and conserved through the protection of two ancient, fortified granaries at risk due to climate change. Alongside the restoration of these unique buildings, a programme documenting and reviving local craft and associated skills will support the development of female-led local businesses.

Grant awarded

£ 534,261

Lead organisation

University of the West of England

Partner organisations

Durham University, UK; Institut National du Patrimoine de Tunisie, Tunisia; Department of Antiquities of Libya, Libya; Azzaytuna University, Libya; Institut superieur Des Arts et Métiers de Tataouine - Association du Ksour, Tunisia; Aran NKabaw Foundation for Restoration of Ancient Buildings, Libya; Association Chenini pour la responsabilité sociale, Tunisia; Ecole Nationale d'Architecture et Urbanisme, Tunisia;

Target countries

Libya, Tunisia

Safeguarding endangered oral traditions and minority heritages in Syria

This project will safeguard a wide range of Syrian intangible heritage, including oral traditions, folk stories and proverbs which are central to communities' identities. The project will create podcasts and web-series around mythological storytelling to engage large numbers of people and provide heritage safeguarding training to empower local organisations to conduct research on minority heritages. Training for young people in the traditional craft of woodblock printing will be provided, boosting skills and employment opportunities in the region.

Grant awarded

£391,510

Lead organisation

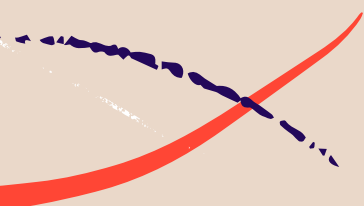
Directions Independent Culture

Partner organisations

Hakawati Inc., USA

Target countries

Syria



Appendix 1

Full list of large grants awarded in 2022–2023

Athar Lina Heritage Climate Change: Conservation and Capacity Building

This project will oversee the protection of Yahya al-Shabih and Safiyy al-Din Jawhar, two medieval Islamic monuments that are currently at risk due to climate-change related threats, while re-opening the sites to visitors and the local community. Situated in Historic Cairo, the conservation of these buildings will include a programme of on-site training, workshops and community outreach, where 200 professionals and technicians will learn techniques to protect heritage from climate change and urban greening climate-change action projects will provide opportunities for local women and children.

Grant awarded

£ 953,776

Lead organisation

Megawra Built Environment

Partner organisations

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), Egypt; Mansour for Architecture and Conservation, Egypt; 10Tooba, Egypt;

Target countries

Egypt

On the Tracks of Music - Folk Music in the Levant and Mesopotamia

This project will preserve and promote the disappearing traditional folk music and musical instruments of marginalised rural communities, in areas severely affected by conflict and climate change, across Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Syria. The rarely documented folk music is specific to each community's history and these traditions are thought to date back to 2500 BC. Musicians and instrument makers will participate in research and trainings to record and document 100 folk music pieces and historic processes, an ambitious awareness raising campaign will promote folk music of the Levant and Mesopotamia to local and global audiences.

Grant awarded

£537,525

Lead organisation

Action for Hope ASBL

Partner organisations

MedeArts, Jordan; Sumer Foundation for Artistic Talents Development, Iraq; The Book Forum, Iraq; Inherit, UK; Smart History Ltd,UK;

Target countries

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

Preserving the past, safeguarding the future: protecting cultural heritage at risk in Gaza through restoration and community engagement

This project will support the complete renovation of the Dar Al-Saada Dome, an important example of Mamluk masonry and architecture in Gaza, for its adaptive reuse as a multi-purpose community education and exhibition centre. The restored dome will also create a safe environment for manuscripts from the 13th century library of the Great Omari Mosque, which will undergo conservation as part of a specialised training programme for local conservators. A community outreach programme will support efforts to improve the school's heritage curriculum through the development of a cultural heritage education programme and participatory research activities will culminate in a three-day festival to share and celebrate community created outputs.

Grant awarded

£338,291

Lead organisation

CISS - Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud

Partner organisations

University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS), Palestine; Recanati e Restauro, Italy;

Target countries

Occupied Palestinian Territories

The Rehabilitation of the Governor's HQ Complex (former British Residency) in Mukalla

The Governor's HQ and former British Resident Advisor's Complex represents a remarkable landmark in Mukalla, Yemen and this project will oversee the rehabilitation of the building and surrounding area and protection of the skills needed to do so. Approaches to the traditional methods of Hadrami earth construction in mud brick and stone construction will be safeguarded through documentation and training of local people.

Grant awarded
£629,660

Lead organisation
Cultural Emergency Response (CER)

Partner organisations
Daw'an Architecture Foundation, Yemen;

Target countries
Yemen

Safeguarding Sudan's Living Heritage

This ambitious project will completely renovate the currently inaccessible Ethnographic Museum in central Khartoum, protecting it from the impacts of climate change induced flooding, create a new landmark domed roof and improved facilities for visitors. The project will also meaningfully engage pastoralists in Darfur and Kordofan, empowering local communities to record accounts of their own living heritage. This will inform new displays in the Ethnographic Museum, enabling people to engage with the critically important collections related to Sudanese intangible culture.

Grant awarded
£1,893,340
£237,385
£1,917,079

Lead organisation
Mallinson Architects

Partner organisations
Sudan National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, Sudan; British Institute Eastern Africa, UK; ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Office, UAE; Cambridge Heritage Research Centre (CHRC) and Mapping Africa's Endangered Archaeological Sites and Monuments Project (MAEASaM), UK; Centre for Darfur Heritage, University of Nyala, Sudan; Durham University: Archives and Special Collections, Sudan Archive, UK; British Museum, UK; Sudan Memory, France;

Target countries
Sudan

Heritage Challenging Fragmented Geography

This project will restore and enhance significant and endangered buildings and public spaces across four historic centres in the West Bank of the Palestinian Territories. These processes will be documented and supported by a heritage training programme for young architects and transformed spaces will be adapted for reuse as community centres to be led by active cultural organisations. Collaborations at a regional and international level will support the creation of new records of traditional practices, provide new opportunities for knowledge exchange and showcase Palestinian cultural heritage to global audiences.

Grant awarded
£ 1,216,264

Lead organisation
RIWAQ-Centre for Architectural Conservation

Partner organisations
The Municipality of Kafr 'Aqab, Palestine; The Popular Art Centre (PAC), Palestine; NAWA for Culture and Arts Association, Palestine; The Municipality of Beit Hanina, Palestine; Qalandiya Village Council, Palestine;

Target countries
Occupied Palestinian Territories, Algeria

Appendix 1

Full list of large grants awarded in 2022–2023

Protection and promotion of Palestinian tangible and intangible cultural heritage at local, national and international levels

This ambitious project will undertake a number of preventive and emergency interventions at three important archaeological sites in the Gaza Strip, including the Roman Necropolis of Ard-al-Moharibeen discovered in January 2022 and the newly discovered Mosaic of Al Bureij, a spectacular mosaic pavement, which is currently considered to date back to the 5th – 7th century. An oral history training programme will enable young people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to develop new skills and a further exchange programme between Syrian and Gazan adolescents will be implemented to support new regional collaborations. An inclusive and varied series of cultural activities in collaboration with civil society and youth focused groups will also engage local audiences and celebrate Palestinian cultural heritage.

Grant awarded
£1,400,000

Lead organisation
Première Urgence Internationale

Partner organisations
The French Biblical School of Archaeology of Jerusalem - École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (EBAF), Occupied Palestinian Territories; Centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR), Coventry University (CU), UK; Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Strasbourg, France; The University of Palestine, Occupied Palestinian Territories; Islamic University of Gaza, Occupied Palestinian Territories;

Target countries
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Insitu Preservation of 1.5-Million-Year-Old Footprints at Ileret, Northern Kenya: Evidence of Early Hominin Foot Morphology And Paleobiology

National Museums of Kenya will work with international partners to safeguard the globally important heritage of the 1.5-million-year-old hominin footprints found at Ileret, near Lake Turkana, an area known as the “cradle of humankind”. A physical canopy will protect the site from the effects of wind erosion driven by climate change and the local community will gain skills in heritage management in order to protect the site into the future and present the heritage at a new exhibition and community space.

Grant awarded
£384,152

Lead organisation
National Museums of Kenya

Partner organisations
Chatham University, USA; Technical University of Kenya, Kenya; Rutgers University, USA; George Washington University, USA; International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), Italy; Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya;

Target countries
Kenya

Dessie Museum Renovation

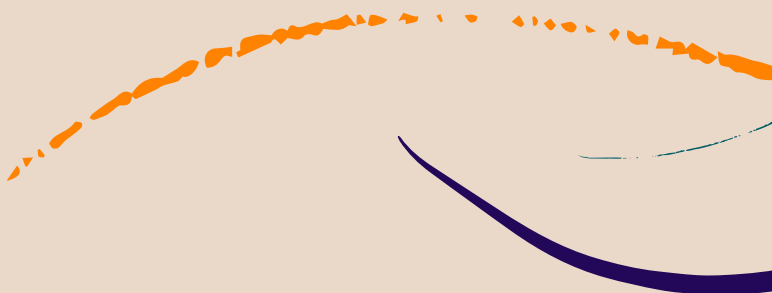
This project will support the complete renovation of the Dessie Museum in Ethiopia’s Amhara Region, which was destroyed during conflict in 2021. Through a combination of physical interventions to restore and upgrade museum facilities, community focused heritage trainings and a collections growth initiative to replace damaged and lost objects, the museum will reopen and continue as an important regional centre for culture and education.

Grant awarded
£400,019

Lead organisation
Ethiopian Heritage Trust (EHT)

Partner organisations
Ethiopian Heritage Conservation Authority (EHCA), Ethiopia; Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and city Development, Ethiopia; Wollo University, Ethiopia; Amhara National Regional State Culture and Tourism Bureau, Ethiopia; Dessie culture and Tourism Department, Ethiopia;

Target countries
Ethiopia



Abbas Bazaar, Recovery Lab of Port Said

This project will protect the 19th century Khedive Abbas Helmy II Bazaar in Port Said, Egypt. The Bazaar is a unique hybrid of local architectural style and European modernism that has suffered extensive damage as a result of past conflicts on the Suez Canal. Its partial reconstruction will preserve original features, including the timber verandas, and the combined research, education and training initiatives will capture the collective memory of the Bazaar's sociocultural importance and provide a model for future urban heritage interventions in the historic core of Port Said.

Grant awarded
£237,272

Lead organisation
Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus

Partner organisations
Al-Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts, Egypt; Galala University, Egypt; Port Said Ala Adeemo, Egypt; Alliance Française de Port-Saïd, Egypt;

Target countries
Egypt

Ark for Iraq (Phase 3)

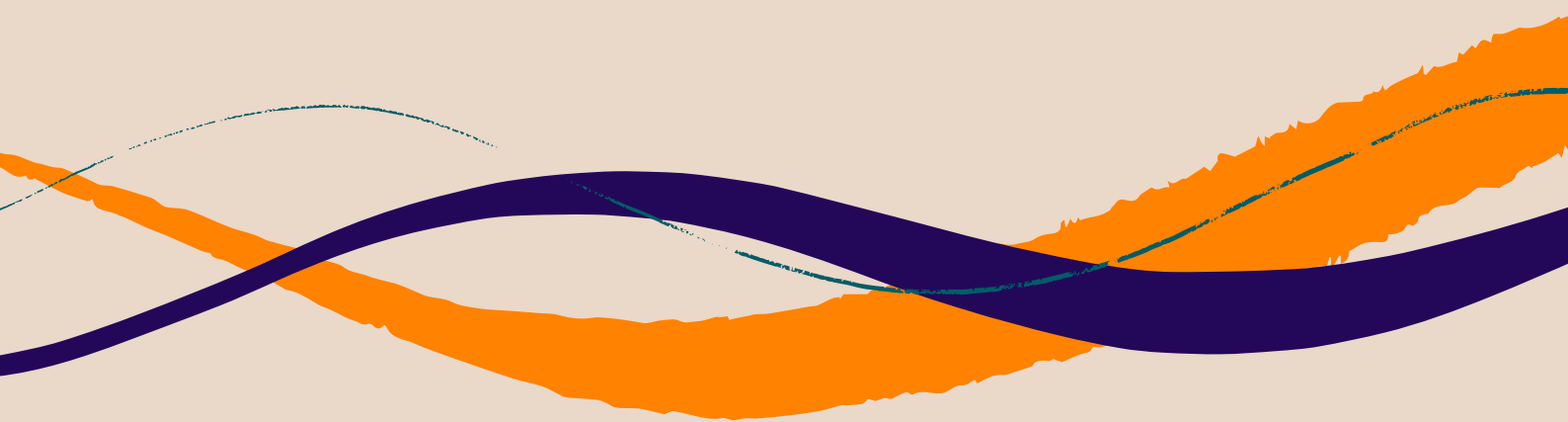
This project is an expansion of an ambitious initiative to protect and promote Iraq's unique and endangered inland watercraft heritage, that is in rapid decline due to the ongoing impact of climate change. Working across locations in Southern Iraq, skilled artisans will work with local students to document and create new models of traditional boats and associated crafts with varied historic use along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. A series of workshops and field testing will support new research into climate mitigation measures and a diverse range of educational, sports, leisure and tourism activities will engage local communities and civil society groups.

Grant awarded
£779,737

Lead organisation
Safina Projects CIC

Partner organisations
Basrah Museum (managed by Basrah Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage), Iraq; University of Basrah, Iraq; Natural History Museum, University of Basra,Iraq; British Institute for the Study of Iraq, UK; Al-Turath al-Sha'bi (Journal) / Shanashil Foundation for Humanitarian Heritage Revival (NGO), Iraq;

Target countries
Iraq



Appendix 2

Full list of Small Grants awarded in 2022–2023

Small Grants 1 (SG1) SG2 decisions were made in 2023–2024

Turath Benghazi (Building Heritage Capacity & Local Engagement in Benghazi’s Historic City Centre)
<p>The historic city centre of Benghazi in Libya hosts many important religious and cultural sites and has suffered significant damage due to civil war. This project will provide local architects and officials with training in cultural heritage preservation and urban design, building capacity for conservation and restoration of this ancient city.</p>
Grant amount £ 99,750
Grantee World Monuments Fund Britain
Partners Historical City Administration Authority/ Benghazi, Libya; Create Streets Foundation (UK), UK; Barah Organization for Culture and Arts, Libya; Institut français d’archéologie orientale (IFAO), Egypt;
Target countries Libya

Khan Musallah, Najaf, Iraq
<p>This impressive 19th Century monument in Iraq was built to accomodate pilgrims travelling between the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala and was a key point for contact and exchange along the Silk and Ottoman trade routes. It suffered significant damage during conflict and faces further deterioration due to climate change. This project will improve the condition of the site, create a conservation plan and support local heritage professionals and the community to care for and protect this and other local heritage sites in the future.</p>
Grant amount £69,074
Grantee Living Mesopotamia CIC
Partners State Board of Antiquities, Iraq - Najaf branch, Iraq;
Target countries Iraq

Global Bethlehem: Securing the Archives of a Travelling Merchant
<p>The 19th century Dar Jacir house and its rare archival collection in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, are in danger of being lost due to ongoing conflict. This project will protect the building against further damage, provide access to new areas for collections and display and will enable the creation of a professional standard archive room.</p>
Grant amount £ 99,855
Grantee Dar Yusuf Nasri Jacir for Art and Research
Partners The Khalidi Library (Al Khalidiyya), Palestine;
Target countries Occupied Palestinian Territorie

Cultural Heritage Preservation and Responsible Tourism for Sustainable Development of the Ik community in Northern Karamoja, Uganda

The Ik community in Northeast Uganda have a unique language and culture that is under threat due to marginalisation and displacement through conflict and climate change. This project aims to protect their cultural identity through documentation, community engagement and training.

Grant amount
£ 76,191

Grantee
Kara-Tunga Foundation

Partners
Ik Agenda Development Initiative, Uganda; EyeOpener Initiative, Uganda; Urithi Studio Enterprises Limited, Uganda;

Target countries
Uganda

Emergency intervention and damage assessment in Manbij, Syria

This project will see the implementation of emergency and consolidation interventions to stabilise three at-risk monuments in Northern Syria, dating from the late Byzantine to early 20th century.

Grant amount
£ 80,000

Grantee
Heritage for Peace

Partners
RehabiMed, Spain;

Target countries
Syria

Revitalise the Roots: Bikaporois

The Endorois were some of the first inhabitants in the Baringo and Laikipia Counties in Kenya and their intangible heritage is at risk due to the rising water levels of nearby Lake Bogoria. The project will deliver training in oral history skills and record conversations with Endorois Elders focusing on the knowledge systems, practices and rituals connected to their pastoralist culture.

Grant amount
£100,000

Grantee
Jamii Asilia Centre

Partners
Global Wisdom Collective, USA; Endorois Welfare Council (EWC), Kenya; Endorois Indigenous Women Empowerment Network (EIWEN), Kenya;

Target countries
Kenya

Documentation and Conservation of Lebanon's Coastal Castles

The coastal heritage of Lebanon is at risk of erosion due to climate change. This project will carry out conservation, documentation and 3D photogrammetric digitisation of four historically significant archaeological sites, as well as building capacities by providing local training in heritage preservation.

Grant amount
£ 92,000

Grantee
Iconem Fund

Partners
Lebanese Ministry of Culture - DGA (General Directorate of Antiquities), Lebanon;

Target countries
Lebanon

Appendix 3

Meeting Group members

Programme Board

Stephen Stenning OBE
Director, Culture in Action,
British Council – Chair

Mark Stephens
Director, Cultural Engagement, British Council

Stephanie Grant
Director, Cultural Protection Fund,
British Council

Daniel Head
Senior Grants Manager, Cultural Protection
Fund, British Council

Ian Thomas,
Head of Arts Research and Insight,
British Council

Amanda Snowe
Arts Marketing Project Manager,
British Council

Duncan Parish
Deputy Director, Tourism & Cultural
Diplomacy, DCMS

Charlotte Hanson
Head of International Cultural Heritage
Protection, DCMS

Emily Mansell
Head of Cultural Diplomacy, DCMS

Izehiese Cooper
Finance Manager, DCMS

Harriet Williams
Senior Policy Advisor, Cultural Diplomacy,
DCMS

Large Grants Approvals Panel (October 2022)

Stephen Stenning OBE
Director, Culture in Action,
British Council – Chair

Chris Rawlings
Regional Director, Middle East and North
Africa Region, British Council

Chantal Harrison-Lee
British Council

Maureen Anzaye
Project Manager, British Council Kenya

Lina Tahan,
Specialist Assessor

Alexander Finnen
Specialist Assessor

Charles Morse
Specialist Assessor

Small Grants Round 1 Approvals Panel (February 2023)

Stephen Stenning OBE
Director, Culture in Action,
British Council – Chair

Pablo Rossello
Director, Culture Responds, British Council

Amany Abouzeid
Regional Arts Director, Middle East and North
Africa Region, British Council

Cathy Costain
Head of Arts, British Council Egypt

Maureen Anzaye
Project Manager, British Council Kenya

Appendix 4

Full list of grants delivered in 2020–2021

Training in Endangered Archaeology methodology with Middle East and North African Heritage Stakeholders

This project trained archaeologists from eight countries in the use of an open-source aerial recording methodology, designed for conflict zones and other areas where access to the ground is restricted.

To date, 170 archaeologists have been trained and the project has contributed to enhancing records by supporting the creation of national databases.

Grant amount

£749,790

Grantee

Oxford University

Target

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Tunisia, Yemen

Restoration of Al-Madrassahh Al-Jawhariyya and Ribat AlKurd Façade in the Old City of Jerusalem, as a part of the Rehabilitation of the Bab El-Hadid Street neighbourhood

The project successfully restored the façade of a historic Mamluk building in the Old City of Jerusalem. The project also improved the management of the building by enhancing the capacity of the Islamic Waqf to manage heritage of this type, training four local workers, including two from the Waqf, in stone restoration, and promoting understanding of Mamluk architecture with professionals and local people.

Grant amount

£250,000

Grantee

The Welfare Association (UK)

Target

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Preserving Afghan heritage and putting it to work: a cultural hub creating incomes and pride

This project has restored much of the Old City of Kabul in Afghanistan, including five historic buildings and 20 bazaar shops. It has trained 651 builders and 857 industry professionals (including government officials) on traditional Afghan buildings and also provided training for 893 artisans in traditional crafts and design.

A Design Centre was created which helped artisans generate over £900k in independent sales in addition to £2m in international sales of Afghan crafts, leveraging expertise from UK design schools and partnerships.

Grant amount

£374,666

Grantee

Turquoise Mountain Trust Ltd

Target

Afghanistan

Syrian Stonemasonry training – Lebanon

This project has provided a group of Syrian and Jordanian trainees with traditional stonemasonry skills that can be used to repair conflict-affected historic buildings. This project is delivered in partnership with Petra National Trust.

Since 2017, the Syrian Stonemasonry project has trained a cohort of Syrian refugees and Jordanians in stonemasonry as well as running community engagement activities with young people living in the area.

Grant amount

£548,201

Grantee

World Monuments Fund Britain

Target

Lebanon, Syria

Sudan Memory: conserving and promoting Sudanese cultural and documentary heritage

This project conserved and digitised a range of written and photographic material held in archives in Sudan.

Grant amount

£385,587

Grantee

King's College London

Target

Sudan

Rescuing the Mamluk Minbars of Cairo

This project focused on the research, documentation and conservation of Mamluk minbars in Historic Cairo. To date, the organisation has captured detailed photographic documentation of a total of 27 minbars and fully surveyed and documented 11 minbars.

Grant amount

£237,775

Grantee

Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation, EHRF

Target

Egypt

Appendix 4

Full list of grants delivered in 2020–2021

Protection, preservation and promotion of Gaza Strip Historical archaeological sites

This project is currently implementing protective measures to the two archaeological sites in the Gaza Strip, both of which have been directly affected by conflict. A programme of practical training has been delivered with the two university partners as well as a wide programme of community engagement attracting significant numbers of Gazans to visit the sites.

Grant amount
£450,000

Grantee
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)

Target
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Circulating Artefacts (CircArt): A cross-platform alliance against the looting and trafficking of pharaonic antiquities

This project launched in March 2018 and currently focuses on antiquities from Egypt and Sudan. Thus far, the project has documented and researched nearly 47,000 objects in circulation on the market, producing strong evidence to suggest that more than 10% were excavated illegally. The project has enabled the recovery of artefacts looted from dozens of sites across Egypt and Sudan.

Grant amount
£681,282

Grantee
The British Museum

Target
Egypt, Sudan

The Life Jacket: The Revitalization and Development of Rural Jerusalem

This project is dedicated to restoring the historic centres of four villages in North West and North East Jerusalem, and building capacity in restoration for local workers and heritage professionals.

Some of the project's highlights include the renovation of a historic courtyard in Kafr Aqab to serve as a cultural hub, and the full restoration of two buildings in Qalandiya. Additionally, the project has trained a number of local workers in architectural design.

Grant amount
£449,716

Grantee
RIWAQ-Centre for Architectural Conservation

Target
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Conservation for Digitisation

This project has established the first paper conservation studio in the West Bank. It has conserved 2,841 individual paper items from a variety of important archives, 2,019 of which have been digitised by a complementary project funded by Arcadia. The project also focused on the building of capacity of conservation managers and delivered a number of advocacy and education activities, including a specialised workshop on archive conservation.

Grant amount
£152,198

Grantee
The Welfare Association (UK)

Target
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Postwar Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Yemen

This project was led by the Prince Claus Fund and its local partner the Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation to protect and restore cultural heritage throughout Hadhramaut by reinforcing structures and arresting any imminent danger of collapse.

Grant amount
£225,000

Grantee
Prince Claus Fund

Target
Yemen

Action for Hope Music Schools for Refugees

This project worked to preserve and promote traditional Syrian music and musical instrument-making among refugee communities in two music schools in Lebanon and Jordan. The project has educated and trained 60 young people in traditional Syrian music in Lebanon and Jordan.

Grant amount
£395,497

Grantee
Action for Hope ASBL

Target
Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

Western Sudan Community Museums: Nyala, El Obaid, Omdurman

This project restored three museums and met the educational and cultural needs of their communities, visitors and tourists.

The Khalifa House in Khartoum, the Sheikan Museum in El Obeid and the Darfur Museum in Nyala lie on a traditional trade route out of Western Sudan, to the capital Khartoum. Each museum hosts collections speaking to the community and history of the local area, as well as being nationally and internationally important.

Grant amount

£499,316

Grantee

ICCROM

Target

Sudan

Preserving Egyptian Coptic Heritage through conservation, scholarship and educational dissemination

This project has provided training in conservation methods, manuscript handling, record keeping and collection care. Undocumented Coptic and Arabic manuscripts in the collection have been catalogued and 22 important and vulnerable ancient Syriac manuscripts have been conserved.

Grant amount

£176,334

Grantee

The Levantine Foundation

Target

Egypt

Old City of Taiz - Building capacity in post-conflict heritage assessment and emergency conservation in Yemen

This project trained museum professionals from the Yemeni city of Taiz, equipping them with the skills necessary to document the city's damaged cultural heritage.

Grant amount

£116,900

Grantee

World Monuments Fund Britain

Target

Yemen

Promotion of language heritage in three Afghan minority languages

This project has preserved and protected minority languages in Afghanistan through the documentation of folktales, rites of passage, music, and traditional beliefs. To date, 1,350 books detailing Nuristani folklore, music and beliefs, have been made, 600 in English and 750 in a Nuristani/Dari diglot for local people.

Grant amount

£33,698

Grantee

SIL International

Target

Afghanistan

Preserving Yemen's needle work and hand embroidery traditions

£31,920 was awarded to Felix Arabia International to protect and preserve intangible cultural heritage practices of traditional Yemeni needle work and embroidery, at risk of deterioration due to displacement of communities, lack of resources and increased cost of materials. Through training and skills development, cataloguing and databasing, the project will safeguard both the tangible pieces of embroidery and the practice itself for future generations.

Grant amount

£31,920

Grantee

FELIX ARABIA INTERNATIONAL Helping Hands for Yemen

Target

Yemen

Restoration of 150 Paintings at the Afghan National Gallery (ANG) Destroyed by the Taliban

This project carried out a needs assessment on 150 paintings within the Afghan National Collection (ANC) that were destroyed by the Taliban.

So far the project has successfully accessed the 150 paintings within the ANC and restored 31 of these. In addition to this, ANG staff have received training in collections management and the care, restoration and conservation of paintings.

Grant amount

£502,015

Grantee

Foundation of Culture & Civil Society

Target

Afghanistan

Appendix 4

Full list of grants delivered in 2020–2021

Community Empowerment Project in the Fields of Heritage

£85,708.07 was awarded to Petra National Trust in partnership with International National Trusts Organisation and Carey Tourism. The project focuses on capacity building to protect cultural heritage within Syria and Egypt through training heritage and tourism practitioners, community awareness raising and sharing knowledge and best practice. Architecturally significant heritage buildings and monuments in Syria are at risk due to damage or destruction caused by conflict.

Online training and mentoring were delivered in heritage site management. This informed pilot work around Homs, Aleppo, Palmyra in Syria and Cairo, Egypt, with additional activities in Amman and Petra, Jordan.

Activities engaged local adults and young people, enhancing understanding of site significance, safeguarding heritage, and sustainable site development.

Grant amount

£85,708.07

Grantee

Petra National Trust

Target

Syria

Preserving endangered photograph and newspaper collections at McMillan Memorial Library

Book Bunk Trust in partnership with African Digital Heritage Foundation and Built Environment Surveyors & Infrastructure Consultancy (BESIC) Group Ltd, digitised and protected the physical collection of paper and photographic collections at the McMillan Memorial Library in Nairobi in order to mitigate against the climate-related risks of heat and moisture. Alongside digitising the fragile physical collection, the project will improve storage conditions through installing climate control systems and dehumidifiers, as well as providing training and workshops in archives management.

Grant amount

£124,523

Grantee

Book Bunk Trust

Target

Kenya

Community Inclusive Cultural Heritage Protection for Sustainable Development

This project is led by ARCCH in partnership with the Addis Ababa University, Mekelle University Institute of Paleoenvironment and Heritage Conservation and M. Womersleys Ltd. (a UK based limited company). The project involves the preparation of risk assessments and preparedness guidelines for 23 rock-hewn church sites in the Gheralata Mountain Region of Ethiopia. Activities include production of a conservation-restoration manual for future purposes and skills training for local craft persons to enable them to conserve the churches using traditional materials and techniques.

Grant amount

£125,000

Grantee

Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH)

Target

Ethiopia

Documentation and protection of cultural heritage in Raqqa city

£100,000 was awarded to Institute Milá i Fontanals of the Spanish National Research Council, to train local professionals in Raqqa to undertake emergency conservation of four significant Syrian monuments, that were damaged during conflict. Further training, documentation and awareness raising activities will support the future preservation of important Syrian cultural heritage.

Grant amount

£100,000

Grantee

Institute Milà i Fontanals of the Spanish National Research Council (IMF-CSIC)

Target

Syria

NOTAH (Digitizing the Syrian Music Score Sheets)

£66,630 was awarded to Douzan Arts and Culture to protect Syria's diverse musical heritage by researching, documenting and publishing Syrian sheet music. The project will train Syrian musicians in digitisation techniques to protect these pieces of music from being lost due to past and current conflict.

Grant amount

£66,630

Grantee

Düzen Müzik Kültür ve Sanat (Douzan Art and Culture)

Target

Syria

Jamakaneh

£36,475 was awarded to Basement Cultural Foundation who are addressing an urgent need to protect undocumented Yemeni intangible heritage. The project will digitise, catalogue and publish hundreds of personal family relics alongside a training programme in archiving techniques and public sharing events.

Grant amount

£36,745

Grantee

Basement Cultural Foundation

Target

Yemen

Melting snow and rivers in flood: mitigating the impact of a warming climate on Uganda's heritage

INTO worked in partnership with Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda to protect the tangible and intangible heritage of the Bakonzo and Alur communities which is at risk due to rapidly melting snow in the Rwenzori Mountains in Western Uganda. Main activities were documentation and mapping of tangible and ICH, physical works to protect Wang Lei (a national monument), training heritage sector workers, community awareness raising, knowledge exchange with the UK, creation of management plans and promotional activities.

Grant amount

£78,648

Grantee

The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

Target

Uganda

Citizen Science Tanzania: A strategy to monitor and mitigate the impacts of climate change on coastal heritage

St Andrew's University, in partnership with the University of Dar Es Salaam assessed and digitised the coastal sites of Kilwa Kisiwani and Bagamoyo in Tanzania with a view to better preparing it for future rising sea levels, as well as documenting associated intangible heritage with these sites. Activities also included training in drone use and photogrammetry as well as development of a smart phone app for use by the local community to record information about the heritage.

Grant amount

£61,701

Grantee

St Andrews University

Target

Tanzania

Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management Coastal Cultural Heritage of Kenya, 2020-2021

ICCROM in partnership with National Museums Kenya developed disaster risk management plans for four heritage sites on the Kenyan coast that are at risk due to rising sea levels, coastal erosion, salt evaporation and storms. Alongside the plans the project help to build the capacity of site staff to manage risks, implement pilot capital interventions at one of the sites and hold community training programmes at each of the sites.

Grant amount

£125,000

Grantee

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

Target

Kenya

Douroub (Pathways): Promoting Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage

£100,000 was awarded to Ettijahat to protect traditional heritage crafts and storytelling at risk due to conflict in Syria. Workshops and training in storytelling, ceramics and weaving alongside documentation and the production of digital content, will preserve Syrian intangible heritage which could otherwise be lost.

Grant amount

£100,000

Grantee

Directions Independent Culture (known as Ettijahat - Independent Culture)

Target

Syria

Oral traditional heritage of Infusen region Project of Si Isnayen

£36,270 was awarded to the Khalifa Ihler Institute which will collate and disseminate the oral histories of the Amazigh people, an indigenous tribal population in Libya whose intangible cultural heritage has rarely been documented. Their stories will be collected, curated and published along with a digital booklet and transcription available in Tamazight (the Amazigh's traditional language), Arabic and English.

Grant amount

£36,270

Grantee

The Khalifa Ihler Institute

Target

Libya

Appendix 5

Full list of grants delivered in 2021–2022

Conservation for Digitisation

This project has established the first-ever paper conservation studio in the West Bank. It has conserved 2,841 individual paper items from a variety of important archives, 2,019 of which have been digitised by a complementary project supported by the Arcadia Fund. The project also focused on the building of capacity of conservation managers and delivered a number of advocacy and education activities, including a specialised workshop on archive conservation.

Grant amount

£152,198

Grantee

The Welfare Association (UK)

Target

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Post-war Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Yemen

This project was led by the Prince Claus Fund and its local partner the Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation to protect and restore cultural heritage throughout the region of Hadhramaut by reinforcing structures and arresting any imminent danger of building collapse.

Grant amount

£225,000

Grantee

Prince Claus Fund

Target

Yemen

NOTAH (Digitizing the Syrian Music Score Sheets)

This project protected Syria's diverse musical heritage by researching, documenting and publishing Syrian sheet music. The team trained Syrian musicians in digitisation techniques to protect these pieces of music from being lost due to past and current conflict.

Grant amount

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Grantee

Düzen Müzik Kültür ve Sanat (Douzan Art and Culture)

Target

Syria

Training in Endangered Archaeology methodology with Middle East and North African Heritage Stakeholders

This project trained archaeologists from eight countries in the use of an open-source aerial recording methodology, designed for conflict zones and other areas where access to the ground is restricted. To date, 170 archaeologists have been trained in the use of this methodology and the project has contributed to enhancing records by supporting the creation of national databases.

Grant amount

£749,790

Grantee

Oxford University

Target

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Tunisia, Yemen

Community Empowerment Project in the Fields of Heritage

The project focused on capacity building to protect cultural heritage in Egypt and Syria, the latter of which is at risk due to damage or destruction caused by conflict. Activities included providing online training and mentoring in heritage site management for heritage and tourism practitioners, community awareness-raising and sharing knowledge and best practice. Architecturally significant heritage buildings and monuments in Syria are at risk due to damage or destruction caused by conflict. Online training and mentoring were delivered in heritage site management. This informed pilot work around Homs, Aleppo, Palmyra in Syria and Cairo, Egypt, with additional activities in Amman and Petra, Jordan. Activities engaged local adults and young people, enhancing understanding of site significance, safeguarding heritage, and sustainable site development.

Grant amount

£99,888

Grantee

Petra National Trust

Target

Syria

Restoration of Al-Madrassahh Al-Jawhariyya and Ribat AlKurd Façade in the Old City of Jerusalem, as a part of the Rehabilitation of the Bab El-Hadid Street neighbourhood

The project successfully restored the façade of a historic Mamluk building in the Old City of Jerusalem. The team also improved the management of the building by enhancing the capacity of the Islamic Waqf to manage heritage of this type, training four local workers, including two from the Waqf, in stone restoration, and promoting understanding of Mamluk architecture with professionals and local people.

Grant amount

£250,000

Grantee

The Welfare Association (UK)

Target

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Rescuing the Mamluk Minbars of Cairo

This project focused on the research, documentation and conservation of Mamluk minbars in Historic Cairo. To date, the organisation has captured detailed photographic documentation of a total of 27 minbars (a pulpit in a mosque) and fully surveyed and documented 11 minbars.

Grant amount

£237,775

Grantee

Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation (EHRF)

Target

Egypt

Action for Hope: Music Schools for Refugees

This project worked to preserve and promote traditional Syrian music and musical instrument making among refugee communities in two music schools in Lebanon and Jordan. The project has educated and trained 60 young people in traditional Syrian music.

Grant amount

£395,497

Grantee

Action for Hope ASBL

Target

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

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Grantee

King's College London

Target

Sudan

Preserving endangered photograph and newspaper collections at McMillan Memorial Library

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Grant amount

£124,523

Grantee

Book Bunk Trust

Target

Kenya

Community Inclusive Cultural Heritage Protection for Sustainable Development

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Grant amount

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Grantee

Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCCH)

Target

Ethiopia

Circulating Artefacts (CircArt): A cross-platform alliance against the looting and trafficking of pharaonic antiquities

This project launched in March 2018 and mainly focused on antiquities from Egypt and Sudan. Thus far, the project has documented and researched nearly 47,000 objects in circulation on the market, producing strong evidence to suggest that more than 10% were excavated illegally. The project has enabled the recovery of artefacts looted from dozens of sites across Egypt and Sudan.

Grant amount

£681,282

Grantee

The British Museum

Target

Egypt, Sudan

Appendix 5

Full list of grants delivered in 2021–2022

Western Sudan Community Museums: Nyala, El Obaid, Omdurman

Conflict has affected the country's tangible and intangible heritage through destruction and displacement, impacting on the living heritage of local communities. Sudan's economic crisis has compounded the impact on the lack of resources for museums.

This project restored three museums and met the educational and cultural needs of their communities, visitors and tourists. The Khalifa House in Khartoum, the Sheikan Museum in El Obeid and the Darfur Museum in Nyala lie on a traditional trade route out of Western Sudan, to the capital Khartoum. Each museum hosts collections speaking to the community and history of the local area, as well as being nationally and internationally important.

Grant amount
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Grantee
ICCROM

Target
Sudan

The Life Jacket: The Revitalization and Development of Rural Jerusalem

This project was dedicated to restoring the historic centres of four villages in North West and North East Jerusalem, and to building capacity in restoration for local workers and heritage professionals.

Some of the project's highlights include the renovation of a historic courtyard in Kafr Aqab to serve as a cultural hub, and the full restoration of two buildings in Qalandiya. Additionally, the project has trained a number of local workers in architectural design.

Grant amount
£449,716

Grantee
RIWAQ-Centre for Architectural Conservation

Target
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Preserving Egyptian Coptic Heritage through conservation, scholarship and educational dissemination

This project provided training in conservation methods, manuscript handling, record keeping and collection care. Undocumented Coptic and Arabic manuscripts in the collection have been catalogued and 22 important and vulnerable ancient Syriac manuscripts have been conserved.

Grant amount
£176,334

Grantee
The Levantine Foundation

Target
Egypt

Restoration of 150 Paintings at the Afghan National Gallery Destroyed by the Taliban

This project carried out a needs assessment on 150 paintings within the Afghan National Collection (ANC) that were destroyed by the Taliban.

So far the project has successfully accessed the 150 paintings within the ANC and restored 31 of them. In addition to this, Afghan National Gallery staff have received training in collections management and the care, restoration and conservation of paintings.

Grant amount
£502,015

Grantee
Foundation of Culture & Civil Society

Target
Afghanistan

Old City of Taiz - Building capacity in post-conflict heritage assessment and emergency conservation in Yemen

This project trained museum professionals from the Yemeni city of Taiz, equipping them with the skills necessary to document the city's cultural heritage which has been damaged by conflict.

Grant amount
£116,900

Grantee
World Monuments Fund Britain

Target
Yemen

Protection, preservation and promotion of Gaza Strip historical archaeological sites

This project has implemented protective measures to two archaeological sites in the Gaza Strip, both of which have been directly affected by conflict. A programme of practical training has been delivered with the two university partners as well as a wide programme of community engagement attracting significant numbers of Gazans to visit the sites.

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Grantee
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)

Target
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Preserving Afghan heritage and putting it to work: a cultural hub creating incomes and pride

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Grant amount

£374,666

Grantee

Turquoise Mountain Trust Ltd

Target

Afghanistan

Douroub (Pathways): Promoting Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage

£100,000 was awarded to Ettijahat to protect traditional heritage crafts and storytelling at risk due to conflict in Syria. Workshops and training in storytelling, ceramics and weaving alongside documentation and the production of digital content, preserved Syrian intangible heritage which could otherwise be lost.

Grant amount

£100,000

Grantee

Directions Independent Culture (known as Ettijahat - Independent Culture)

Target

Syria

Oral traditional heritage of Infusen region Project of Si Isnayen

£36,270 was awarded to The Khalifa Ihler Institute which collated and disseminated the oral histories of the Amazigh people, an indigenous tribal population in Libya whose intangible cultural heritage has rarely been documented. Their stories will be collected, curated and published along with a digital booklet and transcription available in Tamazight (the Amazigh's traditional language), Arabic and English.

Grant amount

£36,270

Grantee

The Khalifa Ihler Institute

Target

Libya

Preserving Yemen's needle work and hand embroidery traditions

This project aimed to protect and preserve intangible cultural heritage practices of traditional Yemeni needle work and embroidery, at risk of deterioration due to displacement of communities, lack of resources and increased cost of materials. Through training and skills development, cataloguing and databasing, the project safeguarded both the tangible pieces of embroidery and the practice itself for future generations.

Grant amount

£31,920

Grantee

Felix Arabia International - Helping Hands for Yemen

Target

Yemen

Documentation and protection of cultural heritage in Raqqa city

This project trained local professionals in Raqqa to undertake emergency conservation of four significant Syrian monuments that were damaged during conflict. Further training, documentation and awareness raising activities will support the future preservation of important Syrian cultural heritage.

Grant amount

£100,000

Grantee

Institute Milà i Fontanals of the Spanish National Research Council (IMF-CSIC)

Target

Syria

Jamakaneh

This project addressed an urgent need to protect undocumented Yemeni intangible heritage. The team digitised, catalogued and published hundreds of personal family relics, while also providing a training programme in archiving techniques and hosting public sharing events.

Grant amount

£36,745

Grantee

Basement Cultural Foundation

Target

Yemen

Appendix 5

Full list of grants delivered in 2021–2022

Melting snow and rivers in flood: mitigating the impact of a warming climate on Uganda's heritage

INTO worked in partnership with Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda to protect the tangible and intangible heritage of the Bakonzo and Alur communities which was at risk due to rapidly melting snow in the Rwenzori Mountains in Western Uganda. Main activities are documentation and mapping of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, physical works to protect Wang Lei (a national monument), training heritage sector workers, community awareness raising, knowledge exchange with the UK, creation of management plans and promotional activities.

Grant amount

£78,648

Grantee

The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

Target

Uganda

Citizen Science Tanzania: A strategy to monitor and mitigate the impacts of climate change on coastal heritage

St Andrew's University, in partnership with the University of Dar Es Salaam assessed and digitised the coastal sites of Kilwa Kisiwani and Bagamoyo in Tanzania with a view to better preparing it for future rising sea levels. Activities include documenting intangible heritage associated with these sites, training in drone use and photogrammetry (the art and science of extracting 3D information from photographs) and the development of a smartphone app for use by the local community to record information about the heritage.

Grant amount

£61,701

Grantee

St Andrews University

Target

Tanzania

Preserving endangered photograph and newspaper collections at McMillan Memorial Library

Book Bunk Trust in partnership with African Digital Heritage Foundation and Built Environment Surveyors & Infrastructure Consultancy (BESIC) Group Ltd, digitised and protected the paper and photographic collections at the McMillan Memorial Library in Nairobi in order to mitigate against the climate-related risks of heat and moisture. The project also improved storage conditions by installing climate control systems and dehumidifiers, as well as providing training and workshops in archive management.

Grant amount

£124,523

Grantee

Book Bunk Trust

Target

Kenya

Promotion of language heritage in three Afghan minority languages

This project preserved and protected minority languages in Afghanistan through the documentation of folktales, rites of passage, music, and traditional beliefs. To date, 1,350 books detailing Nuristani folklore, music and beliefs, have been made - 600 in English and 750 in a Nuristani/Dari diglot for use by local people.

Grant amount

£33,698

Grantee

SIL International

Target

Afghanistan

Syrian Stonemasonry training – Lebanon

This project provided a group of Syrian and Jordanian trainees with traditional stonemasonry skills that can be used to repair conflict-affected historic buildings. This project was delivered in partnership with Petra National Trust. Since 2017, the Syrian Stonemasonry project has also run community engagement activities with young people living in the area.

Grant amount

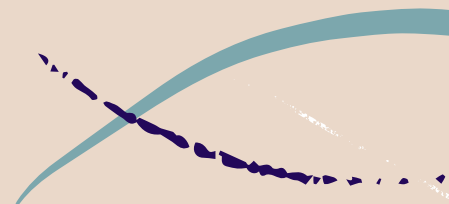
£548,201

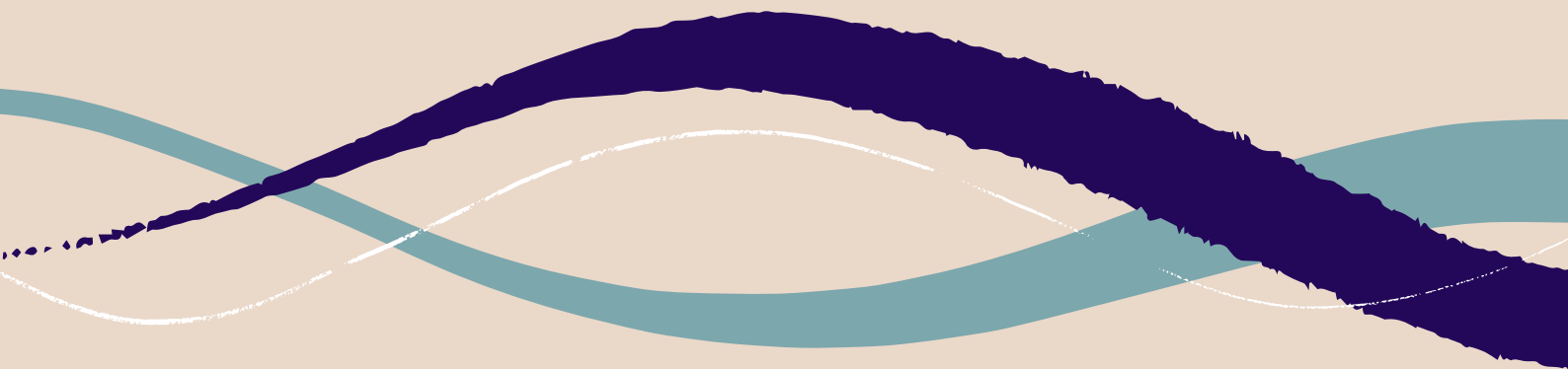
Grantee

World Monuments Fund Britain

Target

Lebanon, Syria







In partnership with



**For further information on
the Cultural Protection Fund,
please contact:**
culturalprotection@britishcouncil.org