

**Cultural
Protection
Fund**

Led by



In partnership with



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Information Webinar

2026 – 2029 Funding Round

Wednesday 1 July 2026

cultural-protection-fund.britishcouncil.org



A member of the women's group, beading © National Museums Kenya

This session will cover

- ⌘ Overview of CPF so far
- ⌘ Our definition of cultural heritage, the protection of it and types of risks
- ⌘ Eligibility criteria
- ⌘ Application process and timeline
- ⌘ CPF outcomes
- ⌘ Next steps and further information



Carpentry workshop led by Brandenburg University of Technology © Merwan Elsamman

What is the Cultural Protection Fund?

The CPF safeguards endangered cultural heritage from threats caused by conflict and climate change.

Led by the British Council in partnership with the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Over 10 years we have delivered in 20 countries across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

This funding round is open to 17 countries.



What does the Cultural Protection Fund do?

Open funding calls

Since 2016 the fund has awarded

- £57m funding to
- 178 projects

Capacity building activities

- Through our British Council offices in the target countries, we support training and networking opportunities

Research and evaluation

- We utilise learning from projects through evaluation and use research to inform our programme

Emergency funds

- We deliver emergency response through partners, including a strategic partnership with Cultural Emergency Response

What do we mean by ‘Cultural Heritage’?

Cultural Heritage is everything that we inherit from past generations and want to pass on to future generations that determines our traditions, rituals and values and forms our sense of place and identity, for example:

- archaeological sites and monuments
- collections of objects, books or documents in museums, libraries or archives
- historic buildings
- cultural traditions such as stories, festivals, crafts, music, dance and costumes
- other expressions of living heritage related to specific sites, places or landscapes
- histories of people, communities, places and events
- the heritage of languages and dialects
- people’s memories and experiences (often recorded as ‘oral history’)

Strategic objectives of the Cultural Protection Fund

CPF has three interconnected strategic objectives:

- **Heritage:** Cultural heritage will be in better condition, better understood and better prepared for the future.
- **Society:** Societies will be stronger, more inclusive and more resilient.
- **Economy:** Increased opportunities and benefits for people and places.

Together, these three objectives recognise that heritage is not only about preserving the past; it is also about creating positive social and economic outcomes for people and places, now and in the future.

These strategic objectives align with the three outcomes that a CPF project is expected to achieve.

What do we mean by ‘Cultural Heritage at risk’?

The Cultural Protection Fund considers the most urgent threats to heritage to be those arising from conflict and climate change.

This round will prioritise support to projects that address risks in these areas, and our assessment will consider the:

- Probability
- Severity
- Urgency
- Any additional risk(s) identified



Women of the Bajuni community performing the sacred pre-wedding Vugo © Mary Kabui.
Led by Twaweza Communications

Heritage at risk - conflict & instability and climate change

Conflict and instability:

Relates to past, current and potential future conflict and the instability associated with it.

This could include:

- Destruction, damage and disrepair
- Depletion in traditional skills due to economic instability and forced displacement of communities
- Suppression of intangible heritage
- Documentation in case future conflict occurs.

Climate change:

Relates to events caused by changes to the Earth's climate (not including regularly occurring weather).

This could include:

- Destruction, damage and disrepair
- Temperature spikes that threaten collections
- Scarcity of resources that forcibly displace communities
- Preparedness in case of future disaster situations.

Eligibility criteria – what can you apply for?

Eligibility criteria

- Projects that will protect cultural heritage at risk in one or more of the CPF target countries
- Projects that start no earlier than December 2026 and finish no later than January 2029
- All projects must include protection of living heritage
- All projects must be able to demonstrate evidence of local demand and support for proposed activities.

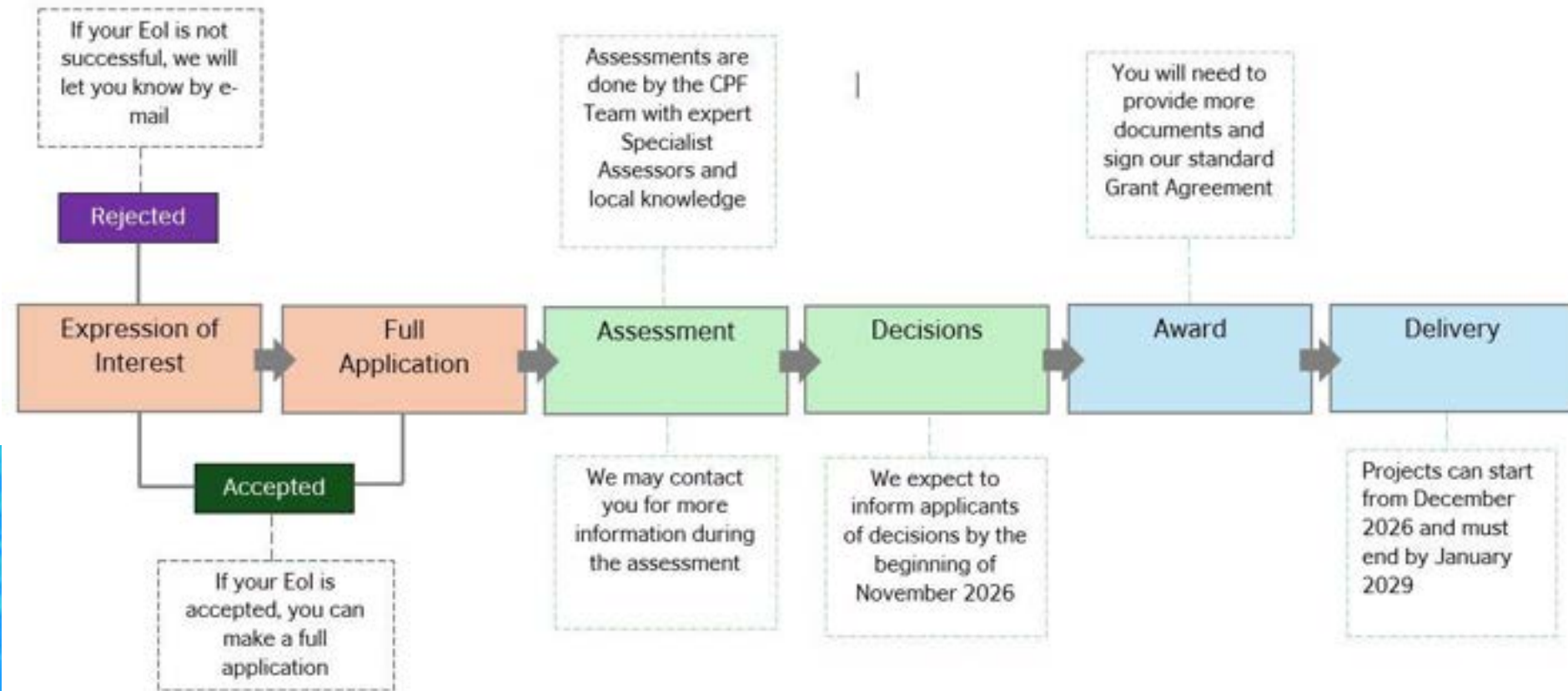
Number of awards available

- While each application will be assessed on its own merit, we have limited funding available and expect to make approximately:
- Seven awards for projects with grant values between £100,000 and £500,000
- 20 awards to projects with grant values under £100,000
- Grants under £30,000 may be considered but are less likely to be competitive.

Eligibility criteria – who can apply?

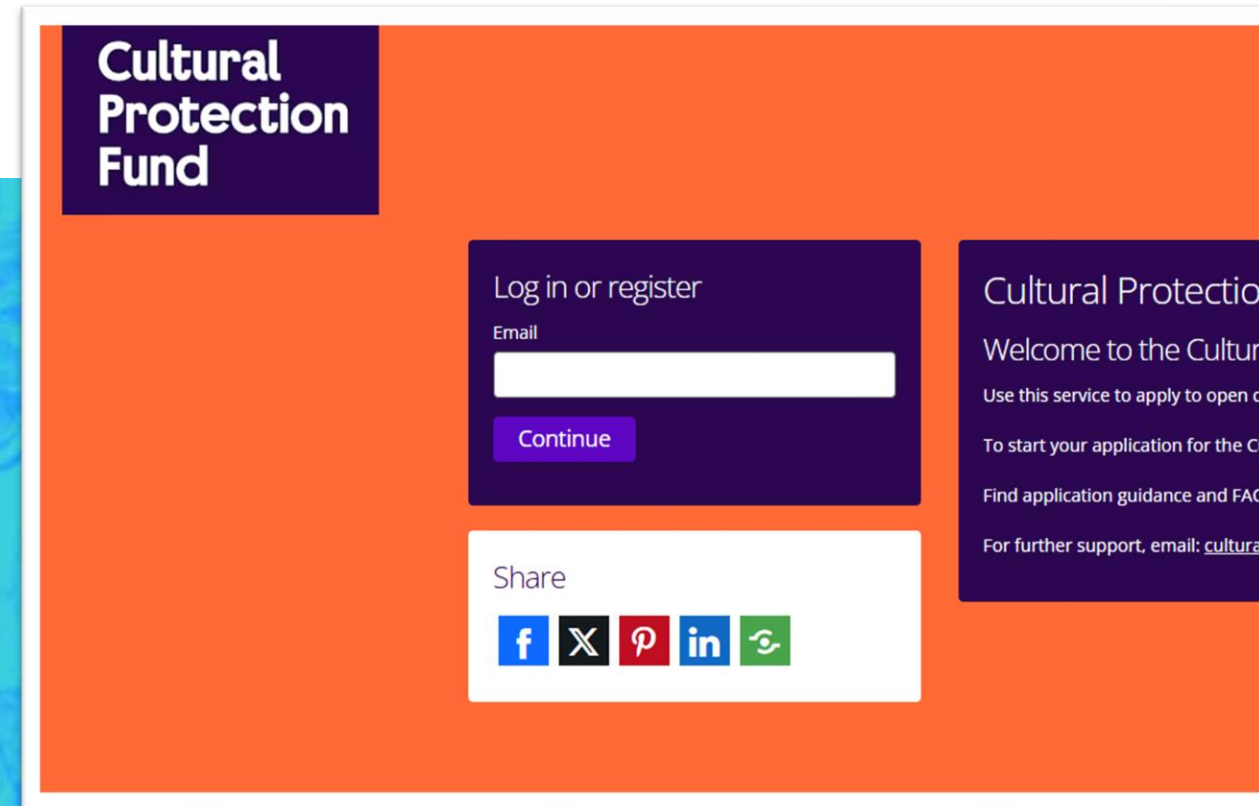
- We accept applications from legally registered organisations (public or private) anywhere in the world and applications to the fund must be submitted by one lead applicant organisation.
- If the applicant organisation is outside of the target country, the project must include at least one partner that is registered and based inside the target country.
- We encourage projects to work in partnership across organisations, and those partnerships should be formalised through signed agreements.
- Sole traders and individuals are not eligible to apply.
- Private organisations are not permitted to make profit from a Cultural Protection Fund project.
- If a grant is awarded the lead applicant organisation will:
 - have overall legal and financial responsibility for the grant.
 - produce regular monitoring reports for the duration of the project.
 - have a functional bank account that can receive international funds.
 - be required to accept the terms and conditions of our Grant Agreement.

The application process



How to apply - Good Grants

- Expressions of interest must be submitted via our Good Grants platform.
- Create a Good Grants account or log in to an existing account to apply.
- Use an up-to-date browser.
- Keep an offline copy as backup.
- One lead applicant organisation.
- Collaborative submissions will be possible via Good Grants.



The screenshot shows the 'Cultural Protection Fund' logo in the top left corner. The main heading is 'Log in or register'. Below this is an 'Email' input field and a purple 'Continue' button. Underneath the login section is a 'Share' section with social media icons for Facebook, X, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and YouTube. To the right of the login section is a sidebar with the text: 'Cultural Protection Fund', 'Welcome to the Cultural Protection Fund', 'Use this service to apply to open a Cultural Protection Fund account', 'To start your application for the Cultural Protection Fund', 'Find application guidance and FAQs', and 'For further support, email: culturalprotectionfund@britishcouncil.org'.

Timeline

Expression of Interest	Full Application	Assessment & Outcome	Projects start
❖ 4 weeks ❖ Open Tuesday 23 June 2026 ❖ Close Monday 20 July 2026	❖ 5 weeks ❖ Close Friday 28 August 2026	❖ Decisions by November 2026	❖ December 2026

CPF Outcomes – Heritage

Cultural heritage will be in better condition, more prepared and better understood

- **Better condition:** Conservation, repair and restoration of cultural heritage assets.
- **More prepared:** Risk assessments, management plans and preparedness measures to help protect heritage from future threats.
- **Better understood:** Documentation, public awareness activities and consultation to improve understanding of cultural heritage and the risks it faces.



Emergency interventions at the site of Dome Dar al Saada © Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS)

CPF Outcomes – Society

Societies will be stronger, more inclusive and more resilient

- **Stronger:** Training and participation activities that encourage communities to work together more cohesively.
- **More inclusive:** Engaging new and underrepresented audiences with cultural heritage and reducing or removing barriers to participation.
- **More resilient:** Training, skills development and volunteer opportunities.



A group photo of a trail hike © Essanoor Associates

CPF Outcomes – Economy

Increased opportunities and benefit for people and places

- **Increased opportunities:** New areas of economic activity related to cultural heritage, such as tourism opportunities or local community enterprises.
- **Benefit for people:** Job opportunities focusing on cultural heritage.
- **Benefit for places:** Improvements to heritage sites and historic buildings, and new opportunities for people to visit, use and enjoy them.



Follow-up of a one day workshop held in Cairo © Megawra Built Environment

Next steps

- Visit the 'Apply for Funding' webpage on the CPF website for links and guidance to make an application.
- The recorded webinar and presentation will be uploaded soon.
- Please download and read our [*Application Guidance*](#).
- Create a Good Grants account or log in to an existing account.
- Submit Expression of Interest via the Good Grants platform by Monday 20 July 2026 (23:59pm UK time).



The Open-Air Museum, at Basrah Museum led by Safina Projects CIC © Rashad Salim

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Links and resources

- [Cultural Protection Fund website](#)
- [Our 2026 Funding Round webpage](#)
- [Good Grants Platform](#)
- [Good Grants Help Guidance](#) and [Good Grants Collaborative Submission Guidance](#)
- [Supporting Heritage at Risk Manual for Proposal Writing](#)
(developed by Cultural Emergency Response (CER) and the Smithsonian Institution)

Cultural Protection Fund

Thank you

Contact the CPF Team at:

cpfapplications@britishcouncil.org

cultural-protection-fund.britishcouncil.org

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