TAP INTO - now we are 3

Celebrating 3 years of exchanging expertise
Esther’s organisation paired with the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda in 2021, thanks to a TAP INTO grant for the INTO Africa education programme. Similar thoughts were echoed by John Orna-Ornstein of the National Trust (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) at our 2022 conference, INTO Dundee. In his panel address, John commented that it was interesting to note from the great conversations he had enjoyed, that the challenges the delegates thought were unique to their organisations were in fact common to many. Sharing learning is a key factor in our members success.

The TAP INTO programme was created to bring together the expertise in the INTO family and enable sharing of knowledge, support and practical know-how. Our members are a fantastic asset to each other and with TAP INTO support, can work together to benefit people, heritage and nature.

We are grateful for the generous support of the Helen Hamlyn Trust in making the TAP INTO programme possible.
During the first three years of TAP INTO, 63 grants have enabled National Trusts and heritage organisations from 5 continents to work together on a huge range of projects. From strategic planning to commercial viability, fundraising and volunteering, to community engagement, visitor attraction planning and reinterpretation of colonial legacies, few areas of cultural heritage and nature preservation have gone untouched.

The TAP INTO programme was only just off the ground when in 2020, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic for National Trusts around the world was enormous. We supported our members by providing urgent grants responding to the crisis. From Indonesia and Jordan to Saint Lucia and Slovakia, these grants provided a critical lifeline to struggling heritage trusts to keep them operating.

COVID-19 emergency grantees
1. Fondo Ambiente Italiano
2. National Trust of Fiji
3. Din L’art Helwa
4. St Christopher National Trust
5. Petra National Trust
6. Indonesian Heritage Trust
7. The National Trust of Slovakia
8. An Taisce
9. The National Trust of Korea
10. Cayman Islands National Trust
11. Badan Warisan Malaysia
12. Czech National Trust
13. Monserrat National Trust
14. The Siam Society
15. Saint Lucia National Trust
Covid 19 grantee: The Siam Society Under Royal Patronage

The Siam Society used their grant of £1,900 to facilitate remote working and safe re-opening.

In the words of Managing Director Kanitha Kasina-Ubol,

‘We were able to provide our staff with 2 high-performance laptops to work from home. We could stay connected with staff, partners, members, and friends through Zoom meetings and managed to upgrade our online communication to another level.

We also purchased 13 counter shields to make our office, library and museum safer for everyone. Our members are impressed that we managed to cope with the pandemic situation efficiently.’
TAP INTO exchange: 
National Trust for Scotland and National Trust of Sri Lanka

We were delighted to support an exhibition of E. A. Hornel’s photographs, which was developed during a collaboration between the National Trusts of Sri Lanka and Scotland.

When we first introduced colleagues back in 2019 as part of a TAP INTO funded visit, we hoped such an event would be possible. This collaboration has enabled the National Trust of Sri Lanka to access and share a rich and unique visual archive. National Trust for Scotland curators who care for the artist’s studio, have hugely improved their understanding of the content of these images.

After many years of planning, it was a pleasure to see Hornel’s photographs on display in Sri Lanka. This exhibition brought to life a shared, if complex, history and will be the start of further collaborations between the two Trusts.
TAP INTO exchange:
Din l’Art Helwa in Malta and National Trust (England, Wales & N. Ireland)

Emma Thomas, General Manager at Seaton Delaval Hall, National Trust

'I was selected for my experience with the 'Curtain Rises' project at Seaton Delaval Hall, as well as my earlier roles in contemporary art. The brief was to develop a creative and relevant concept for the communities of Gozo, restoring, conserving and giving a new lease of life to the Qbajjar Battery.

Since returning to England, I have continued to work with the incredible Din l’Art Helwa colleagues we met. The organisation is almost entirely volunteer-run, and their passion, enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism was a privilege to see and learn from.'

Emma’s visit was just the start of a learning exchange between these two Trusts. Following a period of research and planning, there will be a Ranger exchange in 2023. This knowledge sharing will support both Trusts in their essential work on nature conservation, and protecting natural heritage for local communities and visitors to Gozo.
This chart shows how expertise in different areas of heritage and nature conservation have benefitted from TAP INTO support. Like a ripple effect, the learning forged in these exchanges continues to be felt across - and beyond - the INTO family. As the programme has grown, the potential and depth of learning has also developed.

“Your support, both with funding and with your continual example and motivation, has enabled our volunteers to re-open many of the historic sites entrusted to us, and given them courage to welcome the public back.”

Sinead Owens - Operations Manager, An Taisce
With excellent online connections between members and a return to travel in 2021 and 2022, the programme has gone from strength to strength. 11 grants were awarded in 2022 – 7 as part of RISE, a programme bringing together managers of sites around the Atlantic with a connection to the slave trade.

Bermuda National Trust and Drayton Hall (National Trust for Historic Preservation) shared learning on working with descendent communities, and Dyrham Park in England matched with Headquarters House in Jamaica, collaborating on approaches to interpreting colonial legacies. Both of these partnerships will go forward in 2023, with a deeper understanding of how these Trusts can develop and grow to benefit their communities, places and visitors.

With partner funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the RISE exchanges are a brilliant example of INTO programmes, projects and partnerships working hand in hand.

A new round of grants will be awarded 2023 - we can’t wait to see what brilliant exchanges can be supported by TAP INTO.

TAP INTO support in numbers

63 grants awarded
48 countries sharing knowledge
£103,000 in funds awarded
3 years of TAP INTO