

Call for proposals

2026 INTO Cultural Protection Fund application
Anticipated Large Grants Stream
Launching June - July 2026
Deadline: 30 April 2026

Context

INTO invites Expressions of Interest from eligible member organisations to be partners in an INTO-led bid to the Cultural Protection Fund, focused on the intersection between climate change and cultural heritage. If you would like to be considered for this bid, please read this guidance and then submit [an expression of interest](#).

In the last 6 years, INTO has received 5 grants from the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund with a total value of c. £2.8 million. All have been delivered by a partnership of INTO members, who realise their own strategic goals with central coordination from INTO.

The most recent programme, [Withstanding Change](#), concluded in February 2026. This new bid will continue to grow the INTO network's expertise in this space but will not be a direct continuation of any previous project / programme.

This round of funding will be competitive and past success is no guarantee of future success. We will need to create a well-crafted bid with a compelling narrative to be successful.

INTO understands that the donor's available finance has approximately halved. No growth or spread of CPF range or focus is expected.

This EOI, and its associated guidance, is intended to help us shape our approach to the bid; while our strong relationship with the CPF gives us useful insights, final details may change once the call formally opens in June.

Characteristics of partnership

In order to maximise our competitiveness:

- We intend to submit a project application with an annual budget of max. £430K / year. This is a reduced financial scope compared to our last project; £430K is just over half of Withstanding Change's largest annual budget.
- We are committed to retaining a capital element in all participating countries, as this is central to the competitive edge that INTO members can offer.

- We are committed to working on entirely new sites that have not featured in any previous funding from this donor.

Capital works are of course not possible at very low budgets, so we anticipate that each partner will need to spend between £60K - £100K / year to ensure viability. As a result, we anticipate that there will be max. 4-5 INTO members in the partnership.

Eligible INTO members

The Cultural Protection Fund supports work only in a defined group of eligible countries. Historically, this list has expanded when the CPF has relaunched; however, there is a small possibility that eligibility criteria may narrow in 2026 due to reductions in the overall CPF budget, which could further influence the final list of countries included once the call is published.

The following INTO members currently operate in countries that have previously been eligible:

- Petra National Trust, Jordan
- Turathuna, Syria
- Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation, Egypt
- Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda
- Heritage Watch Ethiopia
- Zanzibar Stone Heritage Society, Tanzania

In addition, two organisations are in discussions to become INTO members:

- Loisaba, Kenya
- Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, Nepal

All 8 organisations will be offered the opportunity to bid to take part in the project.

Proposed work & theme

The work of all partners within the project will eventually need to be united around a combined narrative, which we will workshop based on the content of the EOIs.

Below is an example theme that could form a narrative thread when we form the eventual partnership. This is intended to be an illustrative example only – it is fine if this is not relevant to your EOI.

How to maintain traditional conservation in the face of a changing climate: as climate change makes traditional natural materials unavailable or unsuitable, how do we adapt?

Whilst INTO will not dictate the narrative, we do anticipate that there will be certain 'core' elements that will feature in all partners' work.

All participating trusts should plan to:

- carry out climate adaptation work at a cultural heritage site;
- carry out community work at their site in order to raise awareness of the expected impact of climate change on society and the heritage sector;
- work with the wider heritage sector in their country on training for how to integrate the expected impact of climate change into their work; and
- employ at least two staff roles: one project manager and one finance / admin support role. This includes INTO. Other roles may be included where there is budget.

This list is not exhaustive and may be updated as new information from the CPF is released.

Indicative budgets

These budgets are illustrative, please do not use the same numbers in your proposal. Note that Y1 is likely to be max. 6 months. CPF projects run on 1 April – 31 March financial years.

Illustrative partner budget					
Narrative	Cost	Y1	Y2	Y3	Notes
Staff costs	£45,000	£9K	£18K	£18K	Project manager and finance role
Capital costs	£120,000	£40K	£40K	£40K	
Community engagement	£30,000	£10K	£10K	£10K	
Training	£21,000	£9K	£12K	£0	
Comms	£6,000	£2K	£2K	£2K	
Overheads @ 6%	£13,320	£4.2K	£4.92	£4.2K	
Total	£235,320	£74.2K	£86.92	£74.2K	

This represents an example of a budget that is close to the maximum we could consider.

Illustrative overall budget					
Narrative	Cost	Y1	Y2	Y3	Notes
Partner 1	£235,320	£74.2K	£86.92	£74.2K	
Partner 2	£185,000	£60K	£65K	£60K	
Partner 3	£214,000	£72K	£70K	£72K	
Partner 4	£172,000	£55K	£62K	£55K	
Partner 5	£209,000	£70K	£74K	£65K	
INTO	£220,000	£50K	£70K	£100K	
Total	£1,235,000	£381K	£428K	£426K	

Submitting an EOI

Please complete an EOI by completing [this form on our website](#). Where you have questions beyond the scope of this guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Alexander Lamont Bishop](#) at INTO.

We understand that the EOI is only a concept at this stage. We will use the information to prioritise, but it is in no sense a binding agreement. There will be room to make changes as we progress towards a full application in the summer.

How we will prioritise

INTO will evaluate the EOIs and select the 4-5 members who, when combined, will create the strongest application to the CPF. It is likely that some member trusts will not be successful in joining the programme and if needed we may proceed with a smaller partnership.

The below criteria will inform our selection. They are partially drawn from those that the CPF use to evaluate applications:

- Have you identified a new site of heritage value that faces a climate-related threat (e.g., extreme weather, material degradation, environmental change) and does your proposal demonstrate how the intervention will address this risk?
- Is there a compelling human story? Will the project clearly and measurably benefit local communities; particularly those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?
- Does your proposed work show clear alignment with broader climate-heritage agendas or global policy frameworks (e.g., climate adaptation strategies, cultural resilience frameworks, or national climate commitments), and can you articulate how your project contributes to these?
- Do you have the appropriate permissions / agreements in place to deliver the project? If not, can you secure these easily with minimal risk of delay?
- Do those agreements / permissions extend beyond the lifetime of the project? What assurances are there for the longer-term sustainability of the intervention?
- Can you commit to spend in Y1, when we will likely only have 6 months to deliver?
- Does the budget represent good value for money and an appropriate balance between capital works, capacity building, community engagement, and staffing?
- Does your organisation have strong governance in place? Are you vulnerable if one single person leaves? If you were part of Withstanding Change, how did your governance evolve during this programme?
- Does your project's narrative work well with the others in consideration?

Timeline

30 April	Deadline for submission of internal EOI
May	INTO decisions on partnership communicated Revisions and clarifications to contents of EOI
June / July	CPF opens for funding

If you would like to discuss your EOI or any other aspect of this process, please reach out to [Alexander Lamont Bishop, INTO Deputy Secretary-General](#) at any time.