

CULTURAL PROTECTION FUND FAQs

May 2017

This document is based upon the frequently asked questions that we receive about the Cultural Protection Fund. It will be updated on a regular basis.

ELIGIBILITY

How do I apply?

In order to be considered for an application to the Cultural Protection Fund, please submit an Expression of Interest form. If your project budget is between £5,000-£100,000 then you should submit a small grant Expression of Interest. If your project is between £100,000-£2,000,000, then you should submit a large grant Expression of Interest. Small grants are awarded on a continuous basis and large grants are considered in rounds.

What happens once I have submitted my Expression of Interest?

You will receive feedback and an application reference number via email. This email will indicate if your project is considered eligible to submit a full application to the Cultural Protection Fund.

I notice that the focus of the Fund is the Middle East & North Africa – some countries in the region are not mentioned. Are they eligible?

Only the following are currently potential targets for potential Cultural Protection Fund funding: Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen

There is a possibility that this situation will be updated to include more countries in the future. Any updates will be published on the Cultural Protection Fund website and sent out in the Cultural Protection Fund newsletter. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, please visit our website and complete the form found [here](#).

My work is in a specific area. Will it be eligible for funding?

You will see that there are three areas for funded activity that contribute to the Fund's overall objective:

- a) The protection of heritage and cultural property under threat in the target countries
- b) Training and capacity building for those involved in protecting heritage and cultural property in target countries
- c) Advocacy and education related to the protection of heritage and cultural property in target countries

All projects must contribute towards the outcome relating to cultural heritage protection. More details about these outcomes are available in the Cultural Protection Fund Application Guidance, available from our website.

We previously submitted an Expression of Interest and were advised not to submit an application. Can we submit a new Expression of Interest?

Unless your communication with the Cultural Protection Fund team explicitly says otherwise, you are welcome to submit a new Expression of Interest to the fund.

Is there a limit to the number of Expressions of Interest that one organisation may submit?

Organisations may submit multiple expressions of interest. The Cultural Protection Fund will also consider multiple applications per funding round; however the number of grants which may be awarded to any one institution under any one round is still limited to **one**. In the case where multiple applications are being submitted, the applicant must submit a letter from the relevant funding office or equivalent confirming support for all of the projects.

Is there a limit to the amount of support that one organisation can receive?

Organisations are limited to a maximum of £2 million in funding from the Cultural Protection Fund from 2016-2020. This is a cumulative total representing all grants awarded for projects.

Is this fund open to all parts of the UK and internationally?

Expressions of Interest are welcomed from across the UK and internationally. The main objective of the fund is to create opportunities for economic and social development through building capacity to foster, safeguard and promote cultural heritage in the target countries. The fund is designed with applications from UK organisations in mind, but any organisation is eligible to apply if their project can contribute to achieving that objective. Applicants not based in a target country are required to have a locally based partner.

We would like to submit an application to work with the diaspora community outside of the target country, is this permissible within the Cultural Protection Fund framework?

Whilst Expressions of Interest are welcomed that incorporate engagement with diaspora communities worldwide, principal benefit for activities supported by the Cultural Protection Fund must always be to target countries and the people who live there. Applications that target only the diaspora community are therefore unlikely to be competitive.

Projects working with members of the diaspora resident in a second country that is also a target country can be considered by the Cultural Protection Fund (for example Syrians resident in Lebanon or Turkey).

How do I judge whether my project meets ODA criteria?

Information about overseas development assistance (ODA) and how to ensure that your project is ODA compliant is provided in the Application Guidance.

Can funds received from the Cultural Protection Fund be re-granted?

The Cultural Protection Fund cannot consider applications from organisations that aim to re-grant.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How do I apply?

If you have received an email indicating you are eligible to submit a full application you can find the application form and application guidance on the Cultural Protection Fund [website](#).

My Expression of Interest resulted in positive advice, but I will not meet the deadline, what can I do?

Provided that the substance of the proposed project remains largely the same as when you submitted your Expression of Interest form, you can submit your application in the next open round without submitting a new Expression of Interest, but you should let your contact at the Cultural Protection Fund know that you intend to submit an application under that round.

Whilst writing the full application document, I have made changes to the project, are these acceptable?

At the time of submitting an Expression of Interest, projects are understood to be still under development. In your response from the Cultural Protection Fund, you are also likely to have been advised to consider modifying the project outline that you had proposed. With this in mind, small modifications that do not change the substance of the project are acceptable between the Expression of Interest and full application stages.

For clarifications or further information, please send an email directly to the Cultural Protection Fund representative who replied to your Expression of Interest.

Can we submit letters of support instead of a partnership agreement?

You should submit a partnership agreement, which is signed by all partners who are considered essential to project delivery – those who you are reliant upon for the project to go ahead. This document should outline the roles and commitment of each project partner. For other organisations that are supportive or may wish to participate in your project, you can also attach letters of support to indicate this.

Should the statement of need describe the needs that the local partners perceive as relevant, or the needs the actual beneficiary community perceive as relevant?

The statement of local need should be provided by the local partner and should describe the situation as they perceive it locally to the project. If necessary, this can of course be supplemented by additional letters of support from other relevant organisations or groups that you feel would also describe the project need well.

Can we include the admin costs of our organisation in our project budget?

Organisations can include some overheads in their project budget (existing staff and overheads combined, cannot exceed 25% of your total project cost). This relates to the organisations running costs covering items such as rent, utilities bills and sundries and should be costs incurred directly as a result of the project. Please note that this does not apply for universities and publicly funded organisations.

You will be required to submit evidence of how you calculated your overheads and what percentage of your overheads you are asking for us to contribute towards. You should also be aware that the amount of your budget dedicated to overheads will be taken into consideration when calculating value for money.

If we are awarded a grant, how will grant payments be made?

We will make grant payments to the lead applicant organisation, who will enter into the grant agreement (contract) with the British Council. This organisation can be based anywhere and will be expected to undertake their own due diligence to ensure that the grant funding is spent in accordance with our agreement.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Who was involved in the consultations that led to the creation of the Cultural Protection Fund and what came from it?

The consultation response gives details of the approach to the consultation, those that were consulted and what came from it. Should you wish to read about this process in more detail, the consultation is available to download [here](#).

What about future rounds of funding?

Information about future rounds of funding is available on the Cultural Protection Fund website and will be updated there on a continuous basis.

What level of engagement is expected between applicants / their partners and local British Council offices in country?

All questions relating to the Cultural Protection Fund should be addressed to the Cultural Protection Fund team directly and not to local British Council offices. The Cultural Protection Fund team are best positioned to provide answers to enquiries. An existing relationship with a British Council office is not a requirement for submission to the Cultural Protection Fund and will not be taken into account as a deciding factor on whether or not to make a grant.

Where can I find out more if I am considering submitting an Expression of Interest?

To evaluate whether or not your idea falls within the acceptable guidelines of the Cultural Protection Fund, please read the information available on our website. Further information is also available in the application guidance document, available on the website to download.

For enquiries not included within the scope of these documents, please contact the Cultural Protection Fund directly at Culturalprotection@britishcouncil.org