

**The Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) is led by the British Council in partnership with the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). It was launched in 2016 to protect vital cultural heritage at risk in conflict-affected regions.**

In 2019 the fund expanded its remit to protect cultural heritage at risk because of climate change and natural disasters.

The overarching objective of the fund is to help create sustainable opportunities for social and economic development through building capacity to foster, safeguard and promote cultural heritage. The CPF awards funding to projects which keep cultural heritage sites and objects safe, as well as supporting the recording, conservation and restoration of cultural heritage. It also provides opportunities to local communities for training and education, enabling and empowering them in the long term to value, care for and benefit from their cultural heritage.

The fund has supported projects in 16 countries across parts of the Middle East, North and East Africa, safeguarding a wide range of cultural heritage including buildings, monuments and artefacts, music, languages and recipes.

This exhibition showcases the work of Cultural Protection Fund projects, through images, objects and stories.

The introductory stand of the exhibition was built in October 2021 and was displayed in the British Council headquarters in London during a visit by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.



Four CPF grantees who came to meet the Prince of Wales in London: Mariz Tadros, Imogen Dow, Marwan Darweish, Rashad Salim

**'I can't tell you how impressed I am by the Cultural Protection Fund... it is again of even greater importance to ensure we have something left in the face of all the challenges and disasters around the world.'**

HRH Prince of Wales

Funding has been allocated to continue the work of the Cultural Protection Fund until March 2025 with the launch of further funding rounds in Spring 2022.

If you'd like to get in touch to find out more about the fund, email [culturalprotection@britishcouncil.org](mailto:culturalprotection@britishcouncil.org)

For more information, please look on our corporate website, [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org) or telephone +44 (0)161 957 7755.

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In partnership with



**Cultural protection fund**





# Working in hard-to-reach places

**Conflict, economic and political instability, oppression and marginalisation can make communities feel cut off, their sense of identity and belonging is almost lost. The Cultural Protection Fund supports projects which seek to protect heritage at risk.**

In Syria, Heritage for Peace and their partners have been safeguarding parts of the old city of Raqqa, working with local heritage professionals and volunteers to conserve and document significant sites, alongside training and awareness raising activities.

Premiere Urgence International have been protecting and restoring the Saint Hilarion Monastery and Byzantine church of Jabaliya in Gaza. Both sites have been directly affected by conflict and are of great importance in the chronology of history between paganism, Christianity and Islam.

The Cultural Corridors of Peace project, led by INHERIT, is focused on Lebanon but brings together Bedouins from across the MENA region to document, share and advocate for their cultural heritage. Making coffee is an ancient Bedouin tradition and some of the coffee making equipment is displayed in the exhibition.



## Tackling global challenges

**Climate change, destruction and looting of cultural heritage, lack of gender equality in the workforce; these are shared global challenges and ones we can address in collaboration across geographies. The Cultural Protection Fund enables truly mutual international partnerships to share knowledge and solve problems.**

In Uganda, the Alur and Bakonzo tribes are facing threats to their cultural heritage due to the melting snow caps on the nearby Rwenzori Mountains. The International National Trust Organisation (INTO) with partner CCFU have been working with communities to safeguard this heritage against further damage through international knowledge sharing, physical restoration and mitigation measures to sites and documentation of intangible cultural heritage.

Safina projects have done significant work on protecting the maritime heritage of Iraq; where recent conflict and the increasing impact of climate change on the marshlands, has put traditional boats, and the skills associated with making them, severely at risk. Safina deliver a wide range of activities including workshops in boatbuilding skills, documentation of different boats and building techniques and development of online and physical exhibitions.

These 3D-printed panels on display are replicas of the intricate Minbar patterns from mosques across Cairo. Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation led a project which focused on safeguarding the Minbars from theft, looting and damage through physical restoration, mitigation measures and documentation. The restored minbars have been studied by local craftspeople, their complex geometrical patterns inspiring new designs and encouraging greater appreciation of the heritage.



## Improving livelihoods

**Cultural heritage is a valuable tool for exploring and celebrating complex pasts; it also helps to inform how we create a better future. The Cultural Protection Fund supports communities and institutions to nurture heritage in ways which contribute directly to social cohesion and economic sustainability.**

Three museums in Sudan have been brought back to life thanks to the work of ICCROM and their partners on the Western Sudan Community Museums project. Khalifa House in Khartoum, the Sheikan Museum in El Obeid and the Darfur Museum in Nyala each host collections speaking to the community and history of the local area. The buildings have been restored with artefacts recorded, condition assessed and redisplayed.

Local engagement and awareness have been at the heart of the project and ownership of the collections has been given back to the communities.

In Yemen, 100 women have been trained in embroidery in a project led by Felix Arabia International, with the aim of safeguarding traditional Yemeni needlework skills for future generations. Participants have reported increased confidence as well as skills and the products being produced will be sold via craft fairs and events, generating income for the women and their families.

Some of the embroidery produced by the women in the Yemeni needlework project is on display in the exhibition.

