



Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

First Aid to Documentary Heritage under Threat

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Prince Claus Fund, through its Cultural Emergency Response (CER) programme, and the Whiting Foundation announce a second round of the Open Call for First Aid to Documentary Heritage under Threat, following a resounding response to the 2017 call.

We invite proposals for projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean to safeguard documentary heritage that is acutely threatened by recent conflict or other disaster, whether natural or man-made.

What's at stake

Manuscripts, rare books, archives, tablets, inscriptions, and other kinds of written records are testimonies of the ideas of bygone eras, sometimes the only form in which the past survives. Whether they are housed in libraries or held by families who have passed them down from generation to generation, they are cherished by the people who watch over them as objects of historical importance and deep local meaning. They are also especially fragile vessels, susceptible to fire, insects, and humidity – and sometimes singled out for deliberate destruction by those afraid of their power to express viewpoints and cultivate nuance. When disaster strikes – an earthquake, a flood, or an armed attack – the threat to these cultural objects is heightened; when that threat is overlooked or local resources for rescue are lacking, the heritage may be lost forever.

What we are doing

Through the first round of this call in 2017, CER and Whiting helped stewards around the world to prevent and minimize loss by funding fourteen varied projects. In Ecuador, where the library collection of the monastery of San Augustin was under threat from earthquake damage and humidity, the program funded local efforts to restore, digitize, and safely store this long-hidden trove of documents. In Nigeria, where ancient manuscripts were threatened by encroaching militants, it helped to establish a manuscript conservation laboratory. And in Egypt, where inscriptions in the necropolis of Al-Salamuni were being vandalized, it supported visual documentation to record them.

We received an overwhelming number of applications, illustrating a pressing need for support. The second round will continue to facilitate the vital work of restoring physical objects and making the information they carry accessible to a wider public for generations to come. In doing so, we hope to contribute to the appreciation of cultural achievement and historical diversity and foster the worldwide dissemination of forgotten or endangered stories.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR SUPPORT

1. Is my project eligible?

- The project must aim to safeguard documentary heritage (i.e., cultural heritage designed to carry information in writing, such as manuscripts, books, archives, tablets, and carvings or inscriptions).
- The project must respond to an emergency situation, which is to an acute current or impending, disaster, for example by evacuation, restoration and digitalization. Cases only of long term neglect are not eligible.
- The country where the intervention is to take place must be in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the applying organisation or individual must live and work in one of these regions.
- The heritage involved must be significant for a specific community, whether local, regional, national, or global.
- Local communities and/or local authorities must be involved in the emergency response, and the legal owner must support the proposed measures.
- The intervention must be able to be carried out within a time frame of twelve months, corresponding to the emergency character of the collaboration.
- No direct or indirect support will be provided to individuals or organisations currently subject to US sanctions.

2. What expenses are eligible to be covered?

- Grants will average about €15,000.
- Grant funds can only cover project-related expenses, not running (operating) costs for organisations.
- No support will be provided retroactively (i.e., to projects already implemented).
- If additional information or expert assessment is required in order to specify the remedial action required following the disaster or conflict, applicants may apply for a small grant (a maximum of € 5.000,-) to carry out damage assessment aimed at articulating a concrete plan for quick intervention to address the highest-priority needs for the heritage.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects will be evaluated by Prince Claus Fund staff and expert outside reviewers. The selection criteria are:

- urgency of the need identified – the threat must be pressing
- soundness and sustainability of the plan for preservation and/or dissemination – the plan must be feasible, realistic, and well thought out to prevent or limit future vulnerability
- significance of the threatened documentary heritage to local, regional, and/or world communities – the heritage must be of value to an identified group of people

This grant selection aims to ensure that projects are selected in a transparent and fair manner, according to clear criteria, and through a rigorous process giving due consideration to all proposals that meet the eligibility requirements.

HOW TO APPLY

Proposals will be accepted throughout the call. The budget for this call is limited and the most urgent applications are given priority. The **first deadline** for applications is **16 September 2018 at 17:00** Amsterdam time (CET). The **second deadline** for applications is **1 December 2018 at 17:00** Amsterdam time (CET). Applications received after the second deadline cannot be considered. It is recommended to not wait until the final deadline, but to apply as soon as possible after your documentary heritage is affected by conflict, natural- and/or man-made disaster.

To apply, please send a **brief statement of need**, with supporting materials (if available), to cer@princeclausfund.nl, in English, French, or Spanish. This should include at least the following:

1. Information about the applying organisation / individual:
 - a. Name
 - b. Home country
 - c. Type of organization (e.g., private not-for-profit, governmental organization)

2. Information about the documentary heritage:
 - a. Name
 - b. Location
 - c. Owner
 - d. Individual / organisation responsible for management
 - e. Significance of the heritage for the affected community
 - f. Wider cultural value of the heritage (e.g., artistic, architectural, historical)

3. Information about the disaster and the project to safeguard the heritage:
 - g. Description of disaster that has damaged or threatens the heritage
 - h. Damage to the heritage and risks if immediate action is not taken
 - i. Activities proposed for safeguarding the heritage
 - j. Expected timeframe for the proposed activities
 - k. Estimated budget for the work

4. Supporting materials (if available), such as:
 - a. Photographs of the heritage
 - b. Links to online images or information

Applicants will receive an email confirmation once the statement of need has been received. The most promising applicants will be invited within about seven days to submit a more complete application. Given the urgent nature of these projects, it is anticipated that, in most cases, complete applications will receive final decisions within a few weeks. The response time may be longer if additional information is needed from applicants.

If your archive is not in acute danger and therefore will not be considered for the Prince Claus Fund's CER programme, the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme offers a number of grants every year to individual researchers world-wide to locate vulnerable archival collections, to arrange their transfer wherever possible to a suitable local archival home, and to deliver digital copies into the international research domain via the British Library. The next call for preliminary applications is from September to early November. For more information, please visit their website.

ABOUT THE WHITING FOUNDATION

The Whiting Foundation supports literature and the humanities. We believe that it is imperative that the collective treasures of history and memory be passed on to the future with as little loss as we

can manage. Recognizing that irreplaceable cultural heritage is being destroyed at an alarming rate around the globe, we are committed to supporting the urgent fight to save the fruits of human civilization.

ABOUT THE PRINCE CLAUS FUND

Based on the principle that culture is a basic need, the Prince Claus Fund's mission is to actively support, connect and celebrate artists and cultural practitioners where cultural expression is under pressure and to stand firm with those who create, who believe in the transformative power of culture, who advance new ideas and explore new perspectives.

Through its Cultural Emergency Response (CER) programme, the Fund provides rapid and effective emergency relief for cultural heritage affected by man-made or natural disasters. By taking immediate action, CER aims to prevent further damage and implement basic repairs. Launched in 2003 in reaction to the looting and demolition of artworks from the National Museum of Iraq, CER believes that rescuing cultural heritage provides hope and consolation to affected communities and thereby contributes to restoring human dignity, continuity and a sense of identity. Culture is a basic need and cultural emergency relief should therefore be an integral part of humanitarian aid.