

2024 annual summary

Arcadia helps people to record cultural heritage, to conserve and restore nature, and to promote open access to knowledge. We want future generations to enjoy the diversity of human culture and the natural world.

A year in giving

In 2024 we gave grants totalling

\$106
million

nature

\$29
million

culture

\$31
million

**open
access**

\$41
million

We also gave \$5m to causes and projects that do not fall under our three programmes.

You can find information on all our grants on our website and 360Giving, or you can **sign up to our newsletter.**

Arcadia's grantees are working to ensure that future generations can enjoy the diversity of human culture and the natural world. Last year, the organizations we support documented archaeological sites across three continents, created new protections for wildlife on land and at sea, and helped provide universal online access to knowledge.

Our grants in 2024 included \$17.1m to complete the work of our heritage site recording projects in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. Together, they have mapped sites in 48 countries, creating the basis for new national inventories in countries such as Jordan and the Maldives. With the **J Paul Getty Trust**, we are establishing an endowment to ensure free long-term access to the software needed to maintain these databases.

In 2021 we joined **Oceans 5**, a consortium of marine conservation funders. Oceans 5 has supported the creation of major new marine reserves in Australia and Tonga and promoted sustainable fisheries in West Africa. These successes led us to renew our support with a grant of \$12.5m in 2024.

Our largest funding area in 2024 was open access. In addition to renewing funding to organizations campaigning for better public access to research, we built on our long-running partnership with the **New York Public Library**, giving it \$15m to provide free access to in-copyright scholarly books.

Our grant-making relies heavily on the collective wisdom of our Advisory Board. We are grateful to Neil MacGregor, who stepped down last year after eight years on the board. We welcomed four new board members: Professor Katy Fleming, Professor Peter Salovey, André Hoffmann, and Dr Columba Stewart.

Simon Chaplin
Chief Executive

Green turtle hatchlings make their way out to sea in São Tomé and Príncipe. Photo by Vasco Pissarra, courtesy of Fundação Príncipe.



Conserving and restoring nature

We want to help nature survive and flourish. Our grants support solutions to the global biodiversity and climate crises.

Our nature funding area focuses on **on-site interventions, governance, and leadership.**

In 2024 we gave
\$29m
to conserve and restore nature

See all 2024 grants on page 5

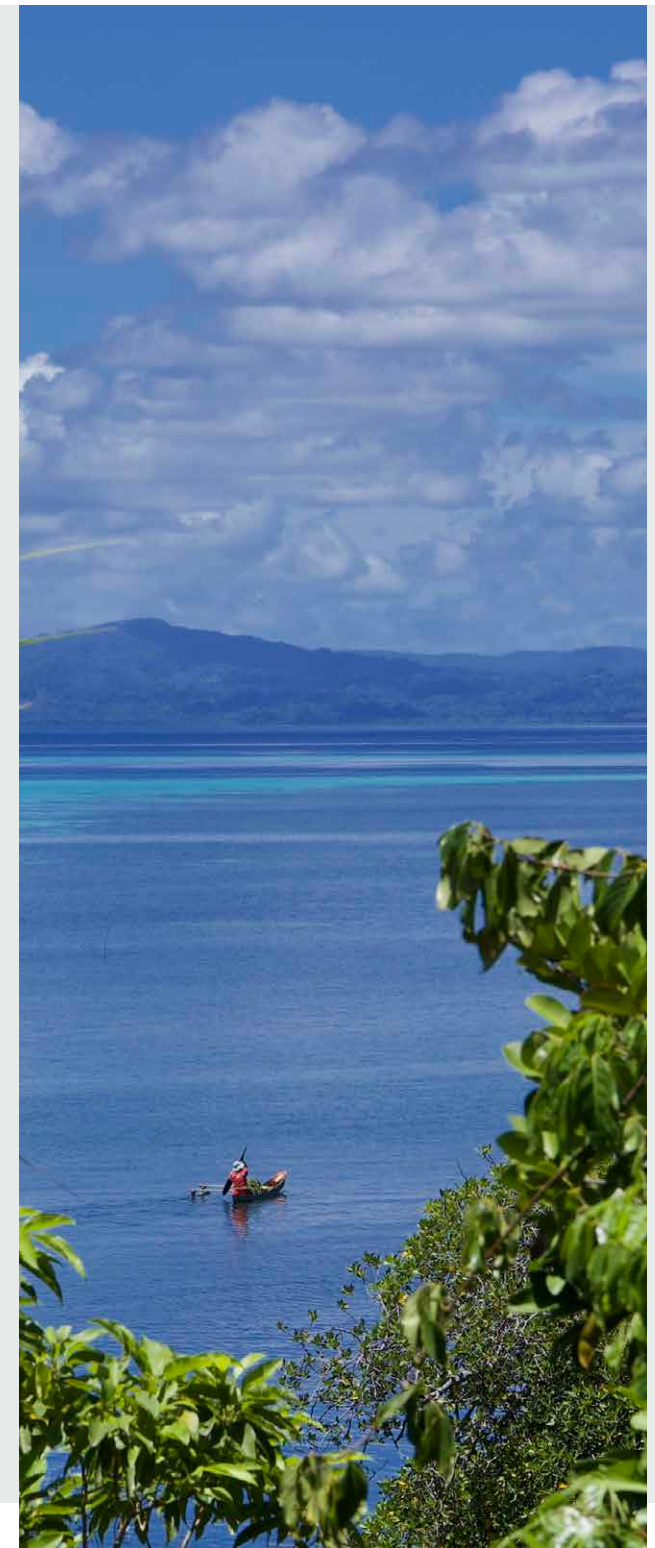
Conserving marine life

A grant from our **Joint 30x30 Funding Initiative**, a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, has helped to expand a new marine reserve in the Southern Ocean. Macquarie Island, a vital feeding and breeding ground for Antarctic wildlife, is home to four types of penguins, elephant seals, seabirds, and over a dozen species of whale and dolphin. Fishing, mining and other extractive activities will be banned in 93% of the reserve, creating a sanctuary for marine life.

Last year, Arcadia joined other funders in a combined pledge of \$51.7m to protect marine life on the high seas, areas beyond national jurisdictions which cover two-thirds of the world's oceans.

Our grantees **Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative, Environmental Justice Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society**, and **Oceana** are all working to secure support for the United Nations High Seas Treaty. The treaty will commit governments to establishing and managing new marine reserves beyond their national waters.

The Bismarck and Solomon Seas Nature's Stronghold of Papua New Guinea. Photo by Elodie Van Lierde, Wildlife Conservation Society.



Conserving and restoring nature



Helping Mongolia reach its climate and biodiversity goals

In April 2024 the Mongolian government, **The Nature Conservancy** and other partners launched 'Eternal Mongolia', an ambitious project to conserve and restore one of the largest areas of temperate grassland on the planet. The project will strengthen 47m hectares of existing protected areas, support community-led plans to safeguard an additional 14.4m hectares and ensure sustainable management of a further 34m hectares outside protected areas. Arcadia's grant of \$6m was part of a \$71m package from public and private grant funders. Several of these funders shared their research, giving us the confidence to join this initiative.

Flamingos over Llancanelo Lake in Mendoza Province in Argentina. Photo by Antonella Panebianco, courtesy of Wildlife Conservation Society.

Promoting nature restoration in Europe

In June, the European Union passed its landmark Nature Restoration Law, which requires all member states to restore 20% of their land and sea by 2030. The legislation faced significant opposition. Our grant to the **European Climate Foundation** supported the evidence-led campaigning at EU and member-state levels that helped get it passed.

Protecting the Tagus estuary

Following a long legal challenge, the Portuguese government has abandoned plans to build a new airport on an internationally significant nature reserve. The challenge was brought by Arcadia grantee **ClientEarth**, Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves, and eight other Portuguese partners. The proposed site on the Tagus estuary is on the migratory bird route from Europe to Africa. Thousands of birds depend on this rare wetland habitat for survival.

Conserving and restoring nature

Grants awarded in 2024

On-site interventions

We support the conservation of large areas of high biodiversity, and the rehabilitation of degraded but promising land- and seascapes.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
The Nature Conservancy Mongolia Conservation Trust Fund	\$6,000,000	5
Legacy Landscapes Fund LLF Learning Event	\$54,000	1

Governance

Our grants help to develop, monitor, and enforce laws and policies that ensure nature can thrive.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
Oceans 5 Oceans 5 partnership	\$12,500,000	5
TRAFFIC Core support	\$5,240,000	6
European Climate Foundation To build and protect strong legislative mechanisms for nature conservation and restoration in Europe.	\$2,754,000	3
Oceana Inc To help Oceana establish a UK office	\$500,000	1
Oceana Inc For the Andy Sharpless Innovation Fund	\$200,000	1
Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide Protecting biodiversity through law	\$110,000	1

Leadership

Our grants help people gain the knowledge and skills they need to lead nature conservation and restoration.

We are no longer making new leadership grants, but we still fund bursaries for the Master's degree in Conservation Leadership at the **University of Cambridge**. We also made a small grant of \$15,000 to support young restoration leaders attending the COP16 meeting in Cali, Colombia in October 2024.

Other nature grants

This year we also awarded \$1.5m to the **Society for the Protection of Underground Networks** for its soil fungi surveys.

Recording cultural heritage

We want future generations to have knowledge of the world's cultural diversity. Our grants support digital documentation of cultural heritage which is poorly recorded and under threat.

Our culture funding area focuses on **archives and manuscripts, intangible culture, and heritage sites.**

In 2024 we gave
\$31m
to record cultural heritage

See all 2024 grants on page 8

Twenty years of digitization

The Endangered Archives Programme, one of Arcadia's longest-running initiatives, turned twenty this year. The programme has supported more than five hundred projects around the world to digitize at-risk archival collections in more than a hundred languages and in a wide range of formats.

The British Library, which hosts the programme, marked the anniversary with an exhibition and a conference that highlighted the programme's connections with other cultural heritage initiatives.

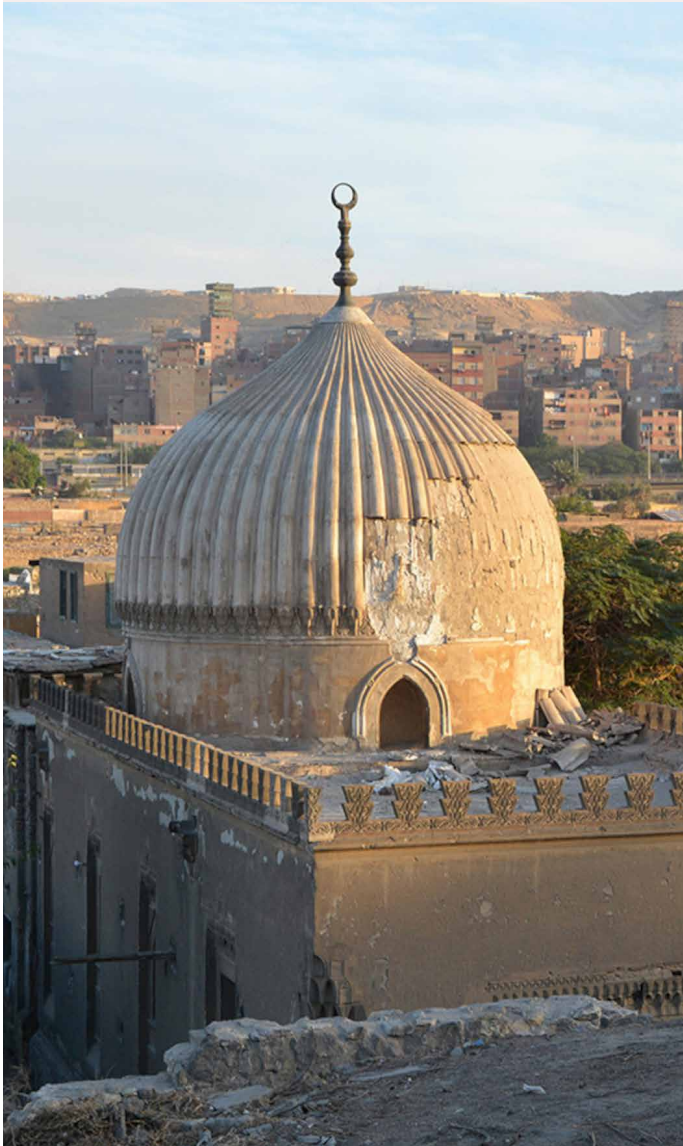
The Endangered Archives Programme's great strength is its annual open grant competition, which brings little-known archives to light. This year, projects included the digitization of convent records in Peru and Chile, documentation of medieval monument inscriptions in Mongolia and the creation of an online sound archive of late Ottoman and early Turkish music.

The pipeline of future projects is now expanding through five regional hubs based at universities in India, Lebanon, Lesotho, Peru and Jamaica, supported by the British Library's International Office.

A team inspecting and preparing for the digitization of palm leaf manuscripts kept at the Museum Lontar Dukuh Penaban in Karangasem, Bali. Courtesy of the Endangered Archives Programme.



Recording cultural heritage



Documenting the 'City of the Dead'

Heritage and Beyond and local partners ARCHiNOS have completed work to document funerary monuments in the Cairo 'City of the Dead' necropolis. The survey work included structures dating from the 18th century to the mid-20th century. The monuments have no legal protection and are threatened by development. The surveys, including modern and historic photographs, have been made freely available online by the Arcadia-funded Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East & North Africa project at **Oxford University**.

Yiddish from Poland to Whitechapel

Abraham Nahum Stencl (1897–1983) was a crucial figure in post-Second World War Yiddish literary culture. Stencl's life, which brought him from Poland to Berlin and then to Whitechapel, East London, reflects the experience of many Yiddish-speaking Jews from Eastern Europe who

escaped pogroms and the Holocaust. Stencl was an active contributor to, and a careful chronicler of, Yiddish literary society before and after the Second World War. In 2024 we funded a two-year project by artist and writer Dr Rachel Lichtenstein at **Manchester Metropolitan University** to track down and digitize previously undocumented material relating to Stencl's life and work.

Reading the palm leaves

Dried palm leaves have been used as writing materials in South and Southeast Asia for over two thousand years. Traditionally, such manuscripts were re-copied every few decades to preserve their content. This practice has now largely stopped, leaving many collections at risk of being lost. Our grant to **Hamburg University** to support the Digital Preservation of Kerala Archives project aims to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the South Indian state of Kerala. It will survey and digitize palm-leaf manuscripts scattered across small collections for the benefit of owners, scholars and future generations.

The main building dome in the Cairo necropolis, viewed from North West.
Photo by Jaroslaw Dobrowolski.

Recording cultural heritage

Grants awarded in 2024

Archives and manuscripts

We help digitize at-risk collections of written documents, photographs, and audio and video recordings, including born-digital material.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
Manchester Metropolitan University Preserving the Full Legacy of Yiddish Poet A. N. Stencl	\$315,000	3
King's College London Sudan Memory project	\$125,471	1

Heritage sites

We support the large-scale documentation of archaeological sites and buildings in regions where existing records are incomplete and the risk of future loss is high. We are no longer funding new heritage site projects.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
University of Cambridge Mapping Africa's Endangered Archaeological Sites and Monuments	\$7,125,000	5
University of Cambridge Mapping the Archaeological Heritage of South Asia	\$5,750,000	5
University of Oxford Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa	\$2,750,000	3
University of Southampton Maritime Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa	\$1,499,990	3
J Paul Getty Trust Arches Endowment	\$1,000,000	1

Intangible culture

We support the documentation of languages and cultural practices that may be at risk of dying out.

We did not award any new grants in this area in 2024. Our **Endangered Languages Documentation Programme** and **Endangered Material Knowledge Programme** continued to make grants on our behalf (read more on pages 15 and 16).

Other culture grants

This year we awarded \$12.5m to the **Wende Museum** for its endowment, and \$100,000 each to the Wende Museum and the **Center for Jewish History** to support core costs.

Promoting open access

We want knowledge to be free for anyone, anywhere to access and use.

Our open access funding focuses on **copyright and intellectual property, books, and discoverability**.

In 2024 we gave
\$41m
to promote open access

See all 2024 grants on page 11

Supporting open research

When the processes and data used to assess academics and universities are openly available, it allows research evaluations and funding decisions to be transparent and auditable for those being assessed. Since April 2024, almost 150 organizations, including universities and research funders, have signed the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information. The Declaration calls for research information to be transparent and FAIR – findable, accessible, inter-operable and re-useable.

OpenAlex is one of the platforms helping to make this ambition a reality. OpenAlex is an open index of scholarly works, authors, and institutions launched in 2022 by **Our Research**. Last year, we gave \$7.5m to help Our Research develop the service, which has established itself as a strong competitor to proprietary products, such as Scopus and Web of Science. OpenAlex has already been adopted by universities such as the Sorbonne and Leiden University and by national research funding agencies such as the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

Sorbonne University. Photo by Mbzt, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons.



The adoption of OpenAlex by non-academic institutions shows the value of open data for various purposes. Last year, the *Financial Times* announced that it would use OpenAlex data in its business school rankings, and *Times Higher Education* uses OpenAlex data in its Interdisciplinary Science Rankings.

Promoting open access

Creating a 'Right to Research'

This year, we renewed our grant to **American University Washington College of Law** to support its advocacy work to secure better copyright exceptions for research in international treaties and national laws. Our initial grant supported new work at the World Intellectual Property Organization to allow greater use of copyrighted materials for online education and research. It also supported commitments by the governments of Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya to establish or extend the rights of researchers to access and use in-copyright material.

Celebrating open access books

In May 2024 the **American Council of Learned Societies** announced the first winners of its ACLS Open Access Book Prize and the Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award in the field of history. In 2025 it will award prizes in two more categories: Literary Studies and Environmental Humanities. The competition rewards outstanding scholarly open-access publishing. As well as celebrating authors' work, they also support the publishers of the winning books to expand their open-access book lists.

Open access for conservation

Access to trustworthy research is essential for evidence-based action to address the climate and biodiversity crises. In October 2024 the **International Union for Conservation of Nature** (IUCN) approved its first organization-wide open access policy to enable free online access to the information it publishes about nature conservation. The policy applies to all official IUCN publications, including research published externally in books and journals.



The finalists in the multimodal and history categories of the 2024 ACLS Open Book Prizes and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Awards. Courtesy of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Promoting open access

Grants awarded in 2024

Copyright and intellectual property

We support efforts to challenge and improve copyright laws, regulations, exceptions and limitations so that people have better access to knowledge.

GRANT HOLDER Grant purpose	AMOUNT	YEARS
American University Washington College of Law Copyright and the Right to Research	\$6,500,000	5
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions The Knowledge Rights 21 Programme (phase II)	\$6,050,000	5
SPARC Strengthening open access in the USA	\$6,000,000	6

Books

We support projects that provide free online access to in-copyright scholarly books.

GRANT HOLDER Grant purpose	AMOUNT	YEARS
New York Public Library Enabling digital access to books	\$15,000,000	3

Discoverability

Our grants help people find legal, free-to-read versions of government documents, publicly funded research, standards, and laws.

GRANT HOLDER Grant purpose	AMOUNT	YEARS
Our Research OpenAlex	\$7,500,000	3

Other open access grants

We have given **Wikimedia** \$250,000 and **New York Public Library** \$100,000 to continue their work to advance open access.

Grant programmes

Our grant programmes are hosted for us by partner organizations. Each programme invites applications on a specific theme. Expert advisory panels review the grants, which the partner organization then manages.

We also participate in collaborative funding initiatives with other foundations.

These partnerships allow us to support local initiatives worldwide that deliver clear outcomes.

In 2024 we gave

\$64.9m

to 342 projects

Nature grant programmes and collaborative funding initiatives

We support grant programmes to restore landscapes, seascapes, and rivers in Europe and for investigative journalism on environmental matters relating to Europe.

Our collaborative funding initiatives support marine conservation worldwide.



In 2024 we gave

\$57.8m

to 211 projects

Read more on pages 13 and 14

Culture grant programmes

These programmes fund the documentation of archives, spoken languages, and craft practices. All outputs are freely available online.

Left Red poppies, cornflowers, daisies and other ruderal species colonize abandoned cultivated fields in Abruzzo, Italy. Photo by Bruno D'Amicis, courtesy of Rewilding Europe.

Below Mat-making in Western Ethiopia. Photo by Carlos Nieto Miranda, courtesy of the Endangered Material Knowledge Programme.



In 2024 we gave

\$7.1m

to 131 projects

Read more on pages 15 and 16

Nature grant programmes

Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme

Hosted by Cambridge Conservation Initiative

The programme aims to create large, connected landscapes and seascapes, restore ecosystem processes, and promote more sustainable local economies. Since it started in 2018, it has awarded 73 grants.

2024 giving:
9 grants totalling \$3.3m

The programme made a grant of \$2m in 2024 to restore the Koitajoki watershed in Finland. The project will recreate lost wetlands, rebuild ecological corridors and restore peatland marsh mires to protect waters downstream and increase biodiversity.

Open Rivers Programme

Hosted by Stichting European Open Rivers

The programme brings biodiversity back to European rivers by supporting the removal of dams to restore river flow. Since it started in 2022, it has awarded 128 grants.

2024 giving:
46 grants totalling \$4.3m

The programme funded a new project to remove barriers on the Pcinja River in North Macedonia. This will improve water quality, enable fish populations to migrate, and restore 59 km of river—almost half of the country's total river length.

Earth Investigations Programme

Hosted by JournalismFund.eu

The programme supports environmental investigative journalism on European affairs in and outside Europe. Since it started in 2021, it has awarded 298 grants.

2024 giving:
71 grants totalling \$1.4m

Investigations funded by the programme have supported stories exposing the environmental cost of Albania's tourist boom, the threats to artisanal fishing in Southern Europe, and the misdirection of Europe climate crisis funding for developing countries.

Nature collaborative funding initiatives

Oceans 5 general fund

Hosted by Oceans 5

Oceans 5 is a consortium of international funders dedicated to stopping overfishing, establishing marine protected areas, and constraining offshore oil and gas development. Arcadia gives \$2m per year to Oceans 5's general fund.

**2024 giving:
51 grants
totalling \$32.5m**

One of this year's projects is bringing local fishing communities and the Côte d'Ivoire government together to develop five new marine protected areas. The project will contribute to Côte d'Ivoire's goal of protecting 10% of the country's waters.

Joint 30x30 Funding Initiative

Hosted by Oceans 5

This fund awards grants for work towards the target of protecting 30% of the world's marine and coastal areas by 2030. It is a partnership between Arcadia and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Arcadia has committed \$25m over five years and gave \$5m in 2024.

**2024 giving:
32 grants
totalling \$13.7m**

The fund has made grants to several projects to support the High Seas Treaty – the United Nations' commitment to protecting biodiversity in international waters – including support for indigenous-led organizations who are helping to implement the treaty.

School of brown chromis in Bajos del Norte reef, Mexico.
Photo by Carlos Aguilera, Oceana.



Culture grant programmes

Endangered Archives Programme

Hosted by the British Library

The programme funds the digitization of threatened collections older than the 1950s. Since it started in 2004, it has awarded 529 grants.

2024 giving:
35 grants totalling \$1.6m

Projects funded in 2024 included digitizing historic archives and records of Greek-Armenian families and community institutions throughout Greece from the 17th to the 20th century; the records of a Chettiar mercantile family from South Asia; and Khoe-Sān rock-carvings dating back to 3000 BCE near Klerksdorp in South Africa.

Modern Endangered Archives Program

Hosted by the University of California, Los Angeles

This programme funds the digitization of threatened archives from the 20th and 21st centuries. Since it started in 2018, it has awarded 138 grants.

2024 giving:
26 grants totalling \$1.5m

Two of this year's projects are focussing on records of detained and disappeared people in Latin America in the latter part of the 20th century, covering 11 human rights organizations from Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme

Hosted by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

The programme documents endangered languages around the world. Since it started in 2002, it has awarded more than 569 grants.

2024 giving:
24 grants totalling \$1.6m

One of the grants made in 2024 will support documentation of the languages and dialects of the Medzeniakonai people in Northwest Amazonia, Brazil. It will record mythical narratives, ritual chants and shamanistic incantations, as well as language use in households, local schools and Christian churches.

Culture grant programmes

Endangered Material Knowledge Programme

Hosted by the British Museum

The programme documents the skills and practices used in making or using things. Since it started in 2018, it has awarded 104 grants.

2024 giving:
24 grants totalling
\$970k

In 2024, the programme supported projects that documented the making and playing of timbale xylophones from Zavala, Mozambique, food preparation techniques used by voyagers from Taumako in the Solomon Islands, and basket weaving and dug-out canoe making by the Ye'kwana Indigenous people of Brazil.

Endangered Wooden Architecture Programme

Hosted by Oxford Brookes University

The programme documents wooden buildings and the skills involved in making them. Since it started in 2022, it has awarded 50 grants.

2024 giving:
22 grants totalling \$1.4m

Climate change, rising sea levels, and imported construction materials and techniques threaten Tuvalu's distinctive vernacular wooden architecture. One of the programme's grants in 2024 will help record these traditional structures made from wood, pandanus leaves, and coral.



Dr Kofi Busia, prime minister of Ghana from 1 October 1969 – 13 January 1972, riding in a parade inspection convoy at the Black Star Square in Accra. Photo by Willis E. Bell, courtesy of the Modern Endangered Archives Programme.

Grant programmes

2024 grants



About us

Arcadia is a family charitable foundation. It was founded by Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin in 2002. We are led by our donor board, supported by an expert advisory board and a small London-based team.

Donor Board

Professor Peter Baldwin (Chair)
Dr Lisbet Rausing
Ben Koerner
Sigrid Koerner
Dr George Morris (from January 2025)

Advisory Board

Frances Beinecke
Dr Johannes Burger
Sir Charles Burrell Bt
Anthea Case CBE FRSA
Professor Katherine Fleming
Professor Dr Markus Hilgert
André Hoffmann
Jonny Hughes
Heather Joseph
Professor Peter Salovey
Dr Columba Andrew Stewart

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Tami Shacham, Chief Operating Officer
Lucy Bromley, Operations and Communications Manager
Sofia Sancho, Operations and Communications Officer
Dr Gerardo Fragoso, Director of Nature
Dr Francesca McGrath, Senior Manager, Nature
Dr Catherine Docherty, Senior Manager, Nature
Dr Emma McIntosh, Consultant to Nature funding area
Dr Ross Mounce, Director of Open Access
Dr Arthur Dudley, Director of Culture
Dr Mike Heyworth, Consultant to Culture funding area

Sustainability

We are taking active steps to minimize the environmental impact of our operations and we ask our grantees to do the same. We ask grantees to minimize unnecessary travel, particularly air travel; report to us on the air travel undertaken as part of their grant; and share with us their environmental sustainability policy if they have one.

We report on the carbon footprint of our own activities and our grant programmes where we are the sole funder, so that we can better understand and try to reduce our impact. Our emissions in 2023 were 57 tonnes CO₂e and travel for our grant programmes (staff, boards and panels) emitted 155 tonnes CO₂.

Carpathian Mountains, Romania. Photo by Sandra Bartocha / Wild Wonders of Europe. Courtesy of Rewilding Europe.

