

2023 annual summary

Arcadia helps people preserve endangered culture, protect endangered nature and promote access to knowledge. Since 2002 we have awarded more than \$1.2 billion to projects around the world.

A year in giving

In 2023 we gave grants totalling

\$208
million

Protecting
endangered
nature

\$159.1
million

Preserving
endangered
culture

\$23
million

Promoting
**open
access**

\$15
million

We also gave \$10.6 million 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.

Last year, our grantees ensured lasting support for millions of hectares of fragile ecosystems. They created and shared hundreds of thousands of digital records of archives, languages, archaeological sites and craft practices. They also overcame laws and commercial practices that restricted access to publicly-funded research and government documents.

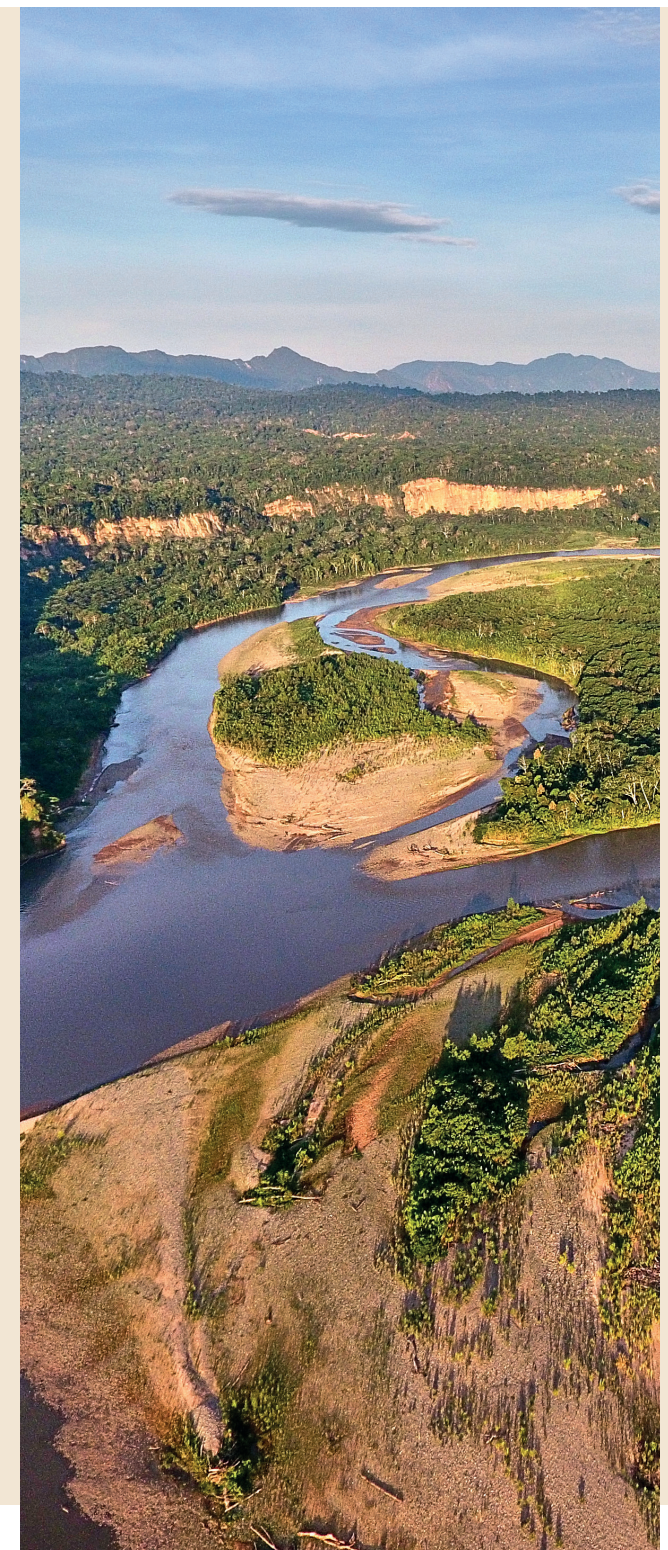
We committed \$208m in new grants in 2023, including almost \$150m to support the goals of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We extended our partnership with the **University of Cambridge** and the **Cambridge Conservation Initiative** to restore Europe’s lands and seas. We began a new collaboration with **Bloomberg Philanthropies** and **Oceans 5** to protect marine life. We also renewed our support for **ClientEarth** and **Global Witness** to ensure that the laws to protect nature are well-made and effectively enforced.

We made a further grant to one of our longest-running partnerships, the **Endangered Archives Programme**, which the **British Library** hosts. Since 2004, it has created over 13m digital records from more than 90 countries, sharing them with source communities who can safeguard them for future generations.

Arcadia is guided by its Donor Board: Lisbet Rausing, Peter Baldwin (Chair), Ben Koerner and Sigrid Koerner. We benefit from the expertise of our regranteeing partners and their advisors (read more on pages 12–17). We also remain indebted to our Advisory Board: Frances Beinecke, Dr Johannes Burger, Sir Charles Burrell Bt, Anthea Case CBE FRSA, Professor Dr Markus Hilgert, Jonathan Hughes, Heather Joseph and Neil MacGregor OM. Professor Dame Alison Richard retired from the board in 2023. We are grateful for the support and guidance she has given us since 2009.

Simon Chaplin
Chief Executive

The river Tuichi in the Madidi Tambopata stronghold. Photo by Omar Torrico, courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society.



Protecting endangered nature

We aim to protect the natural diversity of the world, now and in the future. Our grants help safeguard and restore biodiverse areas of land and sea.

Our environment programme focuses on **on-site interventions, governance, and leadership.**

In 2023 we gave

\$159.2m

to protect endangered nature

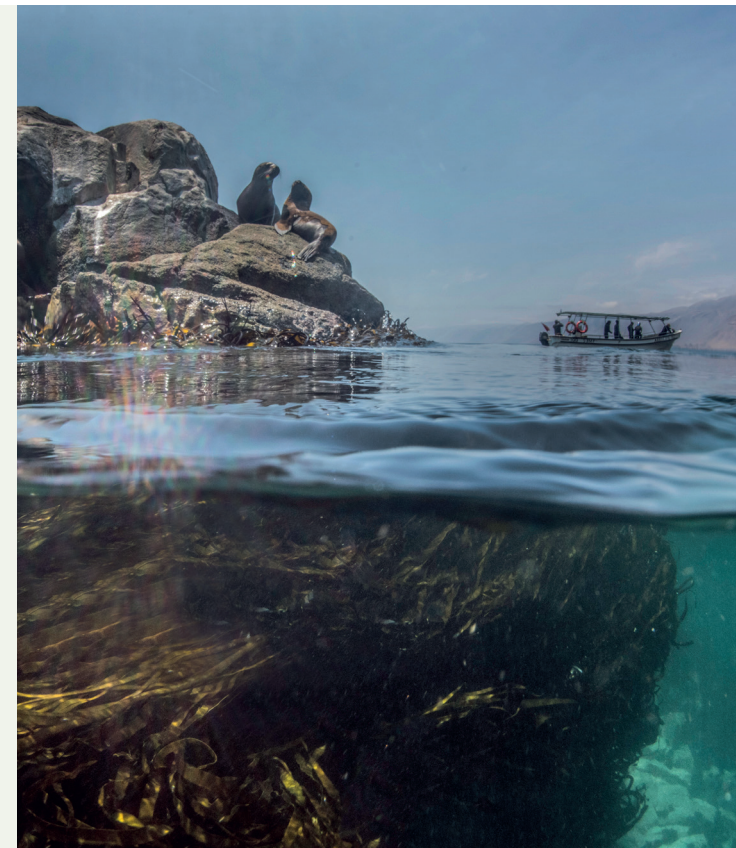
Support for 30x30

In December 2022, signatories to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity committed to protecting 30% of the Earth's land and ocean by 2030. In 2023, we awarded \$146.5m to support this ambitious '30x30' goal.

We gave \$72m to the **Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme** at the **Cambridge Conservation Initiative**. The programme supports large-scale projects to restore natural ecological processes and species across Europe. Since we set up the programme in 2018, it has protected more than 160,000 hectares of land and sea and helped restore a further 153,000 hectares.

Last year's achievements included releasing the first free-roaming herd of Przewalski's horses in the Iberian Highlands. In the Danube Delta, Rewilding Ukraine and its local partners connected Lake Katlabuh to the River Danube, reviving 8,500 hectares of natural wetlands. Our new grant will enable the programme to extend its work on seascape restoration.

Sea lions sunbathe in Pisagua, Chile.
Photo by Mauricio Altamirano, ©Oceana.



We also renewed our support to **Fauna & Flora** and the **Wildlife Conservation Society**, who partner with local organizations to secure critical terrestrial and marine areas worldwide. We launched a joint fund with Bloomberg Philanthropies to provide over \$50m to protect marine habitats. We gave \$25m to the **Legacy Landscapes Fund** to create long-term endowments for protected areas in South-East Asia, Africa and South America. The landscapes include Chiribiquete in Colombia, a 6.6m-hectare area rich in endemic species and home to several communities of Isolated Indigenous Peoples.

Protecting endangered nature

Fighting deforestation

Protection for the environment and its guardians depends on sound governance. Alongside our work to conserve and restore biodiversity, we also support organizations that strengthen and enforce safeguards that help nature to flourish. Several of our grantees, including **ClientEarth**, **Global Witness**, and **Global Canopy**, helped to secure a new EU regulation on deforestation in May 2023. It will prevent companies from importing commodities linked to deforestation, such as coffee and palm oil, into the European Union unless they can prove they are sustainably sourced.

Tackling wildlife traffickers

A four-year investigation by the **Wildlife Justice Commission** helped dismantle one of the most notorious criminal groups in Nigeria, responsible for half of the global trade in pangolins – the world’s most trafficked mammal.

Undercover investigations helped the Nigerian Customs Service seize more than nine tonnes of pangolin scales and arrest 22 suspects. This marks a significant breakthrough in Nigeria’s fight against wildlife crime, where pangolin trafficking is now at a five-year low.

Strengthening the Nature Restoration Law

We provided an emergency grant to the **European Climate Foundation** to bolster support for the Nature Restoration Law. The law requires European Union member states to develop plans to restore 20% of Europe’s land and sea by 2030. The European Climate Foundation will help partners across Europe prevent opponents of the law from weakening it during final negotiations and implementation.

A photograph of a brown bear sitting on a dirt path in a forest. The bear is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred forest with green and yellow foliage.

A bear in the Făgăraș Mountains, Southern Carpathian mountain range. Photo by Daniel Rosengren, courtesy of the Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme.

Read more about our environmental regranting programmes on page 13

Protecting endangered nature

Grants awarded in 2023

On-site interventions

We promote collaborative, evidence-led interventions to nurture biodiversity-rich areas and rehabilitate degraded landscapes.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
Cambridge Conservation Initiative Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme	\$71,648,800	8
Legacy Landscapes Fund Chiribiquete, Tambrauw and Makira-Masoala landscapes	\$25,000,000	1
Fauna & Flora Halcyon Programmes	\$18,000,000	3.5
Wildlife Conservation Society Saving Nature's Strongholds	\$8,000,000	2

Governance

We support good governance to help protect and restore biodiversity.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
Oceans 5 Marine protection fund	\$25,000,000	5
ClientEarth Core support	\$6,250,000	5
Global Witness Preserving climate-critical rainforests by exposing and constraining deforestation finance	\$3,795,000	5
European Climate Foundation EU Nature Restoration Law	\$1,100,000	1
Oceans 5 Deep Sea Conservation Coalition – core costs	\$339,000	1

Leadership

We help people gain the knowledge and skills they need to protect and restore biodiversity.

We are no longer making new grants in this area. Our support to the **University of Cambridge** will continue to provide scholarships for its Masters in Conservation Leadership until 2032.

Preserving endangered culture

We aim to preserve knowledge of the world's cultural diversity. Our grants help document endangered cultural heritage, ensuring it is available to future generations.

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

In 2023 we gave

\$23m

to preserve endangered culture

See all 2023 grants on page 8

Documenting the world's disappearing languages

There are over seven thousand languages spoken worldwide today. However, few have any meaningful presence on the internet and less than half are expected to survive into the next century. Our **Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)** helps document those at greatest risk, creating hope for their future survival and helping to prevent the loss of knowledge that each language holds. Since it started in 2002, the programme's archive has grown to include recordings of more than 550 languages, some of which are now extinct.

In 2021, we renewed our funding for another ten years. The **Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities** now hosts the programme. Each year, ELDP awards 30-40 grants through an open competition. Last year, projects included recording two languages in Bhutan: North-Eastern Black Mountain Mönpa (around 275 speakers) and Lhokpu (800 speakers). The project will combine linguistic documentation with that of the equally endangered practices of natural fibre yarn production.



The Endangered Languages Documentation Programme working with Kaike and Poinke speakers in Gumbatara, Dolpo, Nepal. Photo by Dr Marieke Meelen, courtesy of ELDP.

In 2023, ELDP significantly expanded its training, supporting new researchers from more countries. This has resulted in better field recordings, which capture more knowledge and are easier to find. The programme also opened its first hub in Colombia, supporting people from Indigenous communities to record and preserve their linguistic heritage. The programme is planning four more hubs.

Preserving endangered culture

Mapping the heritage of the Indus basin

Over 1,300 maps of the Indus River basin produced by the colonial Survey of India in the 19th and early 20th centuries have been made available online as part of the **University of Cambridge's** Mapping the Archaeological Heritage of South Asia project. The maps are a rich source of archaeological data, and digitization has enabled viewers to compare historical records with modern satellite images. The project has made the maps accessible to audiences in India and Pakistan, where many of the original maps are in closed archives.

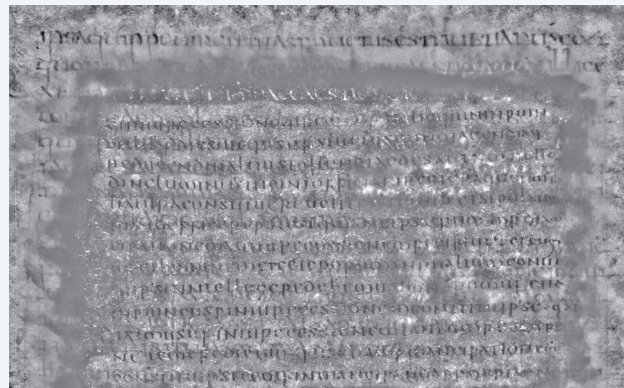
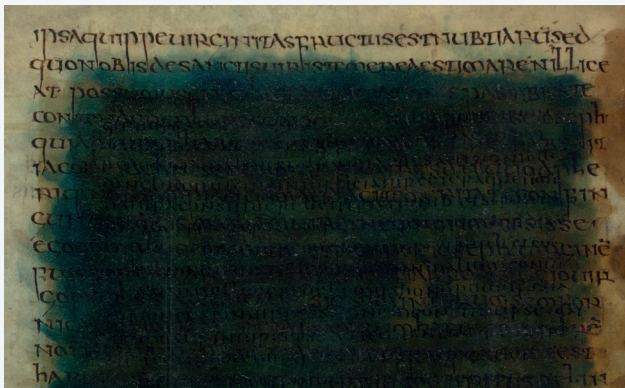
Revealing hidden texts

UCLA Library's 'Palimpsests in Danger' project uses experimental imaging techniques to peer through chemical residues on centuries-old manuscripts. Medieval scribes often cleaned and reused manuscripts, leaving faint traces of original text beneath the later overwriting. Known as palimpsests, many of these documents were damaged by later scholars who attempted to reveal the hidden texts using chemical concoctions, which make them impossible to read today. Researchers at the Biblioteca Capitolare di Verona have demonstrated that multispectral imaging can penetrate the residues, giving hope that we can recover more lost texts.

Rediscovering archaeological sites in Central Asia

Since 2018, a team from **University College London's Institute of Archaeology** has been using remote sensing, historical documentation and fieldwork to record archaeological sites across Central Asia. The team has identified over 88,000 sites, half of which were not previously known.

Over the next five years, the project will complete a comprehensive database of archaeological heritage in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The project has also brought together Central Asian scholars and institutions with a shared vision for the region's heritage, prompting calls for a unified electronic register of sites.



"Verona manuscript XV" before and after being processed from multispectral data. Palimpsests with this type of severe chemical damage are found in numerous libraries in Europe and the Middle East. Photos by the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library.

Preserving endangered culture

Grants awarded in 2023

Archives and manuscripts

We help people digitize at-risk collections.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
British Library Endangered Archives Programme	\$18,000,000	10

Heritage sites

We fund the recording of archaeological sites and buildings.

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
University College London Central Asian archaeological landscapes project (phase II)	\$4,194,000	5

Intangible culture

We support documentation of endangered languages and cultural practices.

We did not award any new grants in this area in 2023. Our **Endangered Languages Documentation Programme** and **Endangered Material Knowledge Programme** continued to make grants on our behalf (read more on pages 15–16).

Other cultural grants

We have also given \$300,000 to **Princeton University Press** to continue the digitization of Albert Einstein's papers; \$200,000 to the **Blavatnik Archive Foundation** towards digitizing primary sources on the Soviet Jewish diaspora; \$200,000 to **Trinity Foundation** towards the digitization of medieval manuscripts at Trinity College Dublin; and \$100,000 each to the **Wende Museum** and to the **Center for Jewish History** to support core costs.

Promoting open access

We aim to improve access to knowledge. Our grants help make information free for anyone, anywhere, to find and to use, now and in the future.

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

In 2023 we gave

\$15m

to promote open access

See all 2023 grants on page 11



Part of Public.Resource.Org's document scanning operation at Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru (India). Photo by Omshivaprakash H L.

Making public documents and laws free to read

In many countries, the laws, regulations, and other government documents that affect people's lives are not free to read. Two of our grantees have removed the barriers preventing public access to thousands of official documents worldwide.

Public.Resource.Org has led campaigns in several countries, including the US and India, to highlight the need for legal codes and standards to be freely available. It brought a high court case against the Bureau of Indian Standards, which then made 70% of its

standards open to readers. Indian law professor Lawrence Liang described it as a 'significant victory... because we often forget that standards are indeed the invisible laws that underlie the visible ones'.

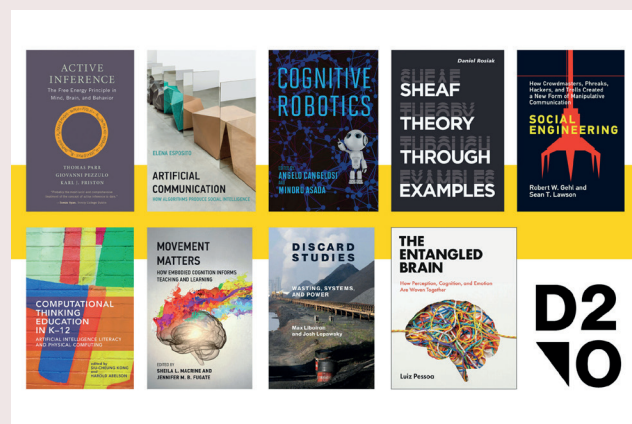
In Germany, **FragDenStaat** made 2,713 issues of the Federal Government's Joint Ministerial Gazette available online without restriction. The Gazette includes state regulations, ordinances, guidelines and announcements. It had previously only been available to paying subscribers. FragDenStaat hopes the German government will follow suit by publishing the Gazette on its website.

Promoting open access

A shared approach to open-access books

MIT Press is one of the world's largest university presses and has pioneered open-access publishing since 1995. With our support, it has worked with libraries to create Direct to Open, a new business model for scholarly books. By working together, libraries can make academic books free for everyone, everywhere.

More than 320 libraries have joined the initiative since it launched in 2022. Together, they have provided immediate public access to more than 160 MIT Press books. In 2023 we extended our support to MIT Press with a \$10m grant to build an endowment to support its open-access publishing in perpetuity.



Nine open access books that have reached over 10,000 reads. Courtesy of the MIT Press.

Open tools for research data

Our Research is a US-based technology non-profit that has pioneered open-access tools for researchers, universities and funders. Its latest product is OpenAlex, an open index of scholarly works, authors, and institutions that can compete with established commercial products, such as Scopus and Web of Science. Institutions such as the Sorbonne and the University of Leiden have already adopted OpenAlex.

350 years of Swedish newspapers

Over 4.5m pages from 1,443 different Swedish newspaper titles published from 1645 to 1906 are now freely available online, thanks to our grant to the **Swedish National Archive** and the **National Library of Sweden**. The two institutions completed their joint digitization project last year. Since then, more than 380,000 people have used the library's website, 'Svenska dagstidningar'.



Front pages of a range of archived Swedish newspapers. Courtesy of the Swedish National Library.

Promoting open access

Grants awarded in 2023

Copyright and intellectual property

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

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
Open Knowledge Foundation Deutschland FragDenStaat: democratizing public databases	\$1,205,100	4

Books

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

GRANT HOLDER	AMOUNT	YEARS
Grant purpose		
Lancaster University Open Book Futures	\$3,429,600	3

Discoverability

Our grants help people find legal, free-to-read versions of content they need.

We did not award any new grants in this area in 2023.

Other open access grants

We have given **MIT press** \$10m, **Wikimedia** \$250,000 and the **New York Public Library** \$200,000 to continue their work to advance open access.

Regranting and collaborative programmes

Our regranting programmes are hosted for us by trusted partners. Each programme invites applications for grants on a specific theme.

Expert advisory panels review the grants, which the partner organization then manages. Each organization publishes a complete list of grants on its website.

We also participate in collaborative funding initiatives with other foundations.

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

In 2023 we gave

\$20.4m

to 316 projects through our regranting and collaborative programmes

Environmental regranting and collaborative programmes

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

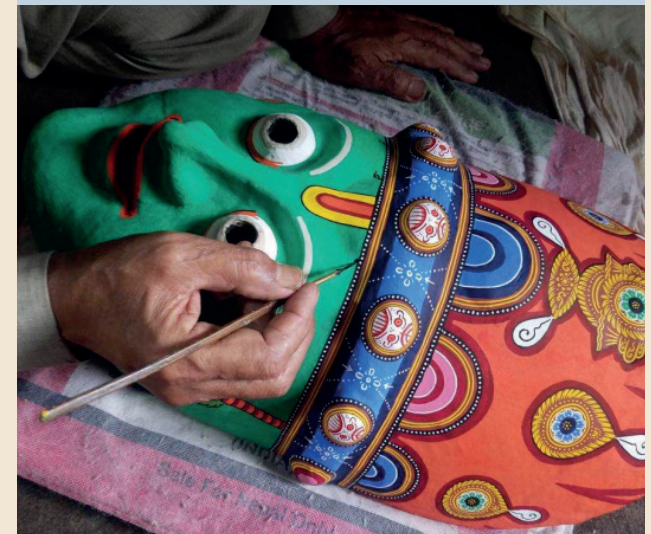
Our collaborative funding programmes support marine conservation worldwide.



Tibetan Wildass (Kiang) in the Changtang stronghold, Tibet. Courtesy of Wildlife Conservation Society.

Cultural regranting programmes

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



The hand of the artist Purna Bahadur Chitrakar painting final details on a mask for the Nava Durga dance, Bhaktapur, Nepal. Photo by Renuka Gurung.

Environmental regranting 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, the programme has awarded 41 grants.

2023 giving:
16 grants totalling \$1.4m

The programme awarded several planning grants for prospective restoration projects. They include Romania's South-Western Carpathian wilderness, which has at least 35,000 hectares of pristine old-growth forests, and alpine meadows rich in flora. It is home to 90 strictly protected species, such as brown bear, grey wolf, Eurasian lynx and European bison.

Open Rivers Programme

Hosted by Stichting European Open Rivers Programme

The programme brings back biodiversity in European rivers by supporting the removal of dams to restore river flow. Since it started in 2022, it has awarded 90 grants.

2023 giving:
38 grants totalling \$2.6m

The funded projects will create almost 500km of free-flowing rivers. They include the removal of two dams on the Ega River in northern Spain, which will open up over 40km of the river for fish migration. Another project in Sweden will restore flow between Lake Mjörn and Lake Anten, improving trout migration, and create a new habitat for freshwater pearl mussels.

Earth Investigations Programme

Hosted by JournalismFund.eu

The programme supports environmental investigative journalism on European affairs inside and outside Europe. Since 2022 it has awarded 201 grants.

2023 giving:
113 grants totalling \$2.5m

One of the programme's most notable projects from 2023 was a joint investigation by 18 European newsrooms to reveal the extent of 'forever chemicals' pollution across Europe. The investigation revealed over 17,000 sites known to be contaminated by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances which do not degrade, and a further 22,000 sites that are likely to be affected. *Le Monde*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *The Guardian* published the results.

Environmental collaborative programmes

Oceans 5 collaborative 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 collaborative fund.

2023 giving:
21 new grants
totalling \$13.7m

Grants included Por el Mar's project to protect 4,300 square kilometres of coast in Argentina, including kelp forests in Tierra del Fuego and Santa Cruz, and a grant to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership to tackle illegal squid fishing. It will focus on the world's three largest squid fisheries, which collectively catch nearly 1.3m tons of squid per year. Squid fisheries are rife with illegality and are largely unregulated.

Marine protection fund

Hosted by Oceans 5

This fund supports indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, and governments to strengthen the health and resilience of the ocean. It is a partnership between Arcadia and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Arcadia has committed \$25m over five years, and gave \$5m in 2023.

2023 giving:
18 grants totalling \$7.6m

Among the projects supported were The Marine Protection Atlas, a global accountability tool for tracking the creation and management of marine protected areas. The atlas will help to hold governments accountable and increase the focus on creating effectively protected areas. The fund also supported a project to secure additional protected waters around Australia's sub-Antarctic islands.



Yellow porkfish in the Alcranes reef, Gulf of Mexico.
Photo by Benjamin Magaña-Rodríguez, © Oceana

Cultural regranting 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, the programme has awarded 494 grants.

2023 giving:
29 grants totalling \$1.2m

New grants include a catalogued digital archive for the inheritance proceedings and notary records from the Archivo Histórico de Antioquia, Colombia. The records date from the early 17th to the mid-18th century, and include important evidence for the study of the slave trade, experiences of enslaved people, and the social history of colonial Colombia.

Modern Endangered Archives Program

Hosted by University of California, Los Angeles

This programme funds the digitization of threatened archives from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Since it started in 2018, the programme has awarded 118 grants.

2023 giving:
30 grants totalling \$1m

Projects include digitization of photographic archives in the National Museum of Mali, which include records of cultural events and practices threatened by current political instability in the region. Another will create a digital archive of posters, pamphlets and other printed ephemera from the Tallersol Cultural Centre in Chile, an essential hub for protest and creative freedom during the 'cultural blackout' under the Pinochet regime.

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, the programme has awarded more than 546 grants.

2023 giving:
19 grants totalling \$2m

Among the projects supported this year is the documentation of Seke, a highly threatened Tibeto-Burman language from Nepal with only a few hundred speakers. In northern Pakistan, researchers will work with speakers of Domaaki to help them document their language – of which there are now only a dozen fluent speakers – as well as recording stories and other oral literature that could otherwise be lost.

Cultural regranting 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, the programme has awarded 85 grants.

2023 giving:
17 grants totalling \$1m

The programme made a grant to record the production and use of the *ney*, an end-blown reed-flute which occupies a special place in the artistic tradition of Sufi music in Turkey. It also funded the documentation of the practice of palm-weaving by Coptic communities in Egypt, exploring its familial, religious, cultural and economic aspects.

Endangered Wooden Architecture Programme

Hosted by Oxford Brookes University

The programme documents wooden buildings and the skills involved in making them. Since 2022, the programme has awarded 29 grants.

2023 giving:
15 grants totalling \$1.7m

New awards will use 3D scanning, drone cameras and photogrammetry to record structures. These range from traditional Shanasheel wooden buildings in Iraq and conical Wae Rebo houses in Manggarai, Indonesia, to the novel architectural styles that evolved in different 19th-century colonial contexts, such as Shimla, India, and Valparaiso, Chile.



Women making a house in southern Turkana.
Photo by Samuel Derbyshire, courtesy of the
Endangered Material Knowledge Programme.

Regranting programmes

2023 grants

