



# ARCADIA

A CHARITABLE FUND OF  
LISBET RAUSING & PETER BALDWIN

[www.arcadiahfund.org.uk](http://www.arcadiahfund.org.uk)

[@ArcadiaFund](https://twitter.com/ArcadiaFund)

[info@arcadiahfund.org.uk](mailto:info@arcadiahfund.org.uk)

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Arcadia makes grants to preserve endangered culture, protect endangered nature and promote open access. Since Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin established Arcadia in 2002, we have awarded more than \$678 million to projects around the world.



2019 has been a year of growth. We have welcomed four new team members: Emma McIntosh and Francesca McGrath have joined as environmental grants managers, Arthur Dudney as cultural grants manager, and Lucy Bromley has joined to support our operations. Our open access programme has increased its support for work that makes more scholarly content freely available and easy to find; in culture, we expanded our archaeological site documentation initiatives, building on existing successful models; and in environment we developed new partnerships and renewed existing ones. This report highlights some of our work last year.

The climate crisis has influenced our giving and operations. 2019 has been the hottest year on record, after 2016. The science is clear: the emergency is real and it is not going away. Our environmental grants support work to secure landscapes, make ecosystems more resilient and hold those in power accountable. We also continue to work with our partners to record heritage sites that are threatened by environmental changes. We are taking action to reduce our own environmental impact and to offset what we cannot eliminate. We have signed the UK Funders' Climate Commitment.

We continue to seek outstanding, dynamic, evidence-led organizations that can best deliver our objectives. We look for methodical, creative and collaborative individuals who share our passion and vision and inspire others. We strive to empower the next generation – scholars, activists and leaders – and learn from them.

We are guided by our Advisory Board. We are grateful for the support of Lord Rothschild OM GBE, Professor Dame Alison Richard DBE, Neil MacGregor OM, Sir Charles Burrell Bt, Charles Conn, Ben Koerner, Heather Joseph and Dr Johannes Burger. In 2019, we were delighted to welcome Professor Dr Markus Hilgert, the secretary general and chief executive officer of the Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States, to our Advisory Board.

### DONOR-LED GRANTS

We are led by our donors, Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, and their vision. In addition to Arcadia's environmental, cultural and open access grants, described on the following pages, Lisbet and Peter also make grants to organizations and causes close to their hearts. Our donor-led grant recipients in 2019 included **Marie Stopes International** and **Sightsavers**. Lisbet and Peter also continued their support for the **Illuminated River Project**, an art installation that will light 15 of central London's bridges along the Thames. The first four bridges – London, Cannon Street, Southwark and the Millennium Bridge – were lit up in 2019. The project has undertaken extensive research and consultation to ensure that it leaves a positive legacy for London, respecting natural environment, local communities and the character and history of the bridges.



Cannon Bridge, London. Photo by James Newton. Courtesy of the Illuminated River Project

## PRESERVING ENDANGERED CULTURE

Our cultural grants document endangered heritage. Projects we fund record manuscripts and archives, archaeological sites and artefacts, and linguistic, cultural and religious traditions at risk.



We continue to develop our grants to document heritage sites. Our grants support initiatives to record sites in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, the Maldives and Nepal. These projects work in areas where sites are under significant pressure from a range of factors, including conflict, rapid urban and agricultural development and climate change. Many of the sites have not been previously documented, which affects our understanding of history of these regions. Only this year the Central Asian Archaeological Landscapes project at **University College London** identified several hundred previously unknown sites, including kurgans (burial mounds) in Kazakhstan, well-preserved Seljuk caravanserai in the Karakorum desert in Turkmenistan and large-scale irrigation systems in the Pamir Mountains in Tajikistan. Like all materials resulting from Arcadia grants, these records will be freely available online. In 2019 we supported two new large-scale projects to record heritage sites, many previously unknown or undocumented, in Sub-Saharan Africa, Pakistan and Northern India. Even if not all sites can be preserved, the **University of Cambridge Institute for Archaeological Research**, which leads these projects, will ensure that the records are preserved in perpetuity.



*Tumsukly Minara caravanserai, Karakum Desert, Turkmenistan. Some 90 km north to Merv, one of the great cities of the Silk Roads in Central Asia. The site was known from antiquity, but its identification on satellite images prompted a field survey which revealed the quality of its survival. Photo by Annamyrat Orazov. Courtesy of the Central Asian Archaeological Landscape Project*

Our two new regranting programmes, the **Endangered Material Knowledge Programme** at the British Museum, and the **Modern Endangered Archives Program** at UCLA Library, made their first grants in 2019. The former awarded 15 grants to both experienced and early-career anthropologists to document how objects are made, mended and used. Many of the projects, such as documenting weaving and pottery-making among indigenous people in Brazil and beekeeping in Kenya, focus on the relationship between traditional knowledge and environmental stewardship. The Modern Endangered Archives Programme funds projects to digitize twentieth and twenty-first-century archival collections, complementing Arcadia's long-running Endangered Archives Programme, whose grantees work on pre-modern archives. Counterintuitively, modern archives are often more endangered than much older ones because of the fragility of modern storage media, such as poor-quality newsprint or chemically unstable magnetic tapes. The programme awarded 19 grants to projects that cover a range of geographies and media, from videocassette recordings of the dance traditions of the Garifuna people of Belize to political pamphlets from Jharkhand, India.

## REGRANTING PROGRAMMES

One of the challenges we face as grant-makers is determining where and when our support is most needed, and how best to use our resources to achieve lasting, meaningful outcomes. As a small team, one way we work is through regranting programmes – Arcadia grants that are distributed by partner organizations and networks with the knowledge and capacity to identify where the greatest need and opportunity exists. This allows us to support local initiatives worldwide that are best placed to deliver verifiable outcomes. We have six active regranting programmes: five cultural and one environmental. So far, we have awarded more than \$100 million through these programmes.

# PROTECTING ENDANGERED NATURE



Our environmental grants protect endangered nature, empower conservation professionals and promote transparency and accountability.

In 2019 we awarded the **Wildlife Conservation Society** \$20 million. The Society’s global conservation programmes span 800m ha in 65 countries, creating more than 300 terrestrial and marine protected areas. Our grant will support its work to conserve the world’s last remaining biodiversity-rich wilderness areas. Sites include the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Congo Basin, the Madidi-Tambopata landscape in the Bolivian Andes and the Chang Tang, a high-altitude Tibetan plateau.

With one in five plant species threatened by extinction, identifying and protecting species for the future is crucial. In 2019 we renewed our grant to the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**, supporting the Millennium Seedbank Partnership. It works with scientists in more than 100 countries to safeguard rare species in countries such as Indonesia, Mozambique, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Since our first grant in 2014, Kew has recorded and collected more than 45,000 species, most of which are conserved at the seedbank in Wakehurst, UK. This represents more than 15% of the world’s bankable flora.



*Seed collecting in Kyrgyzstan. Courtesy of RBG Kew*

We set up the **Endangered Landscapes Programme**, a partnership with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, to support large-scale restoration projects across Europe. In 2019 it announced new project planning grants – grants of up to \$100,000 to help develop new landscape-scale restoration initiatives. The programme received more than 100 expressions of interest and awarded ten grants. Successful applicants are planning projects across Europe, from Iceland’s wetlands to Bulgaria’s Green Belt.

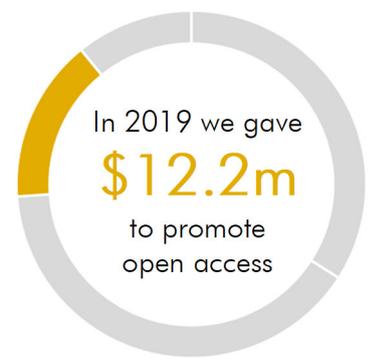


## EXPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

We continue to support organizations that work to expose environmental crime. **Global Witness**’s investigations led to a US ban on the Peruvian company Inversiones WCA, that was illegally logging and trading timber. In the lead up to the 2019 World Hydropower Congress, **International Rivers**, accompanied by three indigenous leaders from the Amazon, spoke out about the [‘false promises’](#) of hydropower and the devastating impacts of giant hydroelectric dams on nature, cultural heritage sites and vulnerable communities. International Rivers was the only group to invite indigenous people impacted by dams to the congress.

*Left: Indigenous Mundurucu representatives from Brazil deliver a petition to the International Hydropower Association. Courtesy of International Rivers*

## PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS



Our open access programme aims to advance access to knowledge. Our grants increase free online access to works of scholarship and cultural heritage, support open access publishing, advocate for open access policy, and make content easier to find and use.

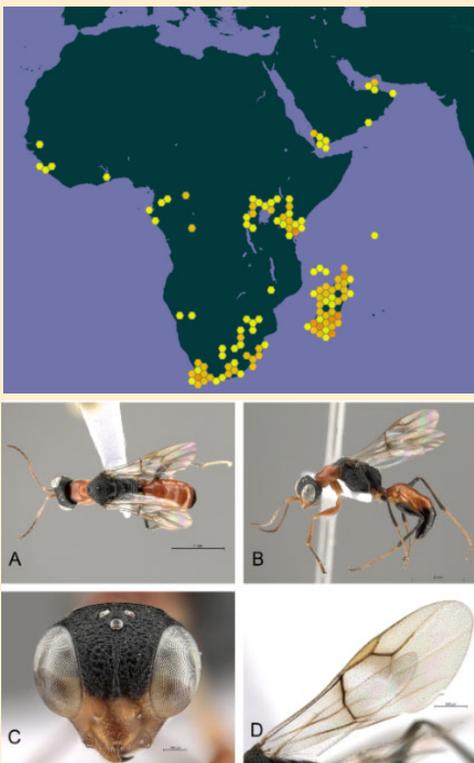
Highlights from our grantees in 2019 include **Impactstory** launching [Get The Research](#), a simplified search engine for open access scholarly content. It flags each article with its level of evidence, for examples, telling you whether an article is a report about a single patient (a case study) or a more thorough analysis combining the results of many studies (a meta-analysis). It also enhances titles and abstracts with content from Wikipedia to make research more accessible to non-experts.

A **New York Public Library** project helped to expose works that have ‘secretly’ been in the public domain. With our support, the NYPL digitized and analyzed most US Copyright Office Records to find out which books are no longer in copyright. According to current US law, a book is free of copyright 96 years after it is first published. For example, works that were published in 1924 by Herman Melville, Agatha Christie and Edgar Rice Burroughs will become free for anyone to use in 2020, without fear of copyright infringement. The NYPL’s analysis so far shows that up to 70% of books published from 1924 to 1964 did not have their copyright renewed, and that millions of titles might now also be in the public domain. This research received widespread press coverage.

Carl Malamud’s **Public.Resource.Org** work also featured heavily in the news in 2019, for both the Jawaharlal Nehru University Data Depot for text and data mining, and the ongoing legal fight to establish free access to Georgia state law. Carl also won the American Association of Law Libraries’ Public Access to Government Information Award. Public.Resource.Org is dedicated to publishing and sharing public domain materials that legally and morally should be free, but are locked behind paywalls. We have supported its work since 2014.

## CHALLENGING BARRIERS TO OPEN ACCESS

We support work to change copyright’s dysfunctions, because free access to information improves scholarship and governance. For example, species descriptions are crucial to monitoring global biodiversity. There is a vast amount of information potentially available – more than 100 million pages of scientific publications – but copyright law presents a barrier to use much of this rich resource. Our grant to Plazi supports work to liberate these descriptions – taxonomic data – from behind paywalls. Plazi argues that species descriptions are facts, not original pieces of work, and so should be free for all to share. In 2019, Plazi made more than 57,000 species descriptions freely available. For example, a publication on solitary wasps “*Dryinidae of the Afrotropical region (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea)*”, contains the descriptions of 23 genera and 430 species, including 60 new species. It was held behind a paywall until Plazi shared it. This information is now available on the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) as actionable, highly repurposable data, along with georeferenced data for 1,785 records of where these species are known to occur.



Top: Georeferenced records of the *Dryinidae* of the Afrotropical region (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea) and images from *Dryinus milleri* Olmi, Copeland & Noort, 2019 in Olmi M, Copeland R S, Noort S V (2019). *Dryinidae of the Afrotropical region (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea)*. Plazi.org taxonomic treatments database.