



INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL TRUSTS ORGANISATION

How did it start?

The National Trusts and similar like-minded organisations around the world have been coming together since the 1970s and INTO was established in 2007 to provide a permanent focus for the movement. Our members are united by their common interest in the conservation and enjoyment of our shared heritage, whether that be built, natural or cultural.

Members

All INTO members are not-for-profit, most are completely independent charities, others have a closer relationship with their governments. Virtually all are tiny and a few are more substantial in size – but all are equally dedicated, equally passionate.

What we do Our plans for the future How to get involved

INTO brings people together to exchange information, develop and promote best practice, and to help its members achieve beneficial change.

Our mission is to ‘promote the conservation and enhancement of the heritage of all nations for the benefit of the people of the world and future generations’. With INTO’s global scope and focus on our common heritage, built, natural and cultural, there’s no other organisation quite like it.



Young people working on a heritage work camp in France

From a group of twelve founding members representing some of the leading conservation, environmental and heritage bodies across the globe, in countries such as India, UK, USA, Ireland and Australia, we've now reached a total of over 50 subscribing organisations worldwide, which we're excited about.

But INTO is run on a shoestring and opportunities often outstrip resources. It's just the same with the important projects which member organisations are desperate to undertake, big on ambition and hope but with very limited means to get the job done.

This is the small town of Batang Arau in Indonesia, with its people and fine old buildings terribly affected after the 2009 earthquake.

The Indonesian Heritage Trust is helping the town to recover after this appalling episode and our Japanese members are doing the same in the aftermath of 2011's devastating earthquake and tsunami.



Batang Arau, Indonesia, after the 2009 earthquake



Paul Watler, Environmental Officer at the National Trust for the Cayman Islands

(Canada), developing approaches to conservation and public engagement. (His sign reads '#307 Because Conservation Doesn't Have Borders'.)

And children enjoy nature walks at Paget Marsh, a lush and leafy nature reserve cared for jointly by the Bermuda National Trust and Bermuda Audubon Society. The pond and marsh are home to an array of important wildlife.



Children enjoying a nature walk at Paget Marsh, Bermuda

Delivering programmes

INTO, which began life as primarily a networking and professional support organisation, now has the opportunity to attract donations, grants and legacies to support our members' important practical conservation projects around the world. This programme delivery work will complement INTO's existing professional activities, which will also be strengthened.

But INTO can only succeed in this expanded mission if it has the funds to distribute in the first place, and a properly established organisation, run efficiently and accountably for the benefit of its member organisations and heritage worldwide.

We urgently need your help

The Kasubi Royal Tombs were ravaged by fire last year. It's an example of the sort of disaster which our member organisation, the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, is seeking to prevent ever happening again, through its education and advocacy programmes (as seen here where a school group visits the site with a guide).



A school group visits the Kasubi Royal Tombs

The projects

The sort of activities already being undertaken – but which could achieve so much more with even a little extra funding – include INTO's work with local partners to support the development and capacity-building of heritage bodies in Africa.

One of our French partners, *Union Rempart*, has collaborated with INTO members in the UK, Malta and China to increase participation in practical heritage-based volunteering projects. (The picture on the front cover shows young people working on a Rempart heritage '*chantier*' or work camp.)

Paul Watler, Environmental Officer at the National Trust for the Cayman Islands had a tremendous learning experience with his counterparts at the Land Conservancy of British Columbia

Please help us today

Can you help us today with a founding gift that will help INTO's worldwide conservation work get off to a flying start? Helping for instance groups such as these National Trust volunteers repairing damage in New Orleans after the onslaught of Hurricane Katrina?



Repairing damage in New Orleans



HRH The Prince of Wales in Budapest

HRH The Prince of Wales, already President and Patron of several of our National Trust members, has taken a personal interest in INTO's work and with his encouragement we are starting a capacity-building project involving partners from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

Bare resources

Every day INTO hears of work which member organisations are desperate to undertake, but which they are having to embark upon with only the barest of resources and an abundance of optimism! Some projects are tremendously worthwhile – as here in Fiji with this enthusiastic educational group – but could only begin to make a real difference if they could be undertaken on a larger scale. Many such projects never get going at all and just have to wait until some future time – and we all know that such a time may simply never arise.



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A National Trust of Fiji-organised nature walk at Sigatoka Sand Dunes

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