

International National Trusts Organisation

Supporting existing and emerging trusts

The Heritage Alliance



The co-ordination of the global National Trust movement is led by INTO

The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) is the umbrella body for the global family of National Trusts and similar organisations that come together to share ideas, resources and experiences; to grow the capacity of existing trusts and establish new ones in countries where they do not currently exist; and to act as a global voice on international heritage matters.

The National Trust, established in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1895 is viewed as a model for heritage conservation worldwide. Its work, constitution and structure are known, admired and emulated in countries and territories ranging from Australia, Bermuda and China all the way through the alphabet to Trinidad and Tobago, Yangon City and Zimbabwe!

Each trust is different. Some acquire properties while some concentrate more on campaigning; some are more interested in the natural environment and some in built heritage. Some have a mission for both. Some work very closely with government while others are fervent critics of the state. But they all feel a strong link to the 'mother' Trust and welcome its leadership within the international heritage community.

Since its establishment in 2007, the co-ordination of the global National Trust movement has been led by INTO. Its 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'. When Dame Fiona Reynolds became INTO Chairman in September 2015, she set out three key strategies for achieving this:

Family (Supporting INTO members in the achievement of their goals by providing opportunities to collaborate and share ideas, resources, skills and knowledge): Whether at the biennial conference or through joint ventures like the "Encourage African youth to embrace their heritage" project or a staff exchange between the National Trusts of Canada and Australia, individual and joint ventures build the impact of the conservation and heritage movement across the globe.

Growth (Building global capacity for conservation and growing the NT movement): the Small Grants Programme has supported awareness-raising on Bunce Island, Sierra Leone; sending a volunteer heritage adviser to the National Trust of Fiji; and the National Trust of Slovakia's rebranding exercise. INTO has helped establish new Trusts in the Czech Republic, Portugal and Georgia (as detailed in From Start-up to Sustainability: An INTO Handbook for Heritage Trusts) and are in similar discussions with partners from Slovenia to South Africa; Thailand to Taiwan; Germany to Galicia.

Voice (Speaking out on issues critical to INTO's membership and celebrating what is unique and special about the National Trust approach): The State of Global Heritage Report highlighted apathy and indifference as a greater risk to the world's heritage than climate change or conflict. INTO also supports its members influencing campaigns, such as in Malta, Uganda and Saint Lucia.

Heritage all over the world is under threat from environmental decay, neglect, and conflict. Conservation is not something that can be neatly parcelled into discrete national packages and the preservation of our built, cultural and natural heritage depends on global co-operation.