

About the Endangered Landscapes Artist Residencies

Cambridge Conservation Initiative

Eight residencies in landscape restoration projects in Europe

Accompanying individual awards of between \$3,150 and \$5,400*

Following completion of residencies, an additional prize of \$2,500 to the most exceptional artist

Celebrating art and cultural practice in landscape

The arts and cultural practice are a powerful means of reawakening our sense of the familiar, connecting to the past, and exploring possible futures. They play a pivotal role in addressing environmental challenges and provide a compelling route into understanding *how* people are connected to landscape. Place-based practice in particular can often articulate connections to a landscape in entirely new ways.

The very notion of being human and sharing collective cultural histories is often embedded in connectivity to place, and stories and how they are told are a foundation for understanding the concerns and hopes of people who live in landscapes undergoing change. The use of creative participatory approaches to understand the stories of local people is critical to the work of engaging, supporting and sustaining local communities.

The Endangered Landscapes Programme has a vision for landscapes where nature thrives without the need for intensive and costly management – places where people’s connections to nature can be deepened by the surprise, creativity, and awe that it inspires. The arts can powerfully reconnect people to nature and communicate the challenges, impact, and opportunities for revival. In the context of landscape restoration, place-based artistic practice can also act as a catalyst, helping to engage new national and international audiences.

A new collaboration

The [*Endangered Landscapes Artist Residencies and Arts Prize*](#) is a new collaboration between two programmes at the Cambridge Conservation Initiative: the Endangered Landscapes Programme (ELP) and the Arts, Science and Conservation Programme (ASCP). Both the ELP and ASCP are keen to encourage collaborative, interdisciplinary arts practice that celebrates the landscapes and communities supported by the ELP and that reveal the hopes, ambitions and opportunities that come with landscape restoration.

The **Endangered Landscapes Programme** is supporting significant landscape restoration projects in key areas of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Turkey, Ukraine, and Wales. From wetlands and marine habitats, to deciduous woodland and mountain ranges, every project seeks to establish more resilient and self-sustaining ecosystems; ecosystems that enable

native species to flourish, as well as providing sustainable cultural, social, and economic benefits to people.

The **Arts, Science and Conservation Programme** develops pioneering interdisciplinary art actions that respond to the biodiversity and climate crisis. It explores the role that culture, and contemporary arts practice, can play in inviting exchange, dialogue, and debate around conservation issues. In particular, the programme explores how collaborations between artists and scientists have the ability to transform the way we undertake and portray conservation.

The Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) is a unique collaboration between the University of Cambridge and nine leading internationally focused biodiversity conservation organisations that aims to transform global understanding of biodiversity and to create a sustainable future for both biodiversity and society. The Initiative's partners operate in over 180 countries around the world.

A call to artists and makers

The *Endangered Landscapes Artist Residencies and Arts Prize* is a call to contemporary artists and makers who are interested in being in residence at a landscape restoration project. Residencies of up to ten months will explore and celebrate, through individual artistic practice, how communities connect to these transforming landscapes, where restored ecosystems will allow wildlife to thrive once again. Awards of between \$3,150 and \$5,400 accompany each residency.

The residencies aim to allow arts practitioners a chance to demonstrate how the complex inter-relationships that exist between nature, people, and landscape, can be articulated in new ways. We, the organisers of The Residencies, would particularly like to hear from artists who are interested in empathetically exploring landscape as a collective expression of identity, within the context of landscape restoration.

Endangered Landscapes Programme projects are working with the potential of land and communities to bring back lost fauna and flora and restore thriving, resilient ecosystems for the benefit of both nature and people. We invite artists to come and be part of these complex landscapes and their communities, and to explore the interweave of people and place. Work could consider how current conservation connects with past patterns of settlement or place-specific cultural traditions, through to contemporary perceptions of biodiversity and people's hopes and visions for the future.

We are looking for artists interested in connecting local communities to landscape through the arts and culture, notably those whose practice can both reconnect people to nature and communicate the challenges and opportunities landscape restoration provides. Each artist will need to undertake an aspect of public engagement as part of their residency. This could be the result, for example, of an interactive art installation, an exhibition, a poetry reading, a publication, performance, or a public artwork.

Who can apply?

Residencies are open to artists, makers, performers and other practitioners working within any medium that lends itself to working within landscapes and engaging people. This opportunity is

open to emerging, mid-career and established artists who are over 25 and who have demonstrable experience of high-quality relevant arts practice in a related area.

We are especially keen to work with artists whose work is interdisciplinary. Artists must have a significant link to their chosen landscape and be able to speak at least one of the languages spoken within their chosen landscape. Full details are provided in the *Information for applicants* document.

Launch of the Endangered Landscapes Artist Residencies

The Endangered Landscapes Artist Residencies were launched on 7th December 2020 and further information is available on the ELP website. Expressions of interest will open on 7th January 2021 with a deadline of 23.59 GMT on 7th February 2021. The organisers of the residencies will review the expressions of interest and invite several of the artists to work up their initial concepts. Eight artists, or collectives, from these proposals will then be selected to be in residence in the eight endangered landscapes.

Residencies will begin in June 2021 and run through until April 2022, coronavirus restrictions permitting. The additional prize will be awarded to the artist of outstanding merit at the end of the residency period. Look out for the launch and full details on the Endangered Landscapes Programme website or sign up for news updates at <https://www.endangeredlandscapes.org/>

For additional information about the Prize organisers please see:

The Endangered Landscapes Programme

<https://www.endangeredlandscapes.org/>

The Arts, Science, and Conservation Programme

<https://www.cambridgeconservation.org/our-work/arts-science-and-conservation/>

The Cambridge Conservation Initiative

<https://www.cambridgeconservation.org/>

The Endangered Landscapes Programme is managed by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, in partnership with Arcadia – a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin.

* Please note there are significant differences in the cost of living across the project countries involved in this programme. The amounts for each project location account for this.