



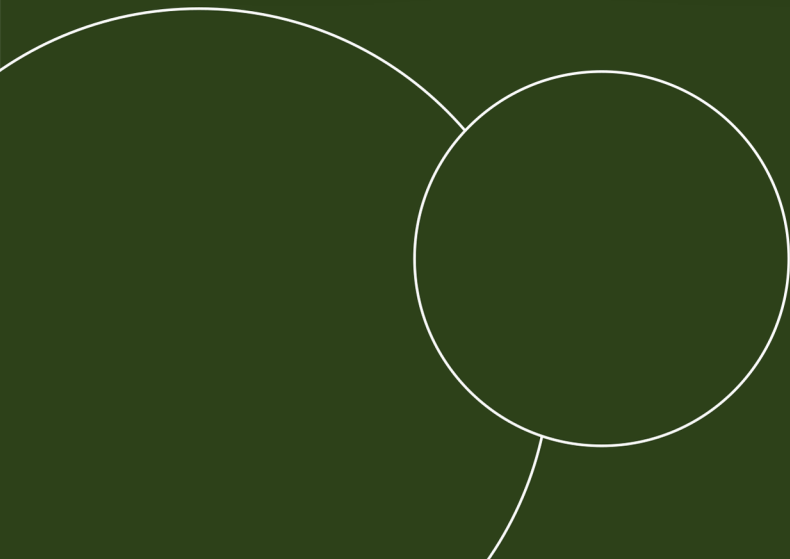
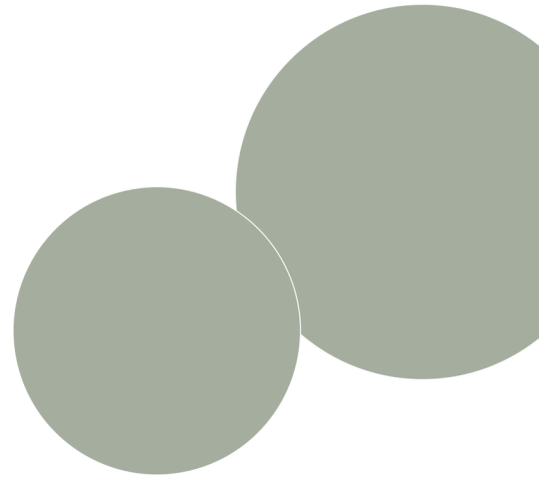
CALL FOR ENTRIES

CAP AWARDS

2026

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING PLANNING
ACHIEVEMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH



GLOBAL
PRIORITIES
SUSTAINABLE
HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS
INNOVATION
CO-OPERATION
ADVANCEMENT



AIM OF THE AWARDS

The CAP Awards for Outstanding Planning Achievement in the Commonwealth seek to champion the very best examples of planning practice in the Commonwealth. The Awards aim to:

- Disseminate outstanding planning practice in the Commonwealth particularly where applicable across different Commonwealth countries.
- Demonstrate the valuable role that planners and planning have in the Commonwealth in helping to create resilient and sustainable communities and adequate shelter for all.
- Promote the ways in which the science and art of planning can benefit the public and improve the well-being of society in the Commonwealth and help deliver the UN Sustainable Development goals.



Entries will be accepted from individuals or organisations and must include at least one member of a CAP association (see list of CAP associations at the end of this document). Individuals and organisations may submit more than one entry for different projects provided a separate submission is made for each. Where more than one entry is made for the same project by different parties the first entry will be treated as the entry, multiple entries for the same project for the same award will not be accepted.

Entries must indicate which category of award they are entering. The judges reserve the right to allocate the entry to an alternate category if they feel it is more appropriate.

Your entry description will be used as the entry description for promotional material. Please list all partners you would wish named on the award certificate if successful.

Projects, plans, strategies or other components of the Award entry must be completed or substantially completed at the time of the Awards submission entry.

There is no charge for entries.

CATEGORIES OF AWARDS

Entries are invited for submission in any one of the following categories:

Planning for Human Settlements / Plan Making in the Commonwealth

To recognize initiatives that successfully integrate diverse elements such as urban planning, biodiversity and transport infrastructure into cohesive strategies for sustainable development. By highlighting comprehensive planning and execution, the award aims to transform Commonwealth human settlements into safe, healthy, and environmentally sustainable communities, celebrating those who foster resilience and innovation in urban planning.

Planning for Climate Change and Adaptation

To recognize the essential role of planners in addressing the critical challenge of climate change within the Commonwealth. It aims to showcase innovative planning practices that effectively mitigate climate impacts, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable development. By highlighting successful strategies and collaborative efforts, this award seeks to inspire planners to lead the way in creating adaptive and environmentally responsible communities that are better equipped to face the challenges posed by climate change.

Young Planner Award

Young planning students or professionals are invited to submit an *essay entry* on the topic:

Digital Twins and Participatory Futures: Democratizing Urban Planning through Immersive Technologies.

Planning for Equitable and Inclusive Human Settlements

To recognize the vital contributions of planners who actively address inequalities within and between Commonwealth countries. It highlights their efforts to engage with seldom-heard groups and promote diversity, fostering inclusion and social cohesion. By showcasing innovative practices and collaborative approaches, this award aims to celebrate those who are dedicated to building equitable communities where all voices are valued and represented.

Planning for the Conservation of the Built and Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage

To recognize excellence in the conservation, management, and interpretation of cultural and natural heritage, celebrating the pivotal role of planners in protecting fragile buildings, landscapes, and sites from the pressures of development or disinvestment. This category seeks projects that demonstrate a profound understanding of historical and cultural context, effectively integrating heritage values with contemporary needs through innovative stewardship and community engagement.



GENERAL CRITERIA

Entries are invited which meet the aims of the Awards.

All entries will be assessed against the general criteria below and entries should address these criteria in the application, noting that not all of these may be applicable.

In addition, entries should also address the specific criteria for their category.

Commonwealth Context

- Demonstrate the significance of the entry the Commonwealth.
- Demonstrate any transferable principles or elements that may be useful to others in similar situations in the Commonwealth (e.g. small island states, rapidly urbanising countries, extensive rural regions, etc.)

Sustainable Development

- Identify short, medium, and long-term public benefits arising from the project and show how the project has addressed the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcomes and Social Benefit

- Show how the project has, where relevant:
 - Benefited the public and well-being of society as a whole.
 - Impacted the economy.
 - Impacted the environment.
 - Taken into account Indigenous or relevant cultural values.

Planning Content and Skills

- Demonstrate the quality of professional planning work undertaken.
- Show the impact that planners have made to the success of the project and identify whether they have had an effective leadership role and/or acted as a change agent.

Community Engagement and Inclusive Planning

- Show how the design of the project has sought engagement with all key stakeholders (Including politicians, community leaders, residents, businesses, women, youth, and other stakeholders - addressed their needs, and sought to promote equality and diversity.)

Good Practice

- Show what creative and innovative techniques and processes have been undertaken.
- Show how the approaches undertaken are applicable to other parts of the Commonwealth.



AWARD-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

In addition to assessment against the General Criteria, entries will be assessed against the award-specific criteria for their category, as listed below:

Planning for Human Settlements / Plan Making in the Commonwealth

- **Strategic Plan-Making:** How multi-sectoral collaboration, data-driven insights, and stakeholder engagement were synthesized to create a cohesive, long-term vision.
- **Integrated Delivery:** The mechanisms used to successfully execute the plan, ensuring seamless coordination across infrastructure, environmental conservation, and social service sectors.
- **Measurable Impact:** Concrete evidence of how the integrated planning process and its subsequent delivery improved the functionality, safety, and sustainability of the community.

Criteria for Planning for Climate Change and Adaptation Award

- **Climate Action and Net-Zero:** Explain how the project actively addresses the climate emergency through prevention, mitigation, or adaptation strategies. Provide evidence of how the initiative contributes to a clear pathway toward net-zero emissions.
- **Resilience and Community Health:** Demonstrate how the project strengthens community resilience to climate impacts, such as extreme weather or flooding, and contributes to healthier, more equitable environments. Highlight the project's impact on biodiversity, air and water quality, and the provision of accessible green infrastructure.

Criteria for Planning for Equitable and Inclusive Human Settlements Award

- **Inclusive Engagement:** How the project established meaningful partnerships with seldom-heard groups and marginalized communities, ensuring their perspectives were central to the planning and decision-making process.
- **Equitable Design:** How the project's design and implementation considered the needs of all potential users, creating safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces that allow everyone to participate equally and confidently.
- **Demonstrable Impact:** The measurable outcomes of the initiative in reducing barriers, promoting representation, and improving the quality of life for the communities it serves

Criteria for Planning for the Conservation of the Built and Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage Award

- **Conservation and Stewardship:** Demonstrate a comprehensive strategy for heritage protection. Submissions must show effective identification of assets, meaningful stakeholder mobilization, and innovative interpretation that deepens public connection to the site's value.
- **Inclusive and Critical Management:** Detail how the project manages contested, sensitive, or previously "hidden" histories. We look for evidence of inclusive engagement with diverse communities to uncover overlooked narratives and resolve conflicting interpretations to create a more balanced and accurate historical record.

JUDGING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Entries will be judged by a panel of judges whose decision will be final. The judges will identify a short list of entries which will be published on the CAP website and through other media channels. Commendations may be given in addition to the winner. Should the judges feel that none of the entries meets the required standard then no award will be given.

The judges are:

Jihad Bitar
CAP Board of Trustees
Senior Urban Designer City of Calgary.
Canadian Institute of Planners

Belinda Bukari
Commended Entrant, 2019 Ghana Institute of Planners

Ifeanyi Chukwujekwu
Principal EIA Consultant at WSP.
Royal Town Planning Institute

Viral Desai
Past CAP Young Planners Network Coordinator Principal
Planner Atkins
Royal Town Planning Institute

Jim Ebenhoh
CAP Board of Trustee
Teaching Fellow, University of Waikato
Future Proof Project Director (Spatial Studies)
New Zealand Planning Institute

Dr. Julia Kotzebue
Lecturer. MSc Urban and Regional Planning,
Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land
Management. Univeristy of West Indies.
Trinidad and Tobago.

Noraida Saludi
CAP Vice President Malaysia
Past President, Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP)

Fazle Reza Sumon
President Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP)

Indu Weerasoori
Past President of Sri Lanka Institute of Town Planners

Luke Williams
Director / founder of The Urban Planner (Pty) Ltd.
South African Planning Institute /SACPLAN

Winners will be announced on the 6th November 2026.

YOUNG PLANNER AWARD JUDGES

Rajlaxmi Gaware
MSc. Urban and Regional Planning
Derbyshire County Council – Senior Strategic Planning officer
India

Taboka Keotshephile Malwapeng
Masters of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning
Botswana

Aniruddha Kamerkar
MSc. Urban and Regional Planning
United Kingdom

Jennifer U. Abanukam
Urban Governance and Poverty Studies
Nigeria

Gilbert Rugengamanzi
Master's student in Urban and Rural Planning at Beijing
Jiaotong University
Rawanda

CAP MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- **Bangladesh Institute of Planners**
- **Barbados Town Planning Society**
- **Belize Association of Planners**
- **Brunei Darussalam (Department of Town & Country Planning)**
- **Canadian Institute of Planners**
- **Cyprus Association of Town Planners**
- **Fiji Planners Association**
- **Ghana Institute of Planners**
- **Institute of Town Planners, India**
- **Jamaican Institute of Planners**
- **Kenya Institute of Planners**
- **Malaysian Institute of Planners**
- **Malawi Institute of Planners**
- **Malta Chamber of Planners**
- **Namibia Council of Town & Regional Planners**
- **New Zealand Planning Institute**
- **Nigerian Institute of Town Planners**
- **Planners Association of Dominica**
- **Planning Institute of Australia**
- **Pula Institute of Town Planners (Botswana)**
- **Royal Town Planning Institute**
- **Rwanda Urban Planning Institute**
- **Saint Lucia Institute of Land Use Planners**
- **Singapore Institute of Planners**
- **South African Planning Institute**
- **Institute of Town Planners Sri Lanka**
- **Tanzania Association of Planners**
- **Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners**
- **Town Planning Association of Mauritius**
- **Uganda Institute of Physical Planners**
- **Zambia Institute of Planners**



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Entries must be received by the deadline date. Late entries will not be considered.
- An entry will presume that all necessary permissions or authorisations on behalf of any other person or group involved in the project have been obtained. Only one entry per project will be accepted.
- Each entry must include the name of at least one person involved in the project who is a member of a CAP Member Association.
- CAP reserves the right to publish all submitted material (including images and logos) on the CAP website and through social media and other communication channels.
- An entry will presume that there are no restrictions or fees payable for the reproduction of the photographs or any other submission materials.
- CAP is not liable for any costs you incur submitting your entry.
- The decisions of the judging panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into before or after the event.
- Entries will be disqualified if the word limits for the Entry Form Summary (150 words) and Submission Document (2,250 words) are exceeded.
- Entries will be disqualified if the file size of 10mb is exceeded.

If you have any questions about entering the awards, please contact:

annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

HOW TO ENTER

Complete the attached Awards Entry Form.

Prepare an Award Submission Document (2,250 words maximum) explaining how your entry meets the Award aims and the judging criteria for the award category you are entering. Please include any relevant illustrations, graphics, and/or web links.

Your completed Entry Form and Submission Document must be submitted by e-mail to annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

Entries must be submitted before:

**21 September 2026
24:00 (UK Time)**

The Awards Entry Form and Submission Document must not exceed 10mb.

For more information about CAP, please visit

www.commonwealth-planners.org



2026 CAP AWARDS

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS
AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING PLANNING
ACHIEVEMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH

ENTRY FORM

1. Title of the entry project: _____
2. Project location (including country): _____
3. Which award category are you entering (select one):

- Planning for human settlements/plan making in the Commonwealth
- Planning for climate change and adaptation
- Planning for equitable and inclusive human settlements
- Planning for the conservation of the built and natural environment and cultural heritage
- Young planner award

4. Details of person submitting the entry.

Name and qualifications: _____

E-mail address: _____

Contact telephone number (including international dialling code): _____

5. Individuals and organisations involved in this project. Please include at least one person involved in the project who is a member of a CAP association and give the name of that association.

6. Please indicate the organisations or individuals where appropriate to be listed on any award certificate.

7. Please provide a summary description of the project (150 words maximum) and submit a single graphic illustration. For Outstanding Young Planner submissions, please provide a summary of the individual's contribution. Note that if your entry is short-listed, this summary and graphic will be uploaded to the CAP Website.

8. Please explain how your entry meets the Award aims and the judging criteria. Please include any relevant illustrations and graphics and relevant web links. Please create a separate document for this (2,250 words maximum).
9. Please note that any entries which exceed the word limits will be disqualified.

Your completed Entry Form and Submission Document must be submitted by e-mail before **24:00 (UK Time), 21 September 2026** to: annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

