United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The Minister of Foreign Affairs
Yerevan
(Armenia)

- 5 MAY 2017

Ref.: CL/4200

Subject: **UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation 2017**

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your Government to submit a nomination for the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation, which was established by decision 5.6.1 of the Executive Board at its 132nd session. This Prize will be awarded for the 14th time at a ceremony that will take place during the World Science Forum in Amman (Jordan), from 7 to 10 November 2017.

As stipulated in the Statutes for the Prize, adopted by the Executive Board and attached hereto together with the Financial Regulations and the list of previous laureates, the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation is intended to honour individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to the management or preservation of the environment, consistent with UNESCO's policies, aims and objectives, and relevant to its programmes in this field.

The Prize is presented every two years and consists of a certificate and a financial award from a donation graciously made by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman. The prize-winner(s) is(are) selected by the UNESCO Director-General on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to her by the Jury of the Prize.

Confident as I am of your Government's interest in the preservation of the environment, I am sure it will give this Prize all due attention and will be in a position to put forward a proposal in accordance with Article 3 of the Statutes, which specifies that "candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the management or preservation of the environment, consistent with the policies, aims and objectives of UNESCO, and in relation to the Organization's programmes in this field, i.e. environmental and natural resources research, environmental education and training, creation of environmental awareness through the preparation of environmental information materials and activities aimed at establishing and managing protected areas such as biosphere reserves and natural world heritage sites".

I should be grateful if you would complete the attached nomination form and return it, together with a list of referees and before **30 June 2017**, directly to the Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in the Natural Sciences Sector (UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75732 Paris 07 SP, France; e-mail: mab@unesco.org).

To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP, France
Tél. : +33 (0)1 45 68 10 00
Fax : +33 (0)1 45 68 55 55

www.unesco.org

Each nomination should be accompanied by a written recommendation, and may be submitted in either English or French, which are UNESCO's working languages. Information about the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation, together with nomination forms, are available also on the Natural Sciences Sector website dedicated to the Prize, which can be consulted at the following address:

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/awards-and-prizes/sultan-qaboos/.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Encs: Annex I: Nomination form
Annex II: Statutes and Financial Regulations of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation
Annex III: List of previous laureates of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

ANNEX I

UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION 2017

Nomination form

*Nomination should be sent to: Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France, mab@unesco.org, before **30 June 2017**.*

1. **Nomination submitted by:**

_____

☐ **Government**

☐ **Intergovernmental organization**

☐ **Non-governmental organization maintaining official relations with UNESCO**

2. **Name of candidate** (surname and first name of individual or group of individuals, or name of institute or organization):

3. **Nationality**: _____

4. **Address:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. **Tel:** _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

6. Current occupation/focus of activities:

7. Brief biography or biographies (brief background in the case of an institute or an organization):

8. **Description of outstanding contribution to the management or preservation of the environment, consistent with the policies, aims and objectives of UNESCO, and in relation to the Organization's programmes in this field, i.e. environmental and natural resource research, environmental education and training, creation of environmental awareness through the preparation of environmental information materials and activities aimed at establishing and managing protected areas such as biosphere reserves and natural world heritage sites:**

9. Referees: Please provide the names of three persons, not related to the candidate, who are familiar with his/her/its work:

(i) Name: _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

_____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(ii) Name: _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

_____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(iii) Name: _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

_____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation is to afford recognition to outstanding contributions by individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organizations who have contributed to environmental and natural resources research, environmental education and training, creation of environmental awareness through the preparation of environmental information materials and activities aimed at establishing and managing protected areas such as biosphere reserves and natural world heritage sites. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies and is related to the Programme of the Organization in the field of the environment, natural resources and education for sustainable development.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled the "UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman through its donations to the special account established by UNESCO for the Prize. The value of the Prize shall be US $70,000. A higher amount may be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on the basis of the contributions received from Government of the Sultanate of Oman, the interest on the sum deposited in the special account, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, and the charges to be borne by the account for the cost of administering the Prize, including Prize medals and diplomas and advertisement costs.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in the special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see financial rules in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at US $137,765 per biennium shall be fully covered by Government of the Sultanate of Oman through the use of the capital available on the special account for the Prize. To this end, the Director-General will determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the special account, which is to be established under the financial regulations for the prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded every two years, on an initial basis for 3 (three) biennia. A prize amount may be equally divided between up to three winners.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the management or preservation of the environment, consistent with the policies, aims and objectives of UNESCO, and in relation to the Organization's programmes in this field, i.e. environmental and natural resources research, environmental education and training, creation of environmental awareness through the preparation of environmental information materials and activities aimed at establishing and managing protected areas such as biosphere reserves and natural world heritage sites. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize-winner/s

The prize-winner/s (1-3) shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by a jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of a number of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field covered while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for two year periods for a maximum period of six years. Representatives and alternatives of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the jury for reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own chair and deputy chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of three jurors present will be required for jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by a jury shall be English and French.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet every 2 (two) years.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than 30 September of each biennium.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize, by 15 July every two years, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in relevant fields covered by a prize and shall advertise the submission of nominations in five international specialized media.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, *inter alia*:

(a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;

(b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;

(c) a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General General at an official ceremony held for that purpose in conjunction with the occasion of the World Science Forum. UNESCO shall present to the prize-winner/s a check for the amount of the prize, as well as diploma and a medal. UNESCO shall officially announce the name/s of the prize-winner/s.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three persons or institutions, the prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons and/or institutions.

7.3 The prize-winner/s, if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for a prize. If, however, a prize-winner dies before he has received the prize, then the prize may be presented posthumously.

7.5 Should a prize-winner decline the prize, the jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of a Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, in accordance with the financial regulations for the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the prize. Proposals received for the award of a prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

Standard Model Text for the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation

(Ref. 161 EX/Decision 7.10)

Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account

1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, a Special Account for the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation is established hereafter referred to as the Special Account.

1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

Article 2 – Financial period

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

Article 3 – Purpose

In accordance with its Statutes, the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation shall be awarded every second year of a biennium for outstanding contributions by individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organizations in the field of environmental preservation.

Article 4 – Income

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

(a) Transfer of the initial donations of US $250,000 received from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman, and US $710,300 received from the Sultanate of Oman;

(b) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;

(c) such amounts provided from the regular budget of the Organization as might be determined by the General Conference;

(d) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;

(e) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

Article 5 – Expenditure

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it.

Article 6 – Accounts

6.1 The UNESCO Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.

6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.

6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.

6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account.

Article 7 – Investments

7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.

7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

Article 8 – Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as she deems that its operation is no longer necessary and inform the Executive Board accordingly. The Director-General shall decide about the use of any unspent balance of funds.

Article 9 – General provision

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

ANNEX III

Laureates of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation

2015
Fabio A. Kalesnik, Horacio Sirolli and Luciano Iribarren of the Wetlands Ecology Research Group of the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

2013
The State Forests National Forest Holding (Poland)
and
The Endangered Wildlife Trust EWT (South Africa)

2011
Nigerian Institute for Forest Research (Nigeria)

2009
Autonomous Authority for National Parks (OAPN) under the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Areas (Spain)

2007
Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (Ethiopia)
and
Mr Julius Oszlányi (Slovakia)

2005
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Australia)
and
Dr. Ernesto C. Enkerlin-Hoeflich (Mexico)

2003
Centro de Ecología (Venezuela)
and
Mr Peter Johan Schei (Norway)

2001
Chad Association of Volunteers for the Protection of the Environment – A.T.V.P.E.

1999
Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands

1997
The Department of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Alexandria (Egypt)
and
The Forest Department of Sri Lanka

1995
Lake Malawi National Park

1993
Professor Jan Jeník (The Czeck Republic)

1991
The Ecology Institute A.C. (Mexico)