United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/4263

Subject: **UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation 2019**

Sir/Madam,

It is my honor to invite your Government to submit a nomination for the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation.

This prize is intended to honor individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organizations that have made significant contributions to environmental conservation. It will be awarded for the 15th time at a ceremony that will take place during the World Science Forum in Budapest (Hungary), from 20 to 23 November 2019.

Presented every two years, the prize consists of a certificate and a financial award from a donation graciously made by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman and the Government of Oman, which in 2019 has been increased to $100,000. The prize-winner(s) is (are) selected based on the recommendations made by the Jury of the prize.

We would be most grateful if the attached nomination form were completed and returned, together with a list of referees, before **15 July 2019**, to the Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in the Natural Sciences Sector (UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France; e-mail: mab@unesco.org).

Each nomination should be accompanied by a written recommendation, and may be submitted either in English or in French. Further information about the prize, as well as the nomination forms are also available on the dedicated website: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/awards-and-prizes/sultan-qaboos/.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Audrey Azoulay
Director-General

Enclosures: 3

14 FEB 2019

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

Annex I: Nomination form

Annex II and III: Statutes and Financial Regulations of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation

Annex IV: List of previous laureates of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

ANNEX I

UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION 2019

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 **15 July 2019**.

1. **Nomination submitted by:**

_____

☐ **Government**

☐ **Intergovernmental organization**

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.:** _____

_____

Email: _____

6. **Candidate's current occupation/focus of activities:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. Summary of significant contributions by the candidate to the management or conservation 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, including in relation to sustainable tourism, such as Biosphere Reserves, natural World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks:

8. Brief summary of relevant work or the results of relevant work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance:

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.:

E-mail:

(ii) Name _____

Profession _____

Address _____

_____

Tel.: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

(iii) Name _____

Profession _____

Address _____

_____

Tel.: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation 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 including in relation to sustainable tourism, such as Biosphere Reserves, natural World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks. 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 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 Conservation".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Sultanate of Oman through its donations to the special account established by UNESCO for the Prize. The value of the Prize shall be a minimum of US $70,000. A higher amount may be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the donor on the basis of the contribution received from 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 a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Rules in Annex II to section (i) of this document).

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 USD 175,152 per biennium shall be fully covered by the Sultanate of Oman through the use of the capital available on the special account for the Prize established under the financial regulations 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 second year of a biennium, on an initial basis for 3 (three) biennia. A prize amount may be equally divided between up to three winners, each of which is considered to merit a prize.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the management or conservation 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, including in relation to sustainable tourism, such as Biosphere Reserves, natural World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks. 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 the year of the award of the Prize.

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 the Prize.

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 and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize. 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 at an official ceremony held for that purpose at a special ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters or 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 prizewinner/s.

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

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 (awarded to relatives or institution).

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 Sultanate of Oman 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 through the submission of a document summarizing all pertinent developments in this regard in order to enable the Executive Board to adopt a decision on whether to renew or terminate the Prize.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, any unspent balance shall be returned to the donor(s) unless otherwise agreed, 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

ANNEX III

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account

1.1 In accordance with the Statutes of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation and Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation, hereafter referred to as the Special Account.

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

Article 2 – Financial period

2.1 The financial period for budget estimates shall be two consecutive calendar years beginning with an even-numbered year.

2.2 The financial period for accounting shall be an annual calendar year.

Article 3 – Purpose

3.1 The purpose of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation 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 including in relation to sustainable tourism, such as Biosphere Reserves, natural World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks. 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 environment, natural resources and education for sustainable development.

3.2. The amounts deposited in the Special Account shall be used to finance the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation and its operational and related costs.

Article 4 – Income

The income of the Special Account, in line with its Statutes, shall consist of:

(a) the initial donations of USD 250,000 received from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman and USD 710,300 received from the Government of the Sultanate of Oman:

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

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

(d) 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 and the Statutes of the Prize, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it and management cost rate applicable to it.

Article 6 – Accounts

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer 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 part of the consolidated financial statements presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO.

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

Article 7 – Investments

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

7.2 Revenue from these investments shall be credited to the Special Account in line with UNESCO's Financial Rules.

Article 8 – Reporting

8.1 At the end of each financial period, a financial report showing the income and expenditure under the Special Account shall be prepared and submitted to the donor(s) to the Special Account.

8.2 An annual narrative report shall be submitted to the donor(s) to the Special Account.

Article 9 – Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall consult the Executive Board at such time as he/she deems that the operation of the Special Account is no longer necessary. Any balance upon closure of the Special Account shall be returned to the donor(s) of the Prize unless otherwise agreed.

Article 10 – General provision

10.1 Any amendment to these Financial Regulations shall be approved by the Director-General after consultations with the donor(s) of the Prize. The Executive Board shall be informed accordingly of any such amendments.

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

ANNEX IV

Laureates of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation

2017
The National Parks Board (NParks) of Singapore

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)