



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

MAB National Committees and MAB Focal Points
NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO
UNESCO Field Offices

Ref.: SC/EES/PD/13/4784

The UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation will be awarded for the 12th time at a ceremony that will take place during the World Science Forum in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), from 24 to 27 November 2013. I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the Circular Letter No. CL/4026, addressed by the UNESCO Director-General to Member States and inviting proposals for candidates before the deadline of **10 September 2013**.

The Statutes of the Prize, which contain the criteria for selection and the Financial Regulations of the Prize, are annexed to the Circular Letter CL/4026 for your ease of reference. Kindly note that Member States are invited to submit one candidature only, which should be transmitted to the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences of the Natural Sciences Sector through official channels (National Commission for UNESCO and Permanent Delegations to UNESCO), the contact details of which are indicated hereunder.

NGOs that have a formal consultative status with UNESCO also may submit candidates directly to UNESCO (maximum one candidature each). The list of NGOs with such status is available at <http://ngo-db.unesco.org/s/or/en>. However, other interested NGOs, as well as research institutions, universities and individuals, are not eligible to make nominations directly to UNESCO. Therefore, such bodies and individuals are invited to propose their candidate to their country National Commission for UNESCO, which may or may not select it as its formal candidature.

Candidatures should be prepared in English or French, which are the working languages of UNESCO.

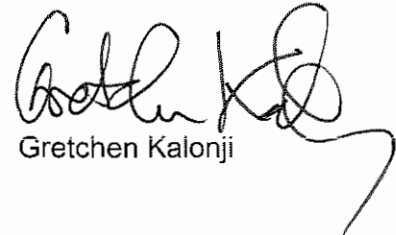
Allow me to recall that this Prize provides the opportunity to reward research or projects undertaken under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, especially efforts to promote MAB Biosphere Reserves, as well as natural World Heritage sites. Hence, I encourage you to ensure that your country submits an appropriate candidature to the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in the Natural Sciences Sector (UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15; fax: +33 1 45 68 58 04; e-mail: mab@unesco.org).

Kindly note that information about the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation, including nomination forms, the Statutes, the Financial Regulations, the list of NGOs holding consultative status with UNESCO and the list of previous Prize winners are available on the MABnet website, which may be consulted at:

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

Looking forward of receiving your candidatures, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gretchen Kalonji', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gretchen Kalonji

Enc: 1
cc: WHC



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

07 AOUT 2013

Ref.: CL/4026

Subject: **UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation
2013**

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 adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board at its 132nd session. The Prize will be awarded for the 12th time at a ceremony that will take place during the World Science Forum in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), from 24 to 27 November 2013.

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 for 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 **10 September 2013**, directly to the Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in the Natural Sciences Sector (UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France; fax: +33.1.45.68.58.04; e-mail: mab@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 UNESCO science prizes, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Bokova', written in a cursive style.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Encs:

Annex I: Nomination form

Annex II: Statutes and Financial Regulations of the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation

Annex III: List of previous laureates of the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

ANNEX I

UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

2013

Nomination form

*Nomination should be sent to: Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris cedex 15, France, fax: +33 1 45 68 58 04, mab@unesco.org, before **10 September 2013**.*

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:

9. Referees: Please provide the names of three persons, not related to the candidates, who are familiar with his/her/their/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 USD 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 the 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 USD 104,933.50 per biennium shall be fully covered by the 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.

**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

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 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: Transfer of the initial donations of USD 250,000 received from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman, and USD 710,300 received from the Sultanate of Oman;

- (a) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;
- (b) such amounts provided from the regular budget of the Organization as might be determined by the General Conference;
- (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, 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 the 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

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 Czech Republic)

1991

The Ecology Institute A.C. (Mexico)

