NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 EDITION OF UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

May 2026

In the website of the Man and Biosphere MAB Programme, UNESCO informs that nominations are open for the 2026 edition of the UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the protection and management of the environment worldwide.

Established through the support of the Sultanate of Oman, the prize commemorates the legacy of Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, whose commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development continues to inspire global action. Awarded every two years, the prize includes a certificate and a financial award of US$100,000, and will be presented during the World Science Forum in November 2026.

The Prize honours individuals, groups, institutes or organizations that have made significant contributions to environmental conservation in line with UNESCO's mission. Candidates must have made an outstanding contribution in one of the following fields: environmental and natural resources research, environmental education and training, creation of environmental awareness through the preparation of environmental information materials, establishment and management of protected areas such as Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks. The past winners include the Namibia Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET), the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia and the University for International Cooperation in Costa Rica, showing the global impact of the prize.

Nominations must be submitted by governments or non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO; self-nominations are not accepted. Each submission should include:

- a completed nomination form
- a written recommendation, and
- the names of three independent referees familiar with the candidate's work.

UNESCO particularly encourages nominations supporting female candidates, reflecting the Organization's commitment to gender equality and inclusive leadership in environmental conservation.

The deadline for nominations is 15 June 2026, and submissions should be sent to the Secretariat of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (mab@unesco.org).

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme reinforces the bond between people and nature by empowering communities in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves with the tools to protect their environment.

Across 784 Biosphere Reserves in 142 countries, UNESCO fosters harmony between people and nature through targeted projects that advance sustainable development, promote dialogue and knowledge sharing, respect cultural values, reduce poverty, and strengthen community resilience.

To know more

News in UNESCO MAB website

How to apply and Nomination Forms

UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation

UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme MAB

Hangzhou MAB Programme Strategic Action Plan 2026-2035

Capture the Future: UNESCO Global Youth Storytelling Initiative for People and Nature