

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