

Ref.: CL/4438

Subject: **Call for applications for the eighth edition of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences**

Dear Minister,

I have the honour to invite your Government to submit applications for the eighth edition of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences.

Created by UNESCO's Executive Board, this prize rewards scientific projects and activities by individuals, institutions and non-governmental organizations which advance research in the life sciences.

The jury will select up to three laureates, who will share the sum of US \$350,000, in order to support and further their work. I therefore encourage you to participate in this call for applications and share it with all relevant organizations and institutions.

Applications should be submitted by **31 October 2023 (midnight, UTC+1)** by Member States through their National Commissions to UNESCO, or by non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO and active in fields covered by the prize.

Member States or non-governmental organizations may nominate up to five candidates for each edition of the Prize.

The application process will take place online via the following link: <https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/equatorial-guinea>. For more information the secretariat of the UNESCO Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in Life Sciences is available at: (lifesciencesprize@unesco.org). Please also find attached the statutes of the Prize and an explanatory note on the application process.



Yours sincerely,

Audrey Azoulay
Director-General

Encl: 2

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

ANNEX I

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO EQUATORIAL GUINEA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR RESEARCH IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences is to reward projects and activities of individuals, institutions or non-governmental organizations working in the life sciences leading to improving the quality of human life. The objectives of the Prize are in conformity with UNESCO's policies and are in line with the central function of UNESCO's Major Programme II: to encourage research and the setting up and further development of networks of centres of excellence in the life sciences contributing to improving the quality of human life.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and shall consist of an endowment of \$4,687,000 over a period of six years, including support costs. The amount shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the cost of administering the Prize. Any interest that may accrue will be added to the overall contribution. The Prize also includes an "Integracion Tribal" statuette by the Equatorial Guinean artist Leandro Mbomio.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Regulations in Annex II to section (ii) of this document).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including the monetary value of the Prize, all costs relating to the jury meeting, award ceremony, communication and public information activities, the purchase of the statuette(s), as well as an external evaluation of the Prize once in every six-year period, shall be fully covered by the donor. The direct costs are estimated to be \$717,000 per year. To this end, the Director-General shall 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 of the Prize.

2.5 The Prize of \$350,000 shall be awarded once a year for a six-year period, on an initial basis for three biennia. The Prize amount may be equally divided among a maximum of three laureates, each of which is considered to merit the prize. The laureate(s) shall also receive a certificate and an "Integracion Tribal" statuette by Equatorial Guinean artist Leandro Mbomio

Article 3 – Conditions/qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant research contribution to the life sciences. The Prize may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/selection of the laureate(s)

The laureate(s), maximum three, shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by an international jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field of life sciences, while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical representation, gender balance 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 alternates 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 on legitimate grounds.

5.2 The jury shall elect its own chairperson and deputy chairperson. 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 the 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 once every year, for two working days, in order to make its recommendations to the Director-General for the selection of the laureate(s).

5.5 The jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than **15 June** of each year.

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 March of each year from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from the 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. 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 to the jury 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 on a rotating basis at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, or in another location jointly determined by UNESCO and Equatorial Guinea. UNESCO shall present to the laureate(s) a cheque for the total amount of \$350,000 (three hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars), a certificate and the “Integracion Tribal” statuette. UNESCO shall officially announce the name/s of the laureate(s).

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

7.3 The laureate/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 laureate dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously (awarded to relatives or an institution).

7.5 Should a laureate 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 the Prize, any unspent balance shall be returned to the donor unless otherwise agreed, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Special Account 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.



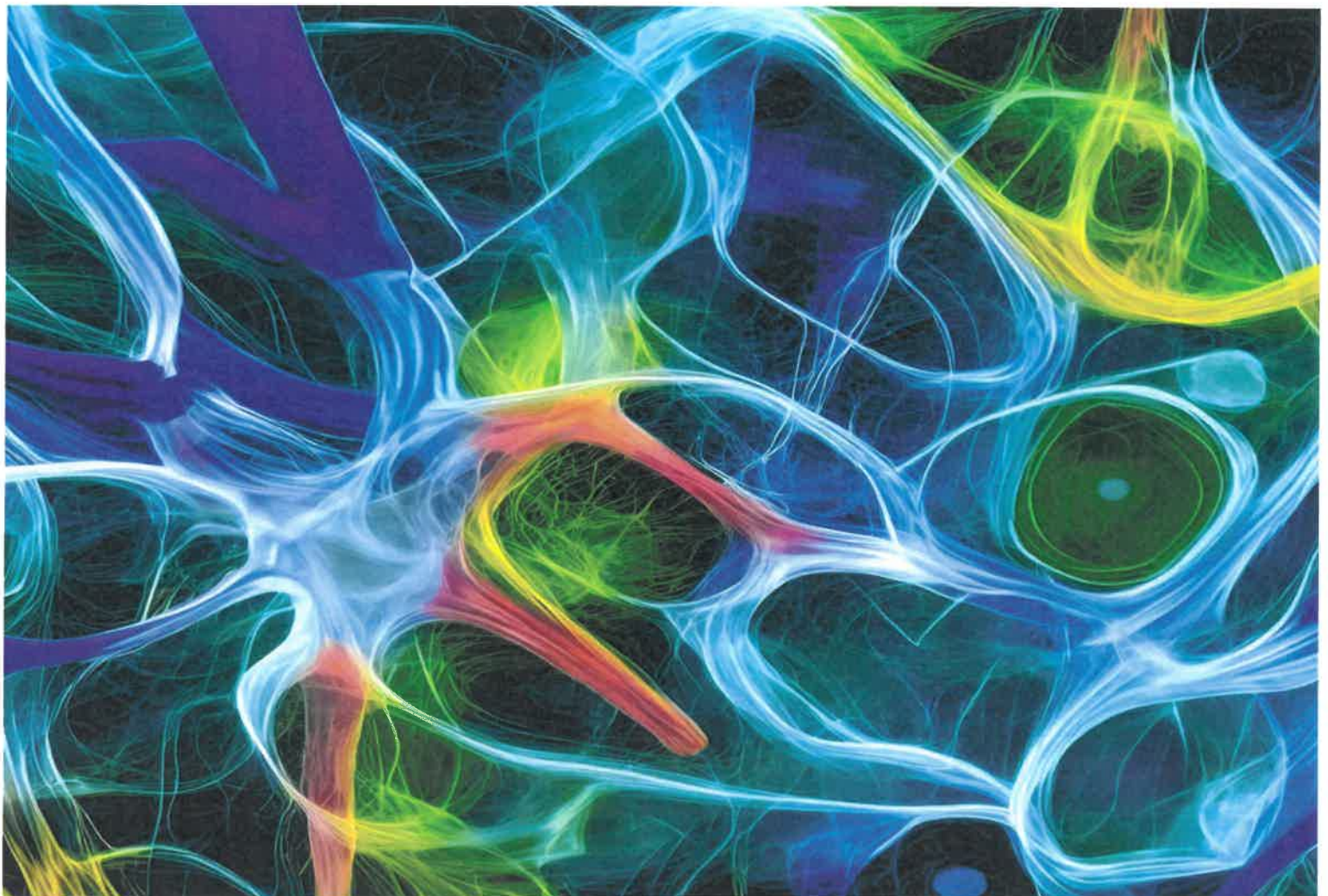
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UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea
International Prize for
Research in the Life Sciences



How to apply

UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences





The exponential evolution in the field of life sciences offer numerous potential solutions to counter the global challenges related to health, poverty, access to safe water, disease and therefore the improvement of the quality of human life. To this end, UNESCO strives to guarantee equitable access to these advances by promoting research in the life sciences. Through the **UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences**, UNESCO rewards annually individuals, institutions, and non-governmental organizations for their outstanding contribution to the improvement of human life.

Funded by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Prize, which has a monetary value of **US\$ 350,000**, is divided equally among a maximum three laureates. The laureate(s) also receive(s) a certificate and an "Integracion Tribal" statuette by Equatorial Guinean artist Leandro Mbomio.

Established by UNESCO's Executive Board, the Prize directly contributes to the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda referring to a number of the SDGs. It also supports UNESCO's global priorities included in the Medium-term Strategy 2022-2029.

Who is eligible?

Individuals, institutions or non-governmental organizations whose research in the field of life sciences improved the quality of human life.



How to apply?

Who can submit?

Candidates endorsed by a designating authority:

- ◇ UNESCO Member States through their National Commissions
- ◇ Non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO that are active in relevant fields covered by the Prize
- ◇ Each Member State or Non-governmental Organization may submit up to five nominations
- ◇ Unsolicited applications/Self-nominations cannot be considered

Application form

After registration, candidates must fill in the online application form in English or French.

Application form includes:

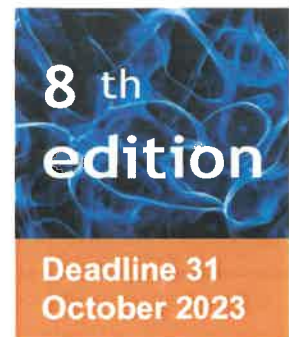
- ◇ Background information
- ◇ Outline of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives
- ◇ Summary of the work/research
- ◇ List of publications

How to submit an application?

Applications may be submitted in two ways:

- ◇ Designating authorities can invite candidates who they wish to endorse to apply.
- ◇ Candidates can submit their application to a National Commission through the online process.

Only applications that have been officially endorsed are received by the UNESCO Secretariat.



Selection process

1. The Secretariat reviews all applications received before the deadline and transmits the eligible applications to the International Jury of the Prize.
2. The International Jury meets in Paris, France to assess the applications.
3. The Director-General selects the winners based on the recommendation of the International Jury.
4. The prize is awarded to the winner(s) during an official ceremony organized by UNESCO.

Secretariat of the
UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences Natural Sciences Sector
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For more information, visit:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/equatorial-guinea>

