

Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity

1ST EDITION **2020**

Call to action

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a Portuguese institution, established in perpetuity, with the statutory goal of undertaking charitable, artistic, educational and scientific activities. Committed to all humankind, its mission is to support sustainable development by actively promoting the well-being and quality of life of vulnerable populations while balancing environmental protection and economic prosperity.

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity distinguishes innovative pathways with high impact potential to assist in processes of mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change, one of the greatest threats to this century with devastating consequences for the well-being of current and future generations and for the economy and our natural ecosystems. Humanity is facing an unprecedented climate

crisis with impacts that encompass key sustainable development components such as public health, access to safe drinking water, clean air, food security and secure shelter¹.

Science informs us that the impacts of climate change are advancing at a faster rate than anticipated and may have irreversible effects on our natural systems². According to NASA³, the global climate will continue to change; this is clearly visible in the ever-increasing frequency of heat waves and droughts, the rise in seawater temperatures, melting glaciers and extreme weather events. The average surface temperature of the earth has risen 0.9 °C since the end of the 19th century, largely as a result of the increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions as well as changes in land use. While much of this increase has taken place in the last 35 years,

¹ [who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health)

² [nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03595-0](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03595-0)

³ climate.nasa.gov/evidence/

the hottest 5 years have been recorded since 2010. In Europe, June and July 2019 were the hottest ever at world level, according to World Meteorological Organization figures.

Without drastic change, the consequences will continue to be devastating for humankind, particularly to the most vulnerable.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees⁴, extreme weather events have been responsible for the migration of 22.5 million people since 2008. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) claims that millions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Southwest Asia will have to leave their homes due to rising sea levels. The loss of crops and the resulting instability in the price of food products may also have an overwhelming impact: the 2018 World Employment and Social Outlook report estimated that climate change could put more than 1.2 billion jobs worldwide at risk, notably in the fisheries, agriculture and forestry sectors.

Today, more than 2 billion people, one third of the world's population, live in poverty or near-poverty conditions and their livelihoods are under constant threat due in part to climate change. Data cited by the United Nations indicate that the climate crisis could be responsible for placing over 100 million people in a situation of extreme poverty by 2030⁵. World Health Organization estimates suggest that climate change may lead to

an additional 250 thousand deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 as a result of poor nutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. Naturally, the countries with poor health infrastructures – mainly developing countries – will be the least able to respond to those threats.⁶

The IPCC Report for 2018 showed that it is vital to limit global warming relative to pre-industrial levels to below 1.5 °C by the end of the century in order to avoid catastrophic impacts. This entails reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 45% by 2030 and reaching neutrality by 2050.

Meeting these goals requires structural changes to be made in various areas of society and calls for governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations and people to take urgent action. The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015 by 195 countries following the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), includes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 2020 with the aim of keeping global warming below 2 °C, preferably below 1.5 °C. However, less than 20% of the 184 countries still governed by the Paris Agreement are on track to meet these targets. During the last Climate Summit organized by the United Nations (COP25), at the end of 2019, the relevance of non-governmental actors in the fight against climate change was constantly highlighted, as evidenced by the far from ambitious results achieved at the Summit.

⁴ thebalance.com/economic-impact-of-climate-change-3305682

⁵ undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2018/Climate_Change_and_the_Rise_of_Poverty.html

⁶ who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health

1. Object

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity highlights the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's commitment to urgent climate action.

Notably, it seeks to speed up the transition to a carbon neutral society, to mitigate the negative effects of climate change for people, the environment and the economy, and to promote a society that is more resilient and better prepared for future global changes and to protect the most vulnerable in particular.

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity aims to recognize people, groups of people and/or organizations from all over the world whose contributions to mitigation and adaptation to climate change stand out for its novelty, innovation and impact. This initiative strives to draw attention to and leverage large-scale climate action responses, helping to speed up the process of decarbonizing the global economy, protecting the people and natural systems from the severe effects associated to climate change and supporting sustainable development.

More specifically, the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity has the following **objectives**:

1. Award to actively contribute to the targets set in the Paris Agreement with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 °C.
2. To recognize people, organizations and initiatives of excellence in the area of climate change.

3. To mobilize talent, attracting high quality nominations.
4. To emphasize of both the impacts of climate change and potential solutions, mobilizing people, businesses and governments in tackling the climate crisis.
5. To strengthen the role of local communities and international networks, by recognizing local climate solutions with great scale up potential for global impact.
6. To educate and empower for a more sustainable society.
7. To mobilize more financial capital for climate solutions.
8. To divulge, at a global level, the Foundation's commitment to a low-carbon, more sustainable and more resilient society.

2. Amount

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, granted yearly, is worth 1 million euros.

In the event of more than one laureate being distinguished, the award will be equitably divided.

3. Areas of Recognition

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity will be focused in the recognition of accomplishments and contributions to solve the climate crisis for a minimum period of 5 years (2020-2024). Thereafter, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Board of Directors will announce whether the topic will be maintained or if a new area of recognition of great relevance to humankind will be launched.

In the present context, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation considers any potential recognition areas that can contribute to one or a number of the following outcomes:

Mitigation: reduction or prevention of greenhouse gas emissions or the increased absorption of already emitted GHG. The mitigation actions require the use of new technologies, clean energy sources, industrial processing, reducing deforestation, reforestation or restoring terrestrial, marine and coastal natural ecosystems, improved methods of sustainable farming and land use, and changes in individual and collective behaviors.

Adaptation: improve management of risks and negative impacts of climate change with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of people, ecosystems and biodiversity to the detrimental effects of climate change – rising sea levels, extreme weather events and food insecurity – and increasing their resilience to these, such as nature-based solutions.

Potential contributions of excellence may include solutions that address the climate emergency, namely ways to speed up the decarbonizing of the economy and/or resilience of ecosystems or socio-political systems, such as: climate finance, land-use management instruments, raising public and political awareness, boosting individual and institutional competencies, networks and partnerships with diverse actors from civil society, among others.

4. Candidate Eligibility

Candidates may be a person, group of people and/or an organization, of any nationality, that is making a significant contribution to develop solutions to tackle the climate crisis, having to demonstrate the reach or potential reach of outstanding outcomes and provide tangible, highly relevant and material impact indicators.

Eligible organizations include:

- Legal entities, public or private, profit-seeking or non-profit;
- International organizations;
- Universities and R&D institutions.

The Award cannot be granted posthumously or to an organization after ceasing its activity.

5. Nominations

Applications may be submitted through the nomination of third parties; self-nominations are not permitted.

All nominations should be submitted in electronic format using the form available at gulbenkian.pt, until April 07th 2020, in accordance with the instructions provided.

The Jury may request further information in addition to the documents submitted in the application page.

6. Selection

The selection process is independent and will be conducted in three phases. Firstly, an Expert Committee, composed by experts of renowned merit in matters related to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, will offer a preliminary selection of applications. Secondly, a Grand Jury, composed of personalities of internationally recognized reputation in scientific, technological, political and cultural realms, will deliberate towards determining the winning nomination.

The final decision will be taken by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Board of Trustees, based on the proposal presented by the Grand Jury.

Appeals will not be accepted against the decision taken by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Board of Trustees.

7. Data protection

All personal data of the Holders made available by the nominators will be treated exclusively for the purpose of managing the attribution of the **Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity** by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as the entity responsible for processing the data.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation can be contacted regarding any issues related to the processing of data carried out in this context and for these purposes to privacidade@gulbenkian.pt.

The personal data of the Holders will be kept for the period of time necessary for the attribution and management of this Prize, except in cases where another period is required by the applicable legislation. Some data (namely, the name of the person responsible for the application, date of application and personal data potentially included in the works and publications delivered, as well as the data collected in the award ceremony, will be kept indefinitely by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in the context of its activity of management and conservation of its cultural, intellectual and artistic collection.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation guarantees to the Holders the exercise of their rights in relation to their data, such as the right of access, rectification, deletion, opposition, limitation of treatment and portability, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation implements all necessary and adequate

security measures to protect the personal data of the Holders, either when the data is processed directly by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, or when the data is processed by entities subcontracted by it.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may process the personal data collected in this context directly and / or through subcontracting entities for this purpose, and appropriate contracts will be signed with such subcontracting entities, under the terms and with the content provided for by the applicable legislation.

Within the scope and for the purposes of the attribution of this Prize, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may communicate the data of candidates to partner entities, for the purposes of managing publications and institutional communications. These entities may be located within the territory of the European Union or outside, and in the latter case, appropriate mechanisms will be employed at all times, under the applicable legislation, to safeguard the security of the processed personal data.

Candidates will be able to make a complaint to the Portuguese Data Protection Commission (“CNPd”) if they consider that there is a breach of the legal provisions regarding data protection by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

8. Award Ceremony

The award ceremony will take place on July 20th, 2020 – Calouste Gulbenkian day – in the Foundation’s Grand Auditorium.

9. Key Dates

Nomination period:
until April 07th, 2020

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Award ceremony:
July 20th, 2020