



# Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity

2ND EDITION **2021**

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## Call to action

*Humanity today faces a severe and unprecedented climate crisis with devastating consequences for people, nature and the economy.*

The past five years have been the hottest on record<sup>1</sup> and 2020 may well be the warmest or second warmest year ever<sup>2</sup>.

The global temperature rise, caused by excessive greenhouse gas emissions, is disturbing the Earth's balance. Heat waves, severe droughts, fires, melting glaciers, ocean acidification and rising sea levels are devastating effects that are increasingly more likely to occur<sup>3</sup>. Besides the serious environmental impacts, such as biodiversity loss and the collapse of natural ecosystems, climate change also affects essential components of human well-being and socio-

-economic development, most notably public health, access to safe drinking water and clean air, sufficient food and secure shelter.

In 2019, extreme weather events caused natural disasters at a rate of one per week. In July 2020, floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh killed more than 300 people and displaced millions more. Severe drought and the resulting food shortages in 2019 saw 45 million people at risk of hunger in 14 African countries. According to the World Bank<sup>4</sup>, up to 143 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South Asia could be forced to leave their homes by 2050 due to rising sea levels, water shortages or crop loss. It is also estimated that the climate crisis could push an additional 100 million people into extreme poverty worldwide by 2030<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0562&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/10/earth-global-warming-nasa-natural-disasters/> ;  
<https://www.carbonbrief.org/state-of-the-climate-2020-set-to-be-first-or-second-warmest-year-on-record>

<sup>3</sup> <https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29461/GroundswellOVpt.pdf?sequence=20&isAllowed=y>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2018/Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_the\\_Rise\\_of\\_Poverty.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2018/Climate_Change_and_the_Rise_of_Poverty.html)

According to the World Health Organization, between 2030 and 2050 climate change is expected to cause up to 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress<sup>6</sup>. Countries with weak health infrastructures, mostly in developing countries, will be the least able to respond to these threats<sup>7</sup>. In this regard, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the large pool of scientific evidence supporting the clear link between climate change and biodiversity loss and the serious threats to public health, such as the spread of serious infectious diseases like Ebola, the bird flu, MERS-CoV and, more recently, COVID-19<sup>8</sup>. Today, more than 75% of new infectious diseases originate in animals, and climate change scenarios in Europe increase the risk of the introduction or re-introduction of various diseases, such as malaria, dengue, leishmaniasis, European encephalitis or Lyme disease.

Without drastic change, humanity will continue to face these consequences, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

The warning made by the IPCC in its 2018 special report is clear: if we do not limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, the impacts on people and natural ecosystems will multiply, culminating in a doomsday scenario<sup>9</sup>. To stop this from happening, we must cut greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030, in other words, 7.6% per year between 2020 and 2030.

Yet, Earth's average temperature had risen 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels<sup>1</sup> by the end of 2019 and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased 1.5% per year over the last decade<sup>10</sup>.

Numbers don't lie and time doesn't stand still. The response to the climate emergency includes the need for immediate, structural and systemic change across different aspects of society, calling for action by governments, businesses, non-governmental organisations, foundations and people towards carbon-neutral growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown just how vulnerable the current development model is to global human-induced changes linked to significant environmental, social, economic and technological risks. But it has also highlighted the importance of being able to adapt and anticipate management of the different current and future crises, including the climate emergency, the loss of biodiversity, the scarcity of drinking water, the environmental degradation and the increase of social inequalities. Resilience has become key to building the future of humanity.

We must therefore adopt integrated responses that contribute to a robust and inclusive transition, tackle the challenges of the 21st century, uphold the principles proposed in the UN 2030 Agenda and that put the sustainability of the planet and human societies first.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

<sup>8</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0008.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0008.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/six-nature-facts-related-coronaviruses>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019>

The transition to a climate-neutral society is both urgent and a unique opportunity to build a future based on a symbiosis between society and the environment underpinned by a sustainable economic system that creates prosperity and well-being.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation aims to contribute to this transition. Committed to all humankind, the Foundation's mission is to support sustainable development by actively promoting the well-being and quality of life

of vulnerable groups in the population, while maintaining a balance between protecting the environment and economic prosperity.

The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity underscores the Foundation's commitment to urgent climate action. It is the Foundation's hope that this initiative will help mitigate the negative effects of climate change on people, the environment and the economy, and promote a society that is more resilient and better prepared for future global change, while protecting the most vulnerable.

25 October 2020

## Call Conditions

### 1. OBJECT

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. Contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030.
3. To recognize people, organizations and initiatives of excellence in the area of climate change.
4. To mobilize talent, attracting high quality nominations.
5. To emphasize of both the impacts of climate change and potential solutions, mobilizing people, businesses and governments in tackling the climate crisis.

6. To strengthen the role of local communities and international networks, by recognizing local climate solutions with great scale up potential for global impact.
7. To educate and empower for a more sustainable society.
8. To mobilize more financial capital for climate solutions.
9. 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.

The prize should be used in a way that maximizes the invaluable contribution of the winning person/organisation.

Accepting the prize, the winner will agree on a protocol with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in order to define the use of the monetary award and the communication of actions and activities related to the award.

### 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:** reducing the negative consequences of climate change by taking measures to prevent or minimize impacts that can no longer be avoided, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events and food insecurity, with actions that include technological measures, nature-based solutions and behavioral changes.

Thus, potential contributions of excellence could include ways to accelerate the decarbonisation of the economy and/or the resilience of ecosystems or social and 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 should 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 of outstanding outcomes and provide highly relevant evidence for impact in the future.

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 should 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](http://gulbenkian.pt), until **March 8th 2021**, 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, a Scientific Council will be responsible for preparing a consolidated list of eligible candidates. Secondly, a Jury composed of personalities of internationally recognized reputation in scientific, technological, political and cultural realms, will deliberate in order to identify the first 3 ranked nominations.

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 cannot be made against the decision taken by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Board of Trustees.

## 7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Jury will be responsible for selecting the nominations according to the following criteria:

- **Innovation** and/or demonstrate potential for long term transformational change.
- **Impact**/ demonstrate benefits for environment & society/ be scalable with potential for long term impact
- **Inspiration**/ ability to serve as a model/ to show active leadership or to inspire others
- **Relevance of the nomination** /timely taking into consideration the contribution it will make to address compelling issues and challenges

## 8. 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](mailto: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.

## 9. WINNER'S ANNOUNCEMENT / AWARD CEREMONY

The winner will be announced on July 20th, 2021 – Calouste Gulbenkian Day.

If the evolution of the COVID19 pandemic allows, the Award Ceremony will also take place on July 20th, 2021 in the Foundation's Grand Auditorium.

## 10. KEY DATES

Nomination period  
– until **March 8th 2021**

Winner's announcement/  
Award Ceremony – **July 20th, 2021**