



# Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity

4TH EDITION **2023**

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## Call to Action

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

The past eight years have been the hottest so far<sup>1</sup>, fueled by ever-rising greenhouse gas concentrations and accumulated heat. Climate impacts are increasing across the globe as global warming accelerates<sup>2</sup>.

A multi-year drought in the Horn of Africa, unprecedented flooding in South Asia, and severe summer heat and breaking droughts across multiple regions of the northern hemisphere, point out that climate change is hitting humanity hard and global risks are ever increasing. The flooding in Pakistan affected approximately 33 million people with 7.9 million people

displaced. In Bangladesh, the worst floods in 20 years have affected some 7.2 million people with 481 000 displacements recorded<sup>3</sup>.

2021 was the warmest year on record for ocean heat content<sup>4</sup> (the latest year assessed), while sea water levels also reached new records high in 2022. Rising temperatures heighten the risk of irreversible loss of marine and coastal ecosystems. Coral reefs are especially vulnerable to climate change. They are projected to lose between 70 and 90% of their former coverage area at 1.5°C of warming and over 99% at 2°C<sup>5</sup>.

In fact, all types of ecosystems – terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems – and the services they provide, are affected by

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<sup>1</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2022>

<sup>3</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.carbonbrief.org/state-of-the-climate-how-the-world-warmed-in-2021>

<sup>5</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>



climate change. The number of species predicted to become extinct increases dramatically as global temperatures rise – and is 30% higher at 2°C warming than at 1.5°C<sup>6</sup>.

Climate change is already impacting every corner of the world. According to the Sixth Assessment IPCC Report - *Climate Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (WGII)*<sup>7</sup>, the extent and magnitude of climate change impacts are larger and coming sooner than previously estimated, causing severe and widespread disruption in nature and in society, affecting our ability to guarantee food security and nutrition, clean drinking water or even safe shelter to all.

Our world – 1.1°C warmer – is not fair, where women, the elderly and children in low-income households as well as minority groups are the ones who will suffer the most with the impacts of climate change. Alarming, 3.3 to 3.6 billion people (around 40% of the population) live in countries highly vulnerable to climate impacts<sup>8</sup>, mainly in the Global South, with global hotspots concentrated in Small Island Developing States, the Arctic, South Asia, Central and South America, and much of sub-Saharan Africa.

Faced with the uncertainty regarding the future of Humanity, it is important to highlight some of the forecasts for the scenarios outlined.

- According to the World Bank<sup>9</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>10</sup>.

- 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>11</sup>. Countries with weak health infrastructures, mostly in developing countries, will be the least able to respond to these threats.<sup>12</sup> In high vulnerable countries, mortality due to droughts, storms and floods in 2010-2020 was actually 15 times higher than in countries with very low vulnerability. As of 2021, 2.3 billion people faced food insecurity, corresponding to 9.8% of the global population<sup>13</sup>.

The climate crisis has driven the world to a multiple “disastrous” tipping points. Five dangerous tipping points may already have been passed due to the 1.1°C of global heating caused by humanity to date<sup>14</sup>. These include: the collapse of Greenland’s ice cap; the collapse of a key current in the north Atlantic; disrupting rain upon which billions of people depend for food; an abrupt melting of carbon-rich permafrost; and changes to vast northern forests and the loss of almost all mountain glaciers<sup>15</sup>.

The 1.5 degree target is no longer enough to guarantee a safe, resilient, and sustainable future

<sup>6</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29461/GroundswellOVpt.pdf?sequence=20&isAllowed=y>

<sup>10</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)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

<sup>13</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abn7950>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abn7950>

for all. In a recent study published in *Science*<sup>16</sup> scientists highlighted that keeping the global average temperature rise within 1.5°C since pre-industrial times is critical to preventing climate change's worst and cascading impacts.

According to the Sixth Assessment IPCC Report - *Mitigation of Climate Change (WGIII)*<sup>17</sup>, without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors and regions, it will be impossible to keep warming below 1.5°C. The world is not on track to reach the Paris Agreement goals and with policies currently in place and without additional action, global temperatures could reach 2.8°C by the end of the century<sup>18</sup>. In 2021 IPCC estimated a 50% probability of failing the Paris Agreement and reiterating that without drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions there could be a 2.7°C temperature increase over pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, with devastating consequences for humanity<sup>19</sup>. Many of these changes will be irreversible over centuries to millennia, especially the ongoing changes in the ocean.

The Emissions Gap Report 2022 finds out that to meet the internationally agreed target of 1.5°C and to avoid a global catastrophe the world must cut emissions by 45 per cent by 2030<sup>20</sup>. Since COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, new and updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) have barely impacted the temperatures we can expect to see by 2100.

A stepwise approach is no longer an option. The climate we will be exposed to in the future depends on the decisions we take now. Evidence of observed impacts, projected risks,

trends in vulnerability, and adaptation limits, demonstrate that worldwide climate resilient development action are more urgent than previously thought.<sup>21</sup>

The world must urgently increase efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already here and to those that are to come. As global temperatures rise, adaptive responses become less effective<sup>22</sup>. Societies and ecosystems start hitting limits to adaptation, beyond which further losses and damages can be expected.

This requires ambitious and accelerated action. Both strong mitigation and adaptation are linked and are key to help vulnerable countries and communities cope with impacts of climate change.

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, investors and businesses, non-governmental organisations, foundations, civil society, educational bodies, scientific and other institutions, media and by developing partnerships with traditionally marginalized groups, local communities and ethnic minorities towards a carbon-neutral growth model that safeguards social justice.

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. The war in Ukraine, the global supply shortages and the

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abn7950>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abn7950>

COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to an evolving energy and food security crisis, has made this challenge even greater.

Following the commitments made at the Glasgow Climate Pact (COP26) and the recent announced Sharm el-Sheik Implementation Plan (COP27) , it is now crucial to keep alive the sense of climate emergency, accelerate the implementation of concrete actions and measures capable of contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increase the resilience and adaptation of natural ecosystems and people to climate impacts, support communities with losses and damages that have already occurred, as well as protect and restore biodiversity and natural ecosystems, including forests and the ocean.

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, to investment in solutions which benefit people and the planet, and to showing there is still hope if we act now. In the run-up to COP28 in 2023, the Prize will be a flagship initiative recognising people or organisations who are making outstanding contributions in combating the climate crisis; contributions which can 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.**

November 2022

## 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 including decisions taken under the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan.
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 and within the scope of its statutory activities.

Accepting the prize, the winner will agree on a protocol with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in order to confirm the acceptance of the Prize and defining 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 or potential 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 nor to former members of the Jury of the Prize.

### 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**, until **March 17, 2023**, 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 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, 2023 – Calouste Gulbenkian Day.

## 10. KEY DATES

Nomination period  
– until **March 17, 2023**

Winner’s announcement/Award Ceremony –  
**July 19th, 2023**