

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Nominations open for 9th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2026**

- *The MIDORI Prize recognizes outstanding individual contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*
- *The unique prize contributes to raising public awareness of the essential role biodiversity plays for human well-being and in addressing global challenges such as climate change*
- *The Award Ceremony and Awardees' Forum will be held on 27 August 2026 in Tokyo, Japan.*

The call for nominations for The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2026 is open **from 2 February to 31 March 2026**. Nominations are invited from members of the public through the AEON Environmental Foundation website at <https://www.aeonkankyozaidan.or.jp/en/prize/>. The Award Ceremony and Awardees' Forum of the 2026 edition of the Prize will be held on 27 August in Tokyo, Japan. These events will contribute to the global mobilization around COP 17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which will take place in Yerevan (Armenia) under the theme of "Taking action for Nature".

Co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the CBD, the Prize is awarded to individuals who make outstanding contributions to global biodiversity-related objectives, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and other environmental challenges such as climate change. To date, 21 individuals from 20 countries have received the prize.

Established by the AEON Environmental Foundation during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the Prize has been awarded to biodiversity champions in three fields: Implementation, Science & Research and Policy & Enlightenment, reflecting the need for a whole-of-society approach to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the CBD in 2022, the KMGBF is the world's blueprint to halt and reverse biodiversity loss through 23 action targets that must be achieved by 2030.

The founder of the prize, Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation and Honorary Chairman and Advisor, AEON Co., Ltd., said: "The conservation of biodiversity and the prevention of climate change are considered two of the most important environmental issues of the present day. The Foundation hopes that this prize will contribute to these global environmental issues and to the global goals set forth at the meeting of COP 15."

Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: "The MIDORI Prize provides a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on the work of individuals dedicated to protecting biodiversity around the world. While we all move to accelerate implementation of the KMGBF to tackle the joined-up crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, the Prize raises public awareness not only of the essential role of biodiversity to assuring human well-being, but also of the extraordinary efforts many people are making which should inspire us all to act."

## Notes to editors

### **(1) The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity**

Established in 2010 through a collaboration between the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was established to commemorate the AEON Environmental Foundation's 20th anniversary and coincided with COP10 in Japan. This international award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to biodiversity conservation, its sustainable use, and the realization of a sustainable society.

Please visit: <https://www.aeonkankyozaidan.or.jp/en/prize/>

### **(2) AEON Environmental Foundation**

Under AEON's fundamental philosophy of "Pursuing peace, respecting humanity, and contributing to local communities," AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 by Takuya kada (Honorary Chairman of Aeon Co., Ltd. and Honorary President of our foundation) as Japan's first private-sector foundation dedicated exclusively to global environmental issues. Today, our activities focus on four main areas: "Tree Planting," "Grant Programs," Environmental Education & Joint Research," and "Awards."

Please visit: <https://www.aeonkankyozaidan.or.jp/en/>

### **(3) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women, and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 142 Parties. In 2026, the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the CBD will be held 18 – 30 October in Yerevan, Armenia.

Please visit: <http://www.cbd.int>.

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