

Application Guidelines for the 9th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2026

THE 9TH MIDORI PRIZE FOR BIODIVERSITY

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity raises public awareness of the importance of biodiversity for human well-being and global challenges such as climate change, while contributing to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). It promotes action and inspires others by recognizing and highlighting the achievements of individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Established by the AEON Environmental Foundation in 2010 to commemorate its 20th anniversary, the Prize coincided with the UN International Year of Biodiversity and the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), held in Nagoya, Japan. To date, twenty-one recipients have been honored, and their work continues to have global relevance.

News Release



For more information: <https://www.aeonkankyozaidan.or.jp/en/prize/>

Organizer ————— AEON Environmental Foundation
Co-organizer ————— Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Nominal Support — Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

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 Okada (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/>

AEON Environmental Foundation

Address : 1-5-1 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba City Chiba Prefecture, 261-8515, Japan

Email : ef@aeon.info

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the 9th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity.
Nomination submissions can be made through the AEON Environmental Foundation website, where the nomination sheet will remain available until March 31, 2026.

PERIOD FOR NOMINATION

February 2 – March 31, 2026

CONFERMENT OF THE PRIZE

The Prize is awarded to two individuals, each of whom is honored at an award ceremony and receives a wooden plaque, a commemorative gift, and a monetary prize of 100,000 US dollars.

AWARD CEREMONY

The award ceremony for the 9th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity will be held in Tokyo on August 27, 2026.

CRITERIA

The engagement of and collaboration between all stakeholders, including individual citizens, governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, researchers and the private sector are essential to safeguard the Earth’s biodiversity. Recognizing this, the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity is open to everyone contributing to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the categories of Implementation, Science & Research, and Policy & Enlightenment.

Category	Field of activities	Summary
A. Implemen- tation	(1) Local activities	Implementation and promotion of community activities
	(2) Business activities	Mainstreaming biodiversity in the business sector
B. Science & Research	(1) Research	Research and studies
	(2) Integration of Scientific Knowledge	Providing scientific information and conceptual foundations
C. Policy & Enlightment	(1) Politics / Policy Proposals	Policy and planning, leadership; policy advocacy and consensus-building support
	(2) Education / Enlightenment	Education and human resource development practices, raising and transforming public awareness through activities.

Accomplishment will be assessed on its:

- ▶ International contribution
- ▶ Contribution to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- ▶ Social contribution
- ▶ Long-term perspective and continuity
- ▶ Creativity and originality
- ▶ Openness for civil society
- ▶ Efficacy and influence

Candidates must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

Achievement	Have made outstanding achievements that greatly contribute to biodiversity
Potential	Have the ability to influence future activities related to biodiversity
Impact	Have conducted work which has impacts on various activities for biodiversity around the world

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- ① Download the nomination sheet from the AEON Environmental Foundation website**
- ② Fill in the required fields**
- ③ Upload it to the AEON Environmental Foundation website to complete your application.**

AEON Environmental Foundation website:

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



Previous winners of the MIDORI prize

2024



**Vera Voronova
(Kazakhstan)**

Executive Director,
Association for the Conservation
of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan



**Ysabel Agustina
Calderon Carlos (Peru)**

Founder and CEO of Sumak Kawsay,
an environmental enterprise

2020



**Paul Hebert
(Canada)**

Professor,
Department of Integrative
Biology,
University of Guelph



**Melina Sakiyama
(Brazil)**

Co-founder,
Global Youth Biodiversity
Network



**Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy
(Cameroon)**

Founder,
Cameroon Gender and
Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

2018



**Kathy MacKinnon
(U.K.)**

Chair, IUCN/World
Commission on Protected
Areas (WCPA)



**Assad Serhal
(Lebanon)**

Director General,
Society for the Protection of
Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)



**Abdul Hamid Zakri
(Malaysia)**

Former Science Advisor to
the Prime Minister of Malaysia

2016



**Alfonso
Aguirre-Muñoz
(Mexico)**

Executive Director,
Grupo de Ecología y
Conservación de Islas, A.C.



**Yury Darman
(Russia)**

Director, Amur Branch,
WWF Russia



**Vandana Shiva
(India)**

Founder and Director,
Navdanya

2014



Kamal Bawa (India)

President, Ashoka Trust for
Research in Ecology and the
Environment (ATREE), India
Distinguished Professor,
University of Massachusetts,
Boston



**Alfred Oteng-Yeboah
(Ghana)**

Chair, Ghana National
Biodiversity Committee



**Bibiana Vilá
(Argentina)**

Director, Vicuñas, Camelids and
Environment (VICAM) Principal
Researcher, National Research
Council (CONICET) Argentina

2012



**Juan Carlos Castilla
(Chile)**

Professor, Marine Ecology,
Department of Ecology,
Pontificia Universidad
Catolica de Chile



**Rodrigo Gámez-Lobo
(Costa Rica)**

President, Instituto Nacional
de Biodiversidad (INBio)



Vo Quy (Viet Nam)

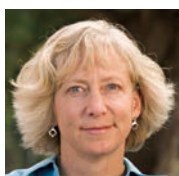
Honorary President, Center for
Natural Resources Management
and Environmental Studies (CRES),
Vietnam National University,
Hanoi

2010



**Jean Lemire
(Canada)**

Biologist,
Explorer and
Filmmaker



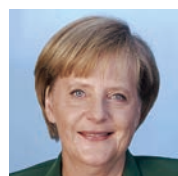
**Gretchen C.
Daily
(USA)**

Professor,
Stanford University



**Emil Salim
(Indonesia)**

Chairman of the
Advisory Council to
the President of
Indonesia Former
Minister of State for
Population and
the Environment



**Angela Merkel
(Germany)**

Chancellor of
Germany

*The titles are at the time of the awards.

**Special Prize for the International
Year of Biodiversity 2010**