

Earthna Prize Guidelines (2026-27)

WHAT IS THE EARTHNA PRIZE?

At Earthna, we recognize the profound value that traditional knowledge holds in achieving sustainability. To further this dedication, we have launched the Earthna Prize, an initiative to celebrate and supporting projects, actors and systems that are working towards the preservation, integration, adaptation, and adoption of ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage in addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

A prize of US\$ 1M will be presented during the global Earthna Summit 2027, recognizing up to four winners tackling work in five main categories: Water systems, Food systems, Terrestrial ecosystems, Marine and Coastal ecosystems, and Built environments. By showcasing outstanding efforts, the prize aims to inspire a wider community to champion environmental stewardship and contribute to a more resilient and environmentally sustainable world.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE EARTHNA PRIZE?

We welcome organizations and teams that seek to curate, administer, perpetuate, and preserve systems of traditional knowledge. This encompasses a diverse range of organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector entities.

The Earthna Prize acknowledges champions who actively promote and apply the inclusion of traditional knowledge in developing solutions and supporting policymaking processes. We also value efforts focused on preserving and adopting traditional sustainability knowledge and practices. Organizations that support underserved communities at the local level in their respective countries are also encouraged to apply. Moreover, we seek applicants who respond to the needs of local communities by fostering relationships of trust, facilitating networking, and promoting collaboration between local and global processes.

APPLICANT

- The 2026 Earthna Prize selection process accepts applications.
- Potential Earthna Prize candidates can only be initiatives/projects under a legally incorporated entity.
- Applicants for the Earthna Prize can be from any region of the world, including projects operational in 44 economies designated by the United Nations as the least developed countries (LDCs).

Multiple Applications

- An organization or applicant may submit more than one application for different initiatives/projects.

ELIGIBILITY

For your application to be considered eligible, your submission must adhere to the following criteria:

- At least one dedicated team member must be available to communicate with the Earthna Prize team.
- The initiatives/projects must be under a legally incorporated entity.
- The application must be in English.
- Accurate contact information for supporters must be provided

FOCUS AREAS

Earthna Prize Focus Areas: The Earthna Prize welcomes projects addressing one or more of the five focus areas. Applicants are welcome to choose multiple Focus areas and sub-systems. The sub-systems mentioned under each Focus area are purely for statistical purposes and will have no impact on the overall scoring of the application.

Focus Area/Strand Food Systems	Focus Area Subsystems
	Pastoral systems
	Agroforestry systems
	Seed saving and exchange
	Cropping systems
	Aquaculture systems
	Water Irrigation systems
	Other
Focus Area/Strand Terrestrial Ecosystem	Focus Area Subsystems
	Mountain ecosystems
	Forest ecosystems
	Inland wetland ecosystems
	Rangeland and grassland ecosystems
	Dryland ecosystems
	Desert ecosystems
	Other
Focus Area/Strand Coastal and Marine Ecosystems	Focus Area Subsystems
	Mangrove ecosystems
	Seagrass ecosystem
	Coral reef ecosystems
	Other nearshore marine ecosystems
	Fisheries systems
	Other
Focus Area/Strand Water Systems	Focus Area Subsystems
	Groundwater and well systems
	Springs
	Oasis systems
	Watershed and catchment systems
	Water harvesting systems
	Water storage systems
	Other Irrigation systems
	Other

Focus Area/Strand Built Environment and Settlements	Focus Area Subsystems
	Infrastructure systems
	Housing and shelter systems
	Informal Settlements
	Vernacular and traditional construction systems
	Neighbourhood and community space
	Public and civic buildings
	Sanitation and waste
	Mobility and wider access
	Other building services (lighting, technology)
	Systems to tackle extreme heat
	Other

SUBMISSION PROCESS

- The applicant should create an account and complete the form available on the Earthna Prize online application system.
- The form should be completed in English.
- The form should be submitted before the deadline, as the system automatically closes by the timeline, and Earthna does not accept applications after the deadline, June 30, 2026.
- The applicant should fill out all the required questions; the form cannot be submitted until all the required questions are completed.
- For applicants, the Earthna team will contact the referees mentioned in the application form. Kindly make sure that their details are up to date and correct.
- A confirmation email will be sent to the registered email once the application form is submitted.

FOUR EARTHNA PRIZE CRITERIA

Criterion 1: Application, Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Knowledge and Practices (50%)

- Relevance of traditional knowledge and practices to sustainability (10%) Assesses how effectively the project applies traditional knowledge and practices to address environmental, social, or economic sustainability challenges. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how these knowledge systems contribute to long-term resource stewardship, climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, food security, and community wellbeing.
- Degree of threat of knowledge and practices (10%) Evaluates the level of risk facing the traditional knowledge or practice, such as loss due to modernization, environmental degradation, demographic shifts, or lack of intergenerational transfer.
- Innovation (15%) Examines how creatively the project applies and integrates traditional knowledge in contemporary contexts, including project design and policy application. This could include how digital or modern technologies are combined with traditional knowledge to enhance effectiveness, scale, monitoring, or knowledge transmission, while maintaining cultural integrity.
- Replicability of the project (15%)
 - Assesses the potential for the approach to be adapted or scaled in other communities or regions. Proposals should demonstrate clear methodologies, documentation processes, and enabling conditions that allow the model to be transferred while respecting local cultural contexts.

Criterion 2: Local Benefits (20%)

- Evaluates the tangible environmental, social, and economic benefits delivered to the local community and how the project contributes to measurable improvements in livelihoods, spiritual well-being, ecosystem health, food or water security, education, gender equality, or climate resilience at the local level.

Criterion 3: Community Resilience and Engagement (20%)

- Assesses the depth of community participation in the design, implementation, and governance of the project. Strong proposals will demonstrate concrete involvement of knowledge holders, youth, women, and marginalized groups. This criterion also considers how technology and digital tools are used to inform, educate, and empower target beneficiaries, strengthen communication, and support intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Criterion 4: Policy Influence and Outcome (10%)

- Evaluates the project's contribution to policy development, institutional change, or regulatory improvement. It assesses how traditional knowledge is reflected in policy frameworks, how project evidence informs decision-making, and whether outcomes support its integration into national or local sustainability strategies.

TIMELINE

May 20 to July 20 2026	Call for Applications
July – August 2026	Internal Review Period
September - November 2026	Review Committee Evaluation Period
December 2026	Announcement of Finalists

The Earthna Prize winners will be announced at the 2027 Earthna Summit (Dates due to be announced)

HOW ARE PROJECTS SELECTED AND EVALUATED?

- Earthna due diligence: Earthna may contact eligible applicants to conduct further due diligence and verify the information on the application forms. The applicant also agrees to undergo a third-party due diligence process before or after the official announcement
- Review Committee evaluation: a committee of experts will be responsible for evaluating the initial review of applications and will propose a shortlist of finalists to the jury based on the criteria and the information provided in the forms.
- Jury evaluation: a jury composed of prominent figures drawn from government, civil society, the private sector, international organizations, universities, and social entrepreneurs will review shortlisted finalists and their proposals. The Jury will select the 2027 Earthna Prize winners.
- Due diligence and request for additional information: Before any decision by the Review Committee and Jury, and during the entire selection process, Earthna, the Review Committee, and the Jury reserve the right to ask for clarification or supplementary information from applicants. Additionally, information provided on the submitted forms will be reviewed and, in the event of any false or inaccurate information, the application will be deemed invalid.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNICATION

- The winning applicants will receive the Earthna Prize as an unrestricted grant to fund the QF-Unclassified submitted project.

- Applicants should select one project representative to be the recipient of the Earthna Prize.
- Earthna reserves the right to promote the winning candidates by means of any kind of communication (internal and/or commercial advertising), through any promotional media (press, magazines, catalogues, websites, etc.) and all over the world.
- This communication may be in the form of pictures, recordings (audio and video) and texts supplied by the awardee.
- The winners agree to provide photos, videos, and descriptions of their projects at the time of being awarded the Earthna Prize. They also acknowledge the right of Earthna to use this material.
- The winners also agree to give full access and facilitate, when necessary, the film production conducted by the Earthna team.
- The winning applicants agree to publicly promote the Prize by acknowledging and tagging Earthna across relevant media channels, including social media platforms, in a manner consistent with Earthna branding and promotional guidelines.

THE MONETARY PRIZE

The winners of the 2027 Earthna Prize will receive US\$ 250,000 each to support the development of their project/initiatives or share a pool prize of \$1million US.

DATA PROTECTION

- Applicants agree that the personal details shared with Earthna-Qatar Foundation will be included in a database owned by Earthna, Qatar Foundation, which will be the exclusive custodian of the said details for the purpose of managing the specified competition. Earthna-Qatar Foundation will not sell or distribute applicants' personal data to third parties.
- Applicants have the right to refuse to be included in a database and may exercise these rights at any time by making the appropriate request in writing to earthnaprize@earthna.qa.

LIABILITY

- Earthna reserves the right to modify the conditions of the call for application or the Earthna Prize at any time.
- Earthna shall not be liable if the call for applications is extended, shortened, modified or cancelled, or if problems arise with the website or due to loss of materials in e-mail and/or postal services.
- Applicants and finalists cannot dispute the choice of Finalists or the winning candidate, nor can they dispute the allocation of the Earthna Prize.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

EarthnaQatar Foundation, owns the intellectual property rights for texts, photos, films, documentaries, etc., made for Earthna-Qatar Foundation and for the trademarks and logos appearing in various supporting media. Consequently, the nominees cannot use them, in whole or in part, unless they have received specific authorization from the Earthna team.

GOVERNING LAW – JURISDICTION

These rules for the Earthna Prize are governed by Qatari law and, in the event of a dispute regarding their interpretation or performance, such a dispute shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts in Doha, Qatar.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

In line with international guidelines on engaging vulnerable groups and communities, where relevant, initiatives must ensure the following:

- Compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

- Compliance with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) policies and framework on Traditional Knowledge (TK).

LANGUAGE

The language for applications is in English.

INFORMATION AND QUERIES

To access the application system and for further information about the Earthna Prize, please visit the official website: www.earthna.qa. For any queries, please contact the Earthna Team by email: earthnaprize@earthna.qa

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES OF THE “2026-2027 EARTHNA PRIZE”

Applying for the 2027 Earthna Prize implies full acceptance of and respect for these rules by the applicants. These also include adherence to the highest international standards related to the respect for human rights, ethics, diversity, and applicable local and international legislation. Interpretation of these rules falls within the exclusive competence of Earthna.