The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes

2019 Award Ceremony
Monday, 18 November 2019
UNESCO House, Room IV
Programme

Welcome
H.E. Maria Diamantopoulou
Ambassador of Greece to UNESCO

Video Introduction
The Prize and Cultural Landscapes

Address
Audrey Azoulay
Director-General of UNESCO

Address
H.E. Styliani Mendoni
Minister of Culture and Sports
of the Hellenic Republic

Announcement
of the 2019 Laureate

Acceptance Speech
of the 2019 Laureate

Conclusion
Past Laureates of the Melina Mercouri Prize

2011 Laureates
Museum-Reservation of Garni, Armenia
Battir Cultural Landscape, Palestine
Special mention:
Wadi Hanifah, Saudi Arabia

2007 Laureate
Borodino Battlefield, Russian Federation
Special mention:
The Grand Bassin (Ganga Talao), Mauritius

2005 Laureate
The historic village of Maymand, Islamic Republic of Iran

2003 Laureate
Park of Koga, Japan

2001 Laureates
Murjadjo Djebel, Planters’ Wood and Old Town of Sidi El Houari, Algeria
Lygra Heathland Centre, Norway

1999 Laureates
Elisha’s Park, Jericho, Palestine
Valle de Viñales, Cuba
The Open-Air Art Museum at Pedvale, Latvia
Honourable mentions:
Mount Huangshan, China
Jardín del Príncipe in Aranjuez, Spain
Muskauer Park, Poland and Germany
Special mention:
The Leucade salters, Greece
The 2019 Laureate of the Melina Mercouri Prize

Instituto do Património Cultural, Cabo Verde
Parc Naturel de Cova, Paúl et Ribeira da Torre

Images of Parc Naturel de Cova, Paúl et Ribeira da Torre courtesy of Instituto do Património Cultural.
The Instituto do Património Cultural has a long history of valuable contributions made toward the safeguarding, management, and sustainable development of Parc Naturel de Cova, Paúl et Ribeira da Torre:

1983
Integration of the Eastern Plateau, focusing on conservation of soils and water, allowing the recovery of irrigation channels, reservoirs, terraces, retention dikes, and more. Heritage infrastructure recovery has continued to this day, made possible through local community know-how, and supporting local activities, mobility and tourism.

2003
Formal creation of the Parc Naturel de Cova, Paúl et Ribeira da Torre (PNCPRT), structured to improve sustainability of the activities and preserve biodiversity of the flora and fauna within the area.

2011
PNCPRT partners with the Forest Brigade for a planting campaign of more than 10,000 endemic and indigenous plants. Continued partnership with local communities supports the ongoing multiplication of endemic species.

2015
Adoption of management and ecotourism plans, which include oversight and an inventory 46km of highway, roads, and trails.

2018
Creation of a volunteer Fire Brigade to help combat recurring fires.
Prioritization of traditional management measures through collaborative community approaches to protect crops, fight pests, cover houses, and build agricultural terraces and irrigation canals.
Support and partnership with organized community groups, including the Oriental Plateau Women’s Association, and the United Association for the Development of the Oriental Plateau.
Jury Members

Souayibou Varissou, Benin
Executive Director of the African World Heritage Fund, lecturer in Archaeology, Heritage Sciences, and Community Empowerment at the National University of Benin and Ecole du Patrimoine Africain, and field archaeologist

Khalifa al Khalifa, Bahrain
Director of Antiquities and Museums at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, National Focal Point for the World Heritage Convention, and Former Assistant Director at the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage

Kristal Buckley, Australia
Lecturer in Cultural Heritage at Deakin University, current World Heritage Advisor, expert member of the International Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage, and former international Vice-President of ICOMOS

Jean-Robert Pitte, France
Acting as President of the Jury, Membre de l’Institut de France and Secrétaire perpétuel de l’Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, and former President and Emeritus Professor of Geography and Land Planning at Paris-Sorbonne University

Betina Adams, Brazil
Independent Architect in Urban and Architectural Conservation, Counsellor of the Santa Catarina’s State Council, Four-time ICOMOS-Brazil board member
The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri Prize and Cultural Landscapes

The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes was created in 1995 to reward outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world’s cultural landscapes, a category of World Heritage since 1992.

The Prize, created in 1995 and generously supported by the Greek Government, bears the name of Melina Mercouri, former Minister of Culture of Greece and strong advocate of integrated conservation. The prize has been previously awarded 6 times, and was revived at the 202nd session of the Executive Board in 2017 to be awarded for the 7th time in 2019.

Cultural landscapes are defined as the combined works of nature and people and embody a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment. Whether found in urban or rural settings, they are all the fruits of human-nature interactions, and thus serve as a living testimony to the evolution of human societies. Some are deliberately designed, while others evolve organically, and some are “fossilized” compared to others that are active and still evolving. Many are also sacred, with deep cultural, religious, and ancestral associations.

Cultural landscapes can provide various resources and services that enhance the well-being and livelihoods of people; enhance the resilience of communities; and maintain and enhance rich biological, cultural, and agricultural diversity.
Cultural Landscapes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Melina Mercouri Prize strives to promote the importance of integrated conservation and sustainable management of cultural landscapes, as advocated by Melina Mercouri, which can contribute significantly to sustainable development and thus to the achievements of the goals set out in the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RELEVANCE OF SAFEGUARDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2019 laureate: Instituto do Património Cultural, Cabo Verde
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For further information, contact us at:
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