



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/3797

Subject: **Nominations for the 2007 Melina Mercouri International Prize
for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural
Landscapes (UNESCO-Greece)**

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite your Government to submit nominations for the Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes (UNESCO-Greece), which will be awarded in 2007.

The purpose of this Prize is to reward outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world's major cultural landscapes. It is named after Melina Mercouri, a precursor in the field of integrated conservation and sustainable development, a memorable actress and former Minister of Culture of Greece. It meets a new need, clearly identified by the World Heritage Committee which, at its 16th session, held in Santa Fe in December 1992, recognized that "the concept of cultural landscapes which completes the conventional ones of 'monuments' or 'sites', brings a more universal approach to cultural heritage. The protection of cultural landscapes is therefore one of the main priorities of the present time".

The Prize is awarded every two years. For the present biennium, the amount of the Prize has been set at US\$20,000.

The landscapes proposed in connection with the nomination must fit the definition of at least one of the three categories of cultural landscapes decided on by the World Heritage Committee (see appendix to Annex II).

Nevertheless, since the concept of cultural landscapes corresponds to new perceptions, nominations in respect of landscapes not fitting exactly into this typology may be considered in exceptional cases, provided that such landscapes illustrate exemplary achievements in respect of research, education or the promotion of public awareness.



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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

The prizewinner will be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the recommendation of an international jury, composed of three eminent specialists in the environmental sciences and the heritage, the Permanent Delegate of Greece to UNESCO, representing the Greek Government, and a representative of the Director-General.

The Prize may be awarded either to an individual or to a group of persons, working in a personal capacity or as staff member(s) of a private or public institution.

Candidates for the Prize may be nominated either by the governments of Member States, preferably in consultation with their National Commissions, or by relevant NGOs having official relations with UNESCO. Only one candidate may be nominated in each case. It is requested that all candidatures be centralized by the National Commission of the State concerned, which will be responsible for the selection and transmission of not more than two of them.

Knowing your Government's great interest in the safeguarding and management of cultural landscapes, I feel sure that it attaches considerable importance to the Melina Mercouri International Prize and will be in a position to submit nominations for 2006.

A nomination form is enclosed for this purpose, in Annex I. A copy of the Statutes of the Prize will be found in Annex II and, in the appendix thereto, the definition of cultural landscapes decided on by the World Heritage Committee, as mentioned in Article 8(a) of the Statutes.

Please note that the enclosed nomination form must be completed in **either English or French** and returned, together with all the requested documents, no later than **1 November 2006** directly to:

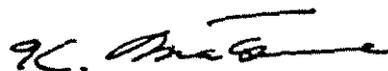
Melina Mercouri International Prize (UNESCO-Greece)
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Europe and North America Section
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
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Email : melinamercouriprize@unesco.org

Further information may be obtained from the Europe and North America Section at the World Heritage Centre (tel.: 33 (0)1 45.68.14 40 fax: 33 (0)1 45.68.55.70) and on the UNESCO website at: <http://whc.unesco.org>.

On behalf of the Organization and the international jury, I thank you in advance.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Koichiro Matsuura
Director-General

cc : National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

ANNEX I

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

Nomination form

I. Identification

- (a) Name of property
- (b) State
- (c) Location (State, province, region, etc.)
- (d) Exact location and geographical coordinates
- (e) Surface of the property and of any buffer-zone
- (f) Legal status, names and addresses of owners

II. Description of the property

A. Natural criteria

- (a) Integration in the large area
- (b) Geology - soil
- (c) Lakes, rivers, waters
- (d) Climate
- (e) Vegetation - natural
- (f) Vegetation - actual existing
- (g) Fauna

B. Cultural landscape elements

Architectural elements (walls, terraces, artificial lakes, canals, roads, etc.)

C. Typical forms of settlement

- (a) architectural features
- (b) forms of settlements

D. Aesthetic qualities

E. History of the property

F. Description and assessment of its present state of conservation

III. Justification of the nomination

1. Value of the property

- (a) Justification of the value and significance of the property as cultural landscape

- (b) Authenticity and integrity of the property

2. Management and conservation

- (a) Institutions and organizations in charge of its management and conservation (names and addresses) or biographical statement (in the case of private individuals)
- (b) History of the conservation
- (c) Present protective measures (legal and/or traditional) and how they are implemented
- (d) Policies, programmes and activities implemented for the preservation and presentation of the property and assessment of achievements
- (e) Management and development plans, statement of objectives and analyses of their implementation
- (f) Number of inhabitants and activities within the property
- (g) Staffing levels and qualifications
- (h) Visitor number and facilities
- (i) Sources and levels of finance for conservation
- (j) Dangers threatening the property and preventive measures undertaken

IV. Documentation to be provided

- (a) Maps and/or plans indicating:
 - geographical location of the property (scale 1:500,000 up to 1:2,000,000)
 - environmental map (scale 1:100,000)
 - topographical map (scale 1: 5,000 up to 1: 25,000), for small properties, scale 1:500 up to 1:1,000)
- (b) Slides
- (c) Documentation on the existing legal protection
- (d) Conservation and management plans
- (e) Inventory of the most important elements of the property
- (f) Address where inventory, records and archives are held
- (g) Bibliography

ANNEX II

Statutes of the Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes (UNESCO-Greece)

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Melina Mercouri International Prize (UNESCO-Greece) is to reward outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world's major cultural landscapes. It is to bear the name of Melina Mercouri, a precursor of integrated conservation and sustainable development, a memorable actress and Minister of Culture of Greece. It meets a new need, clearly identified by the World Heritage Committee, which, at its sixteenth session, held in Santa Fe in December 1992, recognized that the protection of cultural landscapes, a richer concept than the conventional one of "monuments" or "sites", is one of the main priorities of the present time.

2. Name and value of the prize

The prize shall be entitled the "Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes (UNESCO-Greece)".

This prize shall consist of a certificate and a sum of money, the amount of which shall be decided on every biennium on the basis of the funds available, account being taken of essential management costs.

3. Frequency

The prize shall be presented every two years by the Director-General of UNESCO at a public ceremony to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris or away from Headquarters, preferably in conjunction with the General Conference. The prize shall be awarded for the first time in 1997.

4. Eligibility

The prize may be awarded either to an individual or to a group of persons, working in a personal capacity or as staff member(s) of a private or public institution.

5. Selection of the prizewinner

The prizewinner shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the recommendation of an international jury, the membership of which shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 below.

6. The jury

The jury shall be composed of five members, as follows:

three eminent specialists in the environmental sciences and the heritage, appointed in a personal and honorary capacity by the Director-General of UNESCO, with due regard for the balanced representation of different cultural outlooks;

the Permanent Delegate of Greece to UNESCO, representing the Greek Government;

and a representative of the Director-General.

The Director-General shall appoint a member of the Secretariat to act as secretary to the jury. The jury shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

7. Nomination of candidates

- (a) Candidates for the prize may be nominated either by the governments of Member States, preferably in consultation with their National Commissions, or by relevant NGOs having official relations with UNESCO. Only one candidate may be nominated in each case.
- (b) The nomination papers shall include a biographical statement for each candidate in the case of private individuals, or a description of the organization responsible in the case of a legal entity.
- (c) They shall also include a detailed and illustrated statement justifying the proposal of the cultural landscape in respect of which the candidate is being nominated, and an assessment of achievements. The deadline for the submission of nominations and nomination papers to the Director-General shall be 1 November of the year prior to the award of the prize, i.e. 1 November 1996 in the case of the first award of the prize.

8. Criteria

- (a) The landscapes proposed in connection with the nomination must fit the definition of at least one of the three categories of cultural landscapes decided on by the World Heritage Committee at its sixteenth session (Santa Fe, 1992, see appendix).
- (b) Nevertheless, since the concept of cultural landscapes corresponds to new perceptions, nominations in respect of landscapes not fitting exactly into this typology may be considered in exceptional cases, provided that such landscapes illustrate exemplary achievements in respect of research, education or the promotion of public awareness.

9. Duration

The prize shall be established for an indefinite period. In the event of the founders deciding by mutual agreement no longer to award the prize, the balance outstanding shall remain at UNESCO's disposal after deduction of all obligations already incurred at the time that it is decided to discontinue the prize.

Appendix

Cultural landscapes fall into three main categories, namely:

- (i) The most easily identifiable is the clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by human beings. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons, which are often (but not always) associated with religious buildings and ensembles.

- (ii) The second category is the organically evolved landscape, a landscape that results from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features. They fall into two subcategories:

a relic (or fossil) landscape is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form;

a living landscape is one that retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.

- (iii) The final category is the associative cultural landscape. The inclusion of such landscapes on the World Heritage List is justifiable by virtue of the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.