

ECHOES OF THE SHORES



COMPETITION REGULATION

1. INTRODUCTION

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the Conservatoire du Littoral, through the Europe & International Delegation, is launching the **Echoes of the shores** Prize : "50 stories of coastal conservation from around the world". This award is a competition open to journalists, students, and professionals from around the world. It aims to highlight coastlines across the globe : their challenges, their beauty, their preservation, and the stories they hold. The goal is to create a collection of 50 testimonies in the form of photos, videos, written pieces, and audio recordings, all centered around coastal areas and their conservation worldwide.

The 50 selected contributions must "share the story of a coastline" and its conservation journey. A symbolic species or ecosystem? A striking event? A key figure in its protection? Unique cultural or heritage values preserved over the years? Struggles that have shaped its history? Share these stories through your contribution to the **Echoes of the shores** Prize !

2. PARTICIPATION

The competition is open to:

- Journalists, professionals or freelancers, whether specialized or generalists.
- Students in the fields of journalism, audiovisual media, and photography.
- Media professionals (photographers, videographers, podcasters, etc.).

Contributions may be created specifically for the **Echoes of the shores** Prize or have been produced and/or published in 2024 or 2023.

Participation is open to candidates of all nationalities, with no age restrictions.

Each participant may submit only one contribution in response to the call.

Contribution must be submitted on the dedicated platform, **[HERE](#)**, by May 19, 2025 6:00 PM UTC+2 Paris time.

3. CATEGORIES AND ACCEPTED FORMATS

Contribution must fall into one of the following categories:

- Photography: Photo reports or series of 3 to 10 images, along with an explanatory text (maximum 500 characters per photo).
- Video: Reports, documentaries, or audiovisual creations (maximum 52 minutes).
- Text: Illustrated articles (8,000 to 20,000 characters).
- Audio: Podcasts, reports, or radio programs (10 to 30 minutes).

Contributions must be in one of the following formats:

- Photography: JPEG or PNG, minimum 300 DPI, maximum 20MB per file.
- Video: MP4 or MOV in Full HD resolution or higher.
- Text: PDF or link to the online publication.
- Audio: MP3 or WAV, 44.1 kHz.

For more information, please refer to the Submission Guidelines.

4. LANGUAGES

Contributions may be in any language but must be along with a script translating the contribution into english or french, in Word or PDF format.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Each application must include the following documents:

- The contribution in one of the four categories described in section 3.
- A personal or professional biography (1,500 to 2,000 characters) describing your background, experiences, and motivations.
- A recent ID photo or portrait, which may be used for communication materials if selected.
- The signed Declaration of Originality and Authorization, certifying that the submission is an original work and authorizing its use within the framework of the Prize.

For more information, please refer to the Submission Guidelines.

6. SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

From all submitted contributions, the organizing committee will select 50 contributions to create the **Echoes of the shores** collection. The goal of this collection is to reflect the diversity of coastal natural areas, their challenges and contexts, and the efforts made for their conservation, through a variety of perspectives. The originality of the contributions and the stories they tell will be central to the selection process. The organizing committee will ensure a balance between different formats within the collection, as well as geographical representativity.

Contributions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Originality: Quality and singularity of the perspective adopted.
- Journalistic quality: Rigour, structure, and relevance of the content.
- Impact: Ability to raise awareness and engage a wide audience.
- Relevance: Connection with coastal and environmental topics.
- Visual/audio quality (for multimedia formats).

Special mentions and five **Echoes of the shores** prizes (one per category: audiovisual, written, photography, audio, student) will be granted by the juries.

7. COMPOSITION OF THE JURIES

The jury for the contributions selected for the collection will be composed of the organizing committee.

Additionally, four sectoral juries will be established, one for each format in the collection. Each of these juries will include: an expert in coastal conservation issues, a professional journalist specializing in the respective format and an institutional partner. The jury compositions will ensure international geographical representation.

Each of the four sectoral juries will also select a student production (in addition to the contribution already awarded in their category). The organizing committee will then choose the student prize winner from these four student contributions.

The jury's decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

8. AWARDS

The 50 selected contributions will be promoted through the ICO Solutions networks (LinkedIn and website), as well as through the networks of the **Echoes of the shores** prize partners. Additional promotional events will also be organized, including collaborations with Conservatoire du Littoral sites and international partners of the Europe & International Delegation.

The five winners of the **Echoes of the shores** prizes will each have the opportunity to participate in a field mission with the teams of the Europe & International Delegation of the Conservatoire du Littoral and its partners. This experience, as part of an international cooperation project, will allow the winners to have a deeper understanding of coastal conservation challenges worldwide and the actions currently implemented for their protection in different contexts.

Note: Expenses will be covered for one participant per award.

9. TIMELINE

The **Echoes of the shores** Prize will follow the timeline below:

- Opening of applications: February 17, 2025
- Submission deadline: May 19, 2025 6:00 PM UTC+2, Paris time
- Jury deliberations: May 19 - June 30, 2025
- Announcement of winners: Autumn 2025

The organizers reserve the right to modify this timeline in the event of exceptional circumstances. Any changes will be communicated to participants.

10. USE RIGHTS

By participating in the competition, the authors of the selected contributions keep their copyright and grant the Conservatoire du Littoral a non-exclusive right to use, publish, and distribute their work for the promotion of the prize for a period of one year, until December 31, 2026.

The author's name will be systematically credited in any use, reproduction, distribution, or presentation of their contribution, regardless of the medium or format used, in accordance with their inalienable moral rights.

11. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Submissions for the Echoes of the Shores Award must be original works, resulting from authentic journalistic efforts carried out by the applicant.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for supporting purposes (such as research, grammatical correction, or technical optimization) is permitted, provided that it does not compromise the original, creative, and journalistic nature of the submitted work.

However, any submission that is entirely or predominantly generated by generative AI systems (text, images, videos, audio) without significant human intervention in the creation, narration, and journalistic analysis will not be accepted.

Applicants are required to disclose any use of AI tools in their creative process. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification.

12. PARTICIPANTS' COMMITMENTS

By participating in the competition, participants agree to:

- Submit original works for which they own the copyright and which do not infringe on any intellectual property rights.
- Ensure they hold all necessary rights and permissions from copyright holders, third parties, or collective management organizations.
- Comply with the themes, formats, and guidelines set out in these rules.
- Guarantee that their submission contains no defamatory, discriminatory, or illegal content.
- Provide accurate information in the required supporting documents (biography, originality declaration, etc.).
- Accept that their contribution may be used under the conditions described in section 10.

Any lack of commitment will result in disqualification.

13. ORGANIZERS' COMMITMENTS

The organizers of the [Echoes of the shores](#) Prize commit to:

- Ensuring impartiality and transparency in the selection process.
- Informing selected participants of the competition results.
- Valuing the selected contributions while respecting copyright as outlined in section 10.
- Respecting the confidentiality of information provided by participants, in accordance with section 13 on data protection.

14. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

As part of the [Echoes of the shores](#) Prize, the organizers collect and process participants' personal data (name, contact details, biography, etc.) in order to:

- Manage applications and communicate about the prize.
- Highlight selected participants during the results announcement.

In accordance with applicable laws, participants have the right to access, modify, and correct their personal data and may object to its processing upon request by contacting the addresses provided in section 16.

15. MODIFICATION CONDITIONS

The organizers reserve the right to modify, extend, shorten, suspend, or cancel the competition due to unforeseen circumstances or force majeure, without engaging their responsibility.

In such cases, no compensation may be claimed by participants.

Any modifications will be communicated to participants through appropriate channels (email, official website, etc.) and will not affect already submitted applications.

16. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Participation in the **Echoes of the shores** Prize implies full acceptance of these rules.

Any violation of the terms will result in immediate disqualification.

17. CONTACT

For any questions or additional information, please contact:

- c.grouard@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr
- l.fagot@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr



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50 Stories of coastal conservation from around the world