

# Frontiers Planet Prize 4<sup>th</sup> edition

Mobilizing science for a global green renaissance: 3 prizes of 1 million US dollars awarded annually to accelerate and scale up breakthrough research to get humanity back into the safe operating space of our planet.



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## What is the Frontiers Planet Prize

The Earth's system is rapidly approaching planetary boundaries. There is a broad consensus amongst scientists that human activity is the primary driver of these breaches, and the time needed to protect and restore planetary health is slipping away.

The Frontiers Planet Prize is committed to addressing the planetary crisis by mobilizing the international scientific community engaged in breakthrough research with the greatest potential to stabilize the planet's ecosystem. Each edition awards 3 scientists with **1 million US dollars** to accelerate and scale up their research.

The Frontiers Planet Prize is awarded to the best research that focuses on advancing insights, approaches, and scalable solutions to navigate a world that develops within the safe operating space of the 9 planetary boundaries. These boundaries represent a framework that quantifies the limits of our earth system, and is detailed by Professor Johan Rockström, Co-Chairman of the **Earth Commission**, and **Owen Gaffney**, in their book and documentary on **Breaking Boundaries**.

Since its launch on Earth Day 2022, the prize has engaged **610 institutions** across 42 countries, including **20 national academies of science**. More than 10,000 scientists have participated through their contributions as co-authors of nominated articles.

Over the first two editions, the independent international expert jury of 100, has selected and recognized **43 National Champions** and **7 International Champions**. Collectively, the International Champions have been awarded a total of 6.6 million USD across both editions to accelerate, scale up, and amplify the impact of their research.



## How the competition works



The Frontiers Planet Prize aims to combat the planetary crisis at a global level by fostering a passionate competition between scientists, universities, and nations to fund and develop science that provides real solutions to the global environmental threats we face.

Institutions acting as National Nominating Bodies for the Frontiers Planet Prize will reach out to **the lead scientists** of the most promising research articles and invite them to apply via filling out an application form to enter the competition. Your National Nominating Body will reach out and set a deadline for when they expect to receive all applications.

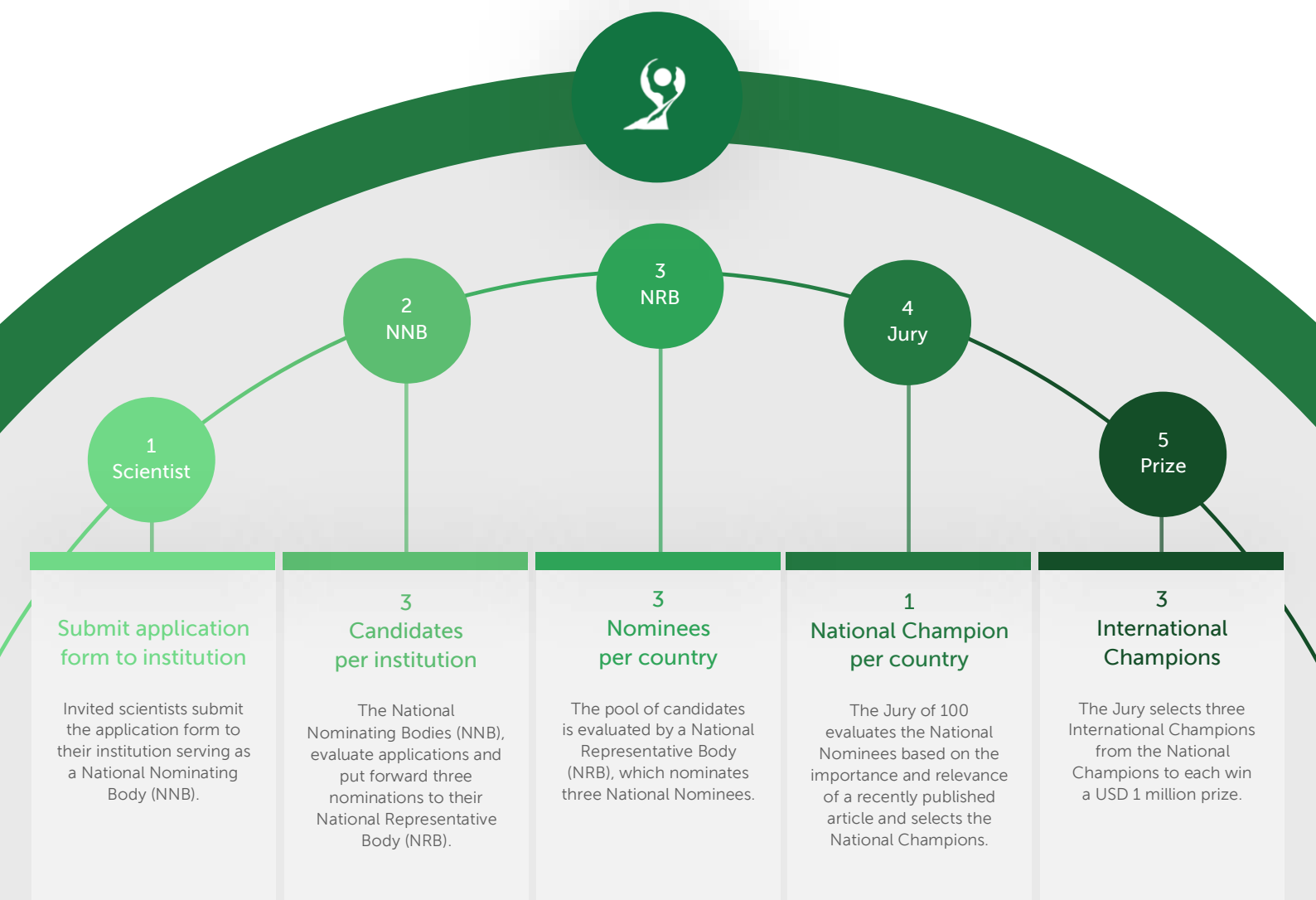
The National Nominating Body will select its top three candidates from these applications and forward them to the national academy serving as its National Representative Body (NRB). The deadline for NNBs to submit their nominations to their NRB is 1st November 2025.

From this pool of candidates, the National Representative Body will select three National Nominees to submit to the Planet Prize Jury of 100 before December 1st.

The international Jury of 100, chaired **by Professor Johan Rockström**, will evaluate the National Nominees based on the importance and relevance of their insights and proposed breakthrough solution.

The jury carries out a voting process where each participating country is eligible to be awarded a National Champion, and then from among these selected National Champions, it will vote for the International Champions to win the 2026 Frontiers Planet Prizes.

The National Champions will be announced on Earth Day 2026 (22nd April). The International Champions will be announced at the Award Ceremony in Switzerland taking place in spring, each of whom will be awarded with 1 million US Dollars.



## Timeline



### Now

National Nominating Bodies invite the lead scientists of the most promising research articles in their institution to apply. Applicants submit a 2-page application form to enter the competition, by the deadline set by their NNB.



### Now - November

Each National Nominating Body submits 3 nominations to their country's National Representative Body.  
Deadline: 1 November 2025



### November - December

Each National Representative Body evaluates the nominations from their NNBs, selects 3 National Nominations and submits them to the Jury of 100.  
Deadline: 1 December 2025



### December - February 2026

The Jury of 100 reviews the applications and votes to select the National and International Champions.



### 22 April 2026

The official announcement of the National Champions is made on Earth Day.



### June 2026

The official announcement of the International Champions is made during the Award Ceremony taking place in Spring.

The Frontiers Planet Prize will be awarded to the best research published in established peer-reviewed scientific journals, with robust peer review and transparent publication procedures. The acceptance date of the article must fall within the 2 years prior to the launch of the competition (date of acceptance: 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2025).

The USD 1 million prize will be given to the host institution of the winning researcher by the Frontiers Research Foundation, to accelerate the scientist's breakthrough research.

In cases where the winning research is conducted by a group of scientists, the prize will be awarded to the lead scientist of the study, as determined, and put forward by their National Nominating Body. The Frontiers Research Foundation will then acknowledge the team of researchers at later stages.

Winners must be scientists actively conducting planetary boundary and earth system research under the management of an established government or corporate research institution.

Note that the Frontiers Planet Prize does not guarantee a National Champion from each participating country. This decision, along with the selection process, is managed independently by the Jury of 100

## Scientific criteria

The prize welcomes research across all disciplines on condition it is focused on planetary boundary science and offers new insights that help to reduce the destabilization of the Earth system.

Scientific excellence is the default principle to participate in the Frontiers Planet Prize, with each nomination providing actionable solutions to bring us back into the safe operating space of the 9 planetary boundaries. The Frontiers Planet Prize accepts articles published in international scientific journals with robust peer review and transparent publication procedures. We welcome breakthrough science across all disciplines on the condition it is focused on Planetary Boundaries and presents original research findings or insightful reviews and syntheses.

For contributions to be considered for the Frontiers Planet Prize, the following criteria must be met:



The research outlines actionable solutions or pathways that can be implemented in policy, adapted commercially, or otherwise contribute to keep global development within Planetary Boundaries.



The research advances scientific understanding and quantification of Planetary Boundaries. It explores how Planetary Boundaries are affected or impact life support systems/the Earth system or investigates the implications of adopting Planetary Boundaries thinking across different disciplines, sectors and activities/applications.



The research must connect to several Planetary Boundaries at the Earth system scale. Research that explores interactions/relations between multiple Planetary Boundaries will be prioritized.

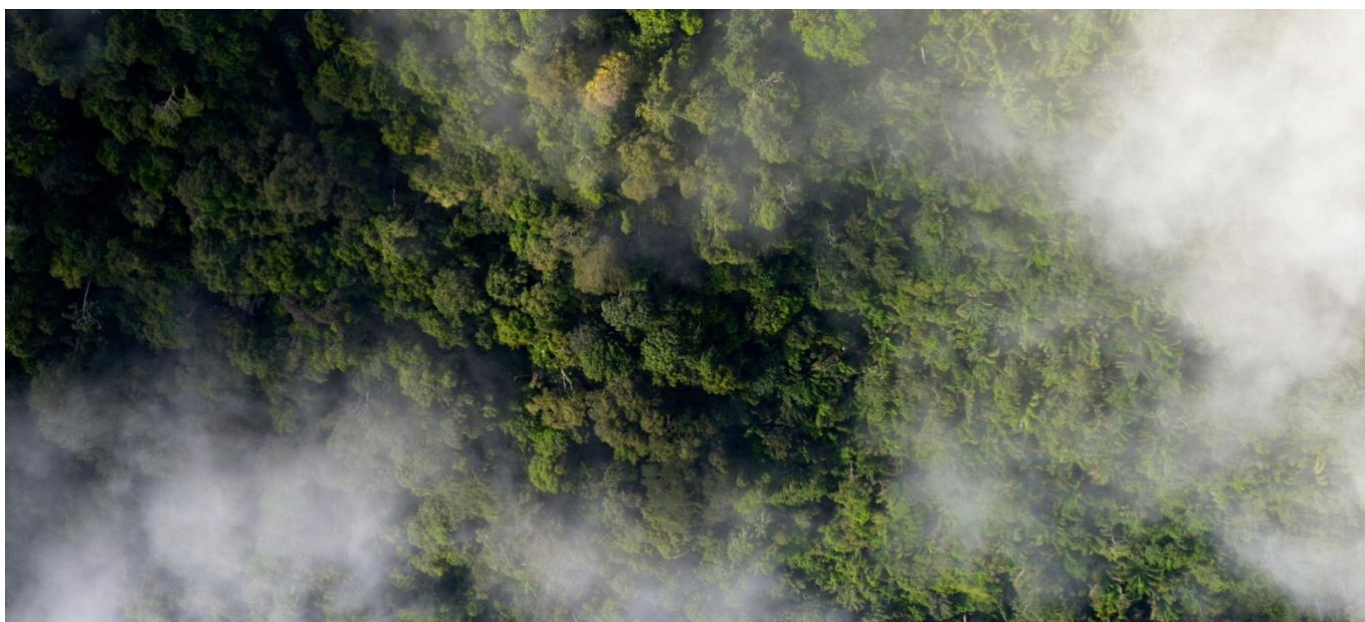


## Put your work forward

If you have been invited to apply and are interested in entering the competition, please put forward your work by filling in the application form, attaching a PDF of your research article, and returning it to your institution.

The deadline for submission will be communicated by your National Nominating Body, but there will be a rolling evaluation of applications and it is recommended you apply as soon as possible

Please talk to your host institution for more information.



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**global green renaissance**

Presented by



Prof Dr Jean-Claude Burgelman,  
Director, Frontiers Planet Prize

[Jean-claude.burgelman@frontiersplanetprize.org](mailto:Jean-claude.burgelman@frontiersplanetprize.org)

Dr Gilbert De Gregorio,  
Associate Director

[Gilbert.degregorio@frontiersplanetprize.org](mailto:Gilbert.degregorio@frontiersplanetprize.org)