

COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS



Cabo Verde - Union of the Comoros
Guinea Bissau - Madagascar
Maldives - Mauritius - Reunion Island
São Tomé and Príncipe - Seychelles

REGULATION

Foreword

The Indian Ocean Commission, through the World Bank-funded SWIOFISH2 project, is organising a competition to promote circular economy and the reduction of marine pollution by plastics.

This competition, called the Blue Champion Award, aims to raise awareness on the challenges of sustainable development in the islands of Africa and the Indian Ocean by involving young entrepreneurs and project leaders.

The Blue Champion Award is supported by the Jeune Chambre Internationale de Maurice, Synergie Jeune Océan Indien, the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Indian Ocean, the SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH), Entreprendre au féminin océan Indien (EFOI) and L'Eco Austral.

Article 1 – Presentation

1.1. The Blue Champion Award is a competition open to young entrepreneurs or project leaders aged 18 to 40 from AIODIS countries, namely: Cabo Verde, the Union of the Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles.

1.2. The objective is to promote the circular and blue economies in the above-mentioned countries. The fight against marine pollution by plastics is a priority of this initiative led by the Indian Ocean Commission through the SWIOFISH2 project funded by the World Bank.

Article 2 – Categories of the Blue Champion Award

The Blue Champion Award is divided into two categories:

- "Best Ocean Entrepreneur" Category
- "Best Innovative Concept" Category

Article 3 – Eligibility criteria

To participate in the Blue Champion Award, candidates must meet the following criteria:

3.1. Criteria for the "Best Ocean Entrepreneur" category:

- a) Be a national and/or resident of Cabo Verde, the Union of the Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles.
- b) Be between 18 and 40 years of age;
- c) Be the founder or co-founder of a company that integrates the circular economy into the economic model and contributes to the reduction of marine pollution in addition to providing economic and social benefits;
- d) Have a business registration certificate (minimum 12 months) of the company from the competent authority of one of the AIODIS countries.

3.2. Criteria for the "Best Innovative Concept" category:

- a) Be a national and/or resident of Cabo Verde, the Union of the Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles.
- b) Be between 18 and 40 years of age;

- c) Play a central role in a concept development / company that is or will be an individual initiative or partnership;
- d) Consider setting up a company or being in charge of a company based in one of the eligible countries that has been operating for less than 12 months.

3.3. An applicant may submit only one application per category.

3.4. The languages accepted for the Blue Champion Award are English, French and Portuguese. The candidate's file, including attachments, must be submitted in one of these three languages. Oral communications, particularly at the regional final, will be allowed in one of these three languages. Failure to comply with the language criterion will result in the disqualification of the candidate.

Article 4 – Withdrawal/submission of files and calendar

4.1. Interested candidates are invited:

- a) to apply [online¹](#) ; or
- b) to download an application form for the appropriate category of the Blue Champion Award « [Best Ocean Entrepreneur](#) »² or « [Best innovative concept](#) »³ and send it by email to communication@coi-ioc.org

4.2. In addition to the registration form and supporting documents requested, all applicants must submit:

- a) A one-page CV; and,
- b) A two-minute presentation video that answers the question "*Why should you win the Blue Champion Award?*" »

4.3. The Blue Champion Award calendar⁴ is as follows:

- a) **20 September 2019:** launch of the Blue Champion Award and start of the submission period
- b) **3 November 2019 at 23:59 Mauritius time (UTC+4):** Deadline for submission of applications. Late submissions will not be considered. Pre-selected candidates may be asked to provide additional information.
- c) **05 November 2019:** assessment of the admissibility of the files and transmission to the jury (date subject to change)
- d) **from 06 to 11 November 2019:** assessment of the files admissible by the members of the jury
- e) **12 November 2019:** consultation meeting of the jury and identification of the candidates selected for the regional final
- f) **from 13 to 14 November 2019:** notification to the selected candidates
- g) **from 15 November 2019:** procedures for participation in the regional final
- h) **9-11 December 2019:** Regional final of the Blue Champion Award in Mauritius as part of the Forum on Circular Economy in the AIODIS countries. The specific programme for the regional final will be sent to the selected candidates at a later stage

¹ <https://bit.ly/2kKkz8h>

² <https://bit.ly/2m04HOT>

³ <https://bit.ly/2kOcpLW>

⁴ New calendar adopted at the meeting of the National Focal Points of the AIODIS countries on 16/10/2019 in Mauritius. Previous calendar stated deadline on 20 October.

4.4. For any request for information:

- a) Consult the [online regulation](#)⁵ and the [list of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)⁶ on the IOC website⁷
- b) Contact IOC at communication@coi-ioc.org or call Asha or Catherine at +230 402 61 00.

Article 5 – Composition of the jury and evaluation criteria

5.1. The jury is appointed by the Blue Champion Award Steering Committee, which includes representatives of the Indian Ocean Commission and the initiative's partners. It is composed of entrepreneurs, associations and representatives of public administrations from various geographical backgrounds.

5.2. After the closing date for receipt of applications, the Steering Committee will check the applications to establish their eligibility for evaluation by the members of the jury.

5.3. The members of the jury will have 10 working days to carry out the technical evaluation of the applications. For both categories, this evaluation will cover 100 marks as follows:

- a) 60 marks for the quality of the file
- b) 20 marks for the candidate's profile
- c) 20 marks for the presentation video

5.4. The jury will hold a consultation meeting to establish the ranking of the applications. The jury will identify, for each category, one candidate per country who will be invited to participate in the regional final to be held in Mauritius from 09 to 11 December 2019.

5.5. The jury will carry out a second evaluation during the regional final to be held in Mauritius from 09 to 11 December 2019. This evaluation, over a total of 100 marks, will be as follows:

- a) 40 marks for the presentation of the company/concept and a question-and-answer session for the jury members
- b) 20 marks for the innovative aspect of the activity or business project
- c) 40 marks for a public pitching session at the Circular Economy Forum in Mauritius

5.6. The decisions of the jury shall be final and not subject to appeal except in the event of a proven breach of the confidentiality and impartiality clauses by one or more members of the jury.

Article 6 - Prize

6.1. The jury will select one winner per category. A trophy will be awarded to each winner.

6.2. The winner of the Blue Champion Award in the category of "Best Ocean Entrepreneur" will be rewarded with a participation in the Middle East - Africa Congress of the Junior Chamber International in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 17 to 20 June 2020. This award will provide significant visibility to the winner who will be called upon to present his company to the Congress participants and who will be able to expand his network. The Blue Champion Award organising committee will cover all costs of an estimated value of USD 5000.

6.3. The winner of the Blue Champion Award in the category of "Best Innovative Concept" will be rewarded with a study trip to a country at the forefront of the circular economy (location not determined). The Blue Champion Award organising committee will cover the full cost of the study trip of an estimated value of USD 5000.

6.4. All candidates selected for the regional final will be invited to participate in the Forum on Circular Economy in AIODIS countries to be held in Mauritius from 09 to 11 December 2019. The regional final of the Blue Champion Award as a side event of the Forum. The participation costs of the selected candidates will be fully met by the organising committee. This participation represents a first reward of an estimated value of USD 5000.

⁵ <https://bit.ly/32mEM15>

⁶ <https://bit.ly/32mEQ4j>

⁷ <https://bit.ly/2kKkz8h>

Article 7 - Disclaimer of liability

7.1. The Blue Champion Award organising committee cannot be held liable if, for reasons beyond its control and/or in the event of force majeure, the competition is shortened, modified, postponed or cancelled, without any compensation being due to the participants.

7.2. The organising committee cannot be held responsible if, for any reason beyond its control, technical malfunctions, computer bugs or any other technical problem impedes the smooth running of the competition. The complainants cannot claim any compensation.

7.3. The organising committee cannot be held liable under any circumstances if the entries do not reach it for a reason that cannot be attributed to it, in particular in the event of difficulties in connecting to the Internet, or if they reach it in an unreadable or impossible to process format. Connection costs remain the sole responsibility of the candidate.

7.4. The organising committee cannot be held responsible if, for any reason beyond its control, a candidate is unable to participate in the regional final to be held in Mauritius from 09 to 11 December 2019. In this case, the candidate must waive participation in the competition and may no longer claim any reward whatsoever.

7.5. The organising committee cannot be held responsible if, for any reason beyond its control, the winner of either category cannot benefit from his or her prize.

Article 8 - Participants' commitment clause

8.1. The participants in the Blue Champion Award are solely responsible for the admissibility of their application, the completeness and the effective transmission of their application within the time limits set.

8.2. The candidates selected to participate in the Blue Champion Award final to be held in Mauritius from 09 to 11 December 2019 undertake to be available for this period. They must have a valid passport and must incur any visa fees that may be reimbursed by the organising committee. They must also ensure that they comply with Mauritius' health regulations (up-to-date vaccinations).

8.3. Participants in the regional final must provide the organising committee with boarding passes for the trip to Mauritius. They also undertake to send the organising committee, by post or e-mail, the original or scanned copy of the boarding passes for the return trip to the country of origin after the event.

8.4. If a candidate is unable to participate in the regional final, he/she undertakes to waive his/her participation and may not be represented. He shall not be entitled to any reward or compensation of any kind whatsoever.

8.5. The winner of either category of the Blue Champion Award undertakes to make himself available to participate in the trips constituting the prize as indicated in articles 6.3. and 6.4. If a winner is unable to receive his prize for any reason independent of the organising committee, he undertakes to waive his prize and may not claim any other reward or compensation of any kind whatsoever.

Article 9 - Exclusions

The following are excluded from participation in the competition:

- Members of the organising committee and their family members (spouses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and children)
- The members of the Jury and their families (spouses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and children);
- Companies with more than 50 employees.

Any erroneous, incomplete or fraudulent statement by the participant will result in the cancellation of his participation.

Article 10 – Intellectual property and image rights



10.1. By participating in this competition, candidates certify on their honour that the projects submitted are their property. Any action contrary to this article shall not engage the responsibility of the contest organizer.

10.2. The organising committee undertakes to reiterate the principles of respect for intellectual property during the public sessions of the regional final, particularly at the beginning of the pitching session. However, the organising committee cannot be held responsible for any failure to comply with these principles by a third party who attended or participated in the Circular Economy Forum and/or the Blue Champion Award Final.

10.3. Participants are aware that their image could be communicated through the media in the context of the competition. To this end, by participating in the competition with the Indian Ocean Commission and its partners, they transfer the right to exploit their image (names, photos, videos, projects, applications, etc.) without this conferring on them any remuneration, any costs for damages, any right or benefit whatsoever other than the award of their prize.

10.4. This right of exploitation authorised by the candidate covers the entire period of the competition until the award of the prizes and extends over two (02) years after the award of the prizes. However, candidates have the right to access, modify, rectify and delete data concerning them. To exercise this right, they should send a letter to the Indian Ocean Commission by e-mail to communication@coi-ioc.org or by post to the Indian Ocean Commission - Blue Tower 3rd floor - Communication Unit - rue de l'Institut - Ebène, Republic of Mauritius.

Article 11 - Participation fees

11.1. The Blue Champion Award is a free competition. No access rights are required. Any expenses incurred by the candidate to submit his application remain his sole responsibility and cannot give rise to any compensation from the organising committee

11.2. In the event that a candidate is selected for the regional final in Mauritius, the participation costs will be covered by the organising committee, including round-trip airfare (AIODIS countries – Mauritius - AIODIS countries), accommodation and meals.

Article 12 – Compliance

Participation in the Blue Champion Award implies full and unreserved acceptance by the candidates of the terms of these rules.

The Blue Champion Award is supported by:

