

GDS-FORUM &

IMPACT DAY



MANY MINDS CAN...

GROW  
GROW  
GROW  
GROW  
GROW

ENGAGE TO  
CHANGE

?

GET  
HEARD

DO MORE

REDUCE

MOVE THE WORLD

DO LESS

# Changemaker Award 2026

Check the criteria below and submit your nomination via [this online Form](#)



▶ BETTER TOGETHER ◀

# Introduction

The *new* Changemaker Award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to advancing regeneration within a destination.

While strategies, frameworks, and policies matter, real transformation is driven by people who connect, challenge, and inspire.

Anyone is welcome to nominate a candidate for this award. Nominations are shortlisted by GDS-Movement.

**The winner will be selected and announced on 17 June by the community attending the GDS-Awards Ceremony during the GDS-Forum and Impact Day 2026 in Szczecin, Poland.**

**02 March 2026**

Impact, Innovation and  
Changemaker Award  
Applications Open

**17 April 2026**

Impact, Innovation and  
Changemaker Award  
Applications Close

**17 June 2026**

GDS-Awards Ceremony

# Eligibility

Anyone working in destination, visitor economy, public, or community systems, regardless of role or hierarchy, can be nominated.

## The award honours a professional who has:

- driven regenerative thinking and action within a destination;
- catalysed collaboration across sectors;
- shifted mindsets from “doing less harm” to creating net positive outcomes;
- translated ambition into practical, measurable change;
- demonstrated long-term commitment to place, people, and planet.

**This is not a lifetime achievement award: it recognises real-world leadership, courage, and impact.**

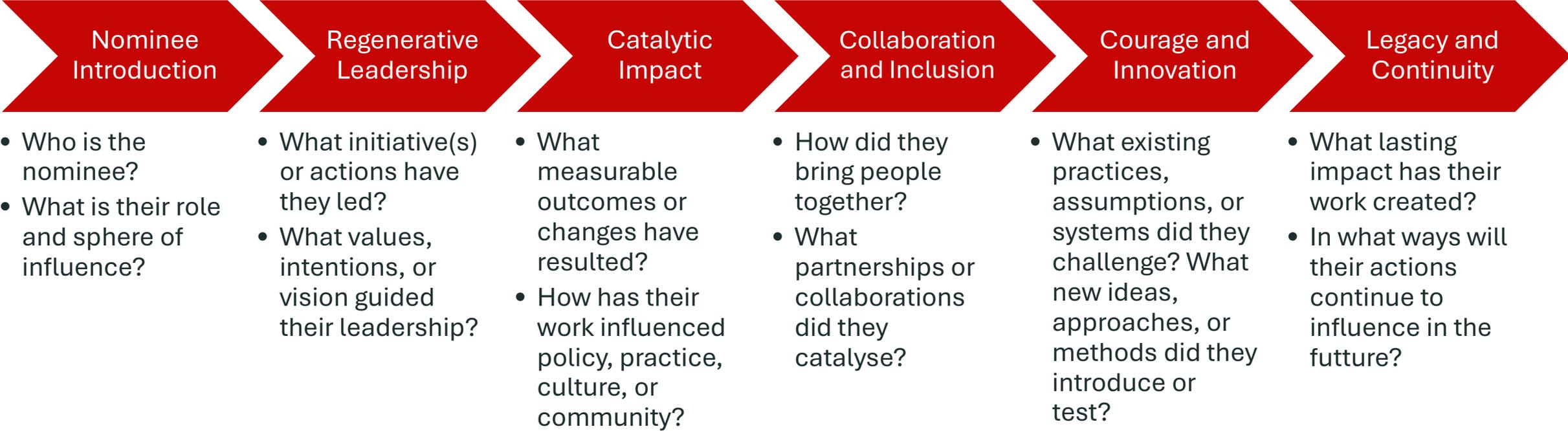
# Why Nominate a Changemaker

In addition to visibility among global DMOs, associations, policymakers, sustainability leaders, and positioning as a leader in regenerative destination transformation, the winner will:

- **enjoy on-stage exposure** at the 2026 GDS-Awards Ceremony in Szczecin;
- **be featured** on the GDS-Movement website and LinkedIn Channel;
- **receive coverage** in a dedicated press release;
- **be invited to serve as a judge** for the next edition of the Changemaker Award.

# Changemaker Nomination

Please prepare a **presentation** of a maximum of 6 slides about the individual you're nominating covering the following areas:



**Applicants may highlight one or more initiatives actioned by the nominee.**

# Judging Process and Criteria

The nominations will be shortlisted by the GDS-Movement based on eligibility criteria.

The winner is selected and announced on 17 June by the community attending the GDS-Awards Ceremony.

**The nominations will be shortlisted based on five criteria with defined scoring weight:**

- 1. Regenerative Leadership (weight: 25%)**  
Evidence of systems thinking, long-term vision, and values-driven leadership.
- 2. Catalytic Impact (weight: 25%)**  
Demonstrated change in policies, practices, partnerships, or outcomes.
- 3. Collaboration and Inclusion (weight: 20%)**  
Ability to bring diverse stakeholders together and empower others.
- 4. Courage and Innovation (weight: 15%)**  
Willingness to challenge the status quo and try new approaches.
- 5. Legacy and Continuity (weight: 15%)**  
Impact that endures beyond projects, funding, or individuals.

# Submission Rules

- Maximum of 8 slides;
- English language only;
- videos are allowed only if embedded or linked, not attached separately;
- links must be accessible;
- no confidential information unless authorised;

Only complete submissions submitted via the dedicated [online Form](#) will be evaluated.  
Late submissions will not be considered.

**Deadline: 17 April 2026**

For any questions, email Giulia Barbero at [giulia@gds.earth](mailto:giulia@gds.earth)

GDS-FORUM & IMPACT DAY



THANK YOU!

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

