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Man and the Biosphere
Programme

To all Permanent Delegates to
UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO

Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Man and the Biosphere Programme

6 February 2023

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Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to submit applications for the 2023 session of the MAB Young Scientist Awards, for young researchers carrying out interdisciplinary research in line with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

The criteria and conditions for the selection of award winners is enclosed for information. Please note that, since the 29th session of the MAB Council: *“applicants are strongly encouraged to take into account the priorities of the Lima Action Plan, and to identify in their applications how their research contributes to the research-related actions of the Lima Action Plan and to the Sustainable Development Goals”*.

I am also pleased to announce that in 2022, UNESCO and the Principality of Monaco have reached an agreement to award five (5) additional prizes to studies focusing on marine, island and coastal issues in biosphere reserves in 2023. We encourage the submission of research proposals in this area.

Candidates are invited to send their applications using the enclosed form **before 31 March 2023** to mab.awards@unesco.org and m.prchalova@unesco.org. All applications must be endorsed and signed by the respective MAB National Committee before they are submitted to the MAB Secretariat. In countries where MAB National Committees do not exist or are not fully operational, the selection on the national level will continue to be ensured by the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in question.

In order to facilitate the task of the Bureau of MAB Programme regarding the selection of the awards, the MAB National Committees are invited to only endorse candidates that meet the criteria and pay attention to a gender balance. Further information on the award may be found here: <https://www.unesco.org/en/man-and-biosphere/young-scientists>

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I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support to the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Yours sincerely,



Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa
Director a.i., Division of Ecological and
Earth Sciences
Secretary a.i., Man and the Biosphere
(MAB) Programme

Encl. Application Form – MAB Young Scientist Awards 2023
Information on criteria and conditions – MAB Young Scientist Awards