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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织



Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

MAB National Committees
National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
UNESCO Field Offices

30 October 2020

Ref.: CL/MAB/20/MABYSA2021

Subject: **Application for 2021 MAB Young Scientists Awards (YSA)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

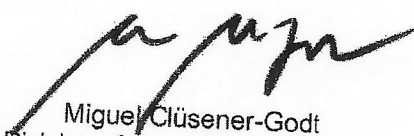
As you may know, the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) at its 29th session from 12 to 15 June 2017, adopted the new criteria and conditions for the selection of MAB Young Scientists Award winners in order to address the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for Biosphere Reserves and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Please find attached an application form for the 2021 Young Scientists Awards (Annex 1), and current objectives and the criteria regarding the selection of the Awards (Annex 2). 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 an attention to a gender balance.

Please note that the applications for the 2021 Awards should reach the MAB Secretariat in Paris **no later than 15 January 2021**. As in previous years, all applications must of course 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.

Finally, let me mention that information about the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme, including the objectives and selection criteria of the Awards endorsed by the 29th session of the MAB-ICC, as well as the application forms, are available on the UNESCO-MABNet at the following address:
<https://en.unesco.org/mab/awards#young-scientists>.

Yours sincerely,


Miguel Clüsener-Godt
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Encl.: Annex 1: Application form for the MAB Young Scientists Awards 2021
Annex 2: Information note on criteria and objectives

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Criteria and conditions for the selection of Award winners

The Awards basics

The MAB Young Scientists Awards targets young researchers carrying out interdisciplinary research in line with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Priority is given to projects carried out in biosphere reserves.

Until 2025, implementation of the UNESCO MAB Programme is guided by the MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (LAP), which contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MAB Young Scientists Award applicants are strongly encouraged to take into account the priorities of the LAP, and to identify in their applications how their research contributes to the research-related actions of the LAP and to the SDGs.

Objectives

The objectives of the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme are to:

- encourage young scientists, in particular those from developing countries, to use MAB research, project sites and biosphere reserves in their research;
- encourage young scientists who already use such sites to undertake comparative studies in other sites in or outside their own country;
- promote and encourage the exchange of information and experience among a new generation of scientists;
- ***strengthen communication of the LAP within the young scientists and strengthen its visibility;***
- ***involve young scientist in the implementation of the LAP;***
- ***enhance awareness among young scientists of the role of research in the implementation of the SDGs – in particular when conducted in biosphere reserves.***

Criteria

The following criteria are used in the selection of MAB Young Scientists Awards:

- To be eligible, award applications must be made on the MAB Young Scientists Award application form (in English or French) ***and follow-up technical requirements stated there.*** The application must be endorsed by the applicant's MAB National Committee*, which may endorse only two applications per year from applicants who are not older than **35** years of age (at the closing date of the application).
- ***Applications must contain concise information on past and existing research in areas concerned in order to present linkages and avoid duplications and financing of projects already carried-out.***

- Priority is given to interdisciplinary projects carried out in biosphere reserves designated under the Man and the Biosphere Programme or potential biosphere reserves **and which contribute to the implementation of the LAP and the SDGs. In this regard, applicants shall identify in their applications if and how their research contributes to the research-related actions of the LAP and to the SDGs.**
- Applicants from developed countries are eligible for Awards only in exceptional cases **or if working in joint partnership with developing countries.**
- Awards are set at a maximum of US\$5,000 each.
- Research supported by an Award should be completed within two years.
- Candidates must accept to submit reports of Award-funded research to the MAB Secretariat in Paris and to their MAB National Committees*, and agree to the possibility of UNESCO publishing the results of their research.
- International travel expenses are usually not covered under these Awards.

* For the countries in which a MAB National Committee does not exist or is not fully operational, the National Commission for UNESCO will ensure the selection of candidates according to the above criteria.