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Man and the Biosphere
Programme

To all Permanent Delegates
and Observers to UNESCO
National Commissions for
UNESCO

Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Man and the Biosphere Programme

27 March 2025

Ref: SC/EES/ESP/25/2208

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased herewith to invite the submission of applications for the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Young Scientist Awards (YSA) 2025, which recognizes young researchers carrying out interdisciplinary research in line with UNESCO's MAB Programme.

The criteria and conditions for selecting 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 recall since 2023, UNESCO and the Principality of Monaco reached an agreement to award five (5) additional prizes to studies focusing on marine, island and coastal issues in biosphere reserves for MAB YSA winners in 2023, thereby reinforcing the contribution of the MAB Programme towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The Principality of Monaco has generously agreed to continue its support, and therefore, five (5) additional prizes will also be supported in 2025. These additional prizes are known as “MAB Young Scientists Awards-Prince Albert I of Monaco.” We encourage the submission of research proposals in this area.

Candidates are invited to send their applications using the enclosed form **before 15 May 2025** to **mab@unesco.org**. All applications must be endorsed and signed by the respective MAB National Committee before submitting them 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 Bureau of MAB Programme's task of selecting the awards, the MAB National Committees are invited to endorse only candidates who meet the criteria and pay attention to gender balance. Further information on the award may be found here: <https://en.unesco.org/mab/awards#young-scientists>.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support of the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. De Sousa Abreu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Antonio De Sousa Abreu
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Encl. Application Form – MAB Young Scientist Awards 2025
Information on criteria and conditions – MAB Young Scientist Awards