

7th Edition - MapBiomass Award

Celebrating 10 Years of the Initiative

1. BACKGROUND

MapBiomass is a collaborative and multi-institutional network involving over 100 institutions, including universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and technology companies across 14 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, French Guiana, Indonesia, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela).

Established in 2015, the initiative aims to generate data on land-use transformations through science with precision, speed, and quality, informing decision-makers in the public and private sectors and civil society to promote the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and address climate change. To achieve this, MapBiomass uses cloud processing and artificial intelligence on the Google Earth Engine platform to create annual historical series of land cover and use maps from 1985 to the present, based on remote sensing data, such as satellite images.

MapBiomass data is open-access, available for free and has been widely used in various applications. Through the platforms of MapBiomass' initiatives (e.g., <https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/iniciativas-mapbiomas>), users can analyze annual data and land cover and use transitions across various territorial units such as biomes, states, municipalities, watersheds, conservation units, and Indigenous territories. In addition to the land cover and use transition module, the platform also features modules on deforestation, secondary vegetation, temporal analyses, infrastructure, irrigation, pasture quality, mining, fire scars, water, 10 meters resolution land cover and use mapping, degradation, and urbanization. It also includes a monitor for monthly data on fire scars and water surface in Brazil.

Through its collaborative network and open, free, and transparent sharing of data, maps, methods, and codes, the MapBiomass network has expanded to include local institutions in other countries in land cover and use mapping, giving rise to the following initiatives: Amazon (<https://amazonia.mapbiomas.org/>), Chaco (<https://chaco.mapbiomas.org/>), Atlantic Forest (<https://bosqueatlantico.mapbiomas.org/>), Pampa (<https://pampa.mapbiomas.org/>), Indonesia (<https://mapbiomas.nusantara.earth/>), Peru (<https://peru.mapbiomas.org/>), Bolivia (<https://bolivia.mapbiomas.org/>), Colombia (<https://colombia.mapbiomas.org/>), Venezuela (<https://venezuela.mapbiomas.org/>), Uruguay (<https://uruguay.mapbiomas.org/>), Ecuador (<https://ecuador.mapbiomas.org/>), Paraguay (<https://paraguay.mapbiomas.org/>), Chile (<https://chile.mapbiomas.org/>) and Argentina (<https://argentina.mapbiomas.org/>).

Additionally, the MapBiomass network created the **MapBiomass Alert** (<http://alerta.mapbiomas.org/>), which validates and refines alerts of vegetation loss in all

Brazilian biomes using high-resolution satellite images and generates reports on confirmed deforestation, including land tenure information and signs of illegality. It also includes a monitoring system with information on permits, penalties, and embargoes issued by government agencies to control deforestation in Brazil.

This **7th Edition of the MapBiomias Award**, in partnership with the Ciência Hoje Institute, aims to encourage and expand applications and works using data from any MapBiomias product, module, or initiative in the 14 countries of the network (<https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/iniciativas-mapbiomas/>).

MapBiomias will award **nine (9) works** that explore the use and applications of data from any MapBiomias initiative, module, or product, with total prizes of **R\$90,000 (ninety thousand reais)**. Among these awards, two will be for the general category, two specifically for the youth category (for undergraduate or recently graduated students), one for the category highlight application in public policies, one for the category highlight application in business, one for the category application in schools, one for the special category actions to reduce deforestation, and another for the new category: **climate emergency**. Specially for categories related to public policies, business, schools, deforestation actions, and climate emergency, submissions do not need to follow the format of a scientific article.

To commemorate MapBiomias initiative **10-year anniversary**, the MapBiomias Award, in partnership with the Ciência Hoje Institute, aims to inspire creative and innovative use of its data, expanding its reach and applications to positively impact public policies, business, education, and efforts to combat deforestation and the climate emergency.

2. OBJECTIVE

MapBiomias Award aims to recognize and encourage works that develop solutions and contribute to the production of knowledge and applications in public policies, the private sector, and education through the use of data from a MapBiomias initiative, module, or product. If you are positively impacting conservation, sustainable management or climate change mitigation, submit your work to MapBiomias Award and join us to expand your reach and the transformative power of these actions.

3. ELIGIBILITY - WHO CAN APPLY

3.1. Individuals or entities can submit works such as studies, articles, monographs, dissertations, theses, or reports. Authors can apply individually or collaboratively. Applicants may include: students from schools, technical programs, undergraduate or graduate courses, teachers, professors, consultants, or freelancers, professionals from private companies or from NGOs, public administrators, members of civil society organizations (CSOs) and universities. Given the variety of themes and areas of application, there is no mandatory format for submitted works.

3.2. Works submitted to the MapBiomias Award can be written in Portuguese, English, or Spanish.

3.3. Eligibility and description of categories for the 7th Edition of the MapBiomias Award:

3.3.1. General Category: This category is open to any work meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in **3.6**. All entries submitted in other categories are automatically considered for the General Category, regardless of the specific area of application.

3.3.2. Youth Category: This category is exclusively for works where the main author is **30 years old or younger** and is either currently enrolled in an undergraduate program, or graduated in 2024 or later. This category encourages young talents to use MapBiomias data in their projects and research.

3.3.3. Category Highlight Application in Public Policies: This category is for works that use data from any MapBiomias initiative to support the development, implementation, or evaluation of public policies. This category highlights projects demonstrating the practical application of data in formulating concrete solutions for environmental management and sustainability.

3.3.4. Category Highlight Application in Business: This category is for works showcasing how MapBiomias data can be integrated into innovative and sustainable business models. Eligible projects must demonstrate contributions to natural resource conservation and sustainable management, combining economic value with environmental preservation.

3.3.5. Category Highlight Application in Schools: This category is for works that use MapBiomias data in **primary or secondary education** (e.g., early childhood, elementary, or high school levels). Examples include incorporating data into teaching materials, curriculum-based or extracurricular projects, pedagogical activities, or developing educational resources for schools. The goal is to highlight educational practices that promote scientific literacy and engage students with environmental topics.

3.3.6. Special Category Actions to Reduce Deforestation: This category is for works that use data from any MapBiomias initiative to support actions aimed at reducing, combating, or monitoring deforestation. Projects in this category should demonstrate significant contributions, preferably already applied or in the process of being implemented, to preserve native vegetation, enforce environmental regulations, and combat illegal deforestation.

3.3.7. Special Category Climate Emergency: This category focuses on works that leverage MapBiomias data to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. Projects should demonstrate the application of data in strategies for reducing vulnerability to extreme climatic events, adapting public policies, and fostering climate resilience. These works should contribute to solutions addressing the global climate crisis.

3.4. For the General Category, Highlight Application in Public Policies, Highlight Application in Business, Highlight Application in Schools, Special Category Actions to Reduce Deforestation, and Special Category Climate Emergency, there are no restrictions on age or educational level.

3.5. Works must be submitted by one of the authors.

3.6. To be eligible, works must meet the following criteria:

- a. Use data from any initiative, module, or product of MapBiomias.

- b. Be unpublished or published after **2024** in formats such as scientific articles, theses, monographs, books, or reports, or describe applications of MapBiomass data in public policies, projects, or activities developed by civil society, businesses, or schools.

3.7. Applicants can submit multiple works, either individually or collaboratively. However, each work can only win one prize.

3.8. If no work meets the award criteria, it may be decided to not award the prize in one or more categories.

3.9. Authors submitting scientific articles published in journals or other restricted access mediums (e.g., without an "open access" license - freely available to the general public), or those in the process of submission or review, will be asked to produce an extended abstract of the work in case it is awarded, ensuring its dissemination on the MapBiomass website without violating the copyright policies of the publication channels. Whenever possible, the links and/or DOIs of the awarded works will be disclosed.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURE

4.1. REGISTRATION

4.1.1. Submissions are free and must be completed by **March 28th, 2025**.

4.1.2. Authors (individuals or organizations) must complete an online form with personal and project details.

4.1.3. The following documents must be submitted via the online form:

- a. **Complete work in digital format (PDF)**. For scientific works, it is recommended that the work contains an introduction, objectives, materials and methods and results, which may include figures, graphs, maps, tables, photos and/or others. For non-academic works, related to applications in public policies, business or schools and for the Special Categories Actions to Reduce Deforestation and Climate Emergency, it is suggested that the work contains an introduction with the relevance of the work, description of the activity or process in which the MapBiomass data were used, results and impacts achieved by this work, which may include figures, maps, tables, photos and other records about the work. The works can be published articles, thesis, monographs, book chapters, reports, practical applications, however, limit your text to a maximum of 10,000 (ten thousand words). If the original work exceeds this limit, applicants are encouraged to adapt their submission.
- b. **Algorithms and codes**, if used, must be made publicly accessible or included with the submission.
- c. **Declaration signed by all authors** (the model in Appendix I) agreeing to send the work to compete for the Award. All authors must compulsorily sign the declaration, which can be a single file with all signatures or each author signing an individual declaration with the title of the work. These declarations should be consolidated into a single PDF file for submission through the form.

4.1.4. About the word limit mentioned on item 4.1.3: the entire body of the text counts for the 10,000 word limit. What does not count: (1) attachments or supplementary materials, (2) scripts, algorithms and codes used for the analyses, (3) general information about the article such as the title or name and institution of the authors, (4) abstract, (5) references, (6) for published/submitted articles, information from scientific journals, such as the name of the author or the journal in the footnotes or headers of each page. Applicants must provide the total word count during submission. Submissions exceeding the limit will be disqualified.

4.1.5. Submissions made by mail will not be accepted. Proposals submitted by any means other than those described in items 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 of this document will not be accepted, nor proposals submitted after the deadline established in item 4.1.1.

4.1.6. All data requested in the registration will be used only for award purposes.

4.1.7. Only candidates who fill in all the mandatory fields of the online form, according to item 4.1.2 of this document, and submit complete documentation as specified in item 4.1.3, will have their application accepted and will participate in the work evaluation stage, described in item 4.2 of this document.

4.2. WORK EVALUATION

4.2.1. An Award Committee will be established specifically for this award, consisting of at least **five (5) members**, including specialists and representatives of partner organizations involved in this initiative.

4.2.2. The members of the Award Committee will be designated by the MapBiomias team and Ciência Hoje Institute.

4.2.3. The members of the Award Committee will be responsible for the confidentiality of the candidates' information.

4.2.4. The criteria for judging the work are:

- a. Consistency;
- b. Relevance;
- c. Originality and Innovation;
- d. Potential of technical-scientific, socioeconomic, environmental, and public policy impact.

4.2.5. The results will be widely announced on the institutional communication channels of MapBiomias and the Ciência Hoje Institute.

4.2.6. The decisions of the Award Committee are final, and no appeals or reviews will be considered.

5. AWARDING

5.1. A total of **nine (9) prizes** will be awarded, as follows:

- a. 1st place in General Category - value of R\$ 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand reais);
- b. 2nd place in General Category - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais);

- c. 1st place in the Youth Category - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais);
- d. 2nd place in the Youth Category - value of R\$5,000 (five thousand reais);
- e. Highlight Application in Public Policies - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais);
- f. Highlight Application in Business - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais);
- g. Highlight Applications in School - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais);
- h. Actions to Reduce Deforestation - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais);
- i. Climate Emergency - value of R\$ 10,000 (ten thousand reais).

5.2. In addition to monetary prizes, each winner will receive an annual subscription to *Ciência Hoje Digital Magazine*, a scholarship for a course on Geoprocessing of satellite images using Google Earth Engine promoted by Solved, and the production of a short video (up to 2 minutes) about the winning work.

5.3. Certificates will be issued for award winning authors.

5.4. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered for up to 1 (one) author per awarded work to attend the award ceremony, which will take place on a date and location to be announced.

5.5. Travel expenses will only be covered for routes within Brazil.

6. TIMETABLE

Activity	Date
Award's term of reference publication	November 13 th 2024
Registration period	November 13 th 2024 to March 28 th 2025
Announcement of results	June 2025
Award ceremony	June 2025

7. GENERAL REGULATIONS

7.1 By participating, the winners automatically authorize MapBiomias and *Ciência Hoje Institute*, free of charge, to reproduce and disseminate, by any electronic, printed or audiovisual means, in whole or in part, in Brazil and abroad, their works, scientific articles, and respective figures and photographs, as well as footage recorded at the awards ceremony.

7.2. Decisions taken by the Award Committee cannot be appealed to.

7.3. Failure to comply with any instruction of this document implies disqualification of the competing work.

7.4. Cases not covered by this document will be analyzed by the Award Committee.

7.5. At any time, this document may be canceled or revoked for reasons of public interest, in whole or in part, without this implying the right to compensation or complaint of any nature.

7.6. Doubts and other information about this document should be sent solely and exclusively to the electronic address <premio@mapbiomas.org>.

APPENDIX I

Author declaration template

The author(s) hereby authorizes the submission of the work entitled “**INSERT WORK TITLE**” to the 7th Edition of the MapBiomass Award, and they are in accordance with the requirements and regulations of this award’s notice.

All people listed as authors must sign this declaration.

The original declaration document must be signed, dated and forwarded via the online registration form.

Date:

Name and signature of all authors participating in the submitted work:
