

8th Edition of the MapBiomas Award

1. BACKGROUND

MapBiomas 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, MapBiomas 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.

MapBiomas data are publicly available and have been applied in countless contexts. Through the platforms of its different initiatives (e.g., <https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/iniciativas-mapbiomas/>), users can explore annual data and land cover and land use transitions across various territorial units, including biomes, states, municipalities, watersheds, protected areas, Indigenous territories, among others. In addition to the land cover and land use module, the platform also features modules on deforestation, secondary vegetation, agriculture, pasture, mining, fire scars, water, coastal reefs, degradation, urban areas, and environmental analyses. It also includes monthly data on fire scars (via the Fire Monitor) and water surface (via MapBiomas Water and the Watershed Module in Brazil).

Furthermore, the MapBiomas network developed MapBiomas Alerta (<http://alerta.mapbiomas.org/>), a system that validates and refines deforestation alerts across all Brazilian biomes, using high-resolution satellite imagery, cross-referencing with territorial data, and providing detailed ready-to-use technical reports for each deforestation event.

The 8th Edition of the MapBiomas Award, organized in partnership with Instituto Ciência Hoje, aims to encourage and expand applications and projects that use data from any MapBiomas product, module, or initiative across the 14 countries in the network, reinforcing the importance of solutions that address environmental

challenges (<https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/iniciativas-mapbiomas/>). MapBiomas will award ten (10) works that showcase the use and application of data from any MapBiomas initiative, module, or product, with a total prize pool of R\$100,000 (one hundred thousand reais). Awards will be given to the first and second place of the general category, first and second place of the youth category (for undergraduate or recently graduated students), one for the winner of category highlight application in public policies, one for the winner of the category highlight application in business, one for the winner of the category highlight application in schools, one for the winner of the special category actions to reduce deforestation, one for the winner of the category climate emergency and one for the winner of the new Special Category: Traditional Peoples and Communities.

It is important to note that, particularly in the categories of Public Policy, Business, Schools, Actions to Reduce Deforestation, Climate Emergency, and Traditional Peoples and Communities, submissions do not need to take the form of a scientific article.

2. OBJECTIVE

MapBiomas 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 MapBiomas initiative, module, or product. If you are positively impacting conservation, sustainable management or climate change mitigation, submit your work to MapBiomas Award and join us to expand your reach and the transformative power of these actions.

3. GENERAL RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1. The MapBiomas Award is open to works (examples: studies, articles, monographs, dissertations, theses, reports) authored by individuals or legal entities, either individually or in co-authorship. Eligible authors include school students, technical, undergraduate and graduate students, professors, consultants, independent professionals, employees of private companies or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public managers, civil society organizations (CSOs), and universities. Given the diversity of themes and areas of application, there is no single model or format required for submissions.

3.2. Submissions to the MapBiomas Award may be written in Portuguese, English, or Spanish.

3.3. Eligibility and description of categories for the 8th Edition of the MapBiomas Award:

3.3.1. General Category: Open to any work that meets the Award's eligibility criteria (item 3.6). All submissions to other categories will also automatically compete in the General Category, regardless of their specific area of application.

3.3.2. Youth Category: Exclusively for works whose lead author is 30 years old or younger and is currently enrolled in an undergraduate program or has graduated in 2025 or later. The purpose of this category is to encourage young talents to apply MapBiomass data in their research and projects.

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

3.3.4. Category Highlight Application in Business: For works that use data from any MapBiomass initiative in businesses contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. Eligible projects are those that integrate data into innovative and sustainable business models, generating economic value while preserving the environment.

3.3.5. Category Highlight Application in Schools: This category is for works that use MapBiomass 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 MapBiomass 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 MapBiomass 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.

3.3.8. Special Category Traditional Peoples and Communities: This category seeks to recognize and value the use of MapBiomass data by Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, and quilombolas in their territories. Submissions may be

made by members of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities (e.g., quilombolas, caiçaras, extractivists, riverine communities), individually or collectively, provided that at least one of the authors belongs to one of these groups. Special consideration will be given to initiatives that generate results or applications directly benefiting these communities or contributing to the defense, conservation, and appreciation of their ways of life and territories.

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, Special Category Climate Emergency, and Special Category Traditional Peoples and Communities 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 MapBiomass.
- b. Be unpublished or published after 2025 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. Authors may submit as many works as they wish, individually or collectively. However, each work can only be awarded once.

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 22th, 2026.

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**. Submissions exceeding this word limit will be disqualified.
- 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 MapBiomas 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 MapBiomas 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 ten (10) 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);
- j. Traditional Peoples and Communities - 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	October 02 nd 2025
Registration period	October 02 nd 2025 to March 22 nd 2026
Announcement of results	July 2026
Award ceremony	August 2026

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 8th 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:
