

Subject Call for Applications: 3rd Global MAB Youth Forum 2026 – Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy (Deadline 23 March 2026)

From Man & Biosphere <mab@unesco.org>

To Man & Biosphere <mab@unesco.org>

Date Tuesday February 24, 2026 10:18:08 PM

Dear Colleagues,

The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is pleased to inform you that applications are now open for the:

### 3rd Global MAB Youth Forum 2026: Committed to the Future We Want

- 📅 **18–22 May 2026**
- 📍 **Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy**
- 👤 **In-person | Maximum 200 participants**
- 📅 **Application deadline: 23 March 2026 (23:59 CET)**
- 🔗 [3rd Global MAB Youth Forum Event Page & Registration](#)

The third Global MAB Youth Forum marks a major milestone in strengthening youth leadership within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Aligned with the Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan (2026–2035), the Forum will empower MAB Youth to:

- Shape the next decade of action within the MAB Programme
- Address biodiversity loss and climate change through innovative solutions
- Strengthen youth governance and leadership at all levels
- Transform ideas into concrete, youth-led actions

#### Who Can Apply?

Young people aged **18–35** who are actively engaged in or connected to UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (e.g., living, working, studying, volunteering, conducting research, or supporting BR-related activities).

#### Two application pathways are available:

##### 1. National MAB Youth Focal Points

Officially designated National MAB Youth Focal Points may apply as representatives (non-competitive process, subject to required documentation).

##### 2. MAB Youth Participants (Open Call)

Young leaders (aged 18-35) who are actively engaged in or connected to UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (e.g., living, working, studying, volunteering, conducting research, or supporting BR-related activities) may apply through a competitive selection process based on merit, geographical balance, and gender parity.

#### What Participation Includes:

- Accommodation and meals in Italy during the Forum

- Limited travel support (subject to availability and eligibility)
- A unique opportunity to co-create youth-led recommendations to inform MAB governance at national, regional, and global levels

This Forum builds directly on the momentum of the [MAB Youth World Mapping Survey](#) and aims to translate its findings into shared priorities, strengthened coordination, and tangible youth-led action across the network.

**We kindly invite you to:**

- Disseminate this call widely among young people connected to Biosphere Reserves in your country/region;
- Encourage designated National MAB Youth Focal Points to apply through the dedicated pathway;
- Support strong and diverse youth participation from across the MAB network.

Applications must be submitted no later than **23 March 2026 (23:59 CET)** via the official [UNESCO webpage](#).

Let us work together to ensure that MAB Youth are meaningfully engaged in shaping the future of the Programme and contributing to the sustainable and just transition envisioned in the next decade.

We thank you in advance for your support and collaboration.

With kind regards,

The MAB Secretariat

*The 3rd Global MAB Youth Forum 2026 is made possible with the kind support of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Italy), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy), the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, the UNESCO MAB Secretariat, and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.*

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Attachments

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