

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**

Thirty-third session

Abuja, Nigeria – Hybrid meeting

**13 – 17 September 2021**

**ITEM 13 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Michel Batisse Award for biosphere reserve management**

1. Following the decision of MAB-ICC in 2004 on the establishment of an award scheme in memory of Mr Michel Batisse, the Secretariat sent a MAB Circular Letter (CL/MAB/2020/2, 17 November 2020, in Annex) and had received thirteen applications from thirteen countries, eight of which met the criteria.
2. At its 29th session held on 12-15 June 2017, the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB ICC) had adopted the following new conditions for the selection of the Michel Batisse Award: (i) case studies must be submitted in advance at every other session: (ii) **the amount of the award for the winning case study presented at the relevant MAB Council session is now USD 12,000, including travel expenses and allowances.**
3. During their last session in February 2021, the Advisory Committee members were asked to rank the candidates using an evaluation table. Based on the rankings, the Advisory Committee recommended to the Bureau of the MAB Council that Ms Sharon Wright (Australia) be the winner of the Michel Batisse Award 2021 for her case study in the Noosa Biosphere Reserve entitled "Keeping it in Kin Kin - Community efforts to manage riparian and river ecosystems".
4. This recommendation was submitted to the MAB ICC Bureau members who unanimously endorsed it, so that the candidate could present her case study at the 33rd session of the MAB ICC. The Secretariat has made arrangements for the winner to present her case study and receive her award during this session of the MAB Council.