



Italian Biodiversity and Conservation Photo Awards

Rules and Regulations

Participation

The competition is open to photographers, professionals and enthusiasts, regardless of age or nationality. Participants are obliged to comply with the following Rules and Regulations. By entering the competition, the Participant is legally bound by the Competition Rules and is considered to be under contract with the Organisers (ANBA and Wildita). Participants accept that the Organisers receive personal data for the administration of the Competition.

About the Contest

The Italian Biodiversity Conservation Photo Awards Competition is organized by *Wildita* and *ANBA natura*. It aims to promote, through images, biodiversity and the importance of **Italian nature** conservation. The profits of the Competition will be used by the Organising Partners to finance the prize-giving event, for the organization of the Competition, and for dissemination and conservation projects throughout Italy.

Entry fee

The participation fee is € 7.00 (seven) per person, and includes the submission of six images. Several images may be submitted per category, with a maximum limit of six images in total. Photographers who do not pay the participation fee will not be considered as *Participants of the Competition*.

Photo submission

Participation is exclusively online. Images must be sent by e-mail, to WILD.ITA@OUTLOOK.IT, with 'CONTEST' in the subject line. Once the payment of the registration fee has been verified, an email confirming participation in the photo contest will be sent. Images must be renamed in the following way: "A_1_BEN_RED", including in the first space the Category of the image (A, B, C, D, E, F), followed by the sequential number of the image for the single category (from 1 to 6), and finally the First Name and Surname of the Participant, separated by an underscore (_). Images received that do not follow the above indications will not be considered participants in the Competition. Images may be submitted no later than 30/04/2023.

Photo features and post-production

Image preparation and processing is only permitted if limited to a correction and slight enhancement of the photo. The following are permitted: elimination of sensor spots, noise reduction, enlargement (crop) and cropping, rotations, slight addition of sharpness on subjects, adjustment of contrast, light, shadow and exposure, saturation, colour tones, contour lines, screening and burning, but without distorting the original image. Double exposures and image collages are permitted, as long as they are made at the image location. Images must not include: signatures or frames, erased or cloned parts, artificial or highly modified colours, lights and exposures, strong vignetting and an abuse of fencing and burning.

The aim of the Italian Biodiversity and Conservation Photo Awards Competition is to show and tell the story of nature, without filters and artificial suggestions. The image can and should communicate the photographer's style, and can propose an original post-production, as long as it does not distort the original file.

Images that do not comply with the aforementioned processing and post-production rules, or that are highly artificial and modified, will be excluded from participation in the Competition.

Images sent by e-mail must be saved in JPEG format, with a long side of 1920 pixels.

Selection and first round passing

Should the images pass the first selection stage, the Participant will be informed by e-mail. The communication will contain instructions for sending the files in high resolution and in original RAW or JPEG format. In order to be eligible for a prize, the image submitted to the Competition must be compared with the original RAW file.

The high-resolution images, which are required if the first round is passed, must have the longest side of no less than 2000 pixels, and the same appearance (cropping, colours) as the images submitted in the entry phase. Images selected for the final evaluation round must be accompanied by a short caption and a title. In the event of non-compliance with the regulations or non-receipt of high-resolution RAW images, the image will be disqualified.

Ethics

The subjects photographed must be taken in nature, in calm conditions and, if possible, in the performance of natural behaviour. Pictures taken in captivity, as well as pictures of domestic animals or cultivated plants will not be admitted. Images taken of animals lured with food bait (live or not), decoys, and any other method that may disturb, endanger, or alter the behaviour of the species are not permitted.

The Jury reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify images whose creation is presumed to have caused damage to species, habitats or people.

Photo usage

All rights to the images remain with the Author, but the Organisers and Sponsors reserve the right to publish or use the images from the Competition, always quoting the Author, for popular, promotional or advertising purposes. The photos may be exhibited, quoting the Author's name, at exhibitions and prize-giving events, or printed in magazines and illustrative brochures.

Prizes

One first prize-winning image in each category will be awarded the title of "*Winner*", one second prize-winning image will be awarded the title of "*Runner-up*" and several "*Highly-commended*" images will be awarded the title of "*Runner-up*". In addition, a single image will be awarded as Overall Winner.

The prize money of the Italian Biodiversity and Conservation Photo Awards is about 2000€.

Category winners will receive the following prizes:

- Fauna (Category A): Coolife® phototrap H953
- Microworld (Category B): CygnusTech® macro diffuser
- Plants and Mushrooms (Category C): Deco M graphics tablet from XPPen® black
- Wild Landscapes (Category D): Deco M graphics tablet by XPPen® green
- Man and Nature (Category E): Coolife® phototrap H8201
- Special Prize - Roman Countryside (Category F): easyCover® lens cap and camera + ANBA® membership card

The winner of the Absolute First Prize will receive the following prize

- Kite Falco 10x42 Binoculars, KiteOptics®

Second prize winners will receive a complete set of covers (camera body and lens) from the company easyCover® camera accessories.

Highly-commended winners will receive a certificate and an official invitation to the award event.

Categories¹

Fauna (A): images must reveal the personality or behaviour of an animal (fauna: mammals or birds) or a group of animals, in an original, striking, unusual, stimulating or dramatic manner. Ambient images, portraits, or body parts are allowed, and images highlighting the behaviour and ecological role of a species within its natural environment are particularly appreciated.

Microworld (B): images must open the door to an unknown microworld. With evocative framing, original points of view, ambient images or portraits, the life, appearance or behaviour of small animals must be shown. Images depicting invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fish are allowed.

Plants and Mushrooms (C): images must convey the importance and role of a plant or fungus within its environment. Images highlighting an ecological role and an overview of plants and fungi are particularly appreciated. Close-ups and details are also allowed.

Wild Landscapes (D): images must show the spectacular nature of a landscape, infusing intimacy or majesty through photographic interpretation. Images of untouched nature and wild landscapes are particularly appreciated, highlighting the complex ecology of the landscape and the functions and properties of each habitat.

Man and Nature (E): Images must focus on the coexistence of man and plants or animals. Images depicting animals or plants in urban environments and within cities, or depicting elements of the human presence within natural environments are allowed. Particularly appreciated are images

¹ Each category will be followed by a letter of the alphabet in capital letters. This letter identifies the category.

showing what is normally invisible to citizens of towns and cities, or showing unexpected and unusual situations in man-made environments.

Special Prize - Roman Countryside (F): the images accepted in this special category concern wild animals (vertebrates and invertebrates), flora and fungi, landscapes and environments, taken in rural, natural, protected or man-made areas of the Province of Rome, with particular interest in little-known, rare or threatened species. The naturalistic and historical interest of the images will be rewarded, as well as their technical and artistic quality.

Jury

Filippo Carugati (www.filippocarugati.com)

Jean-Philippe Audinet (www.dersou.com)

Elisabetta Mitrovic (<http://elisabettamitrovic.blogspot.com>)

Willy Guasti (<https://www.youtube.com/@ZooSparkle>)

Jury president : Gianluca Damiani (<https://www.gianlucadamiani.com>)

Jury notes

It is not easy to choose one's favourite photo. The image selection process, both for a participating photographer and a judge, is an extremely important and delicate moment.

It is important to take the right amount of time to select the images to be sent in, and just as much importance should be given to the caption and the story to be told with your shots!

What would we like to see? Novelty, originality and innovation. Technique is important, but sometimes it is not everything. Nature photography has to communicate, it is a means of publicising and conserving many species, habitats and even bioregions. Send us images that are communicative, impactful, and go beyond the single instant in which they were taken: a photo can move, in time and space, telling more than a species, an environment, a story. We look forward to seeing your images, and look forward to seeing you at the award ceremony. Good luck!

Jury Calendar

The competition is divided into the phases listed in the table. For any additional information, the Instagram pages @wild_ita and @a.n.b.a_aps and on the websites www.anbanatura.com and (https://www.instagram.com/wild_ita/).

01/03/2023 – 30/04/2023	Images submission
01/06/2023 – 07/06/2023	Raw/jpeg original photo request for semi-finalists
15/06/2023	Jury last reunion
20/06/2023 - 30/06/2023	Winners notification
01/07/2023 - 05/07/2023	Online winners announcement
10/07/2023 - 20/07/2023	Award Event

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