

RULES

Italian Biodiversity Conservation Photo Awards II Edition, 2024

Participation: The competition is open to photographers, professionals and enthusiasts, regardless of age or nationality. Participants are required to comply with the following regulations. Images must be taken in Italy. By entering the competition, the Participant is legally bound by the Competition Rules and is considered to be under contract with the Organizers (WildIta). The Participants accept that the Organizers receive personal data for the management of the said Competition.

About the Contest: The Italian Biodiversity Conservation Photo Awards Contest is organized by WildIta and aims to promote, through nature photography, the importance of biodiversity and nature conservation. Profits from the Contest will be used by the Organizing Partners to fund the awards event, for the practices of organizing the Contest, and for dissemination and conservation projects throughout Italy.

Entry Fee: The entry fee is € 10.00 (ten) per person, and includes the submission of 10 images, including (eventually) the category "Portfolio".

Payment can be done:

- via PayPal to the email address WILD.ITA@OUTLOOK.IT specifying under the *reason for payment* "Family and friends".
- by bank transfer to the following address: IT16R0306909606100000189457 - ANBA APS. In this case, please send the payment receipt by email attached.

Multiple images may be submitted in the same Category, and it is possible to participate in all Categories with a single entry fee. The "Portfolio" Category includes the submission of 5 images competing together. Photographers who do not pay the entry fee will not be considered as Participants of the Contest.

Submission of images: Participation is exclusively online. Images must be submitted by e-mail, to WILD.ITA@OUTLOOK.IT, including "CONTEST" in the subject line. The images must be renamed as follows: "A_1_MARIO_ROSSI", including in the first space the Category of the image (A, B, C, etc.), followed by the sequential number of the image for the single category (from 1 to 10), and finally Name and Surname of the Participant, separated by hyphen. Images received, which do not follow the above directions, will not be considered participants in the Contest. Images may be submitted by, but no later than 10/05/2024. Images already awarded or mentioned in other national and international photography competitions will not be accepted.

Image specifications and post-editing: Image preparation and editing is permitted only if limited to correction and enhancement, slight, of the photo. The following are allowed: cleaning of sensor spots, noise reduction, cropping, enlargements, rotations, slight addition of sharpness on subjects, adjustment of contrast, highlights, shadows and exposure, saturation, color tones, contour lines, dodge and burn, but without distorting the original image. Images must not include: signatures or frames, erased or cloned parts, artifacts or extremely altered colors, lights and exposures; strong vignetting and overuse of dodge and burn. The use of artificial intelligence and software that alters the very nature of the images is not allowed. The purpose of the Italian Biodiversity Conservation Photo Awards Competition is to show and tell natural stories, without artificial filters and suggestions. The image can and should communicate the photographer's style, and can propose itself with original post-production if it does not distort the original file. Black and white pictures are permitted.

Images that do not comply with the above rules of processing and post-production, or that are heavily modified and edited, will be excluded from participation in the Contest.

Emailed images must be saved in JPEG format, with long side of 1920 pixels and 72 dpi.

Selection and passing the first round: In case the images pass the first round of selection, the Participant will be notified by e-mail. The communication will include instructions for sending the files in high resolution and RAW format. To be eligible for an award, the image submitted to the Contest must be compared with the original RAW file.

High-resolution images, which are required if the first round is passed, must have the largest side no smaller than 3000 pixels, 300 dpi, and the same appearance (cropping, colors) as the images submitted in the entry phase. Images selected for the final round of evaluation, must be accompanied by a short caption and title. In case of non-compliance with the rules or failure to receive high-resolution and RAW images, the image will be disqualified.

Ethics: Subjects photographed must be taken in nature, in quiet conditions and, if possible, in the performance of natural behaviors. Images taken in captivity, as well as photos of domesticated animals or cultivated plants, will not be allowed. Images taken of animals attracted with food bait (live or not), calls, and by any other method that may disturb, endanger, or alter the behavior of the species will not be allowed.

The Jury reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify images whose creation is alleged to have caused harm to species, habitats, or people.

Use of Images: All rights to the images remain with the Author, but the Organizing Entities and Sponsors, reserve the right to publish or use the images from the Contest, always mentioning the Author, for popular, promotional, advertising purposes. Photos may be exhibited, bearing the Author's name, at exhibitions and award events, or printed in magazines, and illustrative brochures.

Prizes: One image will be awarded in each Category, with the title of "Winner", one image per category will be awarded with the title of "Runner-up", plus three "Highly-commended" images particularly appreciated by the Jury. A single image will also be awarded as the Overall First Prize "Overall Winner". The total prize for the Italian Biodiversity Conservation Photo Awards Competition amounts to more than €3,000 in: expendable vouchers, photographic and outdoor equipment. Category winners will receive the following prizes:

- 1) (A) Fauna:
 - Winner: Gc3 Harness (Cotton Carrier)
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo (camera and lens protections)
- 2) (B) Hidden world:
 - Winner: flash diffuser Cygnus Tech
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo (camera and lens protections)
- 3) (C) Plants and Fungi:
 - Winner: graphic tablet Deco Pro Small (XP-PEN) + kit easyCover (camera, lens protections)
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo (camera and lens protections)
- 4) (D) Ecosystems:
 - Winner: heats Liner Pro (The Heat Company) + kit easyCover photo
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo (camera and lens protections)
- 5) (E) Human and nature:
 - Winner: camera-trap PH7708D (Coolife)
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo (camera and lens protections)
- 6) (F) Portfolio:
 - Winner: Photographic bag VEO Renge T48 (Vanguard ®)
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo® (camera and lens protections)
- 7) (G) Conservation photography:
 - Winner: camera-trap PH810W (Coolife®)
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo® (camera and lens protections)

- 8) (H) Underwater photography:
 - Winner: 200 € voucher of Isotta Underwater Housing ® (www.isotecnic.it)
 - Runner-up: kit easyCover photo (camera and lens protections)
- 9) (I) Under 18:
 - Winner: graphic tablet Deco Pro Small (XP-PEN®)
- 10) (L) Rural Nature (in partnership with A.N.B.A.):
 - Winner: 150 € voucher in “Ottica Universitaria srl” (www.otticauniversitaria.it)

The Overall First Prize “Overall Winner” will win a 600,00€ voucher in “Ottica Universitaria srl” photographic shop (www.otticauniversitaria.it).

All the Winners, Runner-up and Highly-commended photographers will receive a parchment and an official invite for the award ceremonies. The awarded picture will be published on the Contest website and printed for photo exhibition events.

Categories

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

(B) Hidden world: images should open the door to an unknown hidden world. With suggestive framing, original camera points, set images or portraits, the life, appearance or behavior of small animals should be shown. Images depicting invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fish are allowed.

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

(D) Ecosystems: images should show the complexity of a natural ecosystem, from the vastness of a landscape to the detailed relationship between microorganisms. The Ecosystems category is for ambient and landscape images that highlight the relationship between a habitat's biodiversity, ecological and geomorphological processes, and trophic networks. This category can represent the immensity of nature, but also hidden microhabitats.

(E) Human and nature: images must focus on the coexistence of humans and plants or animals. Images depicting animals or plants in urban environments and within cities or depicting elements of human presence within natural environments are allowed. Images that show what is normally invisible to citizens of towns and cities, or that show unexpected and unusual situations in human-made environments are especially appreciated.

(F) Portfolio: it is mandatory to submit five (5) images in this category, which will compete together as a single entity. The Portfolio category is aimed at telling a photographic story, through images and captions. The theme is free and can be about a single species or a taxon, an ecological process, an environment or place, a conservation story, the relationship between humans and nature, a behavioural sequence. Submitted images should be complementary and of consistent quality. Diversity of technique, harmony of images, originality, and storytelling through photography will be rewarded.

(G) Conservation: images must tell the story of conservation actions or promote public awareness. From photojournalism to conservation projects, including human stories, and ending with poaching events, species and habitat protection issues, and wildlife offenses. This category can show scientists at work, animals victimized by humans, photo-reports or posters concerning important conservation issues. Awards will be given for images that can arouse emotions in the viewer, and that can show the background of nature conservation projects. This category aims to raise public awareness.

(H) Underwater photography: images must be taken underwater, in a sea or freshwater aquatic environment. Ephemeral aquatic environments, such as temporary puddles, fountains, pools, ponds and streams are also

eligible. Awards will be given for images that show rare and complex behaviors, the intricacies of aquatic and marine ecosystems, or the beauty of forms and originality in composition.

(I) Under 18: Those who are under 18 years of age by 31/12/2024 may participate in this category. Images may relate to any theme listed in the previous Categories.

(L) Rural Nature: what is hidden in the Italian countryside? The biodiversity of rural environments is often unknown and underestimated, but between cultivated fields and agricultural landscapes there is a multitude of habitats and species of plants and animals of great conservation interest. This category is dedicated to the rural nature and images of animals (from mammals and birds to invertebrates), rural landscapes, and any other image that tells about rural biodiversity in any Italian region are allowed. Images of rural or agricultural activities in harmony with nature are also accepted.

Jury:

Filippo Carugati (www.filippocarugati.com)

Iacopo Nerozzi (https://www.instagram.com/unaesthetic_fauna/)

Francesca Buoninconti (https://www.instagram.com/_laeffebi_/?hl=it)

Jean-Philippe Audinet (<http://www.dersou.com/contact>)

Elisa Confortini (<https://www.instagram.com/elisaconfortiniphotography/>)

Chair of the Jury: Gianluca Damiani (www.gianlucadamiani.com)

Jury Calendar:

- **03/01/2024 - 04/30/2024:** Submission of images.
- **05/06/2024:** Passing the first evaluation phase and requesting RAW files
- **25/06/2024 - 10/07/2024:** Communication to Winners
- **10/07/2024 - 10/09/2024:** Public announcement of Winners
- **Summer-Autumn 2024:** Awards Events

Detailed information on the locations of the awards event and the photo exhibition will be published later on the official WildIta website www.wildita.com and social channels (Instagram: [@wild_ita](https://www.instagram.com/wild_ita) and [@ibc_photo_awards](https://www.instagram.com/ibc_photo_awards))

For information and questions about the contest, please contact: WILD.ITA@OUTLOOK.IT

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