



29th Festival International Nature Namur

From 13th to 22nd October 2023

International Nature Namur Photo Contest

Organisation

The 29th edition of the “Festival International Nature Namur” will take place from 13 to 22 October 2023, and during this period the results of the competition will be exhibited during the 10 days in a place of meetings and exchanges, particularly highlighted for the occasion.

The awards will be issued on Saturday 21st October 2023 in the presence of the photographers and the members of the jury. This Award Ceremony will be conducted by professional hosts. The nominated photographers will be invited to talk about their image.

Goals

- To raise the large public’s awareness of the knowledge of nature and wildlife’s respect.
- To boost the diversity of images dedicated to Wildlife and Environment by granting awards within the frame of a 10-days competition and exhibition for a large public.
- To favour contacts between professionals and amateurs at the award ceremony.



Competition Rules

Article 1: General rules of participation

The competition is open to **all photographers**, individual or in duo, amateurs or professionals, of all ages and from all countries, **no matter the photo equipment used**. The “**books**” category is now open to publishing houses

Are excluded: the organisers of the “Festival International Nature Namur” and the members of the jury.

By participating, the photographer or the publishing house

- declares he/she is the author of the photographs he submits, and the holder of the rights related to the concerned images;
- declares he/she possesses the authorisation of the identifiable persons appearing in the pictures;
- assures owning the distribution rights of the books it submits;
- reveals his/her interest in environment by respecting the rules in force in his/her country regarding the conservation of the natural environment and of wildlife.

The originality and the seduction created by the shot are taken into account but classic photographic criteria (framing, difficulties to take the picture, technical mastery...) and environmental criteria (no destruction or disturbance caused by the shooting, respect for environment...) are also considered for the selection. As a rule, domestic animals and plants, as well as any human intervention, animals in captivity, nature disturbance are excluded, except for the category “Human and Nature” (see article 3) for which a photo of an animal in captivity is allowed as long as it carries a proper message about the relation between man and nature. The natural behaviours and attitudes are favoured.

Article 2: Photos preparation

The picture has to correspond to the original shot, without suppression or addition of any element absent from the picture setting, without modification of the blur, without retouching or any other technique that could give the spectator a wrong vision of the natural environment. Reframing/cropping is allowed but cannot exceed 20% of the original image size. Editing must be limited to removing dust and to improving the general quality of the picture (levels, white balance...). Saturation enhancing and heightening must be moderate. HDR, focus stacking and image overlay are forbidden.

Black and white photos are allowed. If the 16/9 format is most often used, square and panorama formats are also accepted. However, it is requested that the same format be kept for images belonging to the same mini-series (see article 3). FINN will take care to keep these proportions when printing.



Article 3: Categories

The following 9 categories are showing pictures shot in the wild nature and with a minimal human intervention.

- **Flora:** all plants including algae, mosses, ferns and also lichens and mushrooms.
- **Human and Nature:** presence of an element touched by human beings.
- **Mammals:** photographs of land, marine and aerial mammals.
- **Birds:** all kinds of birds.
- **Landscapes:** nature image about land, sea, lakes, sunrise/sunset...
- **Other animals:** all other classes than mammals or birds, i.e. reptiles, amphibians, fishes, arthropods (insects, arachnids, myriapods, shellfish), molluscs, echinoderms, annelids, cnidarians...
- **Mini-series:** a consistent series of 3 to 5 photographs about one theme.
- **Less than 18 years*:** only photographers born after 15 August 2004 are allowed to register.
- **New ! Book:** nature photo books about fauna, flora or landscapes published after January 1st 2021

*For this category a parental authorisation could be required.

Remark: if a picture can belong to several categories, the photographer is free to choose the category into which he/she registers it. The jury keeps however the right to modify the latter's choice if this is to his or her advantage, for example taking out a picture from the Mini-series. With an exception for the category "Less than 18 years".



Article 4: Registration and sending the pictures and the books

Registrations are open as from 1st February 2023.

The registration is free of costs and must be done online on the site www.festivalnaturenamur.be.
The contest is open **until 31st July 2023 at midnight.**

The application will only be taken into account if all sections of the online form are filled in correctly.

Remark: the FINN gives priority to novelty. Therefore it is not advisable for the photographer and the publishing house to submit an image or a book which has already been selected or granted an award during a previous edition of the "Festival International Nature Namur."

Each entrant can submit a maximum of **8 photos** and **1 mini-series** (i.e. a consistent series composed of 3 to 5 pictures about one theme). There is no limit for books.

A single participation per photographer or publishing house will be accepted. If the latter wishes to modify his or her application, he or she is invited to send an email to the address info@festivalnaturenamur.be. His or her first application will be suppressed and replaced by the new one.

When registering, the photographer is notably asked to:

- fill in his/her contact information
- specify the number of photos in "Mini-series" if applicable*
- specify the number of photos for the other categories (except "Mini-series")*
- specify the number of books

For each photo the photographer should also fill in the following sections:

- Category*
- Title of the work*
- Orientation* (Portrait = vertical photo; Landscape = horizontal photo)
- Place of image capture* (as precise as possible, i.e. place name or locality, region, country...)
- Name of the species in English* when it is identifiable or identified
- Name of the species in Latin
- Useful comments about the conditions of shooting*

For each book, the entrant must fill in the following sections:

- the book's title*
- author*
- publishing house*
- the book's subject*

* Sections with a red star are mandatory



The uploaded photos are:

- in **1920 pixels long** (for the longest side)
- in lightly compressed **JPEG** quality
- **without margin, text or signature**
- CAUTION: Please rename the photos as follows:

SURNAME_Name_Category_Photo n°_Photo title

(Remark: avoid accents and punctuation signs in the nomenclature!)

Examples:

- SMITH_Emily_Mammals_Photo6_When_lama_is_angry
- JONES_Lily_Miniserie_Photo3_So_do_the_mushrooms

A specimen of every book entered shall be sent to the entrant's cost to following postal address before July 31st 2023. The postmark is deemed authentic.

Specimens sent will not be returned to the entrant.

Any participation which has been correctly registered will be confirmed by email as well as by a copy of the form (please think about checking the spams!).

Article 5: Jury and Prize

The jury of the Photo competition is composed of representatives of the photography, image and wildlife worlds. They meet and choose a large selection of photos to elaborate the exhibition of the Photo Contest.

To determine the awards, the jury examines original pictures that have been sent for the selection whereas the public examines the exhibited enlarged pictures (Audience Award). The organisers take care of respecting the initial photograph as faithfully as possible.

In total, **eleven awards** are granted: one per category, plus the "Grand Prize" and the "Audience Award".

The awards cannot be cumulated except for the "Audience Award".

The jury reserves itself the right not to grant one or several awards, to modify the title of an award and to deliver one or several special mentions. The decisions of the jury are irrevocable.

In addition to these awards, the Audience Award is issued to the photo which has received the most votes from the public.



Article 6: Selection

The entrants to the competition will be informed personally about their selection by email **by the end of August**. If so, it is imperative to supply for the pictures the following data and pieces of information by **mid-September at the latest**.

- The equivalent file (framing, retouching...) but in high resolution (used for the enlarged copies);
- The corresponding RAW, JPEG or file matching the equipment used
- The metadata (model of the camera box, of the lens, focal, shutter speed, aperture, ISO sensitivity...). For example: Nikon D60 + VR 70-300 mm f/4.5-5.6 G – 70 mm – 1/80 sec – f/4.5 – 400 ISO
- Contact (mail, blog, Facebook page...) and the nationality.

The jury reserves itself the right to disqualify a photo if this does not correspond to the ethics of the present rules.

For the “book” category, the selected entrants will be allowed to make available a stock of their books to be consulted in the reading space and at the Festival Boutique

If you do not receive that mail, it means that your photos or books have unfortunately not been selected.

Article 7: Copyright and use of the works

By taking part in this contest, the author of the selected photos authorises the “Festival International Nature Namur” and his partners to copy and distribute his or her work within the scope of the exhibition related to the competition and the publication of the portfolio. He or she also authorizes the use of the picture within the scope of the promotion of the competition and/or the Festival on the web, in the media and in the books and leaflets published by the Festival. The pictures will always be accompanied by the author’s name.

The exhibition linked to the competition is presented during the “Festival International Nature Namur” from 13th till 22nd October 2023 as well as within the scope of decentralisations we organise all year long. The decentralised exhibitions of the Festival are organised in municipalities in Belgium and abroad to allow the public who could not attend the Festival to discover the photos that were exhibited during that Festival.

Article 8: Personal Data

The data communicated by the entrants can be used within the scope of the Photo competition. In all cases, we remind that in pursuance of the European rules and guidelines in force and of the European rules that have come into force on 25th May 2018, related to computer data, files and freedoms, to the protection of personal data and the free movement of these data, the competitors have a right of opposition, access and rectification.

As a consequence, any entrant benefits with the Festival of a right of access, questioning, opposition, rectification or suppression regarding data that concern him or her upon simple request sent to the following address: info@festivalnaturenamur.be.

None of the communicated piece of information will be used in a commercial goal.



Article 9: Application of the rules

Any application and participation in the Festival involves the acceptance of the present rules and their possible modifications.

In case of litigation about the meaning and the provisions of the present rules, only the French version of the text will be valid.

The present rules are also available on the website of the “Festival International Nature Namur”:
www.festivalnaturenamur.be.

Article 10: Liability

Since the participation in the competition is done through internet, it involves the knowledge and the acceptance of the limits of internet, especially as far as the technical performances, the variable flow speed or the uploading time are concerned. As a consequence the Festival cannot be held responsible for these.

For any extra information:

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Belgique

Contact: +32 (0)81 43 24 19 | info@festivalnaturenamur.be

Website: www.festivalnaturenamur.be

The rules of the competition are available in the following languages: French • English • Dutch

