

# Conditions of participation SNAPSHOT photo competition

Basel, July 2025

The SNAPSHOT photo competition is organized by the Natural History Museum Basel as part of the special exhibition "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" in cooperation with IWB and Fotohaus Wolf. The aim is to give hobby and amateur photographers the opportunity to show their best nature photography to a broad public. All submitted images that comply with the rules will be exhibited in digital form in the museum for the entire duration of the competition. The competition is guided by the idea of highlighting nature and its beauty, raising awareness among people, and encouraging them to stand up for its protection.

## 1. Schedule

- Start of the competition: Monday 13 October 2025
- Closing date for entries: Sunday, 22 February 2026. Later submissions will not be considered.
- Online voting for the Audience Prize: Monday, 1 March – Sunday 22 March 2026
- Judging: Monday, 9 March 2026
- Award ceremony and opening of the exhibition: Thursday, 16 April 2026

## 2. Categories

- **Category 1 (K1): Children see nature (Age 5-12)**  
Children and young people have a special eye for nature, for animals, plants, and landscapes. All imaginable subjects from nature are welcome. Zoo, wildlife park, pets and farm animals are permitted in this category.
- **Category 2 (K2): Animal portraits / Animals in their habitat / Animal behavior (From age 13)**  
Only photographs taken in the wild are allowed. Pets, farm animals, and images from zoos, wildlife parks, or taxidermy specimens are therefore not permitted.
- **Category 3 (K3): Plants / Landscapes / Natural phenomena (From age 13)**

## 3. Participation

- The photo competition of the Natural History Museum Basel is aimed exclusively at hobby and amateur photographers.
- Persons who earn their full livelihood as professional photographers are excluded from the competition.
- Employees of the Natural History Museum Basel, their children, as well as jury members and their children are also not eligible to participate.
- The minimum age for participating is five.
- Only pictures in digital form will be accepted.
- The images must comply with the technical requirements and digital guidelines.
- Participation is only valid if the registration is complete, all personal information is provided, and the terms and conditions have been accepted.
- **Each person may submit only one photo in total. Additional photos submitted in other categories will not be considered and will be deleted without notice. Only the first uploaded photo will be accepted.**
- We value pictures that are as authentic as possible.

Submissions that have no relation to the three categories mentioned above, do not comply with the competition rules, violate applicable law, have insufficient resolution, raise doubts about authorship, or are deemed inappropriate or offensive by the preliminary review committee, will be excluded from the competition without explanation or notification.

#### **4. Technical requirements and digital guidelines**

- File format: JPG/JPEG
- Photos in highest quality level, max. 10 MB
- Formats: 4:3 / 3:2 / 16:9
- Portrait or landscape format
- Colour or black/white

##### **Digital image editing**

- Adjustments to tonal value, contrast, sharpness, colour temperature, white balance, and colour balance are allowed.
- Noise reduction and minor cleaning (e.g., sensor spots) are permitted, provided they do not alter the image's message.
- Composed panoramic images and HDR shots are allowed.
- AI-generated images are not permitted.
- Adding or removing elements such as animals, plants, objects, or people, as well as using digital colour or artistic filters, are not allowed.
- Digital collages are not permitted.
- Text elements or decorative frames are not allowed.
- The jury pays attention to natural colour reproduction.

#### **5. IWB Biodiversity Prize**

All submitted pictures are automatically nominated for the IWB Biodiversity Prize. After a pre selection by the expert SNAPSHOT jury, IWB selects three pictures for its biodiversity campaign and awards the IWB Biodiversity Prize.

#### **6. Audience Prize**

All submitted images will take part in the Audience Prize. After the closing date they will be published online on the website of the Natural History Museum Basel. The public's favourite will then be crowned by an online vote. The picture with the most clicks wins the prize. This prize is also sponsored by IWB.

#### **7. Image rights**

Participants agree that the Natural History Museum Basel, IWB, and Fotohaus Wolf have the right to use all images accepted in the competition for its promotion, without time limitation and without compensation, for publication in all media (print, internet, social media) and for media relations (online and print).

For commercial use of the images, the rights remain with the participants, except for images awarded by IWB. The IWB biodiversity campaign will include both print and digital products and is unlimited in duration. Photographers will receive a fee for this use.

Submitted images will be deleted after the competition and post-event coverage, unless the organizers decide to use them further. Exceptions are the ten best images from each category, the winner of the public prize, and the images selected by IWB for the IWB Biodiversity Award. The organiser and the sponsors reserve the right to use these images for future promotion of the competition.

## **8. Contestability of Winning Images and Photographers**

The decision of the jury and the Natural History Museum Basel is final and cannot be contested. The selection of the winning images rests solely with the jury and the museum, or with IWB. Individual jury members may be replaced short-term by other suitable persons.