2017 INTERNATIONAL JURY REPORT
Wiki Loves Earth is a photo contest of the natural monuments, where participants picture protected areas and upload their photos to Wikimedia Commons. The goal of the project is, on one hand, to picture under a free license as many natural monuments and protected areas as possible, on the other hand, to contribute to nature protection by raising public awareness.

After years of successful organisation of Wiki Loves Monuments there was an idea of a similar contest for natural monuments. The idea of Wiki Loves Earth was born in April 2012 during a discussion at Wikimedia Conference. The idea was realised for the first time in Ukraine, where the contest was held from 15 April to 15 May 2013. Wiki Loves Earth became international in 2014 with 16 participating countries from four continents, and expanded its geography in 2015 and 2016 with 26 participating countries.

In 2017 Wiki Loves Earth expanded geography even more. A record number of 36 countries organised a national stage, including some first-time participants like Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia or Norway. As in 2016, there was a special nomination in collaboration with UNESCO on UNESCO biosphere reserves in 120 countries. Most of countries organised the contest from 1 May to 31 May 2017, while some countries and UNESCO special nomination extended the contest period till 30 June. During the contest a record number of 131,984 pictures were submitted by 15,299 participants, nearly 14,000 of whom made their first upload.

The contest was organised in each country by local volunteers. Each national jury submitted up to 10 pictures to the international stage (none in India by local team decision), where the international jury considered 360 pictures.
Winners were determined by the 7-person international jury. Members were selected by the international team: some of them were recruited by international team directly, while others were suggested by partners, local teams or fellow Wikimedians. The jury was formed to be as diverse as possible (it includes representatives of three continents and very different backgrounds) and so that no country could have more than one jury member.

360 nominations were submitted to the international organising team by the national juries of the 35 participating countries and by UNESCO Biosphere reserves jury. Each country was allowed to submit up to 10 images. The only country not submitting a nomination this year was India where local organisers finally decided that they could not announce winners.

The nominations were collected in a judging tool managed by non-voting jury moderators. On the first stage, each jury member independently selected 50 photos out of 360. 87 photos chosen by at least two jurors made it to the second stage where all jurors rated all images with stars from 1 (poor) to 10 (very good). 32 images with ratings higher than 5.0 were selected to the final round. One image was disqualified as not taken in a protected natural site.

On the final stage, jury members rated (from 1 to 20) and commented on the 32 images. Comments were visible to other jury members, while rankings were not. These rankings were added together, and a combined jury ranking was produced. In case of equality of points in the final round, highest points from any jury member were used as a tiebreaker.
Nabin Baral (Nepal)

Nabin Baral is a documentary photographer based in Kathmandu, Nepal. His photographic work focuses on the environment, mountains, people, and social issues. He worked at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as a Consultant Photographer from 2009 to 2013.

Nabin is visiting faculties of photojournalism for different colleges in Kathmandu. His photographs are exhibited in Japan, USA and Nepal. His works have been published in most of the dailies in Nepal and in international online media. In 2016, his photo work “Victim of Superstition” was awarded first prize in photo story category in the photo Nepal’s biggest photo contest organized by Photojournalist’s Club Nepal.

Dietmar Bartz (Germany)

Dietmar is a professional archivist, journalist and editor from Germany. He has more than 25 years of experience working for newspapers and magazines, for instance for the German editions of “Le Monde Diplomatique”, “Vanity Fair” and “Interview”. He is used to collaborate intensely with photographers and photo editors. He worked in Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East, and he is travelling extensively in Asia.

He is also an active Wikipedian (User:Aalfons) with over 25,000 edits. In the jury his main fields of interest is the balance of photographic excellence and encyclopaedic information, and also the discussion of non-western visuality and pictoriality habits.
Beatrice Murch (Argentina)

Beatrice Murch is an immigrant living in Buenos Aires, Argentina with both North American and British roots. Murch is a documentary and portrait photographer and her photos have been published in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Latino Fox News, The Telegraph, BBC, among other publications. Murch was the Photo Editor of The Argentina Independent for four years.

She is also a lover of free culture and knowledge and contributes to Wikimedia Commons (User:Blmurch).

Alexander Savin (Russia)

Born in Moscow, currently living in Berlin and Moscow. Hobbyist photographer and traveller. Active on Wikimedia Commons as uploader, with more than 7,000 photos submitted so far, as well as an administrator. (User:A.Savin) During the last five years, he participated in several national Russian WLE and WLM contests either as uploader or as jury member.

Nataliia Shevchenko (Ukraine)

Nataliia is a naturalist, ecologist and photographer. She has worked for National Geographic Ukraine and National Geographic Russia. She was a member of the jury of Wiki Loves Monuments in Ukraine in 2015. She joined wikiprojects in 2015 by taking part in a Wikiexpedition.

Hansa Tangmanpoowadol (Thailand)

Born in Bangkok in 1971, Hansa is an artist living and working in Bangkok. From a very young age, he was very attracted in painting as means of expression. After graduating Photography and Cinematography Technology in 1992, he starts work life in advertising photography. Hansa joined plenty of photography competitions, has participated in local and international exhibitions. He won many prizes in the local and international photo contests. In 2012 he was then selected as Thai Artist in Photography. Now he spends life for fine art photo and painting.

Milan Živković (Serbia)

Born in Bavanište, Banat in 1960. Since 1984 Milan started working at the Natural History Museum in Belgrade as a photographer and designer. From 2002 to 2005 he worked as editor of the Photo Gallery of the Center for Culture in Kovin. Since 2005 editor of Refoto, regional photo magazine. He is currently working as a lecturer at the Refoto studio and photography school.

During his 18-year work in the Natural History Museum, Milan documented and illustrated a large number of events, exhibitions, and publications related to nature in the country and abroad. He also made 12 photographic projects related to nature.
Winter view of Cape Drakon (Dragon) on Ogoy Island in Maloe More strait on Lake Baikal. Ogoy is the largest island in the strait and has a very elongated shape (2.9 km long and 0.6 km wide). [English]

Зимний вид мыса Дракон на острове Огой в проливе Малое Море на Байкале. Огой является самым крупным островом в этом проливе и имеет сильно вытянутую форму (длина 2,9 км, ширина 0,6 км). [Russian]
A jaguar (Panthera onca) lying among shrubs in the Pantanal conservation area. Pantanal encompasses the world's largest tropical wetland area. [English]

Onça-pintada (Panthera onca) deitada entre arbustos no Pantanal. Pantanal é a maior área alagada do mundo. [Portuguese]

Jury comments
I really like the dark background that shows uncertainty. The dark background helped the expression of leopard to pop up in the photo. There is balance of color in the photo. The point of entry in the photo is the face of the leopard.

Perfect lighting, composition and image editing process (imaging workflow). (…)

Perfect shot, would like the jaguar to not be smack in the middle, but the lighting and focus are perfect.
Photographer: Sergey Ryzhkov
(Ryzhkov Sergey)
Site: Danube Delta
Location: Danube Biosphere Reserve, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

Eurasian spoonbills (Platalea leucorodia) in Danube Delta. The young bird is still trying to claim food from parents. Eurasian spoonbills are rare birds in Ukraine, they are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine. Danube Biosphere Reserve is one of the main places of breeding of Eurasian spoonbills in Ukraine, it has a status of UNESCO biosphere reserve. [English]

"My favourite animal photo from WLE’17. Artwork-like reflections and great dynamism of the scene."

Дунаю. Молодий птах все ще намагається просити у батьків їжу. Косарі є рідкісними птахами в Україні, занесеними до Червоної книги України. Дунайський біосферний заповідник є одним з основних місць їхнього гніздування в Україні, він має статус біосферного заповідника ЮНЕСКО. [Ukrainian]
Photographer: Candra Firmansyah  
Site: Bekol Savannah, Baluran National Park  
Location: East Java, Indonesia

A feral buffalo (Bubalus bubalis) soaking at the Bekol Savannah in Baluran National Park at dusk. This national park consists of savannas, mangrove forests, seasonal forests, coastal forests, lowland forests, swamp forests and evergreen forests. Savanna vegetation dominates Baluran National Park area and covers about 40 percent of the total land area. [English]

Seekor kerbau liar (Bubalus bubalis) berendam di kubangan yang berada di sabana Bekol taman nasional Baluran saat sore hari. Taman nasional ini terdiri dari tipe vegetasi sabana, hutan mangrove, hutan musim, hutan pantai, hutan pegunungan bawah, hutan rawa dan hutan yang selalu hijau sepanjang tahun. Tipe vegetasi sabana mendominasi kawasan Taman Nasional Baluran yakni sekitar 40 persen dari total luas lahan. [Indonesian]

Jury comments

Great lighting, focus and symmetry of colors. Takes a while to realize the bull is there in the mud, but then it's all you can see.
Sassen – Bünsow Land National Park lies on Spitsbergen island in the Svalbard archipelago. The Svalbard reindeer is well adapted to the harsh climate, and is the most northern living herbivore mammal in the world. They remain short-legged and have a relatively small, rounded, head. Their fur is also lighter in colour and thicker during winter. [English]

Sassen - Bünsow Land nasjonalpark ligger på Spitsbergen øy på Svalbard skjærgård. Svalbardrennen er godt tilpasset det harde klimaet, og er det nordligste levende plantelevende pattedyret i verden. De forblir kortbenet og har et relativt lite, avrundet hode. Deres pels er også lettere i farge og tykkere om vinteren. [Norwegian]
Photographer: Eduardo Menezes
(EduardoMSNeves)

Site: Pedra Azul,
Pedra Azul State Park

Location: Domingos Martins,
Espírito Santo, Brazil

Pedra Azul (Blue Stone) peak with the center of
the Milky Way above it. Pedra Azul State Park
is a state park in the state of Espírito Santo,
in the municipality of Domingos Martins, with
an average altitude of 1,350m. It has an area
of 1,240 ha, only 5% of which is open to visi-
tors, including Pedra Azul and Pedra das Flores,
two important outcrops of granite and gneiss,
respectively 1822 and 1909 m high, that are
known as postcards of the state because of
their spectacular beauty. [English]

Pedra Azul com o centro da Via Láctea acima.
O Parque Estadual da Pedra Azul é um Parque
estadual localizado no estado do Espírito Santo,
o município de Domingos Martins, com alti-
tude média de 1350mts, possui uma área de
1.240 hectares, apenas 5% do parque é aberto
da visitação, e abriga a Pedra Azul e a Pedra das
Flores, importantes afloramentos de granito e
gneiss, cartões postais do estado, por causa
de sua beleza espetacular, com respectivamen-
te 1822 e 1909mts. [Portuguese]
Photographer: Muhammad Ridwan
(Ridwan0810)
Site: Taman Safari
Location: Bogor, West Java, Indonesia

Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii, a sub-species of Borneo orangutans that have relatively larger body size than 2 other sub-species of Borneo orangutans. All species of orangutans, both Sumatran orangutans and Sumatran orangutans are species that are now vulnerable to threats of extinction. The threats encountered are habitat loss, illegal logging, wildfires, poaching and trafficking of orangutans to become pet. [English]

Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii, sub-spesies orangutan kalimantan yang memiliki ukuran tubuh relatif lebih besar dari 2 sub-spesies orangutan kalimantan lainnya. Seluruh spesies orangutan baik orangutan kalimantan dan orangutan sumatera merupakan spesies yang kini rentan terhadap ancaman kepunahan. Adapun ancaman yang dihadapi adalah hilangnya habitat, pembalakan liar, kebakaran hutan, perburuan dan perdagangan orangutan untuk menjadi satwa peliharaan. [Indonesian]

Jury comments

The eyes of orangutang tell something.
Nice detail.

Amazing detail in all his body and hair and expressive eyes.
Photographer: Pavlo Pyvovar
(Пивовар Павло)

Site: Rock-cave complex
Dovbush Rocks,
Polyanytskiy Regional
Landscape Park

Location: Bolekhiv municipality,
Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast,
Ukraine

The Dovbush Rocks is a group of natural and man-made structures carved out of rock at around 980 m above sea level in the Ukrainian Carpathians. The name of the formations comes from a leader of the opryshky movement, Oleksa Dovbush. [English]

Скелі Довбуша — скельно-печерний комплекс з природних та штучних скелястих виступів та печер на висоті 980 метрів над рівнем моря в Українських Карпатах. Назва цього унікального комплексу походить від імені легендарного ватажка опришків Олекси Довбуша. [Ukrainian]

Jury comments

Nicely coordinated picture composition and atmosphere.

The best time for taking landscape photo is twilight. The artist expressed this shot look like a painting.

Beautiful fall colors and great use of HDR.
Pyndyky is a natural site on Dzharylhach Island with small round saline lakes and islands. Dzharylhach Island is located at the Karkinit Bay of the Black Sea, its area of 56 square km and length of 42 km make it the Black Sea’s and Ukraine's biggest island. The island, its bay and Black Sea coast between Skadovsk and Lazurnoe form the Dzharylhach National Nature Park.

Jury comments

High encyclopaedic value, inviting to explore the details. Good resolution to do so.

Interesting earth phenomena.

Impressed by the landscape.

Photographer: Vadym Yunyk (Yunyk)
Site: Pyndyky, Dzharylhach National Park
Location: Skadovsk Raion, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine

Пиндики — урочище на острові Джарилгач з невеликими солоними озерцями круглої форми та островами. Острів Джарилгач розташований у Каркінітській затоці Чорного моря, з площею 56 км² та довжиною 42 км він є найбільшим островом України та Чорного моря. Сам острів, Джарилгацька затока навколо нього, а також берегова смуга Чорного моря між Скадовськом та Лазурним утворюють Джарилгацький національний природний парк. [Ukrainian]
Perereca-monkey (Phyllomedusa rohdei), arboreal species with a purple and orange coloration in the inguinal region. In the image two males vie for a branch while one passes over the other. Photographed in the Atlantic Forest, Michellin Reserve, Igrapiúna, Bahia, Brazil [English]

Perereca-macaco (Phyllomedusa rohdei), espécie arborícola com uma coloração roxa e laranja na região inguinal. Na imagem dois machos disputam um galho enquanto um passa por cima do outro. Fotografado na Mata Atlântica, Reserva Michellin, Igrapiúna, Bahia, Brasil [Portuguese]
Lawachara National Park

Photographer: Pallab Kabir (Pallabkabir)
Site: Lawachara National Park
Location: Kamalganj, Maulvibazar, Bangladesh

"Life around jungle". Lawachara National Park covers a significant part of the remaining evergreen forests in Bangladesh. The forest, located in Kamalganj Upazila of the Maulvibazar District, has a total area of 1250 ha, and has rich biodiversity. [English]

Jury comments

The light and composition and the mood of the place is perfect. The depth is also great. There is still space for the balance composition of the railway lines on the bottom corner of the frame.

The lighting is perfect: the backlighting on the monkey and the silhouette of the person make for a very interesting photo. The traintrack lines could be better aligned, but this is great.

I think the object of main interest could be shown to the larger scale. But this is subjective...
Nilgiri South (6,839m) forms an impressive backdrop to a large suspension bridge over the Kali Gandaki river near Tatopani. Kali Gandaki river is located in Central Nepal and forms Kali Gandaki Gorge which is, according to certain measures, the deepest in the world. [English]

भ्रु-तातोपानी नजरिको गण्डकी नदी नदी मा दूळो नक्सुबन पुल। नेपाली दक्षिण (6 9 3 9) पृष्ठभूमिमा छ। कालीगण्डकी खाँच नेपालको मध्यपश्चिमी हिमाली क्षेत्रमा कालीगण्डकी नदीले बनाएको खाँच हो। यो खाँच विश्वकै सबैमा गहिरो खाँच मानिन्छ। [Nepali]
Photographer: Iouri Emelianov
(Юрий Емельянов)
Site: Momsky National Park
Location: Sakha Republic, Russia

Watching northern pika (Ochotona hyperborea, Japanese guinea pig) in Momsky National Park. Northern pika are found across mountainous regions of northern Asia, from the Ural Mountains to northern Japan and south through Mongolia, Manchuria and northern Korea. [English]

Северная пищуха распространена в горных районах Северной Азии, от Уральских гор до севера Японии и на юг до Монголии, Маньчжурии и севера Кореи. [Russian]

Jury comments
Natural photo in the true sense of the word.
Cute animal and well focused.
Burned forest on Mount Parnitha. Parnitha is covered with pines in the lower part and with fir trees in the upper part. It has been declared an area of special natural beauty and is an important part of the homonymous national park.

Jury comments

Forest fires have been a major problem this year and it is good that we have some document about this environmental issue!

Haunting image of the devastation of forest fires with the smoldering ash and I like the golden sun which is reminiscent of the fire itself.

Good combination of colour. And loved the composition.
Capybaras (Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris) registered in the protection area of the Tietê river in São Paulo state. Capybara is a species of rodent mammal. It occurs throughout South America to the east of the Andes in habitats associated with rivers, lakes and marshes, from sea level up to 1,300 m altitude. Extremely adaptable, it can occur in environments highly altered by humans. It is the largest rodent in the world, weighing up to 91 kg and measuring up to 1.2 m in length and 60 cm in height. [English]

Capivaras (Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris) registradas na área de preservação do Rio Tietê no estado de São Paulo. A capivara é uma espécie de mamífero roedor. Ocorre por toda a América do Sul ao leste dos Andes em habitats associados a rios, lagos e pântanos, do nível do mar até 1 300 m de altitude. Extremamente adaptável, pode ocorrer em ambientes altamente alterados pelo ser humano. É o maior roedor do mundo, pesando até 91 kg e medindo até 1,2 m de comprimento e 60 cm de altura. [Portuguese]
16th place
Photographer: Renato Augusto Martins
Site: Bothriopsis bilineata at Atlantic Forest preservation area
Location: Ilheus, Bahia, Brazil

17th place
Photographer: Santosh R. Pathak
Site: View of the Manaslu and Ganesh Mountain range from Laurebinayak, Rasuwa
Location: Manaslu Conservation Area, Nepal

18th place
Photographer: Candra Firmansyah
Site: Two green peacocks (Pavo muticus) fighting at Bekol Savannah
Location: Baluran National Park, East Java, Indonesia
19th place
Photographer: Shahbazaslam1
Site: Passu Cones, Hunza Valley
Location: Gojal Conservancy,
          Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

20th place
Photographer: Jean Michel Laurent
Site: Tree fern (Cyatheales) in
      Sans Soucis Forest
Location: Réunion National Park, France

21st place
Photographer: Peter Nilsson (Pixpep)
Site: Tallmon Nature Reserve
Location: Eda municipality,
         Värmland County, Sweden
22nd place
Photographer: Alexander Kozintcev (Козинцев)
Site: Koryaksky, Avachinsky and Kozelsky volcanoes
Location: Three Volcanoes, Kamchatka Krai, Russia

23rd place
Photographer: Andreas Weith (AWeith)
Site: Common tern (Sterna hirundo) in Federsee Reserve
Location: Bad Buchau, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

24th place
Photographer: Yves Gagnon (Ygagnon1974)
Site: Bauvert Lake, Jasper National Park
Location: Alberta, Canada
25th place
Photographer: Viktor Gabyshev
(Vиктор Габышев)
Site: Ozhogino Lake
Location: Abyysky District, Sakha Republic, Russia

26th place
Photographer: Misha Reme
Site: Mount Shpytsi
Location: Carpathian National Nature Park, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Ukraine

27th place
Photographer: Yevgen Samuchenko
(Q-lieb-in)
Site: Gupteshwor Mahadev cave
Location: Kaski District, Nepal
28th place
Photographer: Frank Jones (Faj2323)
Site: View of the Khumbu Khola valley above Pheriche
Location: Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal

29th place
Photographer: Mohan K. Duwal
Site: Mustang Caves
Location: Mustang District, Nepal

30th place
Photographer: Heaven 721
Site: Gantrisch Natural Park
Location: Canton of Bern, Switzerland
31st place
Photographer: Chaiyathat Miphan
(Chaiyathat)
Site: Eastern beach of Ko Chang,
Mu Ko Chang National Park
Location: Trat Province, Thailand

32nd place
Photographer: Borilei
Site: Pied avocet
(Recurvirostra avosetta),
in Lake Pomorie
Location: Burgas Province, Bulgaria
5. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sassendalen_1.jpg