



wiki loves  
EARTH



2023

INTERNATIONAL JURY  
REPORT

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

After years of successful organization 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 realized 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 further in the following years.

In 2023, 50 countries and territories worldwide organized local contests. This is a record number of participating countries during the whole existence of the contest.

Wiki Loves Earth lasted from May 1 to August 31. We received more than 60,000 submissions from over 3,000 uploaders.

This year, the contest has two categories — landscapes and macro/close-up photography. It's already the third year WLE has had this division, and the experience of its introduction in 2021 showed high interest and impact.

# ABOUT WIKI LOVES EARTH

# HOW THE JURY WORKS

As usual, the international organizing team selected the jury team, which this year consisted of 13 members, who determined the final winners. The jury team was formed to be as diverse as possible: representatives from 13 countries and various continents. International jury members are experienced Wikimedians and professional photographers.

492 nominations were submitted to the international organizing team by the national juries of the participating countries. Each country was allowed to submit up to 15 images, not more than 10 from each category.

The nominations were collected in a judging tool managed by non-voting jury moderators. After pre-filtering ineligible files, all photos were submitted to the jury.

In the first stage, all jurors rated all images with stars from 1 (poor) to 10 (very good). 69 images with ratings higher than 6 were selected as candidates for the final round.

In the final stage, jury members rated (from 1 to 20) and commented on each of the 69 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 the case of equality of points in the final round, points from the first round were used as a tiebreaker. Photos were also checked for relevancy, copyright, and if they depicted a protected area or species are identified.

# INTRODUCING THE JURY

## **OSAMA SILWADI, PALESTINE**

Osama Silwadi is a Palestinian photojournalist, visual storyteller, archivist, and folklorist. He started his professional career in 1991. During the first Palestinian Intifada, he faced difficulties and challenges and was in danger as he worked in the conflict areas. In October 2006, Osama was seriously injured by a stray bullet during a march in the center of Ramallah, which resulted in paralysis of the lower limbs. Silwadi has won titles inspired by his work in documenting the Palestinian heritage, including "The Eye of Palestine" and the "Palestinian Heritage Documenter". Osama was the international jury member of the previous WLE editions in 2020, 2021, and 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **CARLOS FIGUEROA, CHILE**

Carlos Figueroa is a Chilean dentist and active Wikipedian since 2005 and has contributed to Wikimedia Commons since then. As a part of the Wikimedia Chile board since 2017 and chair since 2020, he has been in charge of the "Chile in images" project, which portrays the main cultural events in the country. Also, Carlos was a member of the national jury of the 2018 and 2019 editions of Wiki Loves Earth and a jury for other photographic contests, such as "6 months that changed Chile" and "Revealing Sites". Carlos was the international jury member of the previous WLE editions in 2020, 2021, and 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **SHANI EVENSTEIN SIGALOV, ISRAEL**

Shani Evenstein Sigalov is an Israeli educator, researcher, and Free Knowledge advocate, focusing on bridging gender, language, and social gaps. She teaches at Tel Aviv University, where she explores the intersection between technology, education, and Openness, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the School of Education, focusing on learning via the Semantic Web, more specifically, using Wikidata as a learning platform. Shani joined the Wikimedia Movement in 2011 and has been heavily involved in Outreach efforts. While serving on the Board of Wikimedia Israel, Shani has been involved in setting up Wiki Loves Monuments, both in creating partnerships for the competition as well as serving as a judge in the competition. As an amateur photographer (and married to a professional photographer), she has a deep appreciation of Art and photography and enjoys adding free-licensed media files to WikiCommons. She especially enjoys adding portraits (or videos) of notable people she encounters, places she travels to, or dishes she cooks or bakes. She even participated in the #100WikiCommonsDays Challenge. Though she failed the challenge miserably, she believes every Wikimedian should take on the challenge and looks forward to a time when she can take it up again. As of 2019, she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation and is currently the Vice Chair of the Board. Shani was the international jury member of the previous WLE editions in 2020 and 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **SUSANNA ANAS, FINLAND**

Susanna Änäs is a coordinator by practice and an artist, photographer, and documentarist at heart. Having joined the Wikimedia movement in 2012, she now runs the AvoinGLAM group in Helsinki, Finland, promoting open access to cultural heritage. The group likes to interpret GLAM as Global Languages, Art, and Memory instead of the institutional Galleries, Libraries, and Museums. The focus of the work is on urgent and important issues and bringing people together from across domain boundaries to work and learn together on them in case studies, experiments, or events like the co-creation "hackathon" Hack4OpenGLAM. Susanna has organized Wiki Loves Monuments in Finland three times. She wishes to explore and promote ways in which open culture advocates can make a positive impact on vulnerable and threatened cultural heritage or secure environmental sustainability. Susanna was the international jury member of the previous WLE edition in 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **GATETE PACIFIQUE, RWANDA**

Gatete Pacifique is a Rwandan photographer and a Wikimedia volunteer since 2019. In the Wikimedia movement, he has participated in most of the photograph and writing contests within Rwanda. He managed to be a winning contributor in Loves Folklore 2021, Wikipedia pages wanting photos 2021, WikiGap 2021, and 2022. He has organizing Wikiindaba 2022 in Rwanda.

## **ANANYA MONDAL, INDIA**

Ananya Mondal is a veteran Wikimedian, hobbyist, nature photographer, and conservationist from India. She is also fond of Forest Survey, Rock Climbing, and Himalayan Trekking. In photography, her special love is shooting Butterflies and that's why she started and still has been operating successfully a scientifically-based WMF-granted project on species and subspecies level detailed documentation of butterflies of West Bengal and North-East India entitled Wiki Loves Butterfly (WLB) for the past 6 years with a group of enthusiast Wikipedians, lepidopterists, naturalists, researchers, scientific organizations, etc. hailing from different parts of India. She is also known as Butterfly Wikimedian and received the Wikimedian of the Year 2021 Rich Media Award. Ananya is one of the members of the Organizing team of Wiki Loves Monuments (WLM) in India and Wiki Loves Food (WLF) in India. Ananya was the international jury member of the previous WLE editions in 2018, 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **GHEORGHE IORDACHI, MOLDOVA**

Gheorghe Iordachi is a Wikimedian from Moldova, administrator on Romanian Wikipedia and active on Wikidata. A 'Wiki Loves X' enthusiast – he often makes detours to visit protected areas and cultural heritage monuments.

## **EVELIN HEIDEL, URUGUAY**

Evelin Heidel is a Wikimedian based in Uruguay. She's currently leading the work of Wikimedistas de Uruguay, and one of her main areas of interest is climate change & sustainability topics, so much so that she's pursuing a Master's on the topic of Economics and the law of Climate Change! Evelin was the international jury member of the previous WLE edition in 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **LODEWIJK GELAUFF, NETHERLANDS**

Lodewijk Gelauff is a postdoctoral scholar working in computational social science in California and an enthusiast Wikimedian. His research focuses on engaging citizens and stakeholders in complex decisions using online tools. He is a Dutch Wikimedian and was one of the founders of Wiki Loves Monuments, leading its international team for several years. Wiki Loves Monuments has become the largest photography competition and is a sibling competition to Wiki Loves Earth. Lodewijk was the international jury member of the previous WLE edition in 2022 and was glad to continue contributing to the contest this year.

## **BIJAY CHAURASIA, NEPAL**

Bijay Chaurasia a Nepal-based professional photographer specializing in landscape, travel, cultural, and monumental photography with a decade of experience, he's captured Nepal's allure. A dedicated Wikimedia contributor since 2014, he promotes Nepal's charm worldwide.

## **MUHAMMAD AMDAD HOSSAIN, BANGLADESH**

Muhammad Amdad Hossain is a renowned visual artist from the enchanting landscapes of Bangladesh. His photography journey is a compelling narrative that goes beyond snapshots, offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of rural life in Bangladesh. With a deep connection to rural communities, Amdad's work highlights their daily joys, struggles, and resilience, serving as a call for action to address their challenges, especially after natural disasters. Amdad's lens is his bridge to diverse cultures worldwide, and he's earned over 150 international photography awards for his innovative and boundary-pushing work. His photographs have graced the pages of prestigious publications like Guardian, National Geographic, Forbes, and more. A rising star in the world of photography, Muhammad Amdad Hossain captures the essence of undiscovered worlds, weaving tales of hope and humanity with each click of his camera.

## **JAN AINALI, SWEDEN**

Jan Ainali started his Wikimedia journey on Wikimedia Commons in 2006. He has been the CEO of Wikimedia Sverige and is a co-founder of Wikimedians for Sustainable Development. In previous years, he has been on the jury for the Swedish Wiki Loves Earth and Wiki Loves Monuments, as well as the international Wiki Loves Monuments. In his day job, he helps public organizations collaborate on open-source software at the Foundation for Public Code.

## **MAGDALENA SOBOLEWSKA-BEREZA, POLAND**

Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza is a biologist working at Warsaw University, Faculty of Biology. Nature and biodiversity are her great passions. She loves to observe wild animals and nature in the city, take photos, and educate her students about them. She leads educational excursions, during which she teaches respect for biodiversity and balance between our fast-growing civilization and nature. For many years, She's been teaching photography, and currently, She is focused on mobile photography. She likes to use experimental techniques and combine photos with graphics and art. She is also a trained phototherapist. The combination of diverse experiences enables her to develop people's skills and show them how to express their emotions by capturing moments in the form of photos wherever they are.

TOP 20  
INTERNATIONAL  
WINNERS  
*Macro and landscapes categories*





## An insect of the species *Cicindela soluta*

**Photographer:** Serhii Miroshnyk (*Сергій Мірошник*);

**Species:** *Cicindela soluta*;

**Site:** Bila Dibrova Zakaznyk, Kyiv, Ukraine.

“

### Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Fantastic photo! Like from microcosmos movie. I like the sharpness on insects body with blurred plants around it. and balance between blue sky and red mosses! Technical skills and creativity of Author should be awarded.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Fun and illustrative capture of this species. Showing of clues of the general vegetation as well without making the scene busy.*

**Evelin Heidel:** *Almost perfect, encyclopedic and beautiful composition -- wonderful use of micro composition.*

”

**1st overall**

# 1 MACRO/CLOSE-UP



# Baya weaver (Engineer bird)

**Photographer:** Dasrath Shrestha  
Beejukchhen (Bablu) (*Dasrath Shrestha  
Beejukchhen (Bablu)*);

**Species:** *Ploceus philippinus*;

**Site:** Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park,  
Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

## Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *I like it! The focus is on its wings, maybe should be wider. An interesting photo of birds behavior.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Excellent sharpness on the bird's wings even though it is mid-flight. Great to capture the retrieval of more building material to the nest. Very illustrative for both the species and bird nest articles. Great use of the depth of field to separate the subjects from the busy background.*

**Susanna Ânäs:** *This image is perfected to display the dynamics of nest-building in the bird family. The moment is exceptional and all qualities highlight the main activity.*

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** *The image brings together many interesting elements, good job!*

**2nd overall**

**2 MACRO/CLOSE-UP**



# An experienced and battle-hardened Roebuck

**Photographer:** Tjustorparn (*Tjustorparn*);

**Species:** *Capreolus capreolus*;

**Site:** Lake Vänern Archipelago, Sweden.



## Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** *Excellent portrait that manages to capture a nice facial expression of the deer. The short depth of field makes the face really pop from the background.*

*The injuries make the photo even more useful.*

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Ideal sharpness and composition. Deer captured in its natural habitat, with wide opened eyes. It was not easy to take this photo!*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *Perhaps the cutest image this year!*

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** *This lovely portrait is almost entirely symmetrical, except for the focal point of the image.*

*This makes it even more enticing. The image combines great quality with good use of scenery.*



**3rd overall**

# 3 MACRO/CLOSE-UP



## Black-tailed skimmer

**Photographer:** Sven Damerow (*Sven Damerow*);

**Species:** *Orthetrum cancellatum*;

**Site:** Gülper See Nature Reserve, Germany.

### Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** *Very cool capture of this dragon fly covered by dew. That is in itself an interesting phenomenon to describe.*

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Unusual and more poetic, not only technically perfect photo. Interesting bokeh.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *The tiny drops are gorgeous.*

**4th overall**

# 4 MACRO/CLOSE-UP



## Blue-banded bees

**Photographer:** Mark Kineth Casindac  
(Kramthenik27);

**Species:** Amegilla Cingulata cingulate;

**Site:** Northern Negros Natural Park, the  
Philippines.

### Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Fantastic photo with unusual sharpness (maybe focus-stacking). Ideal for educational articles. great techniques skills of Author.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Excellent photo, and one has to double-check to see that it is not a reflection. Great colors and focus.*

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** *Great quality of the photo and very useful educationally.*

**Evelin Heidel:** *Trully complicate photo, excellent shot.*

**5th overall**

**5 MACRO/CLOSE-UP**

# Lunch on the fly of bee-eater



**Photographer:** Maurizio Carlini (*Maurizio Carlini*);

**Species:** *Cetonia aurata* and *Merops apiaster*;

**Site:** Greto dello Scrivia, Novi Ligure, Italy.

## Jury comments

**Ananya Mondal:** *What a moment!*

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Yes!  
Great photo!*

**Jan Ainali:** *Poor fella! Good capture of the  
behavior and usable both in the bug and  
bird articles.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *Perfect framing.*

**Gatete Pacifique:** *Perfect.*

*6th overall*

# 6 MACRO/CLOSE-UP



## Banded demoiselle

**Photographer:** Sven Damerow (*Sven Damerow*);

**Species:** *Calopteryx splendens*;

**Site:** Gülper See Nature Reserve, Germany.

### Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** *The level of detail is so high it is somewhat unreal, despite the rather shallow, but successful, depth of field.*

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Interesting point of view, shows an insect in his habitat, with details on every part of its body. I like colour balance: blue and green with white flower parts.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *The dragonfly looks like it's picking up florets.*

**7th overall**

**7 MACRO/CLOSE-UP**



## White Anjo caçador

**Photographer:** Nuno Candido (*Nuno Candido*);

**Species:** *Egretta garzetta*;

**Site:** Estuário do Sado, Portugal.

“

### Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** *Excellent color scale, gives an angel like appearance to the bird. The sharpness is there, even capturing the splashing water nicely. The bird looking straight at the camera draws me in. Would be great in an infobox.*

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Poetical, unusual photo. Author made an effort to capture this.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *Majestic stance, though it is not clear what kind of movement the bird was in the middle of.*

”

**8th overall**

# 8 MACRO/CLOSE-UP





## Couple of european Bee eaters

**Photographer:** Hugo Miguel Marques (Hugo Miguel Marques);

**Species:** Merops apiaster;

**Site:** Reserva Natural do Estuário do Sado, Portugal.



### Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** *Good sharpness, pleasant to view thanks to the landscape mode. Captures the color nice and you can see the envy of the top bird for the bug the other is holding.*



**9th overall**

# 9 MACRO/CLOSE-UP



# Black kite impersonating an osprey

**Photographer:** Prasan Shrestha (*Prasan Shrestha*);

**Species:** *Milvus migrans*;

**Site:** Phulchoki Protected Area, Taudaha Lake, Kirtipur, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

## Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Fantastic shot! Sharp with good framing. Its wings and claws are clearly visible. Interesting photo for an article about predators.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *Great encyclopedic value. Also manages to catch a bit of the fish's struggle.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Incredible capture of the moment here and with good sharpness. Tight crop making it very usable both for the fish and bird species as well as the habitat.*

**10th overall**

**10 MACRO/CLOSE-UP**



# Nest in the moonlight

**Photographer:** Nuno Luís (*Nuno Luís*);  
**Site:** Southwest Alentejo and Vicentine Coast Natural Park, Portugal.

## Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** Very dramatic view with long exposure time, letting the water "paint" the rocks. An unusual angle revealing the birds nest and the coastline. Warm low sunlight giving just the right shadows.

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** Interesting, unusual photo of stork's nest. Good example for ecological or behavioral articles. Balanced between moving sea and hard rock, but bird is not so clearly visible at the first sight.

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** Outstanding job showing the isolation of the nest.

**Susanna Ânäs:** What a place to set up home! The faint tones of sunlight in the rocks give the image a more dynamic palette.

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** A wonderful scenery that might give the viewer the misleading impression that they are the first to spot the stork.

11th overall

T LANDSCAPES



## Silk sheets after the rain

**Photographer:** Pamela Doretti (*Pamyd85*);

**Site:** Padule di Fucecchio, Italy.

### Jury comments

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**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Interesting, unreal. Great moment captured in artistic way.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Serene and spooky with the dew being captured in the spider webs. The diagonal of the trees towards the sun makes for a great composition.*

**Susanna Ånäs:** *Beautiful, controlled, skillfully captured backlight image of a surreal sight. The pictorial elements are enough to capture the attention of the spectator without the need to include creaturely interactions.*

”

**12th overall**

# 2 LANDSCAPES



## Sunset over Kiztepesi

**Photographer:** Cuneyt Gumushaneli (*Cungum*);

**Site:** Ankara Tabiat Anıtları, Nallihan, Ankara, Turkey.

### Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** Great geology capture, with both details of the crackling ground and the overview of the mountain. Somehow, the sun and shadow are well-balanced, which must have taken a lot of skill.

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** Interesting, not typical point of view. I like both the contrast and connection between the rock close to me and the mountains away. Good framing and deep focus.

**Susanna Ånäs:** Portrait landscapes are controversial, and it gives this image a bit of a hard-rock feel. There's also a heart of stone :-)

13th overall

3 LANDSCAPES



## Koxsu river in the autumn

**Photographer:** Marat Nadjibaev (*Marat Nadjibaev*);

**Site:** Koxsu river, Ugam-Chatkal national park, Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan.



### Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** Beautiful overall composition and nice long exposure to smoothen the waterfall. Excellent execution. The diagonals converge to the middle and draws me in. Would fit well both in the article about the river and the nature reserve.

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** Ideal balance between movement of water and stillness of mountains. Ideal example of long time exposure that emphasized that balance. Great skills of author.

**Evelin Heidel:** Stricking contrast between colorful on the left and the winter and water exposure, really powerful landscape.



14th overall

# 4 LANDSCAPES



# Stack Rock Fort From Above

**Photographer:** Jacob Allen (*JAllen2K*);  
**Site:** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park,  
Wales.



## Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Interesting perspective. I like the stillness of water and the building. Good composition with balanced colors. Ideal for many topics.*

**Susanna Ånäs:** *This is a beautiful aerial image, which illustrates the surrounding natural conditions of the man-made structure. Aerial images are becoming commonplace, and the image does not convey new approaches to that.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Nice composition and serene colorscheme.*

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** *The island is well captured and framed. The angle is very functional and shows enough but not too much of the human interaction with natural beauty.*



**15th overall**

# 5 LANDSCAPES



# Azores lagoon fire

**Photographer:** Veloso Patacas (*Veloso Patacas*);

**Site:** Lagoa do Fogo com Sol, Portugal.

## Jury comments



**Muhammad Amdad Hossain:** *Wow, what a stunning landscape photograph! The lighting in this shot is absolutely perfect, casting a soft and warm glow over the entire scene. It creates a wonderful sense of depth and dimension, bringing out the natural beauty of the landscape. The sharpness and clarity of the image are truly exceptional. Every detail, from the distant mountains to the blades of grass in the foreground, is rendered with remarkable precision. The photographer's technical skill in achieving such sharpness is commendable.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Good composition of capturing the lake. Highly usable in that article, and probably also the surrounding nature reserve.*

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *I like layering on this photo: from flowers to the lake, mountains and lake far away. Ideal weather makes everything more clear with sky reflections on the lake. Fantastic balance between colours: green and blue with yellow spots.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *Showing the sea behind the lake is a cool feat. The image also showcases the vegetation that grows on such volcanic soil, though not in great detail.*

**Gatete Pacifique:** *Good composition.*


**Lodewijk Gelauff:** *Lovely location that makes the photo seem easy.*



16th overall

# 6 LANDSCAPES





# Gito Plateau at a height of 2000 meters

**Photographer:** Refik Demir (*Rfkdmr*);

**Site:** Kaçkar Dağları Milli Parkı,  
Çamlıhemşin, Gito Yaylası/Rize, Turkey.

## Jury comments

**Jan Ainali:** Fun fog above the settlement, nice details in the mountain range.

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** Interesting topic and contrast between small village covered by fog and sky with clearly visible stars. I like framing with layers and focus.

**Susanna Ânäs:** Wonderful tones to highlight the isolation and temperature of this location. You can feel the cold under the open night sky, and how the residents are dependent on electricity for their comfort.

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** The setting captures well the valley and its weather patterns in a subtle way, including the human settlement. The starry night does not distract from the main topic of the photo.

**Evelin Heidel:** Magical, highly encyclopedic (documenting community in extreme weather), super interesting effort to get the right shot.

17th overall

7 LANDSCAPES



# Dichotomy: Calabria and Aspromonte engulfed in flames

**Photographer:** Cesare Barillà (*Cesare Barillà*);  
**Site:** Aspromonte National Park, Roccaforte del Greco, Italy.

## Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:** *Interesting composition with contrast of living and buried parts of that landscape. Shadows make photo more three dimensional. Good for many topics.*

**Gheorghe Iordachi:** *A heartbreaking before&after.*

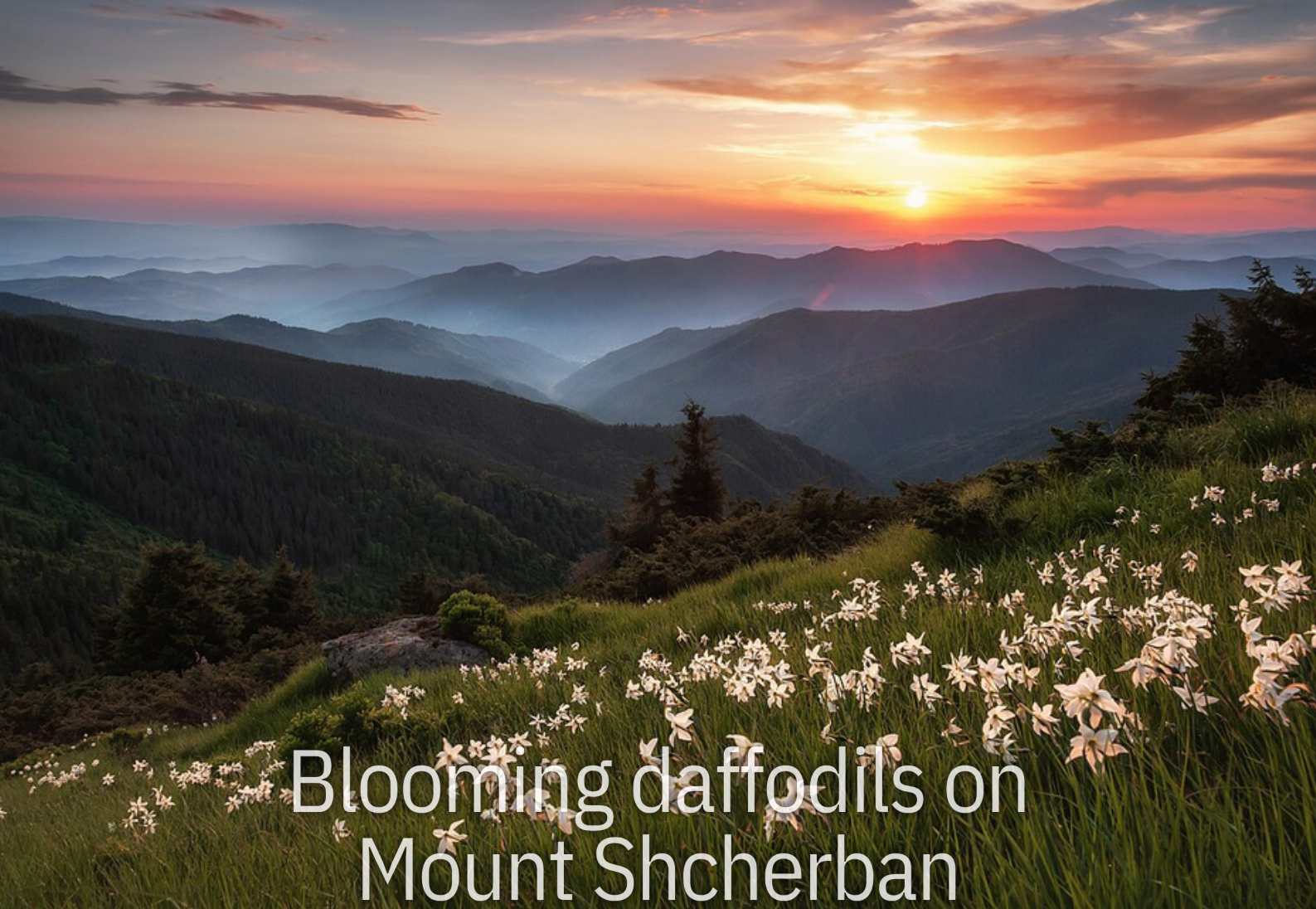
**Jan Ainali:** *Here the motif is well chosen and even though the color scheme seems a bit pale it tells a good story.*

**Lodewijk Gelauff:** *The story is clear, and the composition is very functional. Excellent quality, excellent usefulness.*

**Evelin Heidel:** *Heartbreaking and story forward.*

**18th overall**

# 8 LANDSCAPES



# Blooming daffodils on Mount Shcherban

**Photographer:** Mykhailo Petskovych (*Swift11*);

**Site:** Mount Shcherban, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Marmaroskyi Ridge, Rakhivskyi City Council, Ukraine.

## Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:**  
*Many layers, contrast between flowers and dark mountains and red sky. ideal for describing landscape and native plants with artistic point of view.*

**Jan Ainali:** *Excellent overview image of the national park, showing both individual species as well as general vegetation and terrain.*

**19th overall**

# 9 LANDSCAPES



# Barley and Buckwheat fields

**Photographer:** Niroj Sedhai (*Nirojsedhai*);

**Site:** Annapurna Conservation Area,  
Lomangthang, Upper Mustang, Nepal.

## Jury comments

**Magdalena Sobolewska-Bereza:**

Interesting point of view, capturing many layers in this landscape. I can see a harmony between yellow and green field, a village and grey mountains covered by clouds. Interesting photo for general articles, but without uniqueness.

**Jan Ainali:** Illustrative and good depth of field.

*20th overall*

# 10 LANDSCAPES

# SPECIAL NOMINATION "HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT"

In 2023, the Wiki Loves Earth international photo contest again supports the initiative Wiki4HumanRights, which partners with the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Its goal is to raise awareness of nature protection and human impacts on nature.

For this special nomination, we are looking for images that capture:

- Humans engaging in activities that rely on a healthy environment or a protected environment (such as livelihoods engaged in sustainable agriculture or fishing practices, sustainable construction, exercise in or enjoyment of natural spaces, etc);
- The human activity that restores or helps an ecosystem or environment recover from previous damage (i.e. tree planting, waste collection, sustainable management of the land, removing invasive species, etc);
- The negative effects of global environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, or pollution on maintaining environmental and human health (i.e. natural disasters like flooding, landslides, and wildfires, impacts of pollution, and waste accumulation);
- How human activity infringes on the natural systems we rely on for human and environmental health through extractive industries (such as forestry, mining, and destructive agriculture), construction of destructive infrastructure (i.e. dams and roads), or other activities;
- Where fragmenting or disappearing landscapes highlight ecological damage or loss that affects human well-being (i.e. invasive species, damaged waterways, soil loss, etc);
- People advocating for, protecting, or educating others about how a healthy environment is important for our collective well-being and the well-being of future generations.

After the review by the team of 6 jurors, who are biologists, ecologists, researchers, photographers, experts in the human rights field, and Wikimedians, we selected the final top 10 of the best images for this nomination from different countries.

# INTRODUCING THE JURY

## **JOÃO POMPEU, BRASIL**

As a biologist and ecological researcher, photography first came into his life as a working tool, but it soon assumed a more important role as art. As an independent documentary photographer, Joao portrays the environmental processes related to his research areas, including great natural phenomena, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and their relationships with all the spheres of the Earth System.

## **VALENTINA VERA-QUIROZ, COLOMBIA**

A human rights activist and lawyer from Harvard Law School. As a fellow at the Wikimedia Foundation, she provides legal and advocacy advice on human rights, disinformation, and policy. With extensive research and lecturing experience, Valentina advocates for freedom of expression and access to information globally.

## **OLIVIA CAROLINA BONNER, USA**

Has worked at the intersection of human rights and environmental law for more than five years. She is dedicated to ensuring global commons are sustainably and progressively managed for the benefit of all people and the planet and is steadfast in her commitment to the right to a healthy environment to be realized around the world. She is from a small town in Northern California but has had the pleasure of traveling around the world for her work, learning from countless others about the interdependency of human rights and the environment.

## **NICKY DELUGGI, ITALY**

An intern with the Human Rights Team at the Wikimedia Foundation. She holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and Japanese Studies from Vienna University and a master's degree in Human Rights from Central European University. Nicky is a former climate activist with Fridays for Future Vienna, especially interested in climate disinformation, socio-ecological transformation, and the intersection between environmental and digital rights.

## **JULIANA ALMEIDA, PORTUGAL**

Integrates UNEP's Law Division as an Environmental Law Specialist. She is currently working with matters related to human rights, the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, future generations, and building judicial capacity for the environment. She has previously worked in the European Parliament and the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in environmental matters. She has a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws in International and European Law from the Nova University of Lisbon, as well as a post-grad in Environmental Law.

## **MASANA MULAUDZI, SOUTH AFRICA**

A senior Manager, Campaign Organizing at the Wikimedia Foundation. Hailing from Johannesburg, South Africa, Masana joined the movement in January 2023 and has enjoyed learning about Wikimedia volunteers and their contribution to knowledge equity globally.



## Issue of pollution with plastic and waste

**Photographer:** Goldenwabbit (*Goldenwabbit*);

**Site:** Odaw river, Ghana.



### Jury comments

**Joao Pompeu:** *The bird's eye view puts into perspective the plastic pollution, one of the greatest environmental challenges of our times. The intriguing composition and the dimension of the people in the scene against waste gathering compel us to think about the fundamental right to a clean environment. Human wellbeing is only achieved in balance with natural processes, and this requires overcoming socioenvironmental inequalities.*



# 1st PLACE



# Consequences of burning dry grass

**Photographer:** Lubomir Matviyiv (*Matviyiv.lubomir*);

**Site:** "Seretsky" Hydrological Reserve, Ukraine.

## Jury comments

**Joao Pompeu:** *Hotter and drier weathers, probably caused by climate change, are shifting the patterns of wildfires worldwide. In consequence, wetlands and hydrological reserves are affected, forcing the population to evacuate or cope with uncontrolled fire. The photo represents a global issue with consequences for human well-being. The contrast of the shape of the fire line with the river and the dry grass makes the photo dramatic and impressive. It seems that the river is also burned.*

# 2nd PLACE





## Fishing at sunrise

**Photographer:** Vanja Kovac (*Vanja Kovac*);

**Site:** National Park Fruška gora, Serbia.



### Jury comments

**Joao Pompeu:** *A pleasant, low-key photo of the early morning fog. The mood conveys the enjoyment of being at that place and time.*



# 3rd PLACE



## Windmill near the Sivash

**Photographer:** Oleksandr Ryzhkov (*Ryzhkov Oleksandr*);

**Site:** Azov-Syvash National Nature Park, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine.

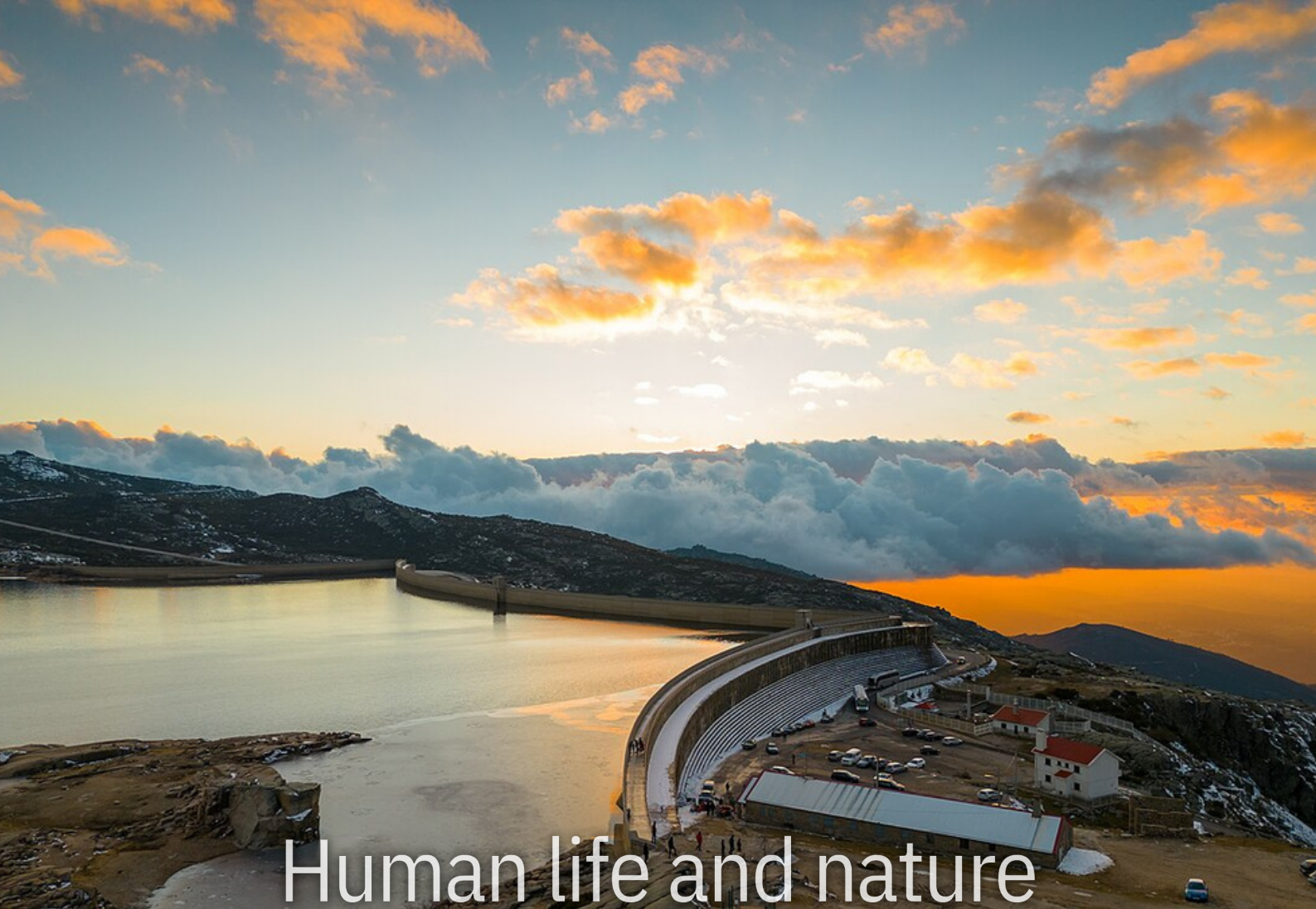


### Jury comments

**Nicky Deluggi:** *Breathtaking composition and colors, a surreal merger of natural and artificial landmarks.*



# 4th PLACE



# Human life and nature

**Photographer:** JC Ferreira - Fotografia (*Lentolho - Fotografia*);

**Site:** Parque Natural da Serra da Estrela, Portugal.



## Jury comments

**Masana Mulaudzi:** *This image beautifully balances light and dark to show the impact of people on our Earth.*



# 5th PLACE



# Flooding on the streets

**Photographer:** Cesare Barillà (*Cesare Barillà*);

**Site:** Bacini di Conselice, Italy.

6th PLACE



Save our animals

**Photographer:** MetAddyOliver (*MetAddyOliver*);

**Site:** Phoenix Park, Ireland.



## Jury comments

**Joao Pompeu:** *The photo portrays how environmental pollution threatens biodiversity worldwide. Synthetic fibers from oil and coal are found from European parks to tropical landscapes and polar waters, posing real challenges for biological conservation.*



7th PLACE




# Catching shellfish in the Atlantic Ocean

**Photographer:** Hadassah Photostorie group (*Hadassah Photostorie group*);

**Site:** Opobo town, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

8th PLACE



# Fog and the electrical lights covering the city

**Photographer:** Mithun Kunwar (*Mithunkunwar9*);

**Site:** Butwal, Nepal.

## Jury comments

**Nicky Deluggi:** *Brilliant – the contrast between the soft clouds and the harsh city lights creates a dreamy yet very atmosphere.*

# 9th PLACE



## Ash-covered rugged terrain

**Photographer:** Michael Angelo Luna (*Micluna*);

**Site:** Taal Volcano, Agoncillo, Batangas, the Philippines.

# 10th PLACE



# IMAGES

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3. File:Råbock i närbild.jpg
4. File:Großer Blaupfeil.jpg
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Report created by Olesia Lukaniuk — OlesiaLukaniuk (WMUA),  
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