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 further in the following years.

In 2018 Wiki Loves Earth continued this trend. 32 countries organised a national stage, and the list of first-time participants included Chile, Italy, Jordan and the Philippines. As in 2016 and 2017, there was a special nomination in collaboration with UNESCO which was extended to Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks. 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 89,829 pictures were submitted by 7,659 participants, 6,371 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, totalling 297 pictures submitted to the international jury.
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 four continents and very different backgrounds) and so that no country could have more than one jury member.

297 nominations were submitted to the international organising team by the national juries of the participating countries. Each country was allowed to submit up to 10 images. Unfortunately, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves organising team was not able to submit nominees for reasons independent of their will, while Egypt and Portugal teams did not answer by th.

The nominations were collected in a judging tool managed by non-voting jury moderators. After pre-filtering ineligible files (small resolution below 2Mpx, not depicting any protected natural sites or not identifiable) 286 out of 297 photos were submitted to the jury. On the first stage, all jurors rated all images with stars from 1 (poor) to 10 (very good). 33 images with ratings higher than 6.8 were selected to the final round.

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.
Ananya Mondal, India (User:Atudu)

Ananya is a Wikipedian since 2015 and contributes in Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikisource, Wikidata and Wikispecies. She has contributed articles in Wikipedia in English and Bengali language mainly concerning flora and fauna species and especially butterflies, venomous snakes and female sport activities.

Ananya is successfully running a scientifically-based WMF-granted project on documentation of butterflies of West Bengal and North-East India entitled as Wiki Loves Butterfly (WLB) in Bengali Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons. Outside Wikipedia, Ananya is a nutritionist by profession, and hobbyist nature photographer and conservationist.

Ayokanmi Oyeyemi, Nigeria (User:Kaizenify)

Ayokanmi Oyeyemi is an award-winning professional photographer from Lagos, Nigeria. He has a background in Medical Biochemistry but his interest in art spurred him to pick a career in photography where he specializes in commercial and documentary photography. His photography works had been featured in many journals and editorials across the country, and he has won several photography contests. He is currently the Head of Photography for Wikimedia Nigeria.

Brendan Kenneth Duprey, PhD, US/CEE

Brendan has over ten year’s work experience in international development and program management. Currently he is an advisor for the Truth Hounds Human Rights Organization in Ukraine where he conducted field missions in Donbas and developed one of the first methodologies globally on analyzing the environmental impacts of the war. He also lead the Framework Program “Education for Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans (2012-2017)”.

Brendan holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Central European University.
Dietmar Bartz, Germany (User:Aalfons)

Aalfons is an active Wikipedian since 2007. Outside Wikipedia, Dietmar Bartz 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.

Fayçal Rezkallah, Algeria (User:Fayçal Rezkallah)

Fayçal Rezkallah is a photography artist, trainer in photography and a member of User Group Algeria. He has made exhibitions of his photos of Faces from the Wikimedia Movement at Wikimedian meetings. He is currently manager of the Wikinomad project and was a jury member of Wiki Loves Africa and Wiki Loves Monuments in Algeria. Fayçal is the president of ISOCCLUB, a photography club that organizes every year the festival “Les jours de la photo d’Oran”.

Fiona Ayerst, South Africa

Fiona Ayerst has been a professional underwater photographer for 12 years. She shoots lifestyle, environmental and sports imagery, with a specific interest in anything related to water. Fiona has contributed articles and imagery to many local and international magazines, and contributes to stock photography. In 2003 Fiona was chosen as the South African Wildlife Photographer of the year and in 2006 she was named world champion on popular website http://www.underwaterphotography.com/ . She runs training programs for underwater photographers.

Renato Martins, Brazil (User:Renato Augusto Martins)

Renato Martins lives in São Paulo, Brazil, since his birth, in 1987. He works as a wildlife photographer, exploring the various Brazilian biomes, like Altantic Forest, Amazon and Caatinga. He also works as a biologist, Master’s Degree student of fauna conservation.

As a photographer, he has more than ten years of experience collaborating with photographs to magazines, scientific publications, sites and books. He has contributed to Wikipedia with many photographs. Renato won many prizes in local and international photo contests, including the 1st place in the Picture of the Year (POTY) contest on Wikimedia Commons 2017.
Photographer: Ekaterina Vasyagina (Evasyagina)

Site: Cape Stolbchaty, Kurils Nature Reserve

Location: Kunashir, Kuril Islands, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia*

* Kunashir and South Kuril Islands are the subject of a territorial dispute between Russia and Japan.

Cape Stolbchaty at the Kunashir Island after sunset. Kurils Nature Reserve. Cape Stolbchaty is famous for its columnar basalt formations, which are strikingly similar to the Giant’s Causeway in Northern Ireland. [English]

Мыс Столбчатый известен наслонениями базальтовых лав с хорошо выраженной столбчатой отдельностью, напоминающими Мостовую гигантов в Северной Ирландии. [Russian]

Jury comments

Brilliant composition and depth.

I do love the hue. The rock in the foreground is mesmerising.

Superb perspective, a photo that makes you want to breathe.
Photographer: Ilya Timin
(Timinilya)
Site: Bell Island, Franz Josef Land,
Russian Artic National Park
Location: Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia

Bell Island of Franz Josef Land and Eira Lodge of Benjamin Leigh Smith expedition (the only fully preserved historical building on the island, built in 1881), built Russian Arctic National Park. [English]

Остров Белл архипелага Земля Франца-Иосифа. Единственная сохранившаяся в целом виде историческая постройка исследователей этих территорий — домик Бенджамина Ли Смита поставленный в 1881 году, во время полярной экспедиции. Национальный парк Русская Арктика. [Russian]

Jury comments: Gives a great sense of scale and permanence vs. impermanence.
Photographer: Abdul Momin  
(Abdulmominbd)  
Site: Satchari National Park  
Location: Habiganj District, Bangladesh  

Satchari National Park was established in 2005 on 243 hectares of land. Literally 'Satchari' in Bengali means 'Seven Streams'. There are seven streams flowing in this jungle, and the name 'Satchari' came from there. [English]  

আইনের বলে ২৪৩ হেক্টর এলাকা নিয়ে ২০০৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দে 'সাতছড়ি' জাতীয় উদ্যান প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হয়। এই উদ্যানের সাতটি পাহাড়ি ছড়া, তা আছে, সেই থেকে এর নামকরণ সাতছড়ি (অর্থ: সাতটি ছড়ি, আংশিকটি)। [Bangla]  

Jury comments

Stunner. Well placed composition, great lighting in a difficult lighting situation, pensive, of value to Wiki, exceptional in every way.  
Small angle but with great depth. Nice job.  
Good command of light and shadow.  
One of my favorites, the light is magic.
Hoggar (or Ahaggar) Mountains are a highland region in the South-East of Algeria, in Tamanrasset Province in Central Sahara. The mountains are primarily composed of metamorphic rock approximately 2 billion years old, although there are areas where more recent volcanic activity has laid down much newer rock. Ahaggar Cultural Park is an area

**Photographer:** Mohammed Amri  
(Sofiane mohammed amri)  
**Site:** Hoggar Mountains, Ahaggar Cultural Park  
**Location:** Tamanrasset Province, Algeria  

**Jury comments**

Grand and smooth image.  
Lovely hues but spoilt by the dirty mark on the cliff face in the mid-ranges.

الهقار أو الأهقار هي سلسلة جبلية شهيرة تقع في أقصى الجنوب الشرقي للجزائر بولاية تمنراست. وهي عبارة عن تشكيلات جبلية بركانية ذات تاريخ عريق ضارب في أعماق الزمن والجدران الصخرية القديمة تدل على ذلك وأصبحت هذه المنطقة حظيرة لأهميتها في الجزائر والعالم.
Photographer: Nasr Rahman
(Nasrrahman)

Site: Hunza Valley,
Gojal Conservancy

Location: Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

Autumn at its boom in the valley of Hunza Altit Valley, Gilgit Baltistan. [English]

Jury comments
The perfect frame, one of trees in autumn. lovely use of multiple opposing diagonals. fantastic light and colour. each leaf is visible.

The contrast between the cold and the heat is well balanced, bravo.

Beautiful color range.

گلگت بلتستان کی بنزا الیت
وادی مین خزان ایبتی عروج پر.

[Urdu]
Photographer: Aleksandr Horoshilov
(HoroshilovAleksandr)
Site: Swamp Cypresses
Location: Sukko, Krasnodar Krai, Russia

Swamp cypress (Taxodium distichum) near Sukko, Krasnodar Krai. [English]

Болотные Кипарисы (Taxodium distichum) около Сукко, Анапа, Краснодарский край. [Russian]

Jury comments
Stunning colours and simplicity. marked down only because a focal point may have helped.

Simply beautiful.
Photographer: Bruno Osamu Nonogaki (BrunoNonogaki)

Site: Baixa Grande, Lençóis Maranhenses National Park

Location: Maranhão, Brazil

Sunset in Baixa Grande, an oasis in the middle of National Park Lençóis Maranhenses. [English]

Por do Sol em Baixa Grande, um oásis no meio dos Lençóis Maranhenses [Portuguese]

Jury comments

I think the fallen twig adds more story to the images and made it read better meaning. It’s a perfect image that tells a lot of stories.

The presence of the fallen twig has destroyed the charm of a perfectly balanced and exquisitely shot picture.

For me, the fallen twig brings grace to the picture. Great lighting too.

Right moment, wonderful!
Wood sandpiper (Tringa glareola) is a small wader at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park.

Jury comments

Brilliant composition and colours, making the picture mild and pleasant.

Sharp and cute. However, just a little bit staid.
Photographer: Ilya Timin
(Timinilya)

Site: Northbrook Island,
Franz Josef Land,
Russian Artic National Park

Location: Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia

Walruses lying on Northbrook Island. Russian Arctic National Park. The picture was taken as part of the expedition in the footsteps of two captains by Maritime Heritage Associations.

[English]

Jury comments
Great subject matter and perfect for wiki. I feel the crop is incorrect as some of the Walruses are missing little bits of their bodies.

[Russian]

Лёжка моржей на острове Нортбрук. Национальный парк Русская Арктика. Снимок сделан в рамках экспедиции «По следам двух капитанов», организованный ассоциацией «Морское наследие» проекта «Архипелаги Арктики: Открытый океан».
Lake Elton

Photographer: Vladimir Medvedev (Medvedevphoto)
Site: Lake Elton
Location: Volgograd Oblast, Russia

Bird’s-eye view of the Samaroda river mouth and South-Eastern part of Lake Elton in Spring 2018. Elton is a slat endorheic lake in the North of Caspian Depression. It is the biggest lake of Volgograd Oblast, the biggest saline lake in Europe and one of the most mineralised lakes in the world. [English]

Вид на устье Самароды и юго-восточную часть озера Эльтон с высоты птичьего полёта весной 2018 года. Эльтон — солёное бессточное самосадочное озеро на севере Прикаспийской низменности. Крупнейшее озеро Волгоградской области и самое большое по площади минеральное озеро Европы (одно из самых минерализованных в мире). [Russian]

Jury comments

My eye is not too sure where to look.
Adult bearded vulture (Gypaetus barbatus) in flight in Gran Paradiso National Park. The Gran Paradiso National Park is the oldest Italian national park. The peaks of the national park are part of the Graian Alps.

Since 2011, the bearded vulture has started to nest again in the Park. [English]

Jury comments

Great sharp capture of a difficult subject. I just love that backdrop ofсуждев вертикальные линии, которые я думаю должны быть деревья, это действительно делает это изображение выделяющимся.

I marked it down due to the fact that I think the lens is just slightly too zoomed in.

Dal 2011 il gipeto ha iniziato a nidificare di nuovo nel Parco. [Italian]
Photographer: Shahanshah Bappy
(Md shahanshah bappy)
Site: Satchari National Park
Location: Habiganj District, Bangladesh

Chestnut-tailed starling (Sturnia malabarica) in Satchari National Park. [English]

কাঠ শালিক (Sturnia malabarica), সাতছড়ি জাতীয় উদ্যান। [Bangla]

Jury comments

Good angle and colours, however, a higher velocity would have enriched the image.

Symmetry, shapes and colours all work well together. Sharp eye. Two things I didn't like- centrally placed head, cut off wing.
Photographer: Mohamed El Golli
(El Golli Mohamed)
Site: Lake of Tunis Complex
Location: Tunis, Tunisia

Greater flamingos (Phoenicopterus roseus) at the southern part of the lake of Tunis. [English]

Flamants roses (Phoenicopterus roseus) au sud du lac de Tunis. [French]

Jury comments

Pleasing muted tones flecked with pink, good symmetry and balance. Somewhat dull. Perfect subjects for reflection. I would have liked the third bird to also be in focus.

Clean, well framed, everything is good.
Sunrise in Tassili n’Ajjer National Park near Djanet. Tassili n’Ajjer (Plateau of Rivers) is a mountain chain located in Illizi Province in South-Eastern Algeria. It is an arid plateau that rises more than 2,000 metres above sea level from 50 to 60 km wide and 800 km long. Tassili n’Ajjer was inducted into UNESCO’s World Heritage Site list in 1982. [English]

Jury comments

All excellent photograph just lacking in required focal length.

Beautiful image with striking ambiance however lack of required focal length.

I think the sun is a focal point. It’s on a third too.

[Arabic] شروق الشمس في طاسيلي ناجر الحديقة الوطنية بالقرب من جيات. طاسيلي ناجر أو تاسيلي تعاویر (هضبة من الأنهار) هي سلسلة جبلية تقع في ولاية الزيزي في الجنوب الشرقي للجزائر. وهي هضبة فاحلة حمصية ترتفع بأكثر من 2000 م عن سطح البحر عرضها من 50 إلى 60 كم وطولها 800 كم. موقع اليونيسكو للتراث العالمي.
Meteora rock formation with monasteries on top of them. Meteora is a complex of large dark-coloured rocks composed of a mixture of sandstone and conglomerate, rising out of Kalambaka, near Pindos and Hassia. [English]

Οι βράχοι των Μετεώρων και τα μοναστήρια τους. Τα Μετέωρα είναι ένα σύμπλεγμα από τεράστιους σκοτεινοχρωμοι βράχους από ψαμμίτη οι οποίοι υψώνονται έξω από την Καλαμπάκα, κοντά στα πρώτα υψώματα της Πίνδου και των Χασίων. [Greek]
16th place
Photographer: João P. Burini
(Techuser)
Site: Hoverfly in Serra do Papagaio state park
Location: Matutu valley, Aiuruoca, Minas Gerais, Brazil

17th place
Photographer: Nasr Rahman
(Nasrrahman)
Site: Hunza Valley, Gojal Conservancy
Location: Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

18th place
Photographer: Irena Štefanec
Site: Sastavce, Plitvice Lakes National Park
Location: Lika-Senj County, Croatia
19th place
Photographer: Katieleeosborne
Site: Rye Pier
Location: Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve, Victoria, Australia

20th place
Photographer: P. Kumar (Kumarmp82)
Site: San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Island
Location: Basque County, Spain

21st place
Photographer: Kosin Sukhum (KOSIN SUKHUM)
Site: Leopard in Khao Laem National Park
Location: Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand
22nd place
Photographer: Kirill Uyutnov
(Kirill.uyutnov)
Site: Muskox on Bolshoy Begichev Island
Location: Terpey-Tumus natural monument, Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Russia

23rd place
Photographer: Yasha Jakovsky
Site: Rastoke
Location: Slunjčica Landscape Site, Karlovac County, Croatia

24th place
Photographer: Jakob Reischl (JakobRei)
Site: Eurasian lynx (Lynx lynx) in Bavarian Forest National Park
Location: Bavaria, Germany
25th place
Photographer: Abdul Momin
(Abdulmominbd)
Site: Pelican in
Bangabandhu
Sheikh Mujib Safari Park
Location: Gazipur, Bangladesh

26th place
Photographer: Mohamed El Golli
(El Golli Mohamed)
Site: European bee-eater
(Merops apiaster)
in Ichkeul National Park
Location: Bizerte, Tunisia

27th place
Photographer: Abdul Momin
(Abdulmominbd)
Site: Great white pelican
(Pelecanus onocrotalus)
in Bangabandhu
Sheikh Mujib Safari Park
Location: Gazipur, Bangladesh
28th place
Photographer: Ekaterina Vasyagina (Evasyagina)
Site: Golovnin Volcano, Kurils Nature Reserve
Location: Kunashir, Kuril Islands, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia*
* Kunashir and South Kuril Islands are the subject of a territorial dispute between Russia and Japan.

29th place
Photographer: Ronnie Dayo (Goytex)
Site: Gyeongju Yangnam Columnar Joint
Location: North Gyeongsang Province, South Korea

30th place
Photographer: Drazen Dombaj (Drazendombaj)
Site: Trakošćan Lake
Location: Trakošćan Park Forest, Varaždin Country, Croatia
31st place
Photographer: João P. Burini
(Techuser)
Site: Green jumping spider in Intervales State Park
Location: São Paulo, Brazil

32nd place
Photographer: Nick Giatrakis
(Progressevakos)
Site: Drakolimni on Mount Tymfi
Location: Epirus, Greece

33th place
Photographer: Julienicholls95
Site: Three Sisters,
Blue Mountains National Park
Location: New South Wales, Australia
15. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Метеора's_monastery_2.jpg
23. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frightened_Mrs._Tittlemouse_Whispered_This_Is_Azazello's_House.jpg
27. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Кальдера_вулкана_Головина_Вулканический_берег.jpg
29. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:When_the_world_turns.jpg
30. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Salticidae__Lyssomanes_sp.jpg
32. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Three_Sisters_and_Smoke.jpg