



2019 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 further in the following years.

In 2019 the seventh edition of Wiki Loves Earth continued this trend. A record number of 37 countries organised a national stage, and the list of first-time participants included Benin, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda. Most of the countries organised the contest from 1 May to 31 May 2019, while some extended the contest period till 30 June. During the contest, 90,081 pictures were submitted by 9,516 participants. With 8,250 users making their first upload on Wikimedia Commons, this was the most active campaign of recruiting newbies of 2019.

The contest was organised in each country by local volunteers, either affiliated to a chapter or a user group or not. Each national jury submitted up to 10 pictures to the international stage, totalling 350 pictures submitted to the international jury.

ABOUT WILLOUES EARTH

HOW THE JURY WORKS

Winners were determined by the 7-person international jury. Members were selected by the international team. For the first time, we introduced a constraint that a jury member cannot come from a participating country. The jury was formed to be as diverse as possible (it includes representatives of seven countries, three continents and very different backgrounds - from Wikimedia to professional nature photography).

350 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, despite the efforts of the international team, Brazil and Guinea Bissau organising teams were not able to submit nominees in time for the deadline mid-August.

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 spieces) 296 out of 350 photos were submitted to the jury. On the first stage, all jurors rated all images with stars from 1 (poor) to 10 (very good). 54 images with ratings higher than 5.5 were selected to the final round.

On the final stage, jury members rated (from 1 to 20) and commented on the 54 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, points from the first round were used as a tiebreaker. A 15-16 place tie could not be resolved as their results were identical.

INTRODUCE THE JURY

Fiona Ayerst, South Africa

Fiona Ayerst has been a professional underwater photographer for 13 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. She runs training programs for underwater photographers.

Mher Bekaryan (User:Beko), Armenia

Mher Bekaryan is a designer with 15 years of experience and the experience of drawing. Known as Beko on Wikimedia projects, he is a coordinator of Armenian GLAM-wiki projects, where he frequently deals with photography. In his volunteer capacity, he promotes photographing among members of the Armenian wikicommunity and contributes to organizing Wiki Loves Monuments (WLM) in Armenia. In 2017, he was a member of Norwegian WLM jury.

Dave Currey, the United Kingdom

Dave Currey is a British environmentalist, writer, and photographer. He co-founded the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) in 1984 and was its executive director for ten years, as well as a senior campaigner and board member for twenty-five years. His photo spreads appeared in magazines such as LIFE, The Sunday Times, BBC Wildlife and The Telegraph Magazine. His photo spread on the plight of Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India acted as a catalyst to raising over £80,000 for the park, its forest guards and communities, further protecting the rhinos, tigers and river dolphins. He has worked on film documentaries for BBC and National Geographic.

Dave was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Medal in 1990 for his "work in protecting elephants and dolphins". and EIA was awarded the Global 500 Roll of Honor by UNEP for "outstanding contributions to the protection of the environment" in 2001.

Mohamed El Golli (User: El Golli Mohamed), Tunisia

Mohamed El Golli is a Tunisian ornithologist and wildlife photographer, who has been awarded in national and international photo contests a number of times. He is working on the conservation of Tunisian birds and their habitats, which includes writing a book '100 birds of Tunisia'. He contributed to Wiki Loves Earth every year from 2015 to 2018, and photos of birds by El Golli got to the top-15 of the international round in 2015 and 2018.

Volha Kaskevich, Belarus

Volha Kaskevich is the founder of the Belarusbased organization Bahna, ecological engineer, expert on sustainable management of natural areas, environmental protection and advocacy. She is also a coordinator of several public campaigns, coordinator of Belarus Wildlife Protection Working Group; member of the International Mire Conservation Group, member of the Council on Pripyat River Basin; member of the Council on Biodiversity in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection; Secretary of the Scientific and Public Advisory Council on Ecosystem Services and Biological Diversity in the Scientific and Practical Center for Bioresources, Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Besides, Volha is a journalist and a founder of the Bahna.land news media; photographer and podcast creator.

Rathika Ramasamy, India

Rathika Ramasamy is a wildlife photographer. Based in Chennai, she has been dubbed "first Indian woman to strike an international reputation as a wildlife photographer". Rathika focuses on photographing birds, and she is notable for her photos from various national parks in India and other countries. She participates in wildlife exhibitions and conducts workshops on wildlife photography. Among other awards, Rathika received the International Camera Fair (ICF) award for her excellence in wildlife photography in 2015. She had been a jury member for various national and international photography award competitions.

Kristoffer Vaikla (same username), Estonia

Kristoffer Vaikla is an interior designer and photographer from Tallinn, Estonia. For the last ten years, he specializes in adventure and exploration photography, helping the world to discover the nature of his home country. Six of his photographs were featured by the famous National Geographic website, and one was published in National Geographic's book 'Getting Your Shot: Stunning Photos, How-to Tips, and Endless Inspiration From the Pros'.

Kristoffer also won recognition in several national and international photography competitions. In 2016, his photo of Vääna River got to the seventh place in Wiki Loves Earth.



Photographer: Sven Damerow

Site: Naturschutzgebiet

"Gülper See"

Location: Havelland, Brandenburg,

Germany

Banded demoiselle (Calopteryx splendens) on a common dandelion (Taraxacum sect. Ruderalia) at NSG Gülper See lake in Brandenburg, Germany. [English]

Gebänderte Prachtlibelle (Calopteryx splendens) auf Pusteblume (Taraxacum sect. Ruderalia) am NSG Gülper See in Brandenburg, Deutschland.

Jury comments

That blur is excellent, bright good colors, sharp, a lot of details to observe; definitely useful.

As macro subject the depth of field is stunning, excellent details on the wings.

Sharp and well-composed. Lacks interest but would look great in a book about insects.

Good details, all together great macro.

"



Photographer: Aboubakrhadnine

Site: Hoggar (Ahaggar) Mountains,

Ahaggar Cultural Park,

Tamanrasset National Reserve

Location: Tamanrasset Province, Algeria

Hoggar, Tamanrasset National Reserve. Tenakashakir is a word in Tuareg (the language of the Tuareg desert) and it's a kind of extinct tree that grew in the area. [English]

هو غار ، محمية تمنر است الوطنية. تيناكاشاكير كلمة باللغة التارقية -لغة طوارق الصحراء- وهي نوع من الاشجار المنقرضة التي كانت تعيش بالمنطقة.

Jury comments

Magnificent colour and the line of people vs the line of rock - very powerful.

Lovely lighting ans good texture in the sand dune, including the human element works well in this image.

Really great photo, but maybe it would be even better if the man figures would walk on the further dune on the right side. On that case i would crop the foreground a bit more.

Great light.



Photographer: Mischa Reme

Site: Mount Vukhatyi Kamin,

Chornohora,

Carpathian National Park

Location: Verkhovyna Raion,

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast,

Ukraine

Rhododendron myrtifolium at blossom at dawn on the slope of Mount Vukhatyi Kamin (literally 'eared stone', Chornohora, Ukrainian Karpathians. [English]

Цвітіння рододендронів карпатських (Rhododendron myrtifolium) на світанку на схилі гори Вухатий Камінь, Чорногора, Українські Карпати. [Ukrainian]

Jury comments

Beautiful foreground flowers leading eye to the layers of mountain. Sun glow makes perfect landscape image.

Nice illustration of rhododendron unique phenomenon of the Carpathian.

Classical, but beautiful and sharp shot!

Very chocolate box - but somewhat enticing...



Photographer: Dmytro Balkhovitin

(Balkovitin)

Site: Ay-Petri,

Ay-Petri Yayla

Landscape Reserve

Location: Yalta Municipality, Crimea*

* Crimea is internationally recognised as a part of Ukraine, and is controlled by Russia since 2014. This photo was nominated by WLE Ukraine.

Panorama of the winter dawn on Ai-Petri (Ay Petri) Mountain, with low clouds reaching the Black Sea. [English]

Панорама зимового світанку над горою Ай-Петрі. Низькі хмари сягають Чорного моря. [Ukrainian]

Ay Petri tañda qış künü. [Crimean Tatar]

Jury comments

Really nice shot with a great soft light.

I imagine how hard was the path to that place.

Walking in the cloud, looks fairyland like magical.

Wonderful depth and perfect lighting.

Growth above the clouds.

Definitely important view point.



Photographer: Andreas Loukakis

(Andloukakis)

Site: Cha Gorge,

Thrypti Mountains and

Surrounding Area

Natura 2000 Site

Location: Lasithi, Crete, Greece

At the exit of Cha (Ha) Gorge, Thrypti Mountains, Crete [English]

Η έξοδος του φαραγγιού Χα, Θρυπτή, Κρήτης.
[Greek]

Jury comments

I love the mix of stripes and colours with soft water... it's like walking into coconut ice.

Liked the composition, love the combination of nature colors and texture here.

So much going on - it's as if nature just had a really happy day!

Great sharp image, maybe even too sharp.



Photographer: Glenn Palacio

(Theglennpalacio)

Site:

Blue Water Cave,

Kiokong Eco-Tourism Park

Location:

Quezon, Bukidnon,

Northern Mindanao, Philippines

A part of Polangui river that flows in the blue water cave found in Quezon, Bukidnon named after its crystal clear bluish water. [English]

Ang kani nga langob nga naa sa Quezon, Bu-kidnon kay apil sa suba sa Polangui. Ang tubig nga anaa sa sulod kay perminti klaro ug asul ang kolor mao nang gi tawag siya nga langob nga asol ang tubig. [Cebuano]

Jury comments

Spot light gives mystery feeling, little more light on the cave details would have been make this impressive.

Good photo with the cool light through the caves!

I like the fact the light only hints at that scene below.

More light in the undertones would have let the subdued greens shine out more. Sharper detail in the light beams would have added to the effect. Pleasing blues and soft water- the beginnings of a great idea.



Photographer: Abdul Momin

(Abdulmominbd)

Site: Ratargul Swamp Forest

Location: Gowainghat Upazila,

Sylhet, Bangladesh

Ratargul Swamp Forest is the only swamp forest located in Bangladesh and one of the few freshwater swamp forest in the world. [English]

রাতারগুল স্বায়়াম্প ফরস্টে বাংলাদশেরে একমাত্র মঠিপানরি জলাবন এবং বন্যপ্রাণী অভয়ারণ্য, যা সলিটেরে প্রায়াইনঘাট অবস্থতি। [Bangla]

Jury comments

Traditional boats of the locals in wetlands of Bangladesh, like composition, colors, especially pink umbrella which made a story of the pic. The swampy forest ecosystem is typical and unique, important for nature conservation.

Nice top down. Love the boats and the colour composition.

Liked the top view, and boat pattern.

Good details and lighting.



Photographer: Pablo A. Cumillaf

Site: Grey Glacier,

Torres del Paine National Park

Location: Magallanes Region, Chile

Kayakists near the Grey Glacier in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, Torres del Paine National Park. [English]

Kayakistas en Glaciar Grey, que forma parte de los Campos de Hielo Sur. Parque nacional Torres del Paine. [Spanish]

Jury comments

Simple and elegant compostion, and red boat in white landscape pops up.

Great composition and use of colour to bring out the boat. good use of 'empty' spaces...

Beautiful color, but noisy picture; good and trendy story about ice melting, could be useful on Wikipedia/Wikimedia in lower resolution to reduce noise.



Photographer: Volodya Voronin

(VolodyaV)

Site: Kemeri National Park

Location: Jurmala, Latvia

Morning fog in Kemeri National park. Kemeri National Park is characterized by a large diversity and area of low-modified wetlands, such as high and low bogs and lagoon lakes. [English]

Rīta migla Ķemeru nacionālajā parkā. Ķemeru nacionālo parku raksturo galvenokārt liela maz pārveidotu mitrāju — augsto un zemo purvu, lagūnu ezeru, daudzveidība un platība. [English]

Jury comments

A lovely mix of misty subdued colours with natural and man-made objects- making this a thought-provoking piece of art and not just a picture. I enjoy the fact that it is not over-processed too.

Beautiful landscape: manmade infrastructure (power lines, trail) and raised bog mire; good image quality; could be useful.

Great morning. But I would prefer framing without the wooden paths.



Photographer: Andrey Belavin

(Ted.ns)

Site: Gonachkhir Gorge,

Teberda Nature Reserve

Location: Republic of

Karachay-Cherkessia, Russia

Hairpin bends in Gonachkhir Gorge, Teberda Nature Reserve, Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia. [English]

Серпантин в Гоначхирском ущелье, Тебердинский заповедник, Карачаево-Черкесия. [Russian]

Jury comments

Nice top view of the road, for second missed the river in the frame, as road goes out in the frame. Good details.

Classical top down drone shot, but still I like it. I love when it is snowy, but trees are still with autumn colours.

Interesting contrast as the road weaves through the forest but I would like to see that river more clearly against the rock face at the top of the shot. A bit confusing.



Photographer: Vladimir Voychuk

(Voy4uk)

Site:

Cape Qapçıq,

Novyi Svit Sanctuary

Location: Sudak Municipality, Crimea*

* Crimea is internationally recognised as a part of Ukraine, and is controlled by Russia since 2014. This photo was nominated by WLE Russia.

Juniper (Juniperus) tree in the Novyi Svit Sanctuary. View of the sharp peak of Cape Qapçıq in the background [English]

Можжевельник (Juniperus) в заказнике Новый Свет. Впереди виднеется острый пик мыса Капчик. [Russian]

Ardıç (Juniperus), Qapçıq burnu, Noviy Svet muvaqqat qoruği. [Crimean Tatar]

Jury comments

Beautiful night photo. Love the illuminating milkyway behind the old tree.

The best star shot of the comp. Not enough fill-in light on the left of the tree. Love the diagonal lines and the shooting star!!

Slightly haunting and good image but not quite enough emphasis on that beautiful tree.

Beautiful night in the universe story, not sharp enough, but still goodlooking photograph; could be useful.

"



Photographer: Berry Jane

(Jane3030)

Site: Mae Ya Waterfall,

Doi Inthanon National Park

Location: Chom Thong District,

Chiang Mai Province, Thailand

Mae Ya Waterfall in Doi Inthanon National Park.

[English]

น้ำตกแม่ยะ, อุทยานแห่งชาติดอยอินทนนท์.

[Thai]

Jury comments

Well composed and shot. Perfect balances. A well thought out and executed piece of art.

Beautiful shot, but a bit too bright on the left side for me.





Photographer: Senthi Aathavan Senthilverl

(Senthiaathavan)

Site: Katagamuwa Sanctuary

Location: Southern & Uva Provinces,

Sri Lanka

Mother Toque macaque (Macaca sinica) with her child foraging on the hard ground at Katagamuwa Sanctuary in Sri Lanka. The Toque macaque loves to traverse on trees and to be as one with nature. [English]

රළා මවක් (Macaca sinica) සිය දරුවා සමඟ ශ්රී ලංකාව ේ කටගමුව අභය හූම්ය ේ දුෂ්කර හූම්ය ේ සැරිසරයි. රිළවුන් (මැකාකා සිනිකා) ගස් මත ගමන් කිරීමට සහ සගාබාදහම සමග එක් වීමට ඉතා ප්රියකරති. [Cingalese]

Jury comments

Direct eye contact of the baby works here very well. My eyes goes directly to the baby.

This is a good photo. The baby watching straight to the camera.

Excellent colors, depth, composition, story, direct eye contact, personality.

Perfect tones and exposure in this one, but lacks something. The subject is too centrally placed I think- no compositional elements and thought process.



Photographer: Wargash107

Site: Shoushan National Park Location: Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China

Natural stalactites cave in Shoushan National Park. [English]

壽山國家公園上的自然鐘乳石洞穴. [Chinese]

Jury comments

Gorgeous lighting and composition. I love that the light falls on the new growth. great image. Only marked down slightly due to over-exposed or 'blown' light just to the right of the new shoots. No detail in that bright spot.

Nice light rays, but yes slightly over exposed in the middle.





Photographer: Jean-Pierre Vets

(JP Vets)

Site: Val d'Orcia,

Crete dell'Orcia

Nature Reserve

Location: Tuscany, Italy

A bale of straw in the Crete dell'Orcia Nature Reserve, Tuscany, Italy. After the harvest, a stormy afternoon. [English]

Una balla di paglia nella riserva naturale Crete dell'Orcia, Toscana, Italia. Dopo il raccolto, un pomeriggio tempestoso. [Italian]

Jury comments

This is quite good, the composition and light are well captured.

Excellent depth of field, and lighting. Liked the composition.

Great sense of depth and great light.

Great juxtaposition of textures, colours and hues.



17th place

Photographer: Sergey Pesterev

(Black Sickle)

Site: Canadian Rockies,

Banff National Park

Location: Alberta, Canada



18th place

Photographer: Abdul Momin

(Abdulmominbd)

Site: Lawachara Forest,

Lawachara National Park

Location: Maulvi Bazar District, Sylhet

Division, Bangladesh



19th place

Photographer: Asman Adi Purwanto

(Asman ap)

Site: Javan kingfisher

(Halcyon cyanoventris)

at Gunung Kelir

Location: Jatimulyo, East Java, Indonesia



20th place

Photographer: Nir Gurung

(Nir gurung)

Site: Gokyo Lake,

Sagarmatha National Park

Location: Province No. 1, Nepal



21st place

Photographer: Vaikra. Ana

Site: Cumbre Vieja Special

Area of Conservation

Location: La Palma, Canary Islands,

Spain



22nd place

Photographer: Sergey Pesterev

(Black Sickle)

Site: Maligne Lake,

Jasper National Park

Location: Alberta, Canada



23rd place

Photographer: Nabil Chettouh

(Chettouh Nabil)

Site: Ghoufi Canyon

Location: Batna Province, Algeria



24th place

Photographer: Abdul Momin

(Abdulmominbd)

Site: Rufous-collared kingfisher

(Actenoides concretus)
at National Botanical
Garden of Bangladesh

Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh



25th place

Photographer: Ummidnp

Site: Machapuchare,

Annapurna Sanctuary

Location: Kaski District, Nepal



26th place

Photographer: Jolanta Liva

Site: Great Ķemeri bog,

Ķemeri National Park

Location: Jurmala, Latvia



27th place

Photographer: Senthi Aathavan Senthilverl

(Senthiaathavan)

Site: A female Toque macaque

(Macaca sinica) with a baby at Katagamuwa Sanctuary

Location: Southern & Uva Provinces,

Sri Lanka



28th place

Photographer: André Farinha

(AndreFarinha)

Site: Sunset in a cave in the

Southwest Alentejo and

Vicentine Coast Natural Park

Location: Alentejo & Algarve, Portugal



29th place

Photographer: Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos

(Konarvas)

Site: White Pelicans

(Pelecanus onocrotalus),

Lake Kerkini

Location: Macedonia, Greece



30th place

Photographer: Paolo800

Site: Red fox (Vulpes vulpes)

in Gran Paradiso National Park

Location: Aosta Valley & Piedmont,

Italy



31st place

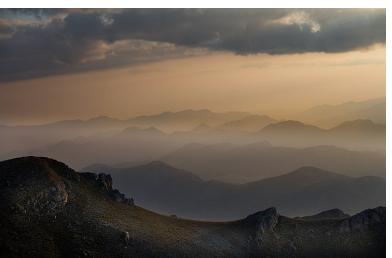
Photographer: Sergey Pesterev

(Black Sickle)

Site: Spirtit Island,

Jasper National Park

Location: Alberta, Canada



32nd place

Photographer: Geokokkos

Site: Chelmos (Aroania)

Location: Achaea, Peloponnese, Greece

IMAGES

- 1. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gebänderte_Prachtlibelle_auf_Pusteblume_am_NSG_Gülper_See.jpg
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- 15. (15-16) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:天雨洞.jpg
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- 30. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Volpe_in_inverno.jpg
- 31. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Morning_at_Spirit_Island.jpg
- 32. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mountains_xelmos.jpg



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