

2015

**INTERNATIONAL
JURY REPORT**



**wiki loves
EARTH**

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 between representatives of Wikimedia Ukraine and Wikimedia RU. 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.

In 2015 Wiki Loves Earth expanded its geography to 26 countries, including very active newcomers like Pakistan, Russia or Poland. Most of countries organised the contest from 1 May to 31 May 2015, while some countries extended the contest period till 30 June. During the contest over 108,000 pictures were submitted by more than 8,900 participants.

Similarly to Wiki Loves Monuments, the contest was organised through numerous national contests, coordinated by local volunteers. The national juries submitted then up to 10 pictures to the international stage of the contest. With 26 participating countries, the international jury had to consider a total of 259 candidating pictures. This report includes a summary of the process steps and announces the winning pictures.

ABOUT WIKI LOVES EARTH

INTRODUCE THE JURY

Walaa Abdel Manaem is a Wikipedian from Egypt. She is the first female sysop and author of 52 featured photos on the Arabic Wikipedia.

Dmytro Balkhovitin is a Wiki Loves Earth 2014 international winner. Native of Donetsk, Ukraine, he is a professional photographer and a winner of numerous awards in Ukraine and abroad.

Dietmar Bartz is a professional archivist, journalist and editor from Germany. As an active Wikipedian, he seeks the balance of photographic excellence and encyclopaedic information.

Matt Buck is a photographer and an administrator of Wikimedia Commons from the UK.

Zeynel Cebeci is a Turkish biologist and Wikipedian. He is teaching quantitative genetics and

bioinformatics at the Univ. of Çukurova.

Yathin Krishnappa is a professional computer programmer and an avid traveller from India. He co-founded the largest noncommercial collection of wildlife photographs from India.

Susanne Plank is a Wikipedian and photographer from Vienna. She loves nature, photography and good looking photos of nature.

Alex Wang is a professional photographer based in California, USA. Her passion is photographing adventure sports and natural landscapes. She also works for the WMF ^(COI statement).

Katerina Zareva-Simeonova is an ecologist and works in Sofia Zoo, Bulgaria. She loves ornithology, zoos and wildlife documentaries.

HOW THE JURY WORKS

Winners were determined by the 9-person international jury. Members were selected by the international team: some of them were recruited by international team directly, while others could be suggested by 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.

259 nominations were submitted to the international organising team by the national juries of the 26 participating countries. Each country was allowed to submit up to 10 images. Austria had a specific case: as their jury did not name the winners before the deadline, they nominated 10 best-ranked images and later replaced 6 of them with the actual winners.

The nominations were collected in a judging tool managed by non-voting jury moderators. On the first stage, each jury member independently rated all images with stars from 1 (poor) to 10 (very good). 29 images with ratings over 5.8 were selected to the final round. One of these 29 images was disqualified during the final round as it did not picture any natural site.

On the final stage, jury members rated and commented on these 29 images. Comments were visible to other jury members, while rankings were not. Each jury member ranked the images, giving points from 20 to the best picture to 1 point for the lowest-ranked one. These points were added together, and a combined jury ranking was produced. In case of equality of points in the final round, points from the previous round were used as a tiebreaker.



SHANGRILA LAKE

Photographer: Zaeem Siddiq (Zaeemsiddiq)

Site: Shangrila Lake

Location: Central Karakoram National Park, Gilgit–Baltistan, Pakistan

View of Shangrila Lake (also known as Lower Kachura Lake) in Central Karakoram National Park. Shangrila was named after a book titled „Lost Horizon“ by James Hilton. In the novel, an aeroplane crash landed near a riverbed. The surviving passengers were taken by Buddhist monks to an idyllic place called Shangrila, a Tibetan word meaning „Heaven on earth“. Central Karakoram National Park was founded in 1993 to protect the world’s largest glaciers outside polar regions. It is characterised by extreme latitudes up to 8,000 m a.s.l. [English]

Jury comments

“ Nice light use, nice reflection photo and could be used in the wikis.

Beautiful light and composition.

Oh wow, that is stunning. However there is some blur on the left.

”

شنگریلا جھیل گلگت بلتستان کے ضلع سکردو میں واقع ایک خوبصورت جھیل ہے۔ یہ جھیل شنگریلا استرااحہ (ریزورٹ) کے اندر واقع ہے۔

[Urdu]



Photographer: Jorge Nelson Alves (Jnvalves)

Site: Laurisilva of Madeira

Location: Island of Madeira, Portugal

View of the Laurisilva (Laurel Forest), island of Madeira, Portugal. Laurel forests are subtropical forests found in areas with high humidity and relatively stable, mild temperatures. Forests of this kind are mostly extinct in Europe, and Laurisilva of Madeira is the largest preserved laurel forest in Europe. This forest is considered to be a 90% primary forest and is a center of biodiversity that contains a lot of rare and endemic plants. Owing to its size (15,000 hectares) and quality, the forest was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. [\[English\]](#)

Jury comments

Very good light use, good sharpness and composition.

Vista da Laurissilva, Zona protegida do Fanal, Ilha da Madeira. Laurissilva é o nome dado a um tipo de floresta húmida subtropical, composta maioritariamente por árvores da família das lauráceas. Possui maior expressão nas terras altas da ilha da Madeira, onde se encontra a sua maior e mais bem conservada mancha, tendo sido considerada em 1999 pela UNESCO como Património da Humanidade, ocupando aí uma área de cerca de 15.000 hectares. [\[Portuguese\]](#)



Photographer: Bernd Thaller (Berndthaller)

Site: Nationalpark Hohe Tauern

Location: Carinthia, Austria

The Alpine ibex in Nationalpark Hohe Tauern. The Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), or Steinbock, is a species of wild goat that lives in the Alps. The males carry large, curved horns. This Steinbock lives next to the Pasterze glacier in the Austrian National Park „Hohe Tauern“ in Carinthia (the ice field of the glacier constitutes the background of the image). In the evening, when the tourists leave the region, the shy animals are sometimes seen closer to the hiking trails than usual. [\[English\]](#)

Steinbock im Nationalpark Hohe Tauern. Der Alpensteinbock (*Capra ibex*) oder Steinbock,

Jury comments

Beautiful light and high value.

Good enough and have educational value.

ist eine Art der Wildziege, die in den Alpen lebt. Die Männchen tragen große, gebogene Hörner. Dieser Steinbock wohnt neben dem Pasterze im österreichischen Nationalpark „Hohe Tauern“ in Kärnten (Eisfeld des Gletschers bildet den Hintergrund des Bildes). Am Abend, wenn die Touristen die Region verlassen, die scheue Tiere kann manchmal näher an den Wanderwegen geseht sein. [\[German\]](#)



BRATENTAL NATURE RESERVE

Photographer: Harald Knoke (Suhaknoke)

Site: Bratental Nature Reserve

Location: Göttingen, Lower Saxony,
Germany

A Spider (*Misumena vatia*) killed a bee in Bratental. Bratental Nature Reserve lies east of . Nikolausberg in Göttingen. This area is characterised by a lean semiarid grassland with rich biodiversity. Bratental houses several species of orchids, as well as birds of prey such as European honey buzzard and common buzzard, and bumblebees, such as schrill carder bees, tree bumblebees and common carder bees. [\[English\]](#)

Diese Veränderliche Krabbenspinne erbeutete eine Biene im Bratental. Das Naturschutzge-

Jury comments

“ *High value, good example of predator insects.* ”

biet Bratental liegt östlich von Nikolausberg in Göttingen. Dieses Gebiet ist durch artenreiche magere Halbtrockenrasen gekennzeichnet. Das Bratental beherbergt mehrerer Orchideenarten, aber auch Greifvögel wie Wespenbussard und Mäusebussard, Rehe und Hummeln wie Waldhummel, Baumhummel und Ackerhummel. [\[German\]](#)



ICHKEUL NATIONAL PARK

Photographer: Mohamed El Golli (Elgollimoh)

Site: Ichkeul National Park

Location: Bizerte Governorate, Tunisia

European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) in Ichkeul National Park. Ichkeul National Park is located in Northern Tunisia, 25 km south-east of Bizerte. The park covers a humid area of 12,600 hectares that serves as an overwintering place for 180 species of birds including some rare ones. This area is one of the most important ornithological reserves in Northern Africa. Ichkeul National Park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979 for its natural habitats that are very representative and crucial for preserving biodiversity of the region. [\[English\]](#)

Guépier d'Europe (*Merops apiaster*) au parc national Ichkeul. Le parc national de l'Ichkeul est situé au nord de la Tunisie, à 25 kilomètres au sud-est de Bizerte. Le parc comprend une zone humide cou-



Jury comments

Impressive. Quality 3/3, love 2/2.

Good composition, sharpness and light used.

Beautiful shot, high value.



vrant une superficie totale de 12 600 hectares et servant d'hivernage pour 180 espèces d'oiseaux dont certaines sont rares. Cet espace est l'une des plus importantes réserves ornithologiques d'Afrique du Nord. Le parc national d'Ichkeul est inscrit au patrimoine mondial naturel de l'UNESCO en 1979 pour ces habitats naturels les plus représentatifs et les plus importants pour la conservation in situ de la diversité biologique. [\[French\]](#)



Photographer: Vitaliy Bashkatov (Vian)

Site: Carpathian Mountains

Location: Carpathian Biosphere Reserve,
Zakarpattia Oblast, Ukraine

„Red Carpathian Mountains“: view of pine forests in Carpathian Biosphere Reserve at sunrise. The reserve was established as a nature reserve in 1968 and became part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO in 1992. The greatest part of the reserve is covered by virgin forests. The highest point of Ukraine, Mount Hoverla, is also a part of the reserve. [\[English\]](#)

«Червоні Карпатські гори»: вид на соснові ліси Карпатського біосферного заповідника на сході сонця. Заповідник був заснований у 1968 році та став частиною Мережі біосферних заповідників ЮНЕСКО у 1992 році. Основну частину заповідника займають одвічні ліси. На території

Jury comments

Rare landscape contour, high encyclopaedic value, and graciously, colours are unagitated.

Tranquilizing, technically good and can be used to demonstrate pine forests.

заповідника також знаходиться найвища точка України — гора Говерла. [\[Ukrainian\]](#)



Photographer: GeKo15

Site: Wolayer See

Location: Wolayersee und Umgebung
Nature Reserve,
Carinthia, Austria

View of Wolayersee und Umgebung (Wolayer See and environs) Nature Reserve. The Wolayersee is a mountain lake on the Carinthian side of the Carnic main ridge near the Plöckenpass. The lake is located at 1951 meters above sea level and is 3.8 hectares in size. It lies in a valley, which is represented tectonically and was formed during the Ice Age from Wolayer Glacier.

[English]

Blick auf Naturschutzgebiet Wolayersee und Umgebung. Der Wolayer See ist ein Bergsee auf der Kärntner Seite des Karnischen Hauptkammes nahe dem Plöckenpass. Der See liegt

“

Jury comments

Bit of posterisation the sky, but wow.

Quality 2.5/3, love 1.5/2.

”

in 1951 m Seehöhe und ist 3,8 Hektar groß. Er liegt in einer Doline, die tektonisch vorgebildet ist und während der Eiszeit vom Wolayer-Gletscher überformt wurde. [German]



Photographer: Didier Devèze (Ddeveze)

Site: Étang de Vaccarès

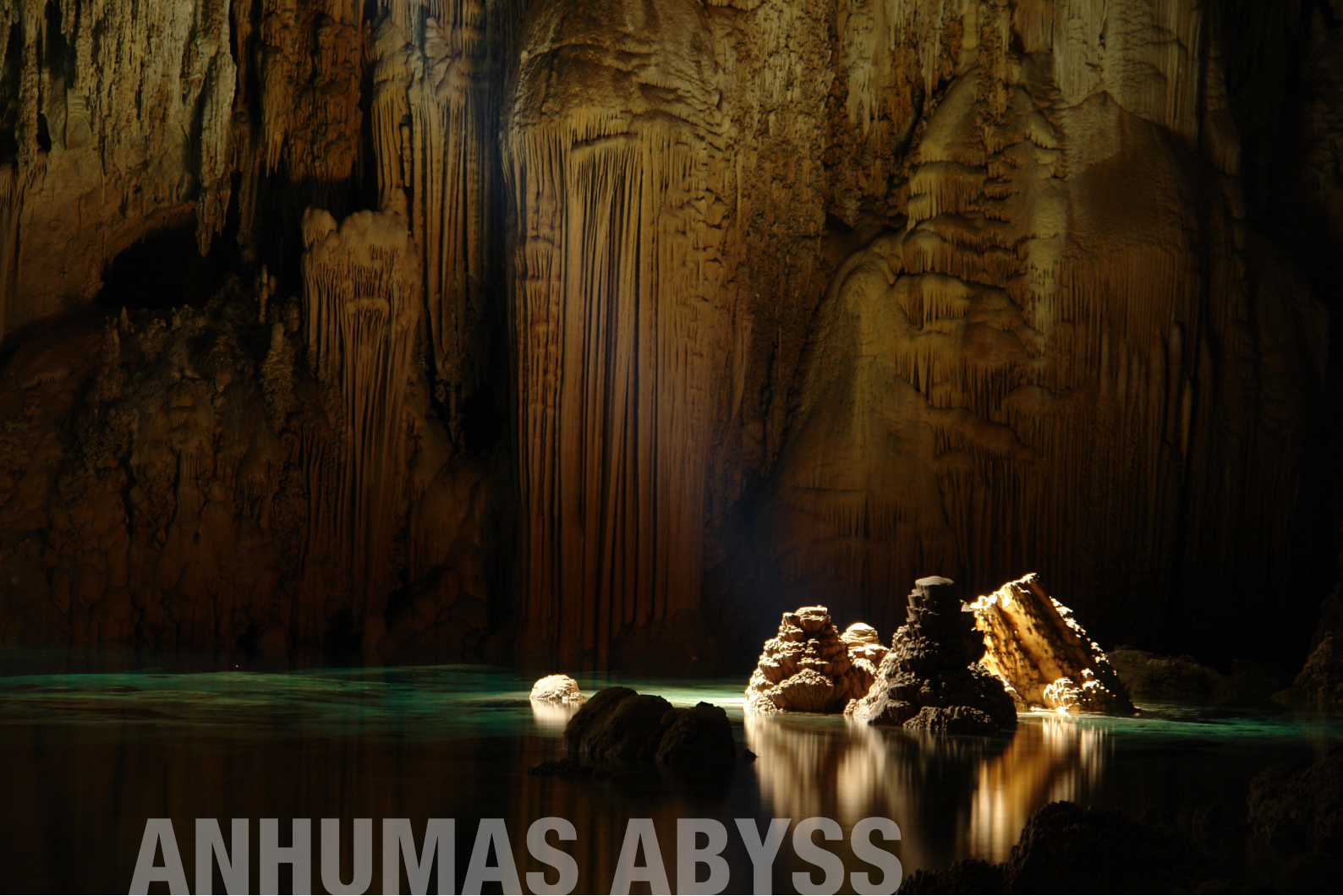
Location: Parc naturel régional de Camargue, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

Étang de Vaccarès is a salt water lagoon in the wetlands of the Camargue in the delta of the River Rhône in southern France. The lake has an area of 65 km², and the depth is less than two meters. It constitutes the principal element in the water control system of the Rhône delta. The lagoon is the largest protected area in Camargue region and is protected since 1927. It became a part of Parc naturel régional de Camargue in 1970. [\[English\]](#)

Jury comments

Beautiful and technically good, an example of wetland habitats.

Étang de Vaccarès est une lagune dans la zone humide du delta du Rhône dans le sud de la France. L'étang s'étend sur 6 500 hectares et sa profondeur est inférieure à deux mètres. Il constitue l'élément principal du système de contrôle des eaux du delta. L'étange forme l'espace naturel le plus vaste de toute la Camargue, protégé dès 1927 et intégré dans le parc naturel régional de Camargue depuis 1970. [\[French\]](#)



ANHUMAS ABYSS

Photographer: Caio Vilela (Caioribeirovilela)

Site: Anhumas abyss

Location: Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul,
Brazil

Limestone stalagmites inside the Anhumas abyss in Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul. Rappel 72 meters through a crack in the rock leads to a cave with formations and crystal clear lake.

[English]

Estalagmites de calcário no interior do abismo Anhumas, Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul. Rapel de 72 metros por uma fenda na rocha leva a uma caverna com formações e um lago de águas cristalinas. [Portuguese]

Jury comments

High quality and value.

Very nice, applauding.



Photographer: Łukasz Śmigasiewicz

(Smiglyluk)

Site: High Tatras

Location: Tatry Natura 2000
Special Area of Conservation,
Lesser Poland Voivodeship,
Poland

Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation of Tatra mountains. High Tatras as seen from the Polish Spisz (red trail near Hombark). High Tatras are the highest part of the Tatras and have an alpine character. They extend between the West High Tatras from the west and the Belianske Tatry mountains from the north-east. [English]

Jury comments

Beautiful light and composition.

High encyclopaedic value. technically good. the woods too dark, but minor disadvantage.

Specjalny obszar Natura 2000 ochrony siedlisk Tatry. Tatry Wysokie widziane ze Spiszu Polskiego (czerwony szlak w pobliżu góry Hombark). Tatry Wysokie – najwyższa część Tatr o charakterze alpejskim, rozciągająca się pomiędzy Tatrami Zachodnimi od strony zachodniej oraz Tatrami Bielskimi od strony północno-wschodniej. [Polish]

Photographer: Mohamed El Golli (Elgollimoh)

Site: Salines de Thyna

Location: Sfax, Tunisia

Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) standing in water. The succession of shallow pools, of varying depth and salinity, on the Salines de Thyna (Thyna salt pans) provide prime habitat for waterbirds of all kinds. [\[English\]](#)

Le flamant rose (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) debout dans l'eau. La succession des étangs d'une profondeur et salinité différente dans les Salines de Thyna forme un habitat idéal pour les oiseaux aquatiques. [\[French\]](#)



“

Jury comments

Loved the drop at the end of its beak. Successful posing and has educational value.

Excellent. Quality 3/3, love 1.5/2.

”

SALINES DE THYNA



Photographer: Suppachai Prachpiti (Khunkay)

Site: Khlong Lan Waterfall

Location: Khlong Lan National Park,
Kamphaeng Phet Province,
Thailand

Waterfall in Khlong Lan National Park. The park was declared a national park in 1982 as the 44th park of Thailand. Lan National Park is located in dry evergreen forest at an altitude of over 500 meters. [\[English\]](#)

น้ำตก ซึ่งอุทยานแห่งชาติคลองลาน ได้รับการประกาศให้เป็นอุทยานแห่งชาติ ในวันที่ 25 เดือนธันวาคม พ.ศ. 2525 สภาพป่าไม้ในอุทยานแห่งชาติคลองลาน ประกอบด้วย

Jury comments

“ Successful posing, nice composition, tranquilizing. ”

ด้วย ป่าดงดิบแล้ง ขึ้นที่ระดับความสูงมากกว่า 500 เมตร [\[Thai\]](#)



Photographer: Boris Solovyev

Site: Bolshoy Lyakhovsky Island

Location: Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve,
Republic of Sakha, Russia

Malakatyn river at Bolshoy Lyakhovsky Island. Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve is located in the delta of the Lena River, in the far north of eastern Siberia. It is the largest protected area in Russia. [\[English\]](#)

Река Малакатын на острове Большой Ляховский. Ресурсный резерват Лена-Дельта расположен в дельте реки Лена, на дальнем севере восточной Сибири. Это наибольшая по площади охраняемая территория в России. [\[Russian\]](#)

Jury comments

Very interesting formation, high encyclopedic value.

Impressive! Good media for a related article item in educational/encyclopedial media.



TOLKUSE BOG

Photographer: Märt Kose (MKose)

Site: Tolkuse Bog

Location: Luitemaa Nature Conservation Area, Pärnu County, Estonia

Morning in Tolkuse bog of Luitemaa Nature Reserve. On this natural protected area are maintained, inter alia, forest habitats, coastal dunes, and two marshes. [\[English\]](#)

Tolkuse Raba Luitemaa looduskaitsealal. Looduskaitsealal säilitatakse muu hulgas soo- ja metsakooslusi, rannaluiteid ja kahte raba. [\[Estonian\]](#)

Jury comments

“

Beautiful scenery.

”



Photographer: Sasho Poposki (Ptahhotep)

Site: Baba Mountain

Location: Pelister National Park, Bitola,
Republic of Macedonia

Lines left after skiing on the snowy slopes of Baba Mountain below the peak Pelister. National Park Pelister was established in 1948 as the first protected natural site in the Republic of Macedonia. It is characterized by numerous lofty peaks higher than 2,000 meters, each separated by deep valleys. [\[English\]](#)

Линии оставени после скијање по снежните падини на Баба Планина под врвот Пелистер. Националниот парк Пелистер прогласен е во 1948 година како

Jury comments

Impressive use of the light.

Beautiful composition and light. Unsure about encyclopedic value.

As a picture it is nice, but skiing has nothing to do with nature protection.

прво заштитено природно богатство во Македонија. Се карактеризира со поголем број врвови и возвишенија повисоки од 2000 метри, кои меѓу себе се раздвоени со длабоки долини. [\[Macedonian\]](#)



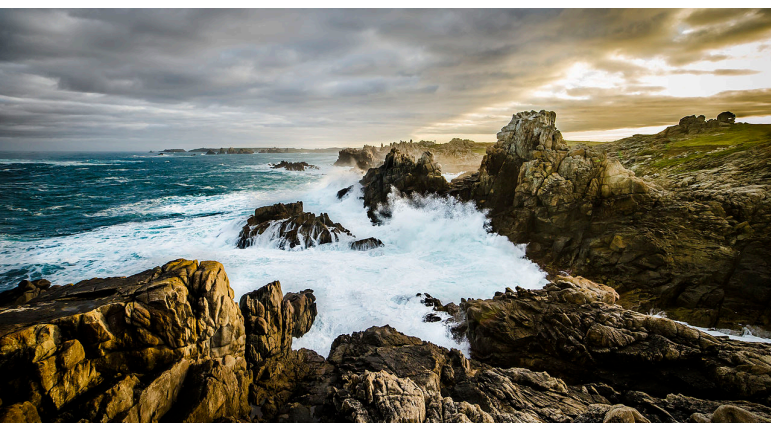
16th place

Photographer: Hamza-sia,
edited by Julian Herzog
Site: Cultural Park of Ahaggar
Location: Tamanrasset Province,
Algeria



17th place

Photographer: Rudi234
Site: Felspartie
Location: Krems-Land District,
Lower Austria, Austria



18th place

Photographer: Rémi Turban (RémiTurban)
Site: Island of Ushant
Location: Parc naturel régional
d'Armorique, Brittany, France



19th place

Photographer: Yevhen Samuchenko (Q-lieb-in)
Site: Langtang National Park
Location: Helambu, Nepal

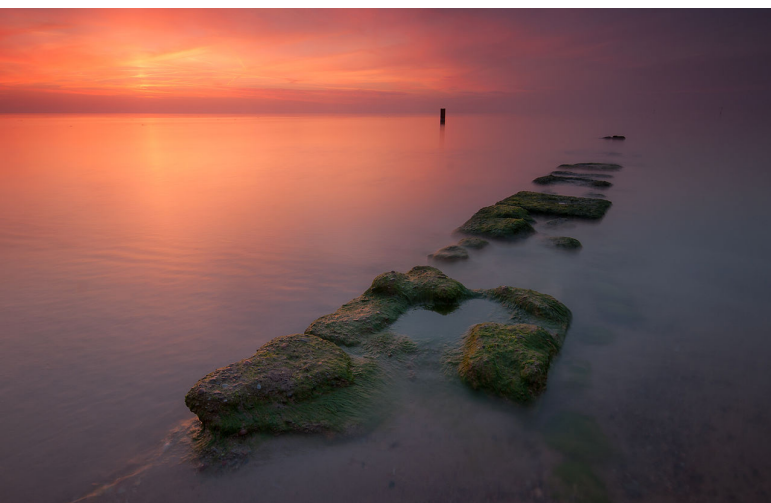


20th place

Photographer: Oleksandr Chernykh (A4ernyh)

Site: Ulu-Uzen Waterfall

Location: Khaphkal Reserve, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine



21st place

Photographer: Łukasz Śmigasiewicz (Smiglyluk)

Site: Sabrinowo Breakwaters

Location: Bay of Pomerania Special Protection Area,
West Pomeranian Voivodeship,
Poland



22nd place

Photographer: Vitaliy Bashkatov (Vian)

Site: Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

Location: Zakarpattia Oblast, Ukraine



23rd place

Photographer: KarlaFPaiva

Site: Green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) at Brejo da Madre de Deus

Location: Pernambuco, Brazil



24th place

Photographer: Aneta Pawska (Aneta p)

Site: Karkonosze Special
Conservation Area

Location: Lower Silesian Voivodeship,
Poland



25th place

Photographer: Jean-Marie Hullot (Jmhullot)

Site: Tetang terraced fields

Location: Lower Mustang, Nepal

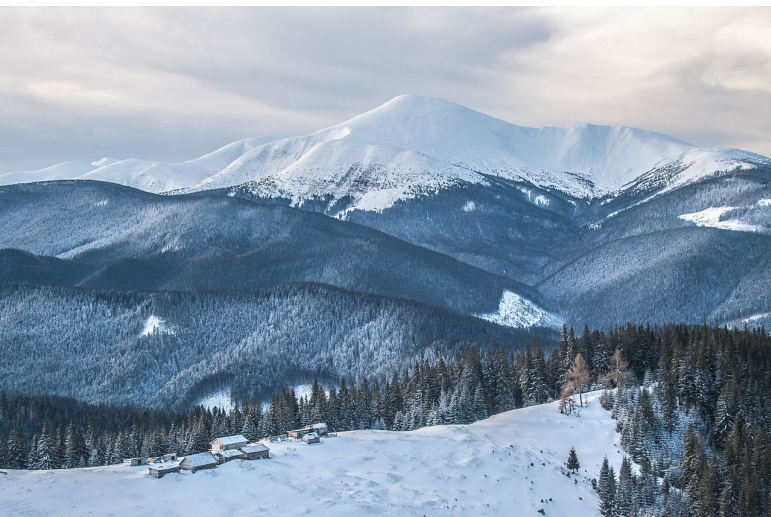


26th place

Photographer: Jorge Nelson Alves (Jnvalves)

Site: Ponta de São Lourenço

Location: Madeira Natural Park,
Madeira, Portugal



27th place

Photographer: Robert Labchuk (Robert-Erik)

Site: Mount Hoverla seen from
Mount Kukul

Location: Carpathian National Nature Park,
Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Ukraine



28th place

Photographer: Anastasiya Sak (Ya gujinskaya)

Site: South Demerdji

Location: Alushta, Autonomous Republic
of Crimea, Ukraine



Special Jury Award

Photographer: Jonathan Wilkins

Site: Apis Mellifera drone

Location: City of Ribeirão Preto,
São Paulo, Brazil

Note: This photo received a high jury ranking but was taken in a private apiary and not in a protected natural site, thus not eligible for the main prize. Jury recognized it with a special award (6 support, 3 oppose).

IMAGES

1. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shangrila_Resorts.jpg
2. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:O_Fanal,_Ilha_da_Madeira,_Portugal.jpg
3. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steinbock_14962940265.jpg
4. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Spinne_Bratental_Ps.jpg
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7. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WolayerSee.jpg>
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23. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Calango_em_Brejo_da_Madre_de_Deus.jpg
24. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Śnieżne_Kotły_Karkonosze.jpg
25. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tetang_terraced_fields.jpg
26. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Copia_Raw_JNA_5332_-_PTMAD0003.jpg
27. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Говерла_з_Кукула.jpg
28. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Південне_Демерджи_на_світанку.jpg
29. (Sp. Award) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Drone_Reconnoitering.jpg



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Report created by Mykola Kozlenko (NickK) using layout by Elke Wetzig (Elya) and texts from respective Wikipedia articles.

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