The Our Nature Photo Award 2024

Terms and Conditions

The Our Nature Photography Award is Promoted by the Vértes Kozma Foundation, organizer of FotoKozma Festival and hosted on Econtest.hu.

In addition please note the following in relation to this award:

1. Eligibility

1.1 The Award is global and open to photographers of all nationalities who will be aged 18 or over on 5th June 2024.

1.2 It is the responsibility of each entrant to ensure that they have read and will abide by these rules and Econtest Terms and Conditions. By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to these rules, that their entry complies with these rules, and that they will be liable to the Vértes Kozma Foundation and Econtest.hu and their licensees in respect of any damages or losses incurred as a breach of the rules.

1.3 Employees or agents of the Vértes Kozma Foundation and Econtest.hu, their families or other persons connected with this promotion (excluding the sponsors) are not eligible to enter.

1.4 Proof of eligibility must be provided upon request. Use of a false name or other false details will result in disqualification.

2. Submission Rules

2.1 All entries must be submitted via the Econtest.hu online platform, before the closing date of 11:59 (CET) on 9th July 2024.

2.2 Photographers can enter up to 30 images in each of the 3 categories, allowing therefore for a maximum of 30 images in total. Entry is 10 euro.

2.3 Images (including similar images taken from the same series of photographs) are eligible for entry even if they have previously won a national or international photography award (including winner, runner-up, highly commended or equivalent) or are entered into a competition where the results are pending.

2.4 Submitted images must have been shot within the past 5 years. The shoot date must be no earlier than 5th July 2019.

2.5 The same image cannot be entered into multiple categories. Where this is found to have happened, that image submission will be invalidated in all the categories it has been entered into.

2.6 All submitted images must be free of watermarks, text, copyright symbols, logos, frames, signatures, or any reference to the author. Inclusion of any of these or similar additions to the image will invalidate the entry.

2.7 Each participant is personally responsible for the images they submit to the contest, the additional information they provide about those images, and all information provided by them on the Award entry form.

It is essential that submitted images include an image title, and additional information that will assist the Jury in making their decisions (especially the name of the species represented and the exact location of the photo). When uploading images there will be the opportunity to add a title and description to each image.

All submitted images must contain the original camera metadata, showing the type of camera and lens used, and shot settings.

Images that do not include a title or additional information are unlikely to be considered by the Award jury.

Titles and edited text from the descriptions will be used to accompany images in the award exhibition.

2.8 There is a required minimum image size of 4000 pixels on the longest side of the image. Images should be saved as jpegs at the highest quality available, at 300 dpi resolution, with a colour profile attached - preferably sRGB.

2.9 The welfare of the people, animals and habitats in any images submitted to the award is of great importance to the Foundation, our partners and the Jury.

Photographers taking part in the award are required to observe behaviour that is respectful of people, animals, and the environment. By submitting an image to the awards, you confirm that all subjects in those images were interacted with before, during and after the image-making process in a way that treated them respectfully and did not result directly or indirectly in them experiencing damage, distress, injury or death.

Any images of animals or habitats must also be in conformance with any existing legislation regarding permitted or forbidden interaction with that species or habitat.

Images of captive animals are not allowed in the NATURE category. The only exception is if the image documents a specific situation, in which case it must be clearly described in the caption.

Live baiting is not permitted.

With these policies in mind, we reserve the right to ask for further information from the photographer about their photographic methods and the state of the animals and habitat before, during and after the shot was taken.

2.10 It is extremely important that submitted images must not deceive the viewer or attempt to disguise or misrepresent the reality of nature. Images show the scene and subjects as they were shot, and exhibiting behaviour that was not manipulated, staged, or coerced by the photographer.

In the case of nature photos and documentary photos, we do not accept manipulation. Adding or removing objects (e.g. animals, plants, people, items of civilization and traces thereof) are not permitted.

In other genres, where Entries are manipulated, it must be described in the image description section when submitting. However, Entries must originally be from either an analogue or digital photograph which may have then been manipulated.

2.11 Use of AI image generation software to create or augment images for entry into the Award is strictly prohibited. This includes the addition of AI-generated elements into an image shot originally on a camera, and the extension of an image beyond its original boundaries using AI generative fill tools. If a submitted image is found to have been created or augmented using AI software it will immediately be withdrawn from the Award along with any other submissions from that photographer, and the photographer will not be eligible for entry into future editions of the Award. If the AI-generated/augmented image has already won one or more Award prizes, the submitting photographer will be required to reimburse the Vértes Kozma Foundation for the monetary value of those prizes, and may be prosecuted for damages compensation. In case the image and the photographer have been promoted by the FotoKozma Festival, legal action may be taken for moral prejudice against the Environmental Photography Award and the Foundation. These conditions apply without time limit.

2.12 Photographers may make reasonable use of digital darkroom techniques which enhance quality but do not distort the photograph. Major alterations are not allowed, the cloning out/removal of elements in an image is forbidden.

Adjustment to levels, curves, colour balance, colour saturation, dodging and burning, selective adjustments using layers and blemish and dust spot removal are all examples of acceptable manipulation, when used in moderation.

In photography genres, such as art, still life, or conceptual photography, where Entries are manipulated, it must be described in the image description section when submitting.

You may crop your images in the interests of composition, correcting horizons, etc. The crop must not distort the meaning of the image by excluding important parts of the original framing. Your cropped image must be at least 5,000 pixels on the longest side as we will ask for files at least this size should your image/s win or be shortlisted.

2.13 Jurors have the discretion to reject any entry which has been, in their opinion, over-manipulated and therefore compromises the integrity of the original image.

2.14 Participants whose images will be considered in the final round of Jury deliberations, the organizer reserves the right to request an original camera file and/or a higher resolution image from the author.

2.15 The organizer and Econtest reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to disqualify or remove any entry that does not comply with the rules or the spirit of the awards, at any stage of the awards.

2.16 We use software to help us check unauthorized techniques and usage of AI. Our Competition management will receive the consultative service from Econtest for final decisions of juries about images who are selected in the finals.

3. Prizing

A jury will select 10 images per category as a finalist.

A €200 (two hundred euros) grant is awarded to each of the 3 category winners.

The €500 (five hundred euros) grant for the main, Blue Planet Award will be assigned to one of the finalist from

For four foreign (non Hungarian) winners: reimbursement of travel costs up to €300.

For all winners we provide accommodation during the opening weekend of the festival.

The 100 best pictures will be selected for the People's Choice voting. The Public Award will win products as courtesy of competition sponsors.

Submitted images are eligible to win more than one award. FotoKozma' supporters and partners can offer special prizes. These will be chosen amongst the 30 finalists.

4. Award Judging

4.1 Once the entry period has closed, the jury will convene to determine the category winners, the grand prize winner and a shortlist of images across the three categories. The voting procedure for the jury members on the Econtest platform is anonymous.

4.2 The shortlisted images that will form the Our Nature Photo Award exhibition and book will be publicly announced on the FotoKozma Festival's website and on Econtest on 1st August 2024, and all Award entrants will be emailed with this announcement.

The Public Vote will be launched online on 1st April 2024 for a period of two weeks.

The grand prize winner, category winners, and Public Award winner will be publicly announced at the opening of the exhibition in the Csákvár city, Hungary on 5th September 2024.

4.3 The Jury's decision is final and binding in all matters and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the decisions.

4.4 If you do not respond to our messages (e-mail and/or phone) within three months of the Award anouncement, your prize will expire.

5. Copyright and permissions

5.1 All imagery MUST be the exclusive work of the submitting photographer and may not include any element that is the copyright of another or shot or created by another.

5.2 The Copyright for each image entered will remain with the submitting photographer.

5.3 By entering the Award and submitting your photograph(s), you hereby grant the Vértes Kozma Foundation, Econtest.hu and the award's sponsors a non-exclusive, irrevocable license to use your photograph(s) free of charge for any purpose connected with the Award, including (but not limited to), promoting the Award within printed and online media, the inclusion within printed and digital versions of the Award catalogue, display at the Award exhibition in the Hungary and at any other venues where the exhibition may be displayed, use in press, promotional and institutional materials, and social media networks related to the FotoKozma Festival. The Foundation undertakes to display copyright information alongside all uses of submitted images.
No photographs entered in the awards will be offered for sale or used for any commercial purposes other without prior approval of the photographer.

5.4 Plan is to the shortlisted and winning images will be collected in a high-quality, hardcover, bilingual (Hungarian/English) Awards book. This is to be published for the opening ceremony of the exhibition. To this extent, the Foundation may collaborate with a publishing house. On the Foundation's side, the book will be distributed free of charge to its partners and benefactors as well as to the guests of the exhibition's opening ceremony. On the publisher's side, the book will be commercially distributed in their international circulation network to ensure the Award's visibility and to help promote the Foundation's actions. No royalties will be received by the Foundation or by photographers whose work is included in the book. Photographers whose work is included in the book will be sent 2 copies of the book free of charge. This is a plan that is likely to be implemented in 2025.

5.5 If recognizable individuals appear in submitted images, the author must have obtained their consent and, if the subject is a minor, the consent of the legal representative.

6. Publicity

6.1 You agree to participate in related publicity and to the use of Your name and likeness for the purposes of advertising, promotion, and publicity without additional compensation.

7. Liabilities

7.1 Vértes Kozma Foundation, Econtest.hu are excluded from liability for any loss, damage or injury which might occur to any of the winners arising from their entry into the Award or their acceptance of the prizes.

7.2 Entrants indemnify the Vértes Kozma Foundation, Econtest.hu for all liabilities, including legal costs, in relation to any action or complaint taken by any third party against the Entrants indemnify in relation to the entrant's photograph(s).

8. General

8.1 Vértes Kozma Foundation, Econtest.hu reserve the right to cancel this Award at any time without further explanation.

8.2 Vértes Kozma Foundation, Econtest.hu reserve the right to amend these Terms and Conditions.

8.3 These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by Hunfarian law.

8.4 When a photograph is submitted and the entry date has passed, the entry cannot be changed or withdrawn.

8.5 Entry to the Awards shall be deemed full and unconditional acceptance of the Terms & Conditions.

8.6 Any breach of these Terms and Conditions shall result in the exclusion of the photographer and their submitted images from the Award, without prejudice to the Vértes Kozma Foundation, Econtest.hu, or the Award sponsors.

8.7 In the event of any difficulties concerning the interpretation or performance of these terms, the Parties shall make every effort to settle their dispute amicably.

8.8 Should an amicable settlement fail, the dispute shall be settled by final and compulsory arbitration in accordance with the Permanent Court of Arbitration's optional rules for arbitration involving international organizations and private parties, in force on the date of the request.

8.9 You have the right to access and update your personal information.
To exercise this right, please write to the Vértes Kozma Foundation at:
alapitvany@verteskozma.hu

9. The Promoter

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