



Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Male', Republic of Maldives

Date: 03 January 2025

No: (IUL)88/88/2025/32

World Wildlife Day 2025 Photography Competition Guideline

Terms and Conditions:

1. The entrant shall be the sole owner of the rights to the photos submitted.
2. The photographs must not have previously been submitted to any competition and/or must not have been published anywhere.
3. The settings used to edit the pictures must be mentioned on the form, in the editing information section.
4. Water marks, borders will not be allowed.
5. Upon submission, the copyright-holder of the photo(s) hereby grants to Ministry of Tourism and Environment free of charge the non-exclusive right to use, publish, reproduce and communicate to the public in any form and on any support, including digital, all or part of the photograph(s).
6. Photos submitted shall comply with the laws and regulations of the Maldives.
7. To ensure eligibility for the contest all entries must fit the World Wildlife Day 2025 Photography Competition Guideline.
8. If you choose to include people in your photos, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted, and you must be able to provide copies of those releases to the Ministry upon request.
9. Ministry of Tourism and Environment reserves the right to disqualify submitted images that involve human nudity, the wilful harassment of wildlife, damage to the environment by the photographer, put any individual or animal in danger or infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person.
10. The competition is eligible for Maldivians only.
11. Employees of Ministry of Tourism and Environment, and



agencies under the Ministry are not eligible to participate in this competition

Guideline

Categories

1. Wildlife

For this category all images should have a protected species in the Maldives, as a subject. The photographer has the creative freedom to capture the subject in any manner. However, photographers must take reasonability to care and not disturb wildlife and the local environment in the pursuit of images. It is the photographer's responsibility to be aware of and comply with the laws (Environment Protection and Preservation Act of the Maldives 4/93, Fisheries Act 2019/14, General Regulations of Fisheries in the Maldives 2020/R-75 and Protected Species Regulation 2021/R-25). For species with specific guidelines, the photographer should be aware and follow the guidelines when taking the image. All images must be taken in a responsible manner which respects nature and wildlife.

2. Aerial (Drone)

All photographs submitted in this category must be taken from an aircraft or remotely piloted aircraft. Photographers must take reasonability to care and not disturb wildlife and the local environment in the pursuit of images. It is the photographer's responsibility to be aware of and comply with the laws (Environment Protection and Preservation Act of the Maldives 4/93, Fisheries Act 2019/14, General Regulations of Fisheries in the Maldives 2020/R-75 and Protected Species Regulation 2021/R-25). For species with specific guidelines, the photographer should be aware and follow the guidelines when taking the image. All images must be taken in a responsible manner which respects nature and wildlife.

3. Habitats

All photographs submitted in this category must be included in the 10 Realms highlighted by the IUCN Global Ecosystems Topology to the Maldives. Photographs cannot be taken from an aircraft or remotely piloted aircraft. Photographers must take reasonability to care and not disturb wildlife and the local environment in the pursuit of images. It is the photographer's responsibility to be aware of and comply with the laws (Environment Protection and Preservation Act of the Maldives 4/93, Fisheries Act 2019/14, General Regulations of Fisheries in the Maldives 2020/R-75 and Protected Species Regulation 2021/R-25). For species with specific guidelines, the photographer should be aware and follow the guidelines when taking the image. All images must be taken in a responsible manner which respects nature and wildlife

Applicants must refer to the page 53 of the IUCN Topology of the Maldives from the link below and label the pictures accordingly!



<https://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/wp-content/files/publications/20220410-pub-iucn-global-ecosystem-mv.pdf>

Additional link for Laws and Regulations to be followed:

[Protected Species Regulation\(2021R-25\).pdf](#)

[General Fisheries Regulation R75-2020.pdf](#)

[Protected Species Regulation 5th Amendment - Turtles and Rays. pdf](#)

[Protected species regulation amendment 7 - Whale shark](#)

Submission Deadline

- 3rd April 2025 1200 Hrs

Required Quality of Submissions

1. File Format and Resolution:

- Images should be renamed in the following format: Surname-location-category
- Images must be submitted in JPEG or PNG format.
- Minimum resolution: 3000 pixels on the longest side.
- Recommended DPI: 300 DPI for print-quality images.
- Maximum file size: 20 MB.
- Submissions must be made to environment@environment.gov.mv via email.

2. Aspect Ratio:

- Submissions must adhere to the specified 7:5 aspect ratio.
- Cropping to fit the aspect ratio is allowed, but the integrity of the image must be maintained.

3. Image Authenticity:

- Only minimal post-processing is allowed (e.g., Minor digital adjustments are only acceptable if limited to cleaning (removing dust spots), levels, curves, colour, saturation and contrast work. Sharpening and cropping to the required size is allowed
- Images created with or altered by AI are not permitted.



- Images must not include any watermark, signature or professional logo.

4. Metadata (EXIF Data):

- Images must include metadata to confirm the authenticity and technical details (e.g., camera settings, date, location).

5. Subject Matter:

- The photograph must focus on wildlife in its natural habitat or Natural Sceneries
- Captive animals or staged settings are not allowed

6. Copyright and Ownership:

- The photographer must own the copyright to the submitted image.
- Submissions must not infringe on the rights of any third party.

7. Submission Limit:

- Maximum of 3-5 entries per participant.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Technical Excellence (25%):

- Sharpness and focus on the subject.
- Proper exposure, lighting, and color balance.
- Effective use of depth of field.

2. Composition and Creativity (25%):

- Balanced and dynamic framing.
- Originality and creativity in capturing the subject.
- Adherence to the 7:5 aspect ratio enhances composition.

3. Storytelling and Impact (30%):

- The photograph should tell a compelling story.
- Unique perspective on the wildlife subject.

4. Ethical Considerations (10%):

- Respect for the environment and subject.
- No evidence of harm, disturbance, or unethical practices in capturing the photo.



5. Relevance to Theme (10%):

- How well the image aligns with the competition's theme.

Judging Process

1. Initial Screening:

- Ensure all submissions meet the technical requirements (file format, resolution, aspect ratio, etc.).
- Check for disqualifying elements (e.g., overly manipulated images).

2. Scoring by Judges:

- Assign scores based on the evaluation criteria.
- Use a weighted scoring system (e.g., out of 100, with the above percentages).

3. Deliberation and Feedback:

- Judges may discuss the highest-scoring entries to ensure alignment with competition goals.
- Provide constructive feedback to participants upon request.

4. Final Selection:

- Select winners for various categories

Awarding and prizes

1. Highest scoring submission in each category will be awarded 1st place

- 1st place in Wildlife category will receive DJI or GoPro Camera or an Equivalent item
- 1st place in Aerial category will receive DJI Neo Drone or an Equivalent item
- 1st place in Habitat category will receive DJI or GoPro Camera or an Equivalent item

2. Top 10 Submissions

- Ten highest scoring submissions from each category will be featured in an Art Exhibition and compiled into a e-booklet