

The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2023

About the contest

At Sanctuary, we combine still images and stirring words to sensitise human hearts and minds. We believe that powerful, evocative images have the power to draw out supportive human responses. Conservation photography is an art form that has helped protect wildernesses virtually from the time cameras were invented. It is a blend of technical skills, natural history knowledge, field experience, and an innate desire to protect wild nature. The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards were instituted to showcase the contributions of India's best wildlife photographers. Every year we receive a vast pool of stunning photographs, which reinforces the urgent need to conserve India's wildlife.

Judging

All entries go through a vigorous judging process, designed to distil the very best from thousands of hopefuls. Our panel of judges this year include **Bittu Sahgal, Editor, Sanctuary Asia; Steve Winter, National Geographic conservation photographer; Dr. Anish Andheria, conservation photographer and President, Wildlife Conservation Trust; Nayan Khanolkar, educationist, naturalist and wildlife photographer; Prasenjeet Yadav, Natural history and science photographer; Dr. Parvish Pandya, Director, Science, Natural History and Photography, Sanctuary Asia and Lakshmy Raman, Executive Editor, Sanctuary Asia**. The judges will be looking for originality, conservation value, technical quality, subject matter, aesthetics, rarity, mood and action. They reserve the right to shuffle images into appropriate categories. They would always place a premium on ethics.

Theme

Images taken in the wild that best depict Sanctuary's descriptor: **'Call of the Wild'** and are suitable for submission.

Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. Images taken in the wild that best depict Sanctuary's descriptor: **'Call of the Wild'**.
2. The entrant must be the sole author and owner of the copyright for all photos entered. By entering the contest, the entrant certifies that the entries do not infringe on the copyright, trademark or intellectual property rights of any other person or organisation.
3. Images may be photographed anywhere on the Asian continent. Photographers of any nationality are eligible to participate. There is no age restriction on entrants.
4. A maximum of 5 images can be entered by each individual.

Contest Prizes

- 1st Prize: Rs. 1,50,000
- 2nd Prize: Rs. 75,000
- 3rd Prize: Rs. 25,000
- 5 Honourable Mentions: Rs. 2,500 each

- Certificate of Merit: One-year Sanctuary Asia subscription.
- Certificates will be presented to all winners, Honourable Mentions, as decided by the judges whose decision will be final and not subject to further discussion.
- The Winning, Honourable Mention images will get a chance to be featured in Sanctuary Asia magazine (December 2023 issue) and Sanctuary Asia CUB (curated for Young Naturalists, January 2024) respectively.
- All entrants will receive a free annual digital subscription (12 issues) to Sanctuary Asia magazine.

In case of any queries, please write to images@sanctuaryasia.com

Terms & Conditions

Please read the following terms, conditions and guidelines thoroughly before submitting your entries.

1. **Judging:** Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges, appointed by Sanctuary Asia (Sanctuary Nature Foundation), whose decision will be final. In the event the entries do not meet the judges' standards, the organisers reserve the right to refrain from making an award. Originality, ethics, conservation value, technical quality, subject matter, aesthetics, rarity, mood and action will be among the values placed at a premium by the judges.

2. **Ownership:** The entrant must be the sole author and owner of the copyright for all photos entered. By entering the contest, the entrant certifies that the entries do not infringe on the copyright, trademark or intellectual property rights of any other person or organisation. The entrant must be able to provide a no-objection letter from concerned authorities in case required.

3. **Submission of images:** A maximum of five images may be submitted by one participant. The last date for submission of all entries is 11:59 p.m., September 1, 2023, Indian Standard Time. Please submit photographs in digital (JPEG) format only not more than 5 MB in size. Please fill all the required columns before submission. Digital scans of negatives, transparencies or photographic prints are acceptable; the photograph need not be taken with a digital camera. Please fill all the required columns before submission. Note: Only on special request will prints (8"x10" or larger) be accepted. Request can be made by writing to images@sanctuaryasia.com. For prints and digital scans, negatives may be required at a later stage. Each print must be clearly labelled with the photographer's name and full contact details including the postal address and cell/landline numbers.

4. **Digital photographs:** All image file names should be renamed as "photographer's name_species name_location_original file name'. For example, "ArjunSingh_Tiger_Ranthambhore_DSC 1234.jpg". Image Capture Story: (refer to point no. 5) must be added to each image's Properties Summary (Windows) OR File Info (Photoshop) OR as a separate Word/RTF file.

5. **Image capture story:** All photographs must be accompanied by details indicating clearly the equipment used, location, season, brief description of the subject and how the image was taken. Failure to provide these details could render the entry ineligible for selection. This data must also be added to each image's Properties Summary (Windows) or File Info (Photoshop).

6. **Size:** Images for submission should be 1800/240 dpi pixels (along the shortest dimension) to a maximum file size of 5 MB. Once shortlisted, entries may have to be resubmitted as high

resolution TIFF files at 3200 pixels/300 dpi (along the shortest dimension) or higher as required by the judges

7. **The original capture** (RAW files/Camera original files) as it was recorded by the camera with no manipulation applied must be shared as a Google Drive link along with the low resolution files directly uploaded to the Google form.

*Judges can request to see RAW images anytime during the judging process. Your RAW images will not be used for any other purpose apart from during the judging process.

TIFF files of winning images, visually similar to the original JPEG submitted, will be requested from entrants at any time during the contest.

If the original file is other than RAW, then images taken before and after the submitted image will be requested. Judges may also request for images sequence with original image sequence numbers any time during the contest.

DNG files will be accepted provided DNG is a RAW format of the camera

8. **Compatibility and format:** Images must be submitted as Windows PC-compatible JPEG/JPG at highest compression quality (setting 11 or 12 in Adobe Photoshop) files. Files must be ideally full-size without borders, watermarks or signatures.

9. **Manipulation:** The faithful representation of a natural form, behaviour or phenomenon must be maintained. Images may be cropped (to a maximum of up to 20 per cent provided it doesn't affect the quality of the JPEG) before submission, and limited digital manipulation such as cleaning, sharpening, adjusting levels, curves, colour and contrast, permissible when applied to the image as a whole, provided it doesn't alter the essence of the image. Adding or removing elements is absolutely not permitted, nor is the combination of two different images (composites). Photographs should be captured as single exposure except images as mentioned in pt. 10. Any distortion from reality will be rejected by the judges.

10. **HDR, Panorama and Focus stacking:** High Dynamic Range images (HDR), stitched panoramas are acceptable, under the condition that the elements in the image are not subjected to any addition or removal. The faithful representation of the natural/original moment captured through the technique of HDR and panorama is expected. The RAW versions of HDR and panorama images have to be submitted at the initial stage. Captions for these images must clearly indicate that they are HDR or panorama. Focus stacking images will be accepted only if done in the field and not in a studio environment. Any discrepancy found in terms of manipulation of the original capture will lead to image disqualification.

11. **Colour space:** Images should ideally be colour profiled/corrected using accurately calibrated monitors and utilising Adobe RGB (1998) colour space.

12. **Subject and photographer:** Images may be photographed anywhere on the Asian continent. Photographers of any nationality are eligible to participate. There is no restriction on the age for submission of images.

13. **Camera-trap images:** Camera-trap, remote-triggered (stationary and moving) images are eligible. Location, date and time must be mentioned. Such images if taken by a group/organisation (government/non-government) must be accompanied by an ownership letter and a certificate stating that the image was legally obtained.

14. **Ethics and restrictions:** Sanctuary has zero tolerance for unethical practices that put the subjects at risk. No Great Indian Bustard (GIB) photographs shot after April 1, 2013 are eligible, since this highly endangered bird is extremely susceptible to disturbance. Also, for this reason, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has banned its photography during the breeding season. Family pets, garden flowers, domestic or hand-reared animals, those in captivity or restrained in any way and / or photographs of nesting birds will be disqualified. Please carefully read and sign the declaration that must accompany each entry. (I hereby declare that the shooting of this image adheres to the ethical standards stipulated by Sanctuary Asia in letter and spirit.)

15. **Duration:** Photographs that have previously won an award in the Sanctuary Asia Wildlife Photography Awards or any other national or international photography contest at the time of submission (on or before September 1, 2023) are not eligible. Photographs may be sent as entries to other photography contests as well.

16. **Liability:** While every care will be taken of submissions, the organisers cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage of images.

17. **Copyright and use of images:** Copyright, even over winning images, will remain with the photographer. Sanctuary Asia magazine, however, reserves the right to reproduce or publish entries in its print and online pages at any time with due credit to the photographer. Images may also be used elsewhere in connection with the promotion of the contest.

18. The contest is **open to everyone** except Sanctuary employees and employees of the sponsor, or those directly associated with the organisation of the contest.