

Conditions of participation 2026

1 Entry fee and organisation. There is no entry fee. The organisers will bear the organisational costs of the competition and of the return of the slides. The organisers are the EuroNatur Foundation, EuroNatur-Service GmbH, the magazine "natur", the photo shop "Lichtblick" in Constance and Gelsenwasser AG. The competition is open to all photographers whose main residence is in Europe. The closing date by which entries must arrive is 31 March 2026.

2 Subjects and judging. Subjects should be drawn from nature in Europe. The jury will award prizes to the top twelve and have the option to award the "Jury's special award". The 12 prize-winning pictures will be printed in the EuroNatur calendar 2027. The jury's decisions are final. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify pictures that were obviously taken by infringing the code of conduct for wildlife photographers. Digitally manipulated pictures, pictures of pets or farm animals, pictures of cultivated varieties of wild plants and pictures that were not taken in Europe will not be accepted.

3 Pictures. No more than five pictures may be entered per entrant/photographer. Entries may be in the form of digital colour pictures (submitted on CD or by email) or all types of non-glass slides (but no prints, no black and white photographs and no panorama formats). Please send only original slides or very good copies. Scans of slides are allowed, but please bear in mind that an excellent technical quality (focus, exposure) is an essential requirement for prize-winning images. Minimum resolution for digital pictures: 6 million pixels. Digital pictures must be submitted in two separate files on CD:

1st file: "preview": jpeg of 1200 pixel on the long side

2nd file: "high-resolution files": full-size jpeg of the highest quality (e.g. saved in Adobe Photoshop at quality level 12).

The titles of digital picture files must contain the photographer's name and the name and number (1-5) of the picture (e.g. MaxMueller_Brownbear_C_Croatia_1.jpg). Pictures of animals or plants taken in controlled conditions (zoo, pen, botanical gardens, studio or similar) must be identified by a "C" (for captive) on the slide frame or in the file name and contain corresponding information in the list of pictures.

4 Digital manipulation. We place a high value on unenhanced records of nature; for this reason, no subsequent modification of a picture or its content is permitted. We allow the standard picture-editing processes applied to the picture as a whole (e.g. tonal value, contrast, brightness, colour, saturation, white balance), minimal cleaning of the image (such as removal of lens dust and marks) and cropping, provided these do not alter the subject of the picture. However, cropping pictures too heavily reduces the resolution. The faithful representation of what was captured at the moment the picture was taken must be preserved. Multiple exposures are allowed if the pictures have been taken at the same place and at almost the same time. Compositions comprising several pictures or material from different pictures, sandwich shots, and photographs that consist in any way of more than one image (such as HDR, stitched panoramas etc.) are not eligible. Adding or removing animals, parts of animals, plants, unwanted elements, people etc. into/from the image is also not allowed. The

organisers reserve the right to request the original RAW file from the photographer. For prize-winning photographs this will be required as proof of authenticity and for their reproduction in print.

5 List of pictures. The entry must include a printed list of the pictures in English or German; in the case of digital pictures these must be listed in a separate document on the CD (as pdf or Excel-file). In addition to the name, email and address of the photographer, picture title and number (1 to 5), this list must also provide a detailed description of the subject including the following information: date the picture was taken, camera, lens, species (scientific name, if possible), location (country, region, habitat, nature reserve, zoo, etc.) and further information such as exposure, time of day, setting, atmosphere or similar.

6 Digital entries submitted via [photo\(at\)euronatur.org](mailto:photo(at)euronatur.org). No more than 5 photos per entrant/photographer plus an accompanying list of the pictures may be entered. The required format is JPEG with 1200 pixel picture length (approx. picture size 500 KB - all five pictures may not exceed a total file size of 5 MB). For instructions on labelling, digital picture enhancement and the list of pictures to be included, please see the instructions given in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5. Entries can only be accepted if entrants abide by these rules. When an entry that has been submitted digitally is awarded a prize, EuroNatur will ask for the corresponding original high-resolution image file. In this case, the instructions described in paragraph 3 will apply.

7 Labelling of slides. To enable slides to be easily identified they must show the picture number (1 to 5) on the front on the bottom left. The title of the picture and the name and address of the photographer must also be clearly marked on the front of each slide's frame.

8 Copyright, liability and posting. The copyright for all photos entered must be held by the photographer. The photographer retains the copyright to his/her pictures at all times and his/her name will appear alongside the photo whenever it is published. By entering the competition the contestant grants the competition organisers the right to use the photos entered free of charge for the following purposes:

- To produce calendars of the competition. All prize-winning pictures may be used by the organiser EuroNatur for commercial sale of calendars.
- Exhibitions organised as part of the competition featuring the prize-winning photos.
- Coverage of the competition in the competition organisers' publications and on their websites.
- The use of the photos to advertise the calendar, the competition and the exhibitions in both the organisers' publications and in press coverage.
- The non-profit foundation EuroNatur and its subsidiary EuroNatur Service GmbH have the right to use the prize-winning photos (calendar and exhibition) in their own publications to advertise their conservation projects in Europe. Pictures that have been entered but have not won prizes will only be used for the above purposes after consultation with the photographer and by contractual agreement.

The use of the photos beyond the above-mentioned purposes may only proceed after consultation with the photographer. Rights to pictures may not be held by agencies or publishers. The organisers do not accept any liability for claims of third parties or for damage or loss of pictures, (including while in the post). The entries must be packed so that they cannot be damaged in transit. Digital pictures on CDs will not be returned; CDs will be destroyed after the competition has finished.

We would like to point out that vertical "portrait" images have only limited suitability for selection. The special format of the calendar itself only allows the use of horizontal "landscape" images.

9 Data Protection. The data sent in by competitors is only stored and used by us for the administration of the competition. It is passed onto third parties e.g to magazine editorial departments or our partners in the photo competition "Nature Treasures", for the purposes of reporting on and publication of the winning pictures. The participant hereby expressly declares him or herself to be in agreement with this. The participant has the right at any time to revoke their agreement to storage of the data at [datenschutz\(at\)euronatur.org](mailto:datenschutz(at)euronatur.org) and thereby to withdraw their participation.