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Welcome to MontPhoto's 2026 International Nature Photography Contest, open to amateurs and professional photographers from all over the world organised by the **MontPhoto Association**.

We are holding the 30th edition of the competition, which has become one of the world's leading events in nature photography.

Be a part of it and join us

Our mission is to add value and help spread the art of photography in order to raise awareness and protect nature.

The contest rewards the photographic excellence of its participants. We seek innovative and inspiring images picturing original stories, unknown places, new perspectives, surprising behaviours or new interpretations of what is already known to us. We look for a glimpse that documents the diversity, the beauty, the mystery and the fragility of life on our planet.

MontPhoto is committed to respecting nature. Therefore, entries submitted to the competition must faithfully reflect natural situations, respecting the originality of the environment and the conservation of living beings in their habitat, avoiding suffering, disturbance or interference with their behaviour.

The MontPhoto Association is a non-profit organization, in accordance with Spanish law, and can therefore not benefit financially from its activities. Any budgetary variation will always be used in that regard.

Contest sections:

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- A. ACTIVITIES IN NATURE
- B1. MAMMALS
- B2. BIRDS
- B3. OTHER ANIMALS
- B4. PLANT LIFE
- B5. LANDSCAPE
- C. UNDERWATER WORLD
- D. ECOLOGICAL REPORT (Human effect on nature)
- E. ART IN NATURE

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

- F1. PORTFOLIO
- F2. STORYTELLING

SIDE EVENT: ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CHANGING PLANET (under 25) (check contest rules).

Awards

General awards

- **MontPhoto 2026 Award of Honour:** 2.000 € + diploma (including category prize).
- **First prize in each category:** 500 € + diploma.
- **Second prize in each category:** 300 € + diploma.
- **5 Honorary Mentions in each category:** Diploma.

Special awards

- **Special Award "Nature in Catalunya":** 300 € + diploma.
- **Special Award "Lloret de Mar":** 300 € + diploma.
- **Special Award for the most outstanding member of the MontPhoto Community :** 300 € + diploma.

Youth awards

- **3 Awards in the youth category (15-17 years old) and 3 Awards in the children's category (up to 14 years old):** 150 € + diploma

Collections awards

- **1 prize per category:** 1000 € + diploma.
- **3 Honorary Mentions:** Diploma.

All awarded Collections will have access to an advisory review at the Festival and are eligible for publication in major international journals.

Prizes for members of the MontPhoto association

- **MontPhoto membership prize:** 200 € to the highest ranked member in each category.

All winners and honourable mentions will receive a copy of the book "Inspired by Nature 2026", and an invitation to All winners and honourable mentions will receive a copy of the book Inspirats per la Natura 2026, free tickets with priority access to all festival events, and one night's accommodation in Lloret de Mar to attend the Gala on Friday 2 October 2026 (non-transferable)

Registration fees

FOR MEMBERS OF THE MONTPHOTO COMMUNITY TAKING PART IN THE CONTEST IS FREE OF CHARGE. (CHECK TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE REGISTERING!).

Payment will be made through PayPal or credit card, following the instructions on our website.

There will be two rates depending on the date of registration, although the time for uploading photos is open until the end of the deadline:

- **GENERAL:** The general entry fee is 25 € until 28th February, then 30 € throughout the month of March.
- **-YOUTH:** Entry fee for photographers under 18 years old is free of charge.
- **MEMBERS:** Entry fee for members (community members) is free of charge.

Each participant can enter the contest with up to 25 images freely distributed in the general categories of the contest, and one portfolio and one storytelling from 10 to 15 images.

Registration will be online through the web www.montphoto.com. Closing date **23/03/2026**.

Participation in the Changing Planet contest is free.

Relevant information

Participation is exclusively online.

We highly recommend a thorough read of the competition rules.

We'll use gender-neutral language throughout these rules to refer to all participants.

The contest organisers will contact you via email: contest@montphoto.com. Please include it in your email address book to avoid communications being blocked by security and anti-spam systems

COMPETITION RULES

MONTPHOTO 2026

GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

A. ACTIVITIES IN NATURE

B1. MAMMALS

B2. BIRDS

B3. OTHER ANIMALS

B4. PLANT LIFE

B5. LANDSCAPE

C. UNDERWATER WORLD

D. ECOLOGICAL REPORT

E. ART IN NATURE

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

F1. PORTFOLIO

F2. STORYTELLING

A - Activities in Nature: Photographs depicting sporting or adventure activities in natural surroundings or the mountains. These activities must be sustainable and environmentally friendly.

B1 - Mammals: Mammals at any stage in life.

B2 - Birds: Birds at any stage in life.

B3 - Other animals: Animals not included in categories B1 and B2 at any stage in life, such as amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, etc.

B4 - Plant Life: Plant species in their original habitat, including fungus.

B5 - Landscape: Landscapes with minimal human interference.

C - Underwater world: Pictures taken using underwater technique be in fresh or salt water of flora, fauna and habitats.

D - Ecological report: Pictures depicting any element or activity caused by humans (or its consequences) which has a negative effect on natural areas (wild fauna and flora, land, soil, water, air, climate or natural scenery). The images must show the activity or feature reported in a clear and unambiguous manner and as the main element. Originality will be especially valued as well as the message delivered with the picture and the elements provided to trigger an environmental wake-up call. The author should describe the reported activity. It is highly advisable to enclose supporting facts and data that reinforces it. The jury will have access to this information during the selection stages.

E - Art in nature: Creative compositions or abstractions based on natural environment.

COLLECTIONS:

An arranged collection of 10 to 15 photographs. They must exhibit individual quality and collective value as a whole. Must have integrity, coherence and harmony.

The series can be inspirational, thought-provoking or revealing about any area of the natural environment under any of these assumptions. It is also valued if it is documenting, inspiring or generating environmental awareness in conjunction with the text that goes with the collection.

F1 - Portfolio: Personal and creative collection of images of nature shaping a consistent and harmonious project.

F2 - Storytelling (Agustí Maria Vilà i Galí Awards): Reportage on conservation, biodiversity or the human nature relationship creating a visual narrative.

SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Special Award "Nature in Catalunya".** Pictures eligible for this award are those presented in all general categories of the contest taken in the Catalunya.
- **Special Award "Lloret de Mar".** Pictures eligible for this award are those presented in all general categories of the contest taken in Lloret de Mar.
- **Special Award for the most outstanding member of the MontPhoto Community.** Pictures eligible for this award are those presented in all general categories of the

contest taken by any member photographer of Montphoto Community. The prize will be awarded to the artist with the photographs that are most highly rated by the jury.

To be eligible for the special prizes for Catalonia and Lloret de Mar, you must correctly indicate this on the corresponding images at the time of entry.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

- **1 Prize for the best classified members of MontPhoto in each category of the competition.**

2. REGISTRATION AND FORMATS

***CHECK THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF MONTPHOTO. BEING A MEMBER OF THE MONTPHOTO COMMUNITY BRING MANY ADVANTAGES AND FREE REGISTRATION.**

The competition is open to all amateur and professional nature photographers worldwide. None of the organizers of MontPhoto, volunteers, sponsors, members of the jury or members of their families will be allowed to take part in the competition.

Each participant can register only once with up to **25 photographs** distributed across the general categories of the contest and a portfolio.

Payment will be made through **Paypal or by credit card**, following the instructions on the web.

- **GENERAL:** The general entry fee is **25 € until 28th February, then 30 € throughout the month of March.**
- **YOUTH:** Entry fee for photographers under 18 years old is **free of charge.**
- **MEMBERS:** Free of charge. Also, with a direct access from the personal menu.

Exclusive ONLINE process:

- The first step is your online registration at www.montphoto.com
- Once registered, the next step is to enter the competition.
- The sign-up process starts with the payment of the

participation fees. Once this has been done, the files can be uploaded.

- Uploaded images may be changed at any time until the contest closes on 23 March at 23:59 GMT+1.

The picture format must be JPEG. The size of the file must be 1920 pixels on its longest side.

Organizers will request the RAW files of ALL the photographs that reach the final phase of the contest on May 25th, 2026. From this date, participants will have 10 days to upload their RAW files (If your pictures reach the last stage of the competition and you know in advance that you will be out of reach within those days, please contact the organization in advance).

If necessary, RAW files might be demanded at any other previous stage of the contest. Should the RAW files not be presented on time, then the image would be disqualified.

Images that do not comply with the required format standards will be rejected.

Photographs needed for the exhibition will be handed over in the biggest possible size and quality in JPEG format.

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Cropped images will be accepted as long as **the crop is not excessive and the resulting image has a size of over 10 MP without interpolation.**

Photographs consisting of multiple exposures on camera are NOT allowed, except for category E (Art in Nature) and F1 (Portfolio) which they'll be accepted provided they have been taken in the same sequence, place and time checking for that purpose the image metadata tags.

All checking, verification and accreditation of authenticity of the photographs submitted to the contest will be carried out by comparing the JPEG edited image to its original RAW and carrying out a complete diagnosis of the editing / development actions on the original, both globally and by zones.

Photographs won't be accepted if we detect the following:

- Modifications not allowed on the original photograph, such as distortion on dimensions or perspective transformation.

- Excessive processing values globally or partially.
- Altering or modifying pixels in specific areas of the image (removing, deleting, cloning or manipulation) that clearly modifies the originality of the image either manually or with the use of AI.
- RAW obtaining options not allowed as "Overlay" or "Multiple Non-Sequential Exposure" (except for categories E, Art in Nature or F1, Portfolio).

Image adjustments such as white balance, contrast, saturation, curves and levels, or moderate focus shall be allowed.

If there is an obvious attempt on the authors' behalf to mislead the public in a mischievous manner, we reserve the right to disqualify all their images submitted to the competition.

4. GENERAL RULES

- **Pictures of domestic and farm animals, as well as cultivated plants, are not allowed** - except for category D (Ecological report) and F (Portfolio).
- It is mandatory to specify whether the animal lives in captivity, has been trained or if any action has been used to induce a specific behaviour when the picture was taken. Any omission or deliberate misrepresentation of this information will result in overall disqualification.
- Photographs must have been taken recently in order to show its content in a more up to date as possible.
- The contest rewards the originality of the work. Therefore, submitting images awarded in other contests is not recommended.
- We recommend participants to avoid submitting similar images in different categories.
- Photographs must not have frames, edges, water marks nor captions.

We recommend participants to include a caption to their images in order to help the jury appreciate the value of the image. Although captions are not mandatory during the first round, it will be once the RAW files are requested and, for which a review and update process of checking captions will be opened.

Please, learn more about the values of MontPhoto (<https://montphoto.com/website/valors.asp>) and AEFONA's decalogue of actions (<https://www.aefona.org/nuevo-decalogo-aefona/>). We highly recommend all participants to read and apply to these guidelines.

5. AWARDS

- **MontPhoto 2026 Award of Honour:** 2.000 € + diploma.
- **First Prize in each category:** 500 € + diploma.
- **Second Prize in each category:** 300 € + diploma.
- **5 Honorary mentions in each category:** Diploma.
- **Special Award "Nature in Catalunya":** 300 € + diploma.
- **Special Award "Lloret de Mar:"** 300 € + diploma.
- **Special Award for the most outstanding member of the MontPhoto Community:** 300 € + diploma.
- **3 Awards in the youth category (15-17 years old):** 150 € + diploma.
- **3 Awards in the children's category (up to 14 years old):** 150 € + diploma.
- **1 Award for the Portfolio category:** 1000 € + diploma.
- **1 Award for Storytelling-Agustí M. Vilà category:** 1000 € + diploma.
- **3 Honourable Mentions for each category within the collections:** Diploma.
- **1 Community prize per competition category:** 200 € + diploma.

Every awarded participant - honorary mentions included - will receive a copy of the book "**Inspired by Nature 2026**", Free tickets with priority access to all festival events, and **one night's accommodation** in Lloret de Mar to attend the Awards Gala on Friday, 2 October 2026 (non-transferable).

If you cannot attend the prize-giving ceremony, the option to collect the prizes may be delegated. Outside inland Spain, only cash awards will be sent.

Young photographers can enter the youth category if they are under the age of 18 up till the contest registration

deadline. It is mandatory to provide the relevant info of the legal guardians, as supporting documentation will be requested to the winners.

Acceptances to all award-winning members of the CEF and FCF, according to their own regulations. Membership ID of these associations is essential to opt for the awards or special awards offered by them.

6. JURY and VERDICT

The MontPhoto Jury for 2026 is made up of by 5 members who are currently in the process of being selected.

The jury's decisions will be final, so no claims or appeals will be accepted against them. None of the awards will be declared null and void.

The jury reserves the right to move entries from one category to another when applicable or appropriate.

Members of the Jury can be replaced in case of necessity.

7. CALENDAR

- **Closing date of the inscription to the competition:** March 23th 2026 at 23.59 GMT+1.
- **Request of RAW files:** May 25th, 2026
- **RAW files admission:** May 25th – June 4th, 2026.
- **Contact with finalists:** June 17th 2026.
- **Presentation and prize awards in Lloret de Mar:** October 2nd, 2026.
- **Awarded and runner-up photographs exhibit:** throughout the month of October.

The Award Ceremony will take place on **October 2nd, 2026 in Lloret de Mar.**

MontPhoto organization will get in touch with all the finalists in strict confidence to confirm their assistance at the Awards Ceremony. During the Award Ceremony on October 2nd 2026 in Lloret de Mar, winners will be announced.

8. EXHIBITION AND CATALOGUE

The awarded and runner-up photographs will be exhibited at the Local Exhibition Room in Lloret de Mar's Culture House between October 2nd – 31st, 2026.

The organisation will be promoting the exhibition as a national and international touring exhibition.

As in previous editions, the organisation will publish a catalogue with all the selected works titled "*Inspirats per la Nature 2026*" and which will be distributed to all those who have previously booked it. Funding and distribution costs will be used exclusively to its finance and delivering.

Participants can pre-order a copy of *Inspirats per la Natura 2026* at a special price of 20 (shipping costs not included) when registering.

Members of the MontPhoto Community will get a free copy of the book.

9. LEGAL ASPECTS

Entrants must declare they are the authors of every image they submit and have all the rights to dispose of them.

Pictures where a recognisable or identifiable person appears (categories in which the presence of people is allowed), must include a consent form signed by that person and a Model Release Form attached to it. MontPhoto shall not be liable for possible claims against the authors, which may be a reason to disqualify the photograph.

Awarded and runner-up works can be printed in books, exhibitions, catalogues, posters or any other printed or digital platform, as well as distributing it to press and/or magazines in order to promote and advertise MontPhoto.

MontPhoto may also use them **for training and educational projects organized by the entity itself.**

The name of the author will always be mentioned and the author will grant the reproduction rights to the organisation of the contest for this purpose. This release is non-exclusive but it is extended to any future edition. **The use of these pictures cannot be used with lucrative purposes.**

The organization will compensate the authors of their reproduced work with a copy of the book. (International shipment not included).

Should other commercial opportunities arise from which the contestant may benefit, the organisation will require the contestant's permission in advance to agree on the terms of the necessary licences.

Liability and data protection

Taking part in the MontPhoto 2026 edition implies accepting each and everyone of these statements. The organisation will resolve any situation not foreseen in this document.

A proof of electronic submission will not be considered proof of receipt by the organisation.

All personal data will be treated with confidentiality by the organisation according to the Spanish law on data protection (UE) 2016/679 from 03/2018 (LOPD-GDD) from 5th December and the participants can contact the organisation at any time

to update their data and/or preferences related to the authorised use of their personal data, rectification, deleting, portability, restriction and objection to the processing of your personal data, as well as not being subject to automated individual decisions by writing to the email address info@montphoto.com, clearly indicating the right you wish to exercise and identifying yourself correctly.

Value Under Contract

The Rules of this Regulation and any other web page or documents incorporated therein constitute the entire agreement between the participant and MontPhoto, and supersede and extinguish all prior agreements, promises, warranties, representations and understandings between the parties, whether written or oral, relating to the subject matter hereof, including, but not limited to, all advertising or promotional materials. The participant agrees that they shall have no right of recourse in relation to any statement, representation or warranty (whether made innocently or negligently) contained in these Rules.

Acknowledge by the CATALAN PHOTOGRAPHY FEDERATION with the number **2026-22**



Changing planet 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS

CHANGING PLANET 2026 (under 25 years old)

HELP US CHANGE THE PLANET

This is an invitation to show the changes of the world we live in: a broadening climate crisis, an increasing environmental pollution, the loss of biodiversity...Take part and show how all of these changes not only happen far away in remote places but also very close to home.

CHANGING PLANET CONTEST

A new contest at MontPhoto aimed at young photographers under 25 who will be entitled to submit up to 5 pictures showing the relationship between people and the environment around them.

COMPETITION RULES

This is a FREE contest that benefits from the MontPhoto structure and develops parallel to the main contest in terms of calendar, registration and format.

The awarded images will be included in the exhibition and shown at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival as well as in regular catalogues and communication programs.

Through the joint cooperation between MontPhoto and the Berlin-based international platform "Changing Planet: Network for Young Photographers", the awarded images will be a part of a touring exhibition led by this platform.

Three images will be chosen among all participants under 18 years old and three images will be chosen among participants between 18 and 25 years old.

NOTE: All legal aspects not specified in these brief rules will follow MontPhoto's 2026 competition rules.



Concurs internacional de fotografia de natura i muntanya

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