



**GDT European
Wildlife Photographer
of the Year 2015**

Imprint:

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Image: © Theo Bosboom, GDT
Image: © Audun Rikardsen

Supported by



Welcome to the contest „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015!

Take part....

... in the competition GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015!

For the 15th time the Society of German Nature Photographers (Gesellschaft Deutscher Tierfotografen - GDT) invites professional and non-professional photographers from all over Europe to join this year's competition.

The competition aims to illustrate the high quality and specific style of European wildlife photography through excellent pictures from Europe and all over the world. It also seeks to promote awareness for nature conservation through the means of photography.

Prizes

There will be cash and material prizes in the amount of **25,000 EUR** altogether.

Overall winner: **3,000 EUR, invitation** to the award ceremony (travel expenses, costs for the buffet and accommodation)

K 1 – 8: winners: **800 EUR**, runners-up: **500 EUR**

K 9: winners: **200 EUR** as well as an **invitation** to the award ceremony (travel expenses, costs for the buffet and accommodation; includes expenses for an accompanying adult), runners-up: **100 EUR**

All winning participants will receive **free tickets** to the GDT International Nature Photography Festival 2015 in Lünen as well as the **exhibition catalogue**.

Categories

K1 – Birds K4 – Plants & Fungi K7 – Man and Nature
K2 – Mammals K5 – Landscape K8 – Nature's Studio
K3 – Other Animals K6 – The Underwater World
K9 – Young Photographers
(age groups: a) up to 14 years, b) 15 - 17 years)

K1 – K8: a total of **20 images** may be entered (these can be distributed freely across the categories).

K9: a total of **5 images** may be entered.

Entry Fee (K 1 – K8)

30,- EUR – payment via PayPal when entering online

30,- EUR – enclosed in cash when entering by post

Entering K9 – Young Photographers is free of charge.

Please send your images from **15 January 2015** to:

by post „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015“
Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany

=> recommended if you are away travelling when we will be requesting the necessary high resolution and RAW data (see section 11 competition rules).

Online participation: www.gdtfoto.de

=> recommended generally (see section 10 in the competition rules)

Entry deadline is **1 March 2015** at midnight – CET (incoming!)

Entries arriving any later than that cannot receive consideration.

Competition management

Competition manager 2015 is Marc Hesse.

Please direct your enquiries in writing to: **contest@gdtfoto.de**

Important information:

To participate online, you will need a valid **e-mail** address and a **PayPal** account.

If participating by post, please make sure to enclose the completely filled in entry form and the entry fee of 30 EUR in cash.

The organising committee will contact you via the email address contest@gdtfoto.de. Please add this address to your email address book to ensure security settings and spam filters do not block relevant mails.

Dates and deadlines

Request for RAW files, original JPG / DNG files (online participation only):
from **10 April 2015**

Closing date for RAW files, original JPG / DNG files (online participation only):
3 May 2015 at midnight (CET)

Notification of the winners:
from **15 Mai 2015**

Closing date for high resolution files (online participation only) and image descriptions:
25 Mai 2015 at midnight (CET)

File requirements

Preview images – longest side **1920 pixels** (may be moderately sharpened)

High resolution files – must be suitable for large format printing (e.g. 90 x 140 cm) and must have Adobe RGB or sRGB colour space. Do not interpolate data! Please sharpen only moderately!

Image editing within the framework of our guidelines – see section 8 of the competition rules.

The jury

Gunther Riehle, DE (wildlife photographer)

Orsolya Haarberg, HU/NO (wildlife photographer)

Keith Wilson, GB (founder and editor Wild Planet Photo Magazine)

Klaus Tamm, DE (wildlife photographer)

Michael Lohmann, DE (wildlife photographer)

COMPETITION RULES

1. Invitation

The competition „European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015“ is hosted by the Society of German Nature Photographers (GDT - Gesellschaft Deutscher Tierfotografen e.V.)

2. Competition Categories

The competition is divided in **nine categories**:

K1 – Birds K2 – Mammals K3 – Other Animals
K4 – Plants and Fungi K5 – Landscapes K6 – The Underwater World
K7 – Man and Nature K8 – Nature's Studio
K9 – Young Photographers (age groups: a) up to 14 years, b) 15 - 17 years)

Images in the **categories 1 to 5** should depict the beauty and significance of animals, plants and their habitat. They can display all sorts of subjects: from details to groups, from portraits to overall views, from action-filled behaviour to atmospheric situations, from rare species to common sights, from natural habitats to complete ecosystems. Novel image ideas are welcome!

Category 6 is reserved for images depicting the world under water - this may be plants, animals or habitats in both salt water and fresh water environments.

The topic in **category 7** addresses positive or negative aspects of human interaction with nature.

Category 8 deals with images that focus on colours and shapes in nature above mere documentation purposes. This category is open to photographs in which the photographer shows his or her individual point of view, aesthetic considerations and photographic experimentation.

Category 9 invites young photographers in two age groups to enter their best nature images; topics may be chosen freely and do not need to correlate to one of the other categories).

3. Prizes

A first and second prize will be awarded in each category. In addition, the jury will determine an overall winner.

The overall winner will receive a prize money of **3,000 EUR**. The overall winner will also be invited to the award ceremony (travel expenses, costs for the buffet and accommodation). The winners of the categories K1-K8 will receive **800 EUR** and the runners-up **500 EUR**. The winners of both ages groups in category nine will receive **200 EUR** and an invitation to the award ceremony (travel expenses and accommodation; costs include an accompanying adult), and the runners-up will receive **100 EUR**.

All successful participants (winners, runners-up, highly commendeds) will receive a **free ticket** for the International Nature Photography Festival 2015 in Lünen.

In addition to the photographs that receive a prize money, eight additional images in the categories K1 - K8 will be awarded „Highly Commended“.

All awarded images will be shown in an exhibition at the International Nature Photography Festival (23 to 25 October 2015) in Lünen, and afterwards in exhibitions throughout Europe. All winners and runners-up as well as those whose images are „Highly Commended“ will receive a free copy of the **exhibition catalogue**.

The award ceremony will take place during the International Nature Photography Festival on Friday, **23 October 2015** at the Heinz-Hilpert-Theatre in Lünen.

4. Participants

The competition is open to professional and amateur photographers resident in Europe as well as GDT members, who may or may not be resident in Europe. Members of the GDT board of management or the jury are not eligible for participation. Young photographers, who will not have turned 18 when the competition closes on 1 March 2015, can enter category nine (K9).

5. How to enter

The competition can be entered online or by post.

Online participation requires the participant to register at the website www.gdtfoto.de with a valid email address. Online participation also requires a PayPal account. If the competition is entered by post, a data carrier (CD/DVD) is to be submitted together with a completely filled in entry form and the entry fee in cash.

The entry form is downloadable from the website www.gdtfoto.de.

When registering for online participation, the participant must state a valid email address, at which he / she can be contacted. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that he / she receives email correspondence via contest@gdtfoto.de by adding this email address to their email address book and making sure that security settings or spam filters do not block relevant mails.

6. Participation fee

The fee for categories K1 - K8 is **30 EUR** irrespective of the number of entered photographs. There is **no fee** for category nine (K9) – Young Photographers.

When entering images by post, the entry fee must be included with the submission in cash. Cheques will not be accepted.

In the case of online participation, payment will be made through the online money transfer system PayPal.

7. Submissions

A maximum of **20 photographs** can be entered in categories K1 - K8; these can be **distributed freely** across the different categories. The same images cannot be entered in more than one category. Up to **5 photographs** can be entered in the applicable age group in category nine (K9 - Young Photographers).

Images displaying domestic animals or pets and cultivated forms of wild plants are not permitted. The same applies to images which have been taken violating current conservation or animal welfare regulations and/ or have been taken in an irresponsible way.

We value new images and fresh ideas. For this reason, we strongly request you do not enter images that have already been awarded in the GDT's internal competition (GDT Nature Photographer of the Year) or in any other significant photography competition.

Images from the Fritz Pölking Award and Fritz Pölking Junior Award may be entered.

8. Technical requirements and digital guidelines

Permitted are images from digital cameras (digital images) as well as high quality scans of transparencies and negatives. Analogue images (e.g. transparencies, paper prints) will not be accepted.

After a pre-selection procedure, the jury will check the authenticity of digital images by reference to the original image files. In the case of scans, authenticity checks will be conducted using the original analogue transparencies / negatives.

As original image files we accept all RAW files (e.g.: *.NEF, *.CRW, *.CR2, *.PEF) and original JPGs. Only JPG files straight out of the camera are accepted as originals. Any kind of image processing (compressing, re-saving with an image editing software) leads to the file being considered not original. DNG files are only eligible if this is the original camera format.

We attach great importance on authentic nature photography, but do not ignore the technical possibilities of digital image editing within the framework of our guidelines. For us, awarding the photographic achievement has priority.

Within the framework of digital image editing, the following is PERMITTED:

- moderate adjustments of contrast, tonal values, gradation, white balance, colour and saturation
- moderate use of the shadow/highlight tool, dodging/burning and digital graduated grey filters
- removal of sensor dust, marginal „clean-up“ if this does not change the statement of the image
- cropping – longest side of the image must have at least 3000 pixels (squares must have a minimum of 2500 pixels), not interpolated
- moderate (selective) sharpening and (selective) noise reduction
- HDR images, stitched panoramas and images using focus stacking as well as in-camera multiple exposures (for all these techniques the requirement is that all images were taken at the same location at approximately the same time. With multiple exposures this means that the viewer should not be misled by the combination of two or more images).
- => for Canon multiple exposures: allowed settings are ADDITIVE and AVERAGE
- removal of chromatic aberrations and vignetting as well as lens distortions
- black&white and infrared rendering (incl. filter and tonal adjustments)

Within the framework of digital image editing, the following is NOT PERMITTED:

- adding or removing objects (e.g. animals, plants, people, items of civilization and traces thereof), digital collages
- => for Canon multiple exposures: Not allowed are the settings BRIGHT and DARK

9. File Naming

Files are to be named with a category number (K1, K2, K3 etc.) and the respective image title. File names must not contain special characters (e.g. „#“ or „<>“) or punctuation marks (e.g. „!“, „?“ or „.“). Umlauts are to be replaced by „ae“, „oe“, „ue“ and blank spaces by underscores. File extensions must be separated by a dot and must not exceed four characters.

Example for acceptable file naming: K1_Eagle_and_Gull.jpg

If a special technique has been used, the file name has to be completed accordingly: „S“ for scan, „MF“ for multiple exposure, „HDR“ if high dynamic range techniques have been used, „P“ for panorama images and „FS“ for focus stacking.

Example: K5_Mountains_in_Italy_P_HDR.jpg (panorama and also HDR image)

Pictures of animals that were restricted in their freedom of movement before, during or after the shot, are to be marked with a capital „C“ (= captive).

Example: K2_Cheetah_C.jpg

All submitted file formats must have identical file names. In order to ensure anonymity, the photographer's name must not be part of the title or the photograph itself (e.g. like in a digital watermark).

The IPTC data (in Photoshop -> File -> File Info) should contain complete information

about the contact details of the photographer.

10. Data transfer for online participation

For online entries initially only a preview file in JPG format has to be uploaded onto the GDT server for each photograph. These JPG files should be submitted in highest possible quality. Preview files may be sharpened. The longest side of each image must be **1920 pixels**. This value is absolute and must not be deviated from.

An uploaded preview image can be deleted and replaced by an alternative image until the entry deadline **1 March 2015**. The same applies to image titles and descriptions.

The jury will request the RAW files or original JPG / DNG files of all photographs that have passed the first round of judging. The competition management will dispatch notifications by **10 April 2015** at the latest. The deadline for the required data to arrive at the competition management will end **3 Mai 2015** at midnight (CET). Analogue originals of scanned transparencies / negatives will be requested after the final decision of the jury. Notification for these images will be dispatched by **12 May 2015** at the latest. The deadline for the required analogue originals to arrive at the competition management will end **20 March 2015** at midnight (CET). If requested original image files or analogue originals are not provided by the set deadlines, the relevant images will be excluded from further participation, i.e. awards and commendations. In this case, no refunds of the entry fee will be made.

Winners will be notified after **15 May 2015**.

The photographers of all winning and commended images will have to supply the GDT with non-interpolated highest quality JPG or TIFF files of the awarded images by uploading them onto the GDT competition website. Data volume of these high-resolution files must be suitable for a large format print (e.g. 90 x 140 cm) and must have a clearly specified RGB colour space. Depending on the workflow, the most suitable are Adobe RGB or sRGB colour space. Do not interpolate data! Please sharpen only moderately!

Together with the high-resolution data an image description has to be supplied. Exposure data also have to be delivered. High-resolution files, image description and a note of the exposure data have to be with the competition management by **25 May 2015** at the latest.

All online participants will receive information on the placement of their images after **1 August 2015** via email.

11. Data transfer for postal participation

When submitting images by post, photographs must be send on one CD/DVD to the following address: „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015“, Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany. This posting has to arrive at the above address by **1 March 2015**. Please note: date of receipt is binding, not the post mark.

Photographs for competition entry must be on one single data carrier. On the data carrier three separate folders named „preview“, „original data“ and „high-resolution“ have to be set up. Creating subfolders for individual competition categories is not permissible.

The folder „**preview**“ must contain the images for submission to the contest as preview JPG files. These JPG files should be submitted in highest possible quality. Preview files may be sharpened. The longest side of each image must be **1920 pixels**. This value is absolute and must not be deviated from.

The folder „**original data**“ must contain the original files of the digital images. In case of submitting only scans from transparencies / negatives, the folder „original data“ is to be omitted. Analogue originals of scanned transparencies / negatives will be requested after the final decision of the jury. The competition management will dispatch notifications by **12 May 2015** at the latest. The deadline for the required analogue originals to arrive at the competition management will end **20 May 2015** at midnight (CET). If requested original images are not provided by the set deadline, the relevant images will be excluded from further participation, i.e. awards and commendations. In this case, no refunds of the entry fee will be made.

In the folder „**high resolution**“ non-interpolated high-resolution data of images submitted to the competition must be saved in highest quality as JPG files or TIFF files. Data volume of these high-resolution files must be suitable for a large format print (e.g. 90 x 140 cm) and must have a clearly specified RGB colour space. Depending on the workflow, the most suitable are Adobe RGB or sRGB colour space. Do not interpolate data! Please sharpen only moderately!

Information on the winning images will follow after **15 May 2015**.

The photographers of all winning and commended images are obliged to supply the GDT with an image description and the exposure data. High-resolution files, image description and a note of the exposure data must be with the competition management by **25 May 2015** at the latest.

12. Entry deadlines

You can send in your images by post or submit them online from **15 January 2015**.

Closing date is **1 March 2015**. By this deadline, images for the competition must be either transmitted online to the GDT or have arrived by post at the address stated in the section „Data transfer for postal participation“.

13. Jury

Competition decisions will be made by an independent expert jury, consisting of the following members:

Gunther Riehle, DE (wildlife photographer)
Orsolya Haarberg, HU/NO (wildlife photographer)
Keith Wilson, GB (founder and editor Wild Planet Photo Magazine)
Klaus Tamm, DE (wildlife photographer)
Michael Lohmann, DE (wildlife photographer)

In case an individual member of the jury is prevented for any reason, he / she may be replaced by another suitable person at short notice.

14. Competition management, enquiries

Manager for the competition „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015“ is Marc Hesse. The competition management's address is: Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, D -14478 Potsdam, Germany.

Please direct your enquiries in writing to **contest@gdtfoto.de**.

We ask for your understanding that we cannot deal with individual questions on the phone!

15. Copyright and right to one's own picture

By entering the competition, the photographer confirms that the entered photograph is his / her original work and the photographer is the sole owner of the copyright and that there are no third-party claims. It is the photographer's responsibility to obtain releases and consents in written form for publishing, exhibiting and using the awarded image if any persons appear in the photograph or if objects in the photograph are subject to the rights of third parties; it is the photographer's responsibility to obtain official permits where applicable. The photographer is held liable for all damages that the GDT or third parties, to whom the GDT legally granted usage of the image, may experience due to the lack of necessary release forms or missing permits.

16. Usage rights

Photographs awarded with a prize or highly commended may be used in the context of the competition „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015“ and its related public relations. The GDT is in particular entitled to publish the photograph on their website and to pass the image on to newspapers and magazines for the purpose of news coverage of

the contest. In addition, the GDT is entitled to exhibit the photographs in Germany and abroad, to reproduce and distribute them in the form of print media and to use them to advertise the exhibitions and publications provided that the context of the competition „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015“ is clearly marked. The GDT is entitled to transfer these usage rights to third parties. For the above stated usage rights the photographer cannot claim compensation or a fee of any kind.

In case of enquiries concerning the purchase of usage rights of the awarded photographs, the GDT will forward the relevant photographer's contact details to the interested party. The required prints for the exhibition will be made on the GDT's own expenses, or that of third parties eligible for using the photographs. After the exhibitions have concluded, the GDT is authorized to sell the prints to interested members of the public provided the proceeds of this transaction are assigned to charitable projects, in particular nature conservation projects. Unsold prints will be destroyed.

17. Post-contest handling of images

Submissions that have not been awarded a prize or highly commended will be deleted after the close of the contest. CDs/DVDs send in by the participants will not be returned; they will be destroyed provided the images on the data carrier have not received a prize and are not highly commended.

18) Liability

The risk of damage or loss of submitted photographs on CD/DVD, negatives and transparencies in transit or during online transfer lies with the participant. The GDT cannot accept any liability or responsibility.

19) Final clause

Submissions that do not fulfil all or some of the competition's requirements in terms of content, technical or any other aspect cannot receive consideration and will be excluded from the competition. It is the jury's decision to admit images whose fulfilment of the necessary requirements may be considered ambiguous. The jury's decisions will be final. Legal proceedings are eliminated. By submitting images to the competition, the participant consents to the above competition rules.