



GDT Naturfotograf des Jahres 2017

Take part ...

... in the competition GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017!

! ATTENTION: Please note the alterations in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the competition rules as well as the new deadlines for sending in RAW files and high-resolution files. It is absolutely essential that these deadlines are met!

The competition is open to all members of the GDT.

Why participate?

The overall winner as well as category winners and runners-up will receive valuable non-cash prizes. The awarded images will be presented in an exhibition at the GDT general meeting. After that the exhibition will be shown for several months in Bonn at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, where it will be launched in a large opening ceremony with wide-spread media coverage. The images will also be shown at various other venues and also at the International Nature Photography Festival.

All images will be published as a photo gallery in the GDT magazine „Forum Naturfotografie“ and on our homepage www.gdtfoto.de. Public media institutions have also expressed great interest in the competition.

Categories 2017

The competition is divided in seven categories:

K1 – Birds	K2 – Mammals	K3 – Other Animals
K4 – Plants and Fungi	K5 – Landscapes	K6 – Nature's Studio
K7 – Black and White		

Competition management

Competition manager 2017 is Marc Hesse.

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!

Impressum:

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www.gdtfoto.de

Competition management:

Marc Hesse
Zum Jagenstein 1
14478 Potsdam
Germany
contest@gdtfoto.de



GDT *Naturfotograf des Jahres 2017*

Entries by post

From 15 December 2016 send your images by post to:

GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017

Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany

Online participation

will be open **from 15 December 2016** at www.gdtfoto.de

Closing date

Entry deadline is 1 February 2017 at midnight (incoming!)

Entries arriving any later than that cannot receive consideration!

Important information

To participate online, you will need a valid email address.

If participating by post, please make sure to enclose the completely filled in **entry form** and the **picture list!**

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

Summary of dates and deadlines

Start participation by post:	15 December 2016
Start online:	15 December 2016
Closing date:	1 February 2017 at midnight (incoming)
Request for RAW files, original JPG / DNG files, analogue originals and high-resolution files:	after 16 February 2017
Deadline for RAW files, original JPG / DNG files, analogue originals and high-resolution files to arrive at the competition management:	1 March 2017 at midnight
Notification of the winners:	after 13 March 2017



Course of the competition

In a pre-jury process a competent expert jury will choose from all entries those images that they would like to assess again in another joint jury meeting. From these images we will require the RAW files AND the high-resolution data! Both files need to be with the competition management until **1 March 2017**. The jury will then select the ten best images in each category during main jurying. You, dear full members and sponsor members, will then vote the winners of each category from this short-list at the general meeting 2017.

The award ceremony will then culminate in the selection of the overall winner, the „GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017“.

Again this year, we will take care of producing the prints of the winning images.

Awarding points

For all new members here is a short explanation of the GDT General Score List and the GDT Three-Years-League. Points will be awarded for participation, number of submitted photographs and achieved placing in the competition. For information on the current state of the tables please check GDT-Intern 2/2016 or our website.

And this is how points are awarded:

You will receive some points for your participation; one point for each submitted photograph but overall not more than five.

More points will be awarded for each placing, as follows:

46 (1st place), 37 (2nd place), 29 (3rd place), 22 (4th place), 16 (5th place), 11 (6th place), 7 (7th place), 4 (8th place), 2 (9th place) and still 1 point for 10th place.

File requirements

- **Preview files** – 1920 pixels wide or high (may be sharpened)
- **High-resolution files** – data volume must be suitable for large format printing 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 and please sharpen only moderately!
- **Image editing** within the framework of our guidelines – see point 7 of the competition rules.
- Images may now be submitted in other **aspect ratios** than 2:3.
- When submitting **entries by post**, the following information needs to be added to the image data in your entry form:
 1. **What** is the content of the image (e.g. animal or plant species, a particular landscape)?
 2. **Where** was the image taken?

3. **Technical image details:** camera, lens, exposure and aperture settings, ISO, filters and other equipment if applicable

When submitting entries online, this information will be asked for after the RAW / high resolution files have been requested.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Invitation

The competition **GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017** is hosted by the Society of German Nature Photographers (GDT – Gesellschaft Deutscher Tierfotografen e.V.).

2. Participants

All GDT members are eligible for participation. Members of the jury are excluded from the competition.

3. Competition categories

The competition is divided in seven categories:

K1 – Birds

K2 – Mammals

K3 – Other Animals

K4 – Plants and Fungi

K5 – Landscapes

K6 – Nature's Studio

K7 – Black and White

In the categories K1-K3, K6 and K7 animals may be shown whose natural freedom of movement was restricted. These files have to be marked with „C“ in their file names.

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 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 7: Black and white photography is an art form and possibility to depict contrast in varying shades of grey. It has been used for decades by many photographers to create expressive imagery. However, since smartphones and editing on-the-go have found their way into our lives, converting



images to black and white is often regarded as a general remedy for seemingly „more expressiveness“ in otherwise trivial images.

We are looking for nature photographs that are indeed enhanced by black and white conversion, that highlight the shape of the subject and lead to a unique result. Subject matter may be all motifs that are suitable for the competition GDT Nature Photographer of the Year. IR photography in black and white is also permissible.

4. Prizes

In each category ten images will be awarded. In addition, GDT members present at the general meeting will determine an overall winner. The overall winner as well as the winners and runners-up in each category will receive valuable prizes.

Apart from the photographs that receive a non-cash prize, eight additional photographs will be awarded in each category.

5. How to enter

It is possible to enter the competition online or by post.

If entering online, it is necessary to register at www.gdtfoto.de with a valid e-mail address.

If entries for the competition are to be submitted by post, a completely filled in entry form has to be included with the data carrier (CD/DVD).

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 contact list and making sure that security settings or spam filters do not block relevant mails.

6. Submissions - PLEASE NOTE: Some things are new here!

Each participant may enter a total of 20 images with no more than **8 images per category**. Individual images cannot be entered in more than one category.

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, images that have already been awarded in the GDT's „European Wildlife Photographer of the Year“ competition are not permitted.

7. **Technical requirements and digital guidelines -**
PLEASE NOTE: Some things are new here!

Permitted are images from digital cameras (digital images) as well as high quality scans of transparencies and negatives. Analogue images (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 or negatives, authenticity check will be conducted using the original analogue transparencies / negatives.

RAW files of any format (e.g. *.NEF, *.CRW, *.CR2, *.PEF) as well as original JPG files will be accepted as original image files. 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 considered not being 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, not interpolated (squares must have a minimum of 2500 pixels), not interpolated
- moderate sharpening (also selective) and noise removal (also selective)
- 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 multiple exposure:

allowed settings are ADDITIVE and AVERAGE

- removal of chromatic aberrations and vignetting as well as lens distortions
- black&white and infrared rendering (includes 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 exposure:

Not allowed are the settings BRIGHT and DARK

8. File naming (only when entering by post) - PLEASE NOTE: Some things are new here!

Please note: These regulations concerning file naming only apply to images submitted on CD / DVD. When entering online, the name of your files is entirely up to you.

But please when entering online, make sure to tick the corresponding boxes for multiple exposure, HDR, etc.

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 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.

9. 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 February 2017**.

For all images that have passed the first round of judging, the jury will request the following data:

- RAW files or original JPG / DNG files
- if applicable, analogue originals
- non-interpolated high-resolution files in highest quality as JPG or TIFF
- further information on the image: subject and locality, technical details (see „File Requirements“)

The competition management will dispatch requests for the required data by **16 February 2017** at the latest. The deadline for the required data or analogue originals to arrive at the competition management will end **1 March 2017** at midnight. If requested original image files or analogue originals are not provided by the set deadlines, the relevant images will be excluded from further participation.

Information on the winning images will follow after **13 March 2017**.

All online participants will receive information on the placement of their images **after 2 April 2017** via email.

10. Data transfer for postal participation

When submitting images by post, photographs must be send on one CD/DVD to the following address: „GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017“, Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany. This posting has to arrive at the above address by **1 February 2017**. 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 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 only after the jury's first decision. The competition management will dispatch notifications by **16 February 2017** at the latest. The deadline for the required analogue originals to arrive at the competition management will end **1 March 2017** at midnight. If requested original images are not provided by the set deadline, the relevant images will be excluded from further participation.

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 large format printing 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 and please sharpen only moderately!

The **mandatory picture list** must include the following information:

1. **What** is the content of the image (e.g. animal or plant species, a particular landscape)?
2. **Where** was the image taken?
3. **Technical image details:** camera, lens, exposure and aperture settings, ISO, filters and other equipment if applicable

Information on the winning images will follow **after 1 March 2017**.

11. **Entry deadlines**

You can enter your images by post or online from **15 December 2016**.

Closing date is **1 February 2017**. 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“.

12. **Jury**

Competition decisions will be made by an independent expert jury.

13. **Competition management, enquiries**

Manager for the competition „GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017“ is Marc Hesse. The competition management's address is:

Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 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!

14. 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.

15. Usage rights

Awarded photographs may be used in the context of the competition „GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017“ and its related public relations. The GDT is in particular entitled to publish the photographs on their website and to pass the images on to newspapers and magazines for the purpose of news coverage of the competition. The society is also entitled to use these images for their own marketing purposes and finding sponsorships. 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. In all cases of allowed usage, the context of the competition „GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017“ must be clearly marked. The GDT is entitled to transfer these usage rights to third parties. For the above stated usage rights the awarded 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.

16. 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.

17. Liability

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



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18. Final clauses

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.

We hope you will enjoy the competition, wish you all the success and a wonderful exhibition experience GDT Nature Photographer of the Year 2017!