



Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka e-Photography Competition 2026

Theme: When Nature Heals

Terms and Conditions

The competition is open for both professional and amateur photographers in Sri Lanka. By submitting an entry into the competition, an entrant is agreed to be bound by the following Terms and Conditions.

The competition:

- The competition is organized by the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka (IOBSL).
- The participant must be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- The Adult Biology Photographer Competition is open to individuals that are aged 18 years or over on the 31st of January 2026.
- The Young Biology Competition is open to individuals that are aged 18 years or under on the 31st of January 2026.
- All communication in regard to the competition should be made via the email address: iob.ephotographycompetition@gmail.com
- Entries found to be in conflict with the terms and conditions will be disqualified and no correspondence will be entered into. Any award(s) will also be forfeited.
- Entries submitted into the competition will not be returned by the IOBSL to entrants.

Awards:

- Best Biology Photographer of the Year - 2026 (18 years and over)
- Best Young Biology Photographer of the Year - 2026 (under 18 years)
- Most Popular Biology Photograph of the Year - 2026 (open)
- Up to three photographs from each age group will be selected for merit awards based on the final evaluation.

Ethics:

- Images should report on the natural world in a way that is creative, honest and ethical.
- Photographs that were captured while disturbing, staged or damaging the animal or its habitat and the environment are not permitted.
- Photographs of domesticated, captive, restrained, lured or baited animals are not permitted.



- Entrants must not submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment.
- The photograph must not contain obscene, provocative, defamatory, sexually explicit, or otherwise objectionable or inappropriate content.

Technical requirements:

- Entries must be submitted in JPEG/PNG format, saved at a high-resolution setting.
- Each image must not exceed 10MB.
- The maximum aspect ratio of the photograph should be 16:9 or 9:16.
- Photographs can be either in landscape or portrait orientation.
- Participants may submit color and/or black and white photographs.
- Photographs that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of in-camera dust spots, reasonable adjustment to exposure, white balance, contrast, color vibrancy, saturation, sharpening and cropping etc.) will be disqualified.
- Advanced editing, which is used to create deceptions or manipulations and adding or removal of significant elements within the frame is strictly prohibited.
- The photographs must be original and should not contain watermarks, signatures, copyright symbols, borders, logos, text, identification marks or any other visible references within the frame.
- Any entry that is not of an acceptable quality will be disqualified.
- Entrants must provide unedited originals (raw format files) of photograph(s) in any case if requested by the organizer/judges. These must be supplied by the given deadline or may be disqualified.

Judging process:

- Photographs will be judged by a panel of judges appointed by the IOBSL on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit.
- The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Thirty (30) highest-scoring images from all age groups will be selected and made available to the public for one (01) week for an online vote. The entry with the most votes will receive the 'Most Popular Biology Photograph of the Year - 2026'.
- The winners will be announced on the IOBSL website (<http://www.iobsl.org/>).

Submission of entries:

- All entries should be submitted in digital format through the online application form.
- An artist may submit up to three (03) entries related to the 2026 Photography competition theme.
- Each entry should have a title/caption (maximum 5 words) and the story behind the image (maximum 20 words). You must not include your name in the caption or on the image itself.
- Caption information must be complete, true and accurate.



- Photographs must be renamed in the following format:
Your name with initials_photo title_age group (adult/young)
E.g. SWBandara_lakewater_adult.jpg
- Images should be uploaded to the Google Form <https://forms.gle/G6rSKFzq45RSTUhU7>
- Entries must be received by 23:59 GMT on the 10th of June 2026 (the ‘Closing Date’).

Publicity:

- Entrants in the competition agree that their names, and relevant submission(s) to the competition can be used, without any compensation, for the purpose of advertising, promoting, and/or publicizing the competition.
- By entering the competition, entrants grant the organizers a non-exclusive, irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, exhibit and communicate to the public any image, by any means and in all media without additional compensation.

Liability:

- The organizer will not be responsible for corrupted or damaged files in the uploading process.
- The organizer will not be responsible for emails that do not arrive due to email security settings.
- Organizers assume no responsibility and are not liable for any image misuse by third parties.

Intellectual property rights and license:

- By entering the competition, you hereby agree that any entry you submit is your original work and does not infringe on any intellectual property right of any other individual/ person or entity.
- Any person featured in the entries must have given prior permission for their likeness to be used.
- Copyright of images remains with the photographer.
- All images used by the organizer will always carry photographer credit.
- The photographer agrees that the organizer will not be liable to the photographer in the event of any inadvertent omission of a photographer credit.
- For winning images, copyright holders grant the organizer unlimited non-exclusive use of high-resolution images for activities in all media, including social media, online and print, without any remuneration. Images will be used strictly in reference to the competition.

If you have any queries regarding the competition, please email to:

iob.ephotothycompetition@gmail.com

