

INFO 320/2025 E



23rd FIAP
NATURE BIENNIAL
SOUTH AFRICA 2026

Closing Date for entries: 15 November 2025

Photo by Jill Sneesby

INVITATION

South Africa is a country with a rich wildlife heritage and it is a natural consequence that nature photography is close to our hearts. We are looking forward to seeing your images sharing the beauty of nature from all around the world.



Jill Sneesby, MFIAP, ESFIAP
Chair Organising Committee

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The participation in the Biennial is free and is **ONLY open for the Operational Members** which have paid their annual membership fee.

Each federation will select itself the works (the collections) it wants to present. This collection has to be coherent as well for the inspiration and the conception as for the realization and the presentation. The federation has the choice of the subject and the presentation of its works. A title for the collection is mandatory.

The works must not have been sent to any previous FIAP Biennials. The images must not have any signature, text or distinctive mark on it.

Each author can participate for only one operational member.

The judgement of the collections is made in two steps:

- 1) the judgement of each work of the collection
- 2) the global judgement of the collection

The total score of a collection is obtained thereafter by the addition of the points from the two different judgements.

Registration and image upload only via the FIAP website (also for the print section):

<https://www.fiap.net/en/biennials>

A declaration of consent and responsibility for the images will be provided at the time of online registration. Registrations will not be accepted without the compliance of this declaration by the representative of the participating Operational Member.

The participating works have to be in agreement with the FIAP definition of Nature Photography.

FIAP NATURE DEFINITION

Content Guidelines

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both overwater and underwater.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism's life or welfare are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural.

- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centers, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
- Attracting or controlling subjects through the use of food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
- Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
 - a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
 - b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
 - c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.

When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation centre, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it's properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

Editing Guidelines:

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene
- Complete conversion of colour images to grayscale monochrome
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- Image stitching - combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of colour

GENERAL CONDITIONS

With the sole act of submitting his/her images or files to a FIAP Biennial, the entrant accepts without exception and with no objection:

- that the submitted images can be investigated by FIAP to establish if these obey to FIAP regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of FIAP
- that FIAP will use any means at its disposal for this undertaking
- that any refusal to cooperate with FIAP or any refusal to submit the original files as captured by the camera, or failure to provide sufficient evidence, will be sanctioned by FIAP
- that in case of sanctions following the non-compliance with FIAP regulations, the name of the entrant will be released in any form useful to inform the breaches of the rules

The photographers must preserve intact and without any alteration the original metadata of the images. If an image does not include the original EXIF data, it will not be eligible to participate in the Biennial.

When uploading the images the system will check that the file includes EXIF data. If it does not, the system will send a warning message.

Pictures created by artificial intelligence are not allowed in the FIAP Biennials!

All the parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted. Offenders will be sanctioned for life!

The person representing the federation (namely the one that will be in charge of submitting the files that will participate in the Biennial) is responsible for collecting the submitted files.

This person must also collect at the same time from the authors all the RAW files of the submitted images or the original unmodified jpg files. In the latter case he/she should also request the images taken immediately before and after the submitted image.

This person must retain all these images (RAW / JPG series), without any exception, in case they are requested for possible inspection, without expiration, prescription or limitation of FIAP actions. These files can be requested by the FIAP Biennials Director or by the FIAP Ethical Service from the person representing the federation at any time.

In the case of a file being requested, the person representing the federation must send it promptly within 10 days of the request. If the file is not sent and received within the deadline, the submitted image will be disqualified (namely 0 points will be assigned to that photo). In the case of focus stacking, composite photos or HDR it is mandatory to submit all the original camera files used for the final image.

If the requested original camera file or files show that the photo entered breaches any of the regulations, the photo will be immediately disqualified (namely 0 points will be assigned to that image).

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chair: Jill Sneesby, MFIAP, ESFIAP
Members: Nicol du Toit, AFIAP
Phillip de Lange, AFIAP

SECTIONS

There are two sections:

1 - PRINTS

The entry is limited to **10 photographs** per federation with a maximum of **one (1) work per author**. The prints must be unmounted and in the format 30 x 40 cm (12" x 16") or A3. Smaller prints (i.e. 20 x 30 cm) are acceptable. No prints will be returned. All prints will be destroyed after exhibitions.

Each print must bear at the back the following data:

- country (federation) of the author
- name and surname of the author
- title of the work
- successive number according to the order presented

During the on-line entry you will need to upload a digital version of the prints.

Files should be in **JPG, sRGB, 300 dpi** (colour or black and white).

Image size: **2400 pixels minimum and 3500 pixels maximum** for the largest side.

Maximum file size: **6 MB**.

There are no requirements for special filenames, the files will be renamed automatically during upload.

Sending the prints

Please send the prints to:

Phillip de Lange
Staff str nr 6
Ceres
6835
South Africa

Tel. +27 78 863 9184
phillip4alexa@gmail.com

Please mark the packets:

PRINTED MATTER
PHOTOGRAPHS FOR EXHIBITION ONLY
NO COMMERCIAL VALUE

IMPORTANT

Please send by recorded post and send the tracking number to: **phillip4alexa@gmail.com**

If the Courier asks for a value please put a nominal amount of **\$1.00**.

2 – DIGITAL IMAGES

The entry is limited to **20 works** per federation with a maximum of **two (2) works per author**.

Files should be in **JPG, sRGB, 300 dpi** (colour or black and white).

Image size: **2400 pixels minimum and 3500 pixels maximum** for the largest side.

Maximum file size: **6 MB**.

There are no requirements for special filenames, the files will be renamed automatically during upload.

CALENDAR

Opening date: 20/09/2025

Closing date for entries: 15/11/2025

Judging Date: 10/02/2026 (Cape Town)

Results notifications by: 10/04/2026

Opening and Award ceremony: 28/09/2026 (GFI Gallery, Porth Elizabeth during the PSSA Congress)

Awards posted by: 15/10/2026

PANEL OF SELECTORS

Paul Stanley, EFIAP/p, ESFIAP (FIAP BD)

Ireland

Clive Rathland, EFIAP, FRPS, DPAGB

England

Ahmed Mohamed Hassan, EFIAP/g, MPSA, BPSA

Egypt

Alternates:

Luis Franke, MFIAP, EFIAP/d3, HonEFIAP (FIAP BD)

Argentina

Joan Ryder, AFIAP, FRPS, DPAGB

England

Alaa ElBasha (FIAP Liaison Officer)

Egypt

Last minute judge:

Karyn Parisi, AFIAP

South Africa

AWARDS

Each section will be awarded as follows:

FIAP World Cup for the best national federation.

FIAP Gold medal for the federation which comes second.

FIAP Silver medal for the federation which comes third.

FIAP Bronze medal for the federation which comes fourth.

Six Honourable Mentions for the federations which come from 5th to 10th.

The authors of the federation coming first receive an Honourable Mention.

Individual awards:

Each section: one FIAP Gold Medal, two FIAP Silver Medals and three FIAP Bronze medals will be awarded to works of exceptional quality, independently of the federation classification.

Additionally, **The Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA)**, will grant the following awards in each section: one PSSA Gold Medal for the Best Action image and four PSSA Honourable Mentions.

Each author can only receive one award (the mentions of the authors of the country ranked first are not considered).

GRAND PRIZE "ODETTE BRETSCHER TROPHY"

The federation which obtains the best overall result in the combination of the two sections (prints and digital) of the Nature Biennial 2026 wins the Grand Prize "**ODETTE BRETSCHER TROPHY**" 2026. The winner of the trophy will be invited to the next FIAP Congress (one person per country) to receive the award. FIAP will offer free participation in the Congress including travel expenses.

CATALOGUE

A catalogue in pdf format will be published for both sections. All awarded works and at least one work per participating country will be reproduced. The catalogue will be available for download on the FIAP website.

CONTACT

Please email enquiries to:

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Chair 23rd FIAP Nature Biennial 2026
jillsneesby@gmail.com



Official FIAP number for FIAP Distinction applications: 2026/999
Images participating in a FIAP Biennial that have scored 8 points or more can be used in FIAP Distinctions applications.