

Photo Contest: Bhutan's Biodiversity
(Commemorating the International Day for Biological Diversity)

Brief Background

The National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) is pleased to invite everyone to participate in the Photo Contest on Bhutan's Biodiversity to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) held annually on May 22. The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 is "*our solutions are in nature*".

Commemoration: Photo Contest: Bhutan's Biodiversity

Bhutan as a member to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 1995 has marked this occasion in various ways and this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, IDB 2020 will be commemorated through its first-ever online-only Photo Contest on Bhutan's Biodiversity in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Bhutan).

There will be four main categories to compete in:

Wildlife Portraits: The photo can be a headshot or the entire body of any wildlife as the primary subject. It can also include unique domestic livestock breeds. No photos of animals in captivity, such as pets, zoos, or rehab animals.

Macro/Abstracts: close-ups of anything that is natural/wild/domestic such as flowers, insects, leaves, water droplets, eyes/feathers of animals, grains, seeds, close-up textures in nature, etc.

Habitats and/or Landscapes: places that any wildlife lives in and/or landscapes (eg: waterfalls, sunsets, mountains, etc) or unique ecosystems (e.g., forests, water bodies, agro-ecological zones, etc.). It is optional to have the wildlife in the picture.

Nature Based Solutions: Adhering to the theme of the Biodiversity day of 2020, photos that display nature based solutions.

There will be a consolation Prize for:

- i) **Funny picture or funny caption.** It can be a separate photo or as part of the categories mentioned above.
- ii) **Popularity:** One winner will be selected based on the highest number of likes on the photo on the NEC Facebook page (assessed at 1700hrs on 21st May, 2020).

There is no fee for participation in this contest. However, the following eligibility criteria and conditions must be met.

1. Submissions will be open from the time it is posted online on **Friday, 01 May 2020 until midnight of Friday, 15th May 2020.**
2. The participant must be a Bhutanese citizen. Please provide your
 - a. Full Name
 - b. Citizenship ID number
 - c. Date of Birth
 - d. Phone Number and
 - e. Location/Present Address
3. Each participant can submit only one photograph in each category and all entries must be sent to bhutannaturephotocontest2020@gmail.com

4. Files must be in JPG format. In order to submit for the contest via email; the Photos must be of high resolution (3-6 mega Pixels and saved at 2-3 MB file size). The photo must be accompanied by a brief write up. Provide a Title/Caption for the photograph and indicate clearly which category the photo is submitted for. Within a max. 150 words describe what the photo is, where it was taken and any other special characteristics of the photograph.
5. All photos must be taken in Bhutan
6. NECS will upload all qualifying entries on the official NEC Facebook page. Alternatively; participants are encouraged to share their photograph and the written contents in their social media accounts with hashtag #BhutanBiodiversityDay #ILoveBiodiversity #NationalEnvironmentComission

Copyright and right of usage

By entering the competition, the photographer confirms that the entered photograph is his / her original work and that the photographer is the sole owner of the copyright. The photographer is personally responsible if the rights of a third party have been violated and the organizer of the competition will not be held responsible. The photographer retains full copyright to his or her images. However, the organizer will be given the rights to use the photo with due reference to the photographer. The photograph may be used for the advocacy of biodiversity and conservation in Bhutan and official publications.

The Jury

Initial screening will be done by the Biodiversity and Land Use Division, NECS to ensure that the photograph qualify for the respective categories. Entries that do not comply with all or a part of the rules or in terms of content, technically or any other aspect will be excluded from the competition.

The photos that adhere to the rules mentioned above will be submitted to the jury. The jury will comprise of members that are experts in the field of either photography, biodiversity or both. The jury will interpret the rules of the competition and will have the final say on all matters related to the contest. The decisions of the jury will be final and binding.

Contest Criteria

Overall Impression of the photograph (20%)	An overall impression it leaves you with at first glance.
Creativity (20%)	Provides an immediate, emotionally connecting ways of getting people to think about the particular subject vb(in this case biodiversity)
Rarity (20%)	The photograph has never ever been seen before or seen very rarely.
Intricacy (20%)	Time and effort that must have been put in to get the picture.
Technical skills of photography (20%)	Balanced composition, great lighting, the portrayal of the subject itself with perfect technical quality.

Prizes and Recognition

There will be certificates and attractive prizes in the various categories and winners will be announced during the International Biodiversity Day, 22nd May 2020. The winners will also be notified via email.

For any clarification, you may contact to Mr. Yeshe Dorji at ydorji@nec.gov.bt or 17503469