About the photo contest

The Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) Initiative is one of the transboundary initiatives of ICIMOD that aims to enhance cooperation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development among Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. The landscape is a treasure trove with its rich history and diverse cultures and languages. It is a hotspot endowed with some of the highest mountain ranges and peaks, glaciers, beautiful valleys, high-altitude wetlands, alpine pastures, and flora and fauna of global significance.

The HKPL Initiative is organizing the Bam-e-Dunya photo contest to offer an opportunity for entrants to not only capture, share, and showcase powerful imagery of the landscape’s beauty and importance but also promote the potential, perspectives, and creativity of both professional and amateur photographers. The ultimate aim of the contest is to raise awareness about the need to protect and promote ecosystems along the lines and principles of sustainable resource use while showcasing the treasured wealth of the region.

Contest theme

The generic theme of the contest is “people and environment” of the HKPL. Sub-themes are divided (though not limited to) the following:

1. **Nature**: Biodiversity (local flora and fauna) and ecosystems
2. **People and livelihoods**: On- and off-farm activities, cultural attractions, ethnic diversity, traditional cuisines, food crops, festivals, dress, sports, music, folklore
3. **Mountain niche products**: Markets, handicrafts, utensils, artisans, products for local use, supply chains of products, women enterprises, design innovations, motifs, production and consumption of herbal medicine and other specialized local products
4. **Tourism attractions**: Landscapes, monuments, markets, protected areas, and adventure and nature tourism sites
5. **Development projects**: Infrastructure, roads, irrigation channels, community conservation projects
Enter the photo contest

Click on the following link and complete the submission form to enter the contest:
www.icimod.org/hkpl/photocontest2020

Read the eligibility and submission guidelines carefully before entering your photo(s) for the contest.

Eligibility

1. The contest is open to professional and amateur photographers from any country aged 18 and over.

2. Photos submitted to the contest must have been taken in the HKPL region (see “Areas included in the HKPL region” below), which extends across parts of Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

3. The following are ineligible: Photos that have been submitted to ICIMOD-organized photo contests in the past; photos that have been awarded or given honourable mentions in any photo contest, either online or in print; and photos that have already been used in print or online publications. However, you may submit photos that you have used in your personal or social media spaces such as blogs, Facebook, Flickr, and Instagram.

4. Photos that are culturally insensitive are not acceptable.

5. ICIMOD staff are not eligible to participate in the contest.

Areas included in the HKPL region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>District/prefecture</th>
<th>Village/town/protected area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Badakhshan</td>
<td>Wakhan</td>
<td>Wakhan, Big Pamir, Little Pamir, Sarhad-e-Wakhan, Kandkhun, Panja Wakhan National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region</td>
<td>Kashgar</td>
<td>Taxkorgan, Mazar, Daftar villages</td>
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<td>Taxkorgan Nature Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Gilgit-Baltistan</td>
<td>Hunza, Ghizer</td>
<td>Hunza, Nagar, Shimshal, Ghizer, Ghujerab, Dhee, Gojal, Misgar, Chirpusan Khunjerab National Park, Qurumbar National Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</td>
<td>Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral</td>
<td>Broghil Valley, Yarkhoon Valley, Booni, Laspur Mastuj, Chitral</td>
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<td>Broghil National Park</td>
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<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region</td>
<td>Darvoz, Vanj, Rushon, Shughnon, Roshtqal’a, Ishkashim, Murghab</td>
<td>Ishkashim, Murghab, Big Pamir, Small Pamir, Wakhan Pamir, Khorog Zorkul Nature Reserve</td>
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Submission guidelines

1. Only uploads submitted through ICIMOD’s online photo contest platform are acceptable. All applicants should first register and create a profile and only then submit the entries.

2. Each entrant may submit a maximum of five photos.

3. Participants are encouraged to provide contextual information about the photo, such as name of photographer, theme, caption (under 20 words), description (under 150 words) location (geographical coordinates if available), country, time, and date.

4. Entries must be original photos taken by the participant. Colour images changed to black and white as well as scanned (digitized) images of non-digital photographs, negatives, or transparencies are also acceptable. The original works, shooting, and post-production must be completed by the authors who own the copyright of the submitted entries. Please see “Copyright and use” section below for more information.

5. Entries must be digital black and white or colour images, submitted in a JPEG/JPG or PNG format. It is recommended to convert the colour space to RGB before saving the JPG file so that it will present the best picture quality and colour reproduction when reviewing and displaying.
   a. Image size: Regardless of horizontal or vertical images, the long side should not be less than 2000 pixels
   b. Minimum resolution: 300 dpi
   c. File size: Each photo should not exceed 3 MB

6. Photos with watermarks or date/time are not permissible. Photos that have been digitally manipulated, compromising the integrity of the originals, are not eligible. High dynamic range images (HDR) and composite images are not acceptable. Minimal cropping, however, is permitted.

7. The naming of the submitted work should be as follows: Photographer name + YY/MM/DD + preserve file name created by the camera (e.g. Name_202000715_img_0034.jpg).

8. Submissions made through email or post mail will not be accepted.

Judging criteria

Photo entries will be judged on creativity, quality, originality, clarity of the visual story, shot composition, and resonance with the photo contest theme. ICIMOD will shortlist 15 entries before announcing the top three prizes selected by the jury (comprising ICIMOD staff and an external independent professional photographer). The shortlisted photos will be shared through ICIMOD’s official Facebook channel. Out of these, the photo with the maximum likes (by 17:00 NST, 30 November) will also receive a “Public choice award”.

Prizes

The photos submitted and accepted for the contest are eligible for two categories of prizes:

CATEGORY 1: The “Jury’s choice award”
First - USD 500
Second - USD 300
Third - USD 200

CATEGORY 2: “Public choice award”
USD 250

Timeline

Submission deadline: 15 October 2020
17:00 Nepal Standard Time
Selection process: 15–30 October 2020
Voting process: 1–30 November 2020
Result announcement: 11 December 2020
International Mountain Day
Copyright and use: Terms and conditions

The copyright of all the submitted photos belongs to the author, and by participating in the photo contest, the entrant grants ICIMOD and its media partners a non-exclusive right to use for non-commercial and educational purposes such as display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the entries and texts, in whole or in part, in any media currently existing or subsequently developed, for any educational, promotional, publicity, exhibition, archival, scholarly, or all other standard purposes of ICIMOD.

Due credit will be given to the entrant each time his/her photo is used, wherever feasible. ICIMOD will provide a digital or print copy to the entrant (upon request) of any publication that includes his/her image(s).

ICIMOD reserves the right to disqualify any entrant whose entry or conduct appears in any way to tamper with the spirit of the digital photo contest; violate the above terms and conditions and exclusionary provisions; or infringe on the rights of third parties. ICIMOD’s decisions are final.

Contact

For any queries on the contest in general and for any difficulties in submitting the entries from the online submission form, please write to hkpl@icimod.org, clearly mentioning the nature of the problem. However, once the submissions are made, any queries regarding the status of the application and results announcement will not be entertained.