Invitation to submit images for the:

NATURE BIENNIAL 2026

Closing Date: 18 October 2025

Photo by Jill Sneesby

Members of PSSA are invited to submit 4 nature images to be considered for the PSSA entry in the 23rd Nature Biennial South Africa 2026.

Biennials have a very particular characteristic, different from other international contests. It is not only the quality of the individual work that counts, but FIAP asks for coherent collections, both in the inspiration and conception as well as in the viewpoint of execution and presentation. Therefore, from the images we receive we will choose 30 images, 10 as prints and 20 as Digital images which fulfil this requirement.

Sections:

There are two sections that you can enter:

- Birds in action (Maximum 2 Images)
- Mammals in action (Maximum 2 images)

Please read the points below, before uploading your Images onto Photovault:

- **Image size and crop must be 16:9.**
- **Image must contain Exif data.**
- **ALL IMAGES SUBMITED MUST ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWIN FORMAT: JPG, sRGB, 300dpi,Image size: 2400 pixels minimum and 3500 pixels maximum for the largest side. Maximum file size: 6 MB.**
- **Image's RAW files must be available.**
- **Image must comply with the FIAP Nature Definition and FIAP General Conditions (See Below).**
- **No image previously used in a FIAP Biennial can be used again.**
- **Images must be uploaded onto Photovault – PSSA Specific-Nature Biennial 2026**
- **Photovault Upload Image size: HD format W 1920px by H 1080px.**
- **Closing date – Saturday 18 October 2025 at 23h59.**

For further information please contact:
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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. 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!

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