

COMPETITION RULES AND SECTIONS

2. The **Nature** section has specific requirements. Images are restricted to natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify to its honest presentation. Descriptive titles are recommended for nature images. Titles should accurately describe the plant, animal or scenes so as to assist the viewer in understanding the nature story being told. The *story-telling value* of the photograph should be given primary weight in evaluating the image. Human elements should not be present. *On the rare occasion where human elements enhance the nature story, they must be unobtrusive.* The judge's decision on human elements shall be final. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or domestic animals, mounted specimens, obviously set arrangements, derivations, or any form of photographic manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement are ineligible and must not be submitted. **See also page 13**

EXCEPTIONS: detailed micro or macro photographs and scientific banding visible on wild animals.

For Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism competitions, the following additional rules apply:

1. Adding elements to your images, removing pictorial elements from your images (other than by cropping), combining separate **captures (HDR)** or rearranging and/or cloning and/or copying elements in your image are not acceptable and will lead to disqualification of your image. **Multiple processing of a single RAW image for exposure control is permitted in Nature and Photo Travel.**
 - a) **Multiple processing of RAW images is prohibited in Photojournalism.**
2. Sharpening (including selective sharpening) of the image is allowed.
3. The use of the clone stamp tool in Photoshop™ or similar tools in other imaging applications shall be limited to removing dust spots or scratches only.
4. Digital adjustments are limited to those that optimize the image. These adjustments should be limited to color adjustments, saturation, and contrast work. The faithful representation of the natural form, behavior or phenomenon must be maintained. Any manipulation that alters the truth of the photograph will be judged ineligible. **Artificial blurring of the background is not allowed.**