

NNWPC Categories 2026

No.	Category Title	Category Description	Format	Rules
1.	Open Nature & Wildlife	<p>This open category invites photographers to showcase the diversity and wonder of the natural world through images of wildlife and nature in all its forms. “Open Nature & Wildlife” has no restrictions on species, entries may include all aspects of the natural world as described in the FIAP rules.</p> <p>The emphasis is on portraying authentic behaviour, character, and interaction with their environment. Whether it’s a fleeting moment of action, an intimate portrait, or a wider scene that tells a story, entrants are encouraged to present images that reflect originality & visual story telling while upholding ethics and respect for wildlife.</p> <p>Photographs may range from dramatic encounters in the wild to quieter, observational moments that reveal detail, mood, or connection. Judges will be looking for strong composition, effective use of light, technical quality, and an ability to evoke emotion or curiosity.</p> <p>Above all, this category celebrates the beauty, diversity, and fragility of wildlife across the world, encouraging photographers to share images that inspire appreciation and awareness of the natural environment.</p>	Print	FIAP
2.	Natural Landscapes	<p>This category celebrates the raw, untamed beauty of natural landscapes. Entrants are invited to capture the essence of the environment in its purest form, from dramatic coastal cliffs and rolling green hills to quiet lakes, mist-covered mountains, and habitats.</p> <p>“Natural Landscapes” focuses on scenes that are shaped by nature rather than human influence. Images can highlight unique geology, weather, light, astro and seasonal character, conveying a strong sense of place and atmosphere. Whether it’s the soft glow of dawn the shifting moods of the skies, or the textures of habitats or geological stone formations, photographers are encouraged to tell a visual story rooted in authenticity.</p> <p>Minimal human impact may be present, but the emphasis should remain firmly on the natural environment. Judges will be looking for compelling compositions, effective use of light, and a clear artistic vision that captures the spirit and diversity of landscapes & habitats.</p>	Print	FIAP
3.	Macro	<p>Macro photography shows a subject larger than it is in real life. It utilises extreme close-ups to show the detail of something small. Examples could include, insects, arachnids, animal features in macro detail, minerals & rock textures, natural formations such as ice, snowflakes, etc. (list is not exhaustive). Images entered must be true MACRO.</p>	Print	FIAP

4.	Irelands Waders & Wetland Birds	<p>This category celebrates the rich and diverse world of Ireland’s wetlands and the remarkable birdlife that inhabits them. From estuaries and mudflats to tranquil lakes, marshes, and boglands, entrants are invited to capture the beauty, behaviour, and diversity of wading birds and other wetland species found across the Irish landscape. Migratory visitors permitted.</p> <p>Photographers are encouraged to go beyond simple documentation and instead tell a story with a strong sense of place and ecological awareness. This category offers an opportunity to showcase Ireland’s natural heritage while raising awareness of the importance of preserving wetlands, one of the country’s most vital and vulnerable ecosystems.</p>	Print	FIAP
5.	Flora & Fungi	<p>This category invites photographers to explore and celebrate the intricate beauty of flora and fungi. For the purpose of this competition, <i>flora</i> refers strictly to naturally occurring plant life—native, wild species growing in their natural environments. This includes subjects such as wildflowers, grasses, mosses, and uncultivated plants. Cultivated plants, garden varieties, and human-created hybrids are not permitted.</p> <p><i>Fungi</i> are defined as spore-producing organisms that feed on organic matter. This includes mushrooms, toadstools, moulds, and yeasts found in natural settings. Often overlooked, fungi offer a fascinating range of textures, colours, and forms, making them compelling photographic subjects.</p> <p>Entrants are encouraged to capture these subjects in a way that highlights their natural context and visual appeal. Whether focusing on fine detail, patterns, seasonal changes, or wider environmental scenes.</p>	PDI	FIAP
6.	Nature Next Door	<p>This category celebrates nature that exists right outside your door, often overlooked, yet full of wonder. “Nature Next Door” invites entrants to turn their attention to the everyday environments we inhabit: gardens, balconies, parks, hedgerows, rivers and urban green spaces.</p> <p>The focus is on capturing images in familiar, accessible settings. From a robin in the a garden to bees pollinating flowers, dew on a spider’s web, or even urban-adapted wildlife like hedgehogs, foxes and birds, this category highlights the richness of biodiversity in close proximity to our daily lives.</p> <p>Photographers are encouraged to look closely and creatively, finding beauty in small moments and ordinary places. Strong entries will demonstrate observation, timing, and an ability to transform the commonplace into something visually striking and meaningful.</p> <p>This category is not about traveling far or seeking rare subjects it’s about seeing differently. It offers an opportunity to reveal the hidden life and quiet magic of nature that thrives all around us, reminding us that connection to the natural world can begin just outside our own doorstep.</p>	PDI	FIAP