Rules of the regional photo contest

« Islands facing climate change: challenges, impacts, solutions»

Preamble

The effects of climate change are a threat to sustainable development worldwide. The impact of climate change is particularly felt in small island developing states (SIDS). Climate change is slowly reversing progress in poverty reduction, economic growth, social welfare, food security and stability in many African island states.

Recognizing the importance of the challenges of climate change on the development of small island states, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), together with its partners including the European Union (EU), has engaged in several initiatives to assist African Indian Ocean islands to increase their knowledge of climate change and its impact, and to implement adaptation and mitigation actions. Indeed, the IOC and the EU signed a Joint Declaration at the COP21 in Paris in 2015 recognizing the intrinsic vulnerability of the islands and the need for differentiated treatment by the international community.

Through the regional component of the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+), a large-scale program under the aegis of the EU - ACP (Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States) partnership, the IOC is mobilizing public authorities, scientists and the youth from the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zanzibar to build negotiation and advocacy capacities.

In the run-up to COP26 on climate change, the IOC, in collaboration with the EU and the ACP, is launching a regional photo contest "Islands facing climate change: challenges, impacts and solutions" as part of the regional component of the GCCA+. Through strong, original and story-telling images, this contest will contribute to raise awareness of the effects of climate change in the islands and to enhance the value of the solutions provided at the local level by communities, civil society and public actors.

Article 1 - theme

1. The photo contest focuses on the effects of climate change in the islands covered by the GCCA+ project (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zanzibar).
2. The photo contest has three categories:
    a. Two categories open to persons 18 years and older:
        i. The visible or felt effects of climate change on the environment;
        ii. Adaptation[1] or mitigation[2] solutions
    b. A category for youth ages 12-17:
        i. The young participants can propose photographs related to the general theme of the contest, for example, "islands facing climate change".

[1] Adaptation: Adjustment of natural or human systems to a new or changing environment (agroecology, sustainable management of coastal ecosystems, land use planning, production and consumption patterns, short circuits, etc.)

[2] Mitigation: Activities that reduce or stabilize greenhouse gas emissions, such as clean energy sources or the protection and enhancement of GEZ sinks and reservoirs (forests, mangroves, soils, etc.).

Article 2 - Conditions of participation

1. The competition is open to amateur or experienced photographers, citizens or residents of the territories covered by the regional component of the GCCA+ project, namely Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zanzibar
2. The members of the jury, the agents of the Secretariat General of the Indian Ocean Commission, the agents of the Delegation of the European Union in Mauritius and the members of the steering committee of the project are not allowed to participate in the competition.
3. The online entry form must be duly completed. The form can be accessed at commissionoceanindien.org/concours-photo-contest.
4. For the youth category, the online parental consent form must be completed, signed and sent with the entry form.
5. Participants must clearly indicate the category to which they are submitting their photo. Only one photo per entry is permitted.
6. Entries that are not complete will not be considered.

Article 3 - Technical criteria and digital guidelines

1. Photos must be submitted in .jpg or .png format, in color or black and white
2. Photos submitted must be of high resolution. Photos must not exceed 15 MB in size.
3. Photos must be in the following formats: 16:9 or 4:3 (portrait or landscape), square (1:1). Any other format will not be accepted (example: smartphone panoramic option).
4. The name of the photo file must be in the form "title-name-firstname.jpg" or "title-name-firstname.png".
5. To be eligible, to win a prize or to be selected for publication in the book that will be published, the photo must have been taken in one of the territories mentioned in article 1, including the maritime areas.
6. Photos may be digitally enhanced to make exposure calibration adjustments (contrast, brightness, color balance...). However, the content cannot be digitally manipulated. The members of the jury reserve the right to exclude any photo they deem excessively modified.
7. The submitted photos must be unpublished and have never been used in publications or awarded in other competitions.
8. Each participant must be the author and sole owner of the submitted photo.
9. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure that his or her photo does not infringe on the privacy and image rights of the persons or places photographed. The author must obtain the necessary authorizations from the persons photographed or the owners of the private places for the display, exhibition, broadcasting and publication of the photographs as provided for in these rules. A model of release and authorization for taking pictures can be downloaded from the competition's web page at the link commissionoceanindien.org/concours-photo-contest. This release document must be included in the registration file if applicable.
10. The organizers will not be held responsible if the photos do not comply with the contest rules or are fraudulent.

11. Photos featuring a commercial brand or advertising will not be accepted.
12. The photos must not, in any way, violate the dignity of the person and must not constitute an offence to public decency, incitement to illegal acts, provocation or discrimination. Similarly, photographs showing naked persons are prohibited.
13. All photographs must be accompanied by the following information to be included in the online application file:
    a. a title (maximum 10 words);
    b. a text in the form of a caption of between 50 and 150 words that will help you understand the relevance of the photo, tell the story of the character, situate the action, etc. The quality and originality of the text will also be taken into account in the jury's evaluation;
    c. the date and precise location of the photo;
    d. the name and surname of the photographer;
    e. the category for which the photo is submitted.

Article 4 - Deadline for receipt of photos

1. The deadline for receipt of photos is Thursday 19 August 2021. Any application submitted after this date will not be considered.
2. The submission must be made only by Internet through the form available on commissionoceanindien.org/concours-photo-contest.

Article 5 - the jury

1. The photos will be examined by an independent jury composed of three (03) climate change specialists and two (02) image professionals.
2. The members of the jury will draw up a list of eligible applications (complete application file, sent on time, respect of technical criteria and digital guidelines)
3. The photos will be selected according to three criteria for a total of twenty points: respect of the theme (5 points), aesthetics (10 points), quality of the accompanying text (5 points).
4. For each category, the jury will award the prize to the photo that obtains the most points. In the event of a tie, the jury will choose the winner by a simple majority vote. Its decisions are final and cannot be appealed.
5. In addition to the winning photo, the jury will select 14 photos per category to be included in the book that will be published as well as in the communication and awareness actions that will result from this contest.
6. The jury will deliberate in camera and the results will be announced on the IOC website and in the press during the month of September 2021. An email will be sent to the winner of each category as well as to the candidates whose photos have been selected for publication and communication/awareness-raising activities.

Article 6 - Awarding of prizes

1. For each category, the jury will designate a winner. The winner of each category will receive an iPad pro[3].
2. The prizes described above will not be taken back or exchanged for other objects or services, regardless of their value, and will not be subject to any cash consideration. If a winner does not wish to take possession of his/her prize, he/she will not be entitled to any compensation.
3. The authors of the photos selected for publication will receive a copy of the book when published.
4. The winner of each category may be invited to a videoconference with the members of the steering committee of the project (6 countries + 3 international institutions) to share his/her experience and present his/her photo.

Article 7 - Transfer of rights

1. Candidates authorize the competition organizers to use the photos selected by the jury in any form whatsoever, to reproduce, exhibit, print or use them for promotional or editorial purposes related to the course or other activities, including digital publications, exhibitions, virtual galleries, reports, printed publications, notepads, diaries, etc.
2. Photos may not be used for commercial purposes.
3. The photos used must mention the name and surname of the author.
4. The participants renounce to claim any financial or material benefits related to the use of their photos by the contest organizers. Under no circumstances will any royalties be paid to the candidates.
5. The organizers reserve the right to crop the images as needed.
6. The winners accept that their identity will be published without being able to demand any compensation or to object to it unless they renounce the benefit of the prize.

Article 8 - Claims and responsibilities

1. Participation in the competition implies unreserved acceptance of these rules.
2. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disqualification.
3. The contest organizers cannot be held responsible for the non-receipt of the application, the alteration of the file or the impossibility to read or process the file.
4. The contest organizers reserve the right at any time to interrupt, cancel, postpone or modify the contest and/or to change the terms and conditions of the contest after informing the participants by all appropriate means if the circumstances so require. The rules will be updated accordingly.

[3] Subject to model availability. If required, the iPad pro will be replaced by another iPad model.