

#CleanSeas Photo Challenge (the "Challenge")

Challenge Rules

Any Challenge is fair only if everyone plays by the same rules. Rules may be boring – but they're important. If you do not follow these Challenge Rules, you could end up losing out. So please read them carefully. If you do not agree to these Challenge Rules, please do not enter the Challenge.

About the Challenge

The Challenge will be run by the United Nations Environment Programme ("UN Environment"), a United Nations organization headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. To enter the Challenge, you must submit an entry that meets the requirements set out in the Challenge pages on cleanseas.org: By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to the present Challenge Rules and warrants that his or her entry complies with all the requirements set out in the Challenge Rules. This is a skill-based Challenge, and chance plays no part in the selection of winners. If you have not complied with these Challenge Rules, UN Environment may not accept your entry.

The Challenge opens for entries on **19 April 2017, at 17:00 hrs East Africa time** and ends on **23 June 2017, at 23:59 hrs East Africa time**. Winners will be notified by email on or around **1 August 2017**. The decisions of the judges will be final and binding. The winning entries will be shown online at cleanseas.org after the winners have been notified.

Eligibility

The Challenge is open to anyone who was 18 years old or older on **19 April 2017**.

The Challenge is not open to employees or contractors of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, or its Funds or Programmes, including UN Environment. Additionally, any person directly or indirectly involved with organising the Challenge, or their direct family members, may not take part in the Challenge.

You may not enter the Challenge if entry is prohibited or restricted by any laws in the jurisdiction in which you're located. **THE CHALLENGE WILL BE VOID WHERE SUCH ENTRIES, AND/OR THE CHALLENGE ITSELF, ARE PROHIBITED.**

Your Entry

You are responsible for all materials you submit in relation to the Challenge, including your Challenge entries and any associated questions or information (collectively referred to as "Entry Material"). UN Environment shall not be held responsible for any Entry Material which is lost, delayed or damaged due to technical problems or any other interference; any theft or destruction of, or unauthorized access to, Challenge entries or entry forms, or any alteration of entries or entry forms.

All Entry Material must be provided in one of the six UN official languages, namely: English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic or Russian.

By entering the Challenge, you understand and acknowledge that UN Environment may post your Entry Material, for public viewing and comment, on its website and any other website UN Environment may deem appropriate.

How to Enter

To enter the Challenge, you must upload your photograph and enter the following information via [\[link\]](#):

- a photograph caption of no more than 110 characters

- a description of up to 200 words that tells the story of the image and includes the date and location the photograph was taken

Each entrant can submit a maximum of six (6) individual entries. If an entrant exceeds this limit, UN Environment may at its absolute discretion either disqualify all the entrant's entries or select a maximum of six entries (and reject all other entries) from that entrant to go forward for judging.

Photograph Requirements

Photographs submitted must be unpublished and entrants must not have won an award for such photographs in any previous photographic challenge, competition or contest.

Each entry must comply with the following requirements ("Photograph Requirements"):

Be a colour or a black & white photo.

Be in digital format. Only online entries will be eligible. No print or film submissions will be accepted as Challenge entries. The photograph need not be taken with a digital camera; scans of negatives, transparencies, or photographic prints are acceptable. All digital files must be 5 megabytes or smaller, must be in JPEG/PNG/TIFF/GIF format, and must be at least 1,754 pixels wide.

Be unmodified, with the exception of the following modifications, which are acceptable: **MINOR** burning, dodging and/or colour correction; hand tinting; cropping; and fish-eye lenses. High dynamic range images (HDR) and stitched panoramas are acceptable only if the combined parts are all made around the same time. For more information, please read the comments of David Griffin, National Geographic Director of Photography, on [image manipulation](#). Any changes to the original photograph not itemized here are unacceptable and will render the photograph ineligible for a prize.

Be a single work of original material taken by the Challenge entrant. By entering the Challenge, the entrant represents, acknowledges and warrants that the submitted photograph is an original work created solely by the entrant, that the photograph does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or entity, and that no other party has any right, title or claim to, or interest in, the photograph.

Not contain obscene, provocative, defamatory, sexually explicit, or otherwise objectionable or inappropriate content, and not involve a staging that is harmful to the environment. UN Environment will have sole and unfettered discretion to determine whether a photograph meets the negative criteria set out in this paragraph.

The entries will be judged against the Judging Criteria set out below. Any entrant whose photograph does not meet the Photograph Requirements will be disqualified. All entries must be submitted and received by **23 June**, at **23:59 hrs East Africa Time**. UN Environment reserves the right to examine the original photograph/source material in order to confirm compliance with these Challenge Rules.

UN Environment reserves the right to verify the validity and originality of any entry and/or entrant (including an entrant's identity and address) and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these Challenge Rules or who tampers with entries. Entry Materials will be void if UN Environment determines that they are not originals or if they are illegible, incomplete, damaged, irregular, altered, counterfeit, produced in error or obtained through fraud or theft.

Judging Criteria

A panel of photographic experts (at least one of whom will be independent of UN Environment) ("Judges") will evaluate all shortlisted, eligible entries based on the following criteria and weighting factors ("Judging Criteria"):

- Relevance of the photograph to the theme of the Challenge – 50%
- Creativity of photographic composition – 25%
- Technical excellence of photograph – 25%

Challenge Prize

- The winner in each category will be invited to the 6th International Marine Debris Conference, to take place in San Diego, California, USA, from 12-16 March 2018. UN Environment will cover the flight expenses and conference registration fees of the winner() and give the winner a daily stipend.

Non-compliance by any winner with the terms of prize acceptance set out below or return of a prize notification as undeliverable by email may result in disqualification of that winner and the selection of an alternate winner for the relevant category.

In the event that the selected winner of any prize is/are ineligible, cannot be traced or does/do not respond within seven (7) days to a winner notification, or refuses the prize, the prize will be forfeited and UN Environment, at its sole discretion, may choose whether or not to award the prize to another entrant.

If for any reason whatsoever a winner does not take the prize (or any part of the prize) on the dates and times stipulated by the UN Environment, then the prize (or that part of the prize) will be forfeited by the winner and neither cash nor kind will be awarded to him/her in lieu of the prize (or that part of the prize).

The payment of any and all taxes on the prize shall be the sole responsibility of the winner. For travel to the USA, upon request, UN Environment will provide a letter to any requesting authorities confirming the winner's attendance at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference. All winners are responsible for procuring appropriate travel documents and authorizations to attend the 6th International Marine Debris Conference.

Failure to execute or deliver any required documents to UN Environment by the specified deadline may result in a winner's disqualification from the Challenge and the selection of an alternate winner.

License

By entering the Challenge, all entrants grant an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, transferrable worldwide license to UN Environment and its licensees or distribution partners ("Authorized Parties") to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of their entries (along with name credits) in connection with and for the promotion of the Challenge in any current and future media, including, but not limited to: display exhibitions of potential winners; books and other publications featuring select Challenge entries; publications in the *National Geographic* magazine; and online posts highlighting Challenge entries or winners. Display or publication of any entry on an Authorized Party's website or on the UN Environment website does not mean that the entrant will be selected as a Challenge winner. Neither UN Environment neither its Authorized Parties will be required to request approval in connection with any of the uses set out in this paragraph. Additionally, by entering the Challenge, each entrant grants to UN Environment and its Authorized Parties the unrestricted right to use all statements that he/she has made in connection with the Challenge, and to use, or choose not to use, at their sole discretion, his/her pictures.

Limitation of Liability

By entering this Challenge, all entrants agree to release, discharge and hold harmless UN Environment and its employees, personnel, representatives, contractors and affiliates from any claims, losses or damages arising out of their participation in the Challenge or any Challenge-related activity and from any claims, losses or damages arising out their acceptance, use, misuse or possession of any prize awarded to them under the Challenge.

Data Privacy

Entrants agree that personal data, including their name and address, may be processed, shared and otherwise used for the purposes and within the context of the Challenge and any other purposes outlined in these Challenge Rules. The data may also be used by UN Environment in order to verify each entrant's identity, postal address and telephone number, as well as his/her eligibility to participate in the Challenge. Personal data will be used by UN Environment exclusively for the purposes stated herein.

UN Environment reserves the right to cancel or withdraw this Challenge at any time and for any reason without liability.

Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in the current rules shall be interpreted as a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including UN Environment.