

Rules & Regulations

CATEGORIES (Total: 5)

Each contestant may submit a maximum of 2 entries, selecting from any category.

1. Underwater Wide Angle

Capturing the expansive beauty of Terengganu's underwater world, from vast seascapes to marine life interactions in their natural habitats.

2. Underwater Macro

Capturing marine life through macro photography.

3. Nature & Wildlife

Highlighting Terengganu's rich biodiversity, from forested landscapes to coastal ecosystems and the wildlife that thrives within them.

4. Heritage, Culture & People

Illustrating the essence of Terengganu's traditions, craftsmanship, and daily life. This category celebrates the people, culture, and heritage of the region.

5. Short Film

Storytelling through cinematic visuals, incorporating underwater, aerial, land-based, or mixed footage to capture the essence of Terengganu's beauty and diversity.

Entry Fees

Participation is free of charge—no entry fees required.

Eligibility

Open to all photographers and videographers, including amateur, semi-professional, and professional. Employees of the organizer and their immediate family members are not eligible.

Image & Video Usage Rights

By submitting entries, participants grant the organizer non-exclusive rights to use the images and videos for the promotion of the competition and Tourism Terengganu events, including online platforms, social media, print materials, and exhibitions.

Eligible Images & Videos

All submissions must be captured in Terengganu between January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

Maximum Submissions Per Contestant

Each contestant may submit up to two entries, selecting from any category.

Submission Requirements

Each entry must include:

- Photographer's Name
- Nationality & ID/Passport Number
- Email address
- Category
- Title of image/video
- Date Taken (must match metadata)
- Location of shooting
- Hotel, Resort, Dive Center Name
- Camera & lens used

Photo Submission Guidelines

- File Format: JPG (edited)
- Color Mode: RGB
- Resolution: 300 dpi
- File Size: 7–15MB
- JPG Compression: High Quality (Low Compression)
- Contestants must be prepared to provide raw files upon request from the judging panel. Raw files should be submitted unaltered, retaining original metadata, and in their native format
- Only edited photos will be published

Photo Editing Guidelines

While post-processing is an integral part of photography, this competition emphasizes ethical shooting practices and authenticity. Editing should enhance the image without compromising the integrity of the original scene.

Permitted Editing:

- Adjustments to exposure, contrast, white balance, sharpness, clarity, and vibrance
- Color correction and tonal adjustments
- Lens distortion correction
- Noise reduction and sharpening
- Cropping (see limits below)
- Removal of backscatter and minimal distractions

Not Permitted:

- Adding, removing, replacing, or rearranging elements within the frame
- Cloning or healing tools that significantly alter the scene
- Artificial blurring, reversing, mirroring, or distorting any part of the image
- AI-generated content or enhancements
- Insertion of frames, borders, or watermarks
- Any editing that misrepresents the original context or violates ethical photography practices

Cropping Limit:

- Cropping is allowed up to 25% of the original image area. Excessive cropping that affects image quality may impact judging.

Short Film Submission Guidelines

- Film between 3 to 5 minutes, including title and credits.
- Footage may incorporate underwater, aerial, land-based, or mixed visuals to showcase Terengganu's beauty and diversity.
- File Format: Accepted formats include MP4, MPEG, or MOV, with 1080p resolution.
- Language: Accepted languages are English and Bahasa Malaysia, including subtitles.
- Copyright compliance: Participants must own or have legal rights to all media used, including footage, music, and other audiovisual elements.
- Branding: Entries should prioritize artistic and documentary storytelling over promotion. While incidental branding may occur, brand names, trademarks, or logos should not be a focal point.
- High-Resolution Files: The organizer may request higher-resolution versions for public screenings or exhibitions.
- Entries containing offensive, obscene, or inappropriate content will be disqualified.

Wildlife Ethics

- This competition strongly promotes ethical wildlife photography and respect for all animals, both terrestrial and marine.
- Animals must be depicted in their natural environment and alive, except in cases where the composition intentionally features carcasses or deceased animals as part of a documented narrative, ethical storytelling, or environmental commentary. Submissions should respect the dignity of wildlife and avoid staged or exploitative portrayals.
- Images depicting natural behavior—such as predation or recently deceased prey—are allowed as long as the scene is not staged, baited, or manipulated in any way.
- No direct interaction with animals is permitted—this includes touching, restraining, repositioning, feeding, or disturbing them for the sake of a photograph or film.
- Any submissions showing signs of harassment, distress, or interference with animals or their ecosystems will be immediately disqualified.

Cultural Representation of Female Subjects in Photography

Participants submitting images featuring female subjects are encouraged to ensure that attire reflects modesty and respect for local customs. Clothing should be appropriately styled, covering from elbow to ankle, in alignment with the region's heritage and traditional norms.

Judging & Disqualification

- Entries will be assessed based on technical quality, composition, creativity, and adherence to ethical standards.
- Any images or films that violate editing restrictions or ethical guidelines will be immediately disqualified.
- All decisions made by the judging panel and organizers are final —no appeals or correspondence will be entertained.

Submission Deadline

All entries must be submitted by December 31, 2025, 23:59 Malaysia Time.

Organizer's Rights

The organizer reserves the right to modify, add, or change prizes, terms, conditions, and regulations at its discretion without prior notice. All decisions regarding the competition are final and not subject to appeal.

Winners & Prizes Announcement

Shortlisted entries and winners will be announced on the official website and other designated communication platforms.

Prizes: Each participant may win up to two prizes, depending on the strength of their submissions across categories.

Awards Ceremony

The date and venue will be announced at a later stage.