

## Scoring Guide for Nature in PSA Interclub

### SCORE 1

- Human elements are present, (Only human elements that are integral parts of the nature story are allowed)
- Images of natural objects reshaped by humans are not allowed.
- Image is of hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens
- The image does not look natural.
- Evidence that the image is an Infrared image and thus not allowed.
- A closeup and the image is not identifiable
- Drone photography is not allowed to capture wildlife. (*Drone photography is acceptable for Landscape or Country where such photography is allowed, and no laws or regulations broken*).
- Image postprocessing adjustments do not appear natural including over or under saturation. (*Burning dodging and color adjustment are acceptable but must look natural*).
- Evidence that the image was modified by pictorial elements added, relocated, replaced, or removed (such as the Sky). (*Cropping is permitted including removal of dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches*).
- Evidence of Cloning.
- Evidence of blurring the background to obscure elements in the original scene.
- Evidence of darkening the background to remove elements in the original scene.
- Evidence of adding a vignette not originally produced by the camera.
- Evidence that textures or artistic filters were added.
- Evidence that the image is a combination of stitched images.
- Image has many flaws such as unintentional blur or has major parts out of focus. Image is cluttered to the point of distraction, or distracting elements are overwhelming. *Please note if it is just a weak image it should receive a score of 2.*

### SCORE 2

- Very limited nature story in the image.
- Image provides little more than descriptive information about the creature - shape, color, size or landscape.
- Weak technical quality.
- Weak Composition where point of view or cropping might improve the image.
- If image is a close up, there is limited identifiable information. Image is an aftermath of natural forces (such as a cyclone) and depicts just the aftermath of the scene and not the actual weather forces

### SCORE 3:

- Typical life behavior Nature story (flying, gathering nesting material.
- This is an average but solid image where the elements work well together, and the image is technically correct.
- Average story regarding the effects of nature on the landscape or nature scene. These are images that illustrate typical behavior of the creature or tell a story about part of its life cycle

### SCORE 4:

- The Judge feels this image should receive a HM award
- A strong story regarding the effects of nature on the landscape or nature scene.
- Often with wildlife, stronger stories show some of the environment.
- This image illustrates how creatures of the same species (mates, parents/offspring, group members) interact.
- This image illustrates how creatures of different species interact in various ways.
- Good to excellent technical qualities

### Score 5:

- The Judge feels this image should receive a Merit Award.
- Image displays an excellent story regarding the effects of nature on the landscape or nature scene.
- This image superiorly illustrates how creatures of the same species (mates, parents/offspring, group members) interact.
- This image superiorly illustrates how creatures of different species interact in various ways.
- Excellent to superior technical qualities.
- *Makers should not be made to feel 5 is impossible to achieve.*