

Winners of Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year announced

After months of anticipation, the winners of Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2010 were announced on October 22nd at a gala awards ceremony held at the Natural History Museum, London.

Selected from tens of thousands of entries from across the globe, the images were judged to be the best of all those entered in the 2010 competition by a judging panel that included some of the world's most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts.

These images will join more than 100 other prize-winning photographs from the competition's 18 categories in a visually stunning and inspiring exhibition that debuts at the Natural History Museum on 22 October 2010. It will then tour nationally and internationally after its launch in the capital.

A commemorative book, *Wildlife Photographer of the Year Portfolio 20*, edited by Rosamund Kidman Cox and published by the Natural History Museum, will be available from 21

October 2010, priced £25.

The book contains all winning and commended images from this year's competition.

Photographers can enter next year's competition online between 12 January and 18 March 2011.

For further details about the competition and its various categories, or to enter online, visit

Now in its 46th year, the competition is owned by the Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine and is sponsored by Veolia Environnement. It is an international leader in the artistic representation of the natural world and a competition that photographers worldwide aspire to win.

www.nhm.ac.uk/wildphoto



One Earth Award - Winner

Turtle in trouble by Jordi Chias Pujol from Spain

This image communicates in one emotive hit the damage being done to the world's oceans. Jordi came across this desperate scene when sailing between Barcelona and the Balearic Islands, hoping to photograph dolphins. 'I spotted the abandoned net drifting along the surface,' says Jordi. As he dived down to investigate, he could see the loggerhead turtle tangled up in the netting. 'The poor creature must have been trapped for some days, it was so badly knotted up.' Though it could just reach the surface

to breathe by extending its neck, it was still sentenced to a long, cruel death. 'I felt as though it were looking at me for help as it tried to bite through the netting.' Jordi released it, allowing one individual a second chance.

Nikon D300 + Tokina Fisheye 10-17mm f3.5-4.5 DX lens; 1/160 sec at f14; ISO 200; housing; Inon strobes.

© Jordi Chias Pujol / Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2010



Behaviour: All Other Animals - Winner

March of the crabs by Pascal Kobeh from France

Each year, thousands of deep-sea Australian majid spider crabs set off to walk over the seabed to shallow waters off South Australia. In their drive to migrate, they climb over each other, sometimes forming great piles. 'They walked like an army on the march,' says Pascal. 'If I lay on the bottom, they would just clamber over me as though I was a lump of rock or coral.' Once in shallow water, many of them moult out of their exoskeletons (shells), emerging with soft new ones. It takes a while for the new, expanded

shell to harden - a very vulnerable time for a crab. And this may be one reason for the great congregation: there is safety in numbers from predators such as rays.

Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II + 15mm lens; 1/60 sec at f9; ISO 400; Seacam housing.

© Pascal Kobeh / Veolia
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Underwater World -Winner

The big four by Tony Wu from the USA

Tony spent an unforgettable morning snorkelling above a large group of sperm whales off the Caribbean island of Dominica. 'They spent much of their time at the surface, rubbing up against each other, vocalizing and gathering in raft formations - often appearing as if they were playing,' says Tony. When he took this photograph, four were swimming directly up towards him. They paused 10 metres (33 feet) below the surface, and as Tony dived down, he could feel their clicking

sonar resonating through his body as they checked him out. Then suddenly they surfaced, and Tony found himself in the middle of the four enormous animals. 'As I swam along with them and we made eye contact, it seemed as if, however briefly, they were socializing with me.'

Canon EOS 5D Mark II + 15mm f2.8 fisheye lens; 1/400 sec at f4.5; ISO 200; Zillion housing.

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