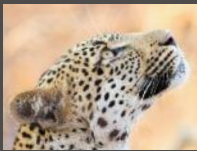


TOP: © INGRID VEKEMANS, BELOW FROM LEFT: DIANA REBMAN, ROBERT IRWIN,  
PIERLUIGI RIZZATO, RUSS BURDEN, KEVIN DOOLEY, STU PORTER, JULIE BREKKE



# B E N J A M I N M K A P A

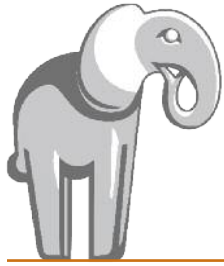
## A F R I C A N W I L D L I F E

### P H O T O G R A P H Y A W A R D S

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[HOW TO ENTER & FEES](#) | [PRIZES](#) | [CATEGORIES](#)

[ETHICS & RULES](#) | [PHOTO RIGHTS](#)



# BENJAMIN MKAPA AFRICAN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS



African Wildlife Foundation and Nature's Best Photography invite photographers from Africa and around the globe, and at all levels of camera experience to enter your photographs and videos made in Africa to the inaugural 2021 Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards competition. The Mkapa Awards Judging Panel will select finalists based on overall appeal, originality, conformity to rules, technical quality, and artistic merit.

## HOW TO ENTER

**1. LOG IN OR START A NEW CONTEST ACCOUNT:** Fill in your contact information, username, and a password to enter photos and manage your entries.

Have an account?

[Log in](#)

Don't have an account?

[Sign up](#)

**2. PREPARE YOUR PHOTOS:** Save COPIES of your original images as low-resolution JPEGs no smaller than 500K and no larger than 5MB in RGB mode (not CMYK). No watermarks. Name each photo as FirstnameLastname\_species (keep short and separated by underscores). Example file name: **JaneSmith\_elephant1.jpg** (Does not apply to mobile uploads; keep under 5MB.)

**Note:** Photographers whose images were taken on DSLR and pass into the semifinal round of judging will be asked to supply high-resolution files and RAW (original) files if available, complete caption, and camera specifications before final judging. Instructions on how to send hi-res files will be provided.

**3. UPLOAD PHOTOS ON THE ENTRY FORM:** Log in and select your photo expertise level to pay for your entries (see next page—youth enter FREE). You will get a confirmation receipt by email with payment status and a link to return to your entry at any time during the contest to upload images.

**4. USE THE "MY ACCOUNT DASHBOARD"** account management tool found at the top right of the website homepage. There you will be able to log in or out, update your contest account information, and add photos and captions throughout the contest entry period. Use the "MANAGE MY ENTRY" BUTTON at the bottom right of your account homepage to check, replace, edit, and update your entries.

## ENTRY FEES

**\$30 USD** for an Adult (Pros and Amateurs) 19 and older

**FREE ENTRY** for Youth age 18 and under (as of June 30, 2021)

**\$15 USD** for a Conservation, Education, or Safari Leader residing in Africa

You may submit up to 25 images per paid entry (free for youth). Enter as many times as you like. Fees may be paid online in the Entry Form with Visa, MasterCard, or American Express credit cards OR by mailing a check made out to: NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY (**no foreign checks**) OR you may call **703-467-9783** (in the U.S.) Monday - Friday from 10am to 5pm Eastern time to make a payment.

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# PRIZES

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Prizes worth a total of \$30,000 USD will be awarded.

All finalists will be published and receive a complimentary Special Edition of *Nature's Best Photography* magazine devoted to the competition award-winners.

## GRAND PRIZE | MKAPA AWARD

- \$5,000 USD Cash Prize
- Shona Elephant Sculpture award, large size: Value \$1,000 USD
- Invitation to attend Awards Event in Nairobi (travel and accommodation stipend included)
  - Published in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions
  - Interview and Portfolio feature in future NBP magazine.

## CATEGORY WINNERS

- \$1,000 USD Cash Prize
- Shona Elephant Sculpture award, medium-sized
  - Published in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions

## YOUTH WINNER | AFRICAN

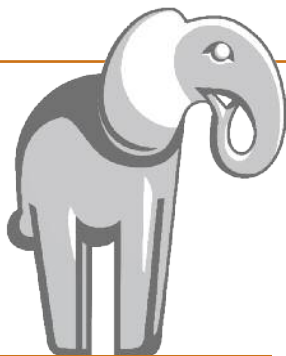
- Shona Elephant Sculpture award, smaller-sized
- Photo | Outdoor Equipment Package from Sponsor
  - Published in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions

## YOUTH WINNER | INTERNATIONAL

- Shona Elephant Sculpture award, smaller-sized
- Photo | Outdoor Equipment Package from Sponsor
  - Published in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions

## HIGHLY HONORED

- Personalized Highly Honored Award Certificates
  - Published in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Possible selection for online presentations, events, and global exhibitions



## MKAPA AWARD SCULPTURES

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The commission of the Mkapa Awards Shona sculptures highlights a unique African art form and simultaneously provides important economic support to a rural Zimbabwean artisanal community. Shona sculpture is the name attributed to a modern movement based on a long tradition of stone-working. These sculptures depict the African elephant and are finely carved out of Zimbabwean serpentine springstone.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Watson Chirume was a farmworker in a remote part of Zimbabwe before joining the Tengenenge Art Community in 1989 as a full-time artist. His work has been collected and exhibited in Europe, Australia, and the United States.

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# CATEGORIES

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What separates the Mkapa Photo Awards from other photo competitions is our core commitment to conservation through categories that are specific to topics of concern in modern Africa.

The following entry categories and the photographic stories they reveal will bring global focus on Africa's wildlife challenges and how to address them as well as its many benefits and the true passion for the wild it instills.

All photo and video entries must be made on the continent of Africa, including Madagascar and offshore island groups. Select a category that you feel is the best fit for each of your entries. Read each category description to make sure you are following the rules.

**NOTE:** The Judging Panel reserves the right to move images to another category.

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## AFRICAN CONSERVATION HEROES

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Images that portray the importance and impact of protected area authorities, conservation organizations, community groups, and individual caretakers of wildlife who are working in the field. You may focus on specific conservation projects documenting a conservation story or current environmental issues, such as pollution, climate change, or habitat loss, or individuals (rangers, researchers, conservation professionals, community activists) who are devoting their lives to protecting wildlife in Africa.

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## COEXISTENCE AND CONFLICT: WILDLIFE IN MODERN AFRICA

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Images should depict how wildlife can coexist and even benefit local African communities (through ecotourism, employment, and development linked to wildlife economies). Conversely, show how issues like poaching, bushmeat trade, wildlife trafficking, extraction, human/wildlife conflicts, and unplanned development, threaten not only the future of wildlife but also Africa's most unique economic asset.

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## AFRICAN WILDLIFE AT RISK

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Images of animals currently listed as Threatened, Endangered, or Critically Endangered Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). On your Entry Form notes, add the link from the [iucnredlist.org](http://iucnredlist.org) website to show the status of a species.

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## FRAGILE WILDERNESS

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Images of dramatic landscapes and awe-inspiring perspectives of Africa's diverse habitats portraying expansive views of wilderness, as well as close-up images of plant life such as flowers, trees, and other botanical subjects. Includes scenes of savannas, forests, deserts, mountains, fresh water, rivers, lakes, wetlands, tide pools, coastal areas, and seascapes. You may include panoramic scenes of wildlife in landscape compositions. Add [iucnredlist.org](http://iucnredlist.org) status of endangered flora on form.

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# CATEGORIES

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We believe including categories that artistically represent the spectacular diversity and beauty of wild Africa are important for broad public engagement and conservation inspiration.

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## AFRICAN WILDLIFE: BEHAVIOR

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Behavior of all forms of wildlife found within Africa's diverse ecosystems. Examples include but are not limited to inter- and intra-species interactions, courtship, territorial battles, nesting, predation, and parental care.

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## AFRICAN WILDLIFE: BACKYARDS

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Wild animals living within or alongside urban environments, in or near African villages and cities, in backyards, gardens, and local parks.

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## AFRICAN WILDLIFE: PORTRAITS

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Striking portraits of wildlife made in Africa's native environments. Includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates.

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## ART IN NATURE

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Naturally occurring artistic compositions (colors, forms, textures, patterns, etc.) found within Africa. Includes black and white compositions and macro-photography.

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## MOBILE

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Photos and videos of any of the above subjects may be taken and edited on any mobile phone or tablet including iPhones, iPads, Android phones and tablets, Windows phones, and the iPod touch. Follow upload instructions for Video; you will need to enter a still image to represent your video.

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## AFRICA IN MOTION / VIDEO

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Videographers and filmmakers may submit footage of natural wildlife behavior and subjects that fit any of the categories listed above. Share favorite moments from the field, or tell stories about conservation efforts. Finished productions should generally be between 2 and 15 minutes. You will need a jpeg of a still image to enter and represent your film. Upload submissions through YouTube, Vimeo, or other viewing platforms and provide us with the link (and password, if necessary).

**Note:** Productions that include music must have written permission or rights for distribution online and exhibition display.

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## YOUTH

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There will be two Winners in the Youth expertise level: One from Africa, and one from outside Africa, as well as Highly Honored winners. Youth may submit photos and videos in any of the above categories. You must be 18 and under as of June 30, 2021 to qualify for free entry.

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## ETHICAL RULES

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**Every photographer is urged to practice responsible, safe, and ethical nature photography. The following guidelines must be adhered to. NOTE: Violations will result in elimination.**

- In national parks, entrants must observe all stated rules and regulations, such as photographing only from the vehicle, night drives taken only with permission, etc. Keep on marked roads and tracks unless driving off-road is allowed.
- Nesting and denning animals must not be photographed with a wide-angle or macro lens. Stay at a safe distance and work from a blind if possible.
- Animals must not be lured with bait, including live animals, dead animals or parts of animals, processed meat, other human or pet food, or decoys, such as fake mice. Setting a camera trap around a fresh kill or cache is generally acceptable, as long as it is naturally occurring.
- Nocturnal wildlife must not be photographed with a white flash at night. Cameras that use flash with filters only letting through infrared light, such as some camera traps, are permissible.
- Drones that depict flying birds or other fleeing animals, or animals displaying defensive behavior related to the photographer's presence are not permitted. Drones must be at a safe distance of at least approximately 200 feet (61 meters) or more from the living subject.
- Images in which animals appear stressed, harassed, or crowded by the photographer or camera, will be disqualified.
- Images must be of NON-CAPTIVE species in natural, wild situations, not staged in any way. No pets, falconry birds, or game farm or for-hire animals permitted. **Note:** For categories with conservation and research topics, a controlled setting may be permitted with full disclosure of your project in your contest entry form caption.
- Entrants must not infringe upon the rights of any other photographer or person and must seek the necessary permissions from human subjects.

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## PROCESSING RULES

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- All entries must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder.
- Nothing should be added to an image, and nothing should be taken away aside from dust spots and minor adjustments.
- Normal processing of RAW image files and limited adjustments to color and contrast are accepted, as is minimal cropping. These are all permitted as long as all techniques are fully disclosed on your Entry Form notes and represent how you saw the scene in the field.
- Panoramas, HDR, focus stacking, and in-camera double-exposures are permitted as long as any manipulation is disclosed upon entry of image in contest entry form caption.
- Black and white images are accepted.
- There is no time limitation as to when your entry was taken.

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## QUESTIONS?

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Email: [awards@naturebestphotography.org](mailto:awards@naturebestphotography.org) or call 703-467-9783 (in the USA).

Learn more on the [Frequently Asked Questions PDF](#).

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# PHOTO RIGHTS

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Nature's Best Photography (NBP) has a successful 25-year history of inviting photographers from all backgrounds and levels of camera experience to participate in our annual Awards programs. NBP is known for our respect in the treatment of contest entries and for their mission-based uses. We take it personally and make every attempt to uphold this reputation through annual reviews of our rights agreements for each hosted photo and video competition.

This particular Rights Agreement relates to the Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards, run in alliance with the African Wildlife Foundation, who will be celebrating its 60th year of conservation leadership throughout Africa in 2022. This contest is not a sweepstakes platform, but rather an international public competition that is judged by an expert panel of professionals who, collectively, will make their final selections based on entrant photographic skills and visual storytelling capabilities.

## TERMS:

**NBP:** Nature's Best Photography Fund, DBA Nature's Best Photography – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group with a mailing address at P.O. Box 9591, McLean, Virginia 22102 USA.

**AWF:** African Wildlife Foundation – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group, headquartered at AWF Conservation Centre, Ngong Road, Karen, P.O. Box 310, 00502, Nairobi, Kenya with additional executive offices located at 1100 New Jersey Avenue, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20003 USA.

**CONTEST:** the **2021 Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards** competition.

**IMAGE(S):** All photographs and videos submitted to the **CONTEST** .

**Eligibility:** The **CONTEST** is open to all photographers, except for employees of NBP and AWF and their immediate family members. **NBP** and **AWF** shall have the right to verify, in their sole judgment, entrant eligibility.

In order to enter the **CONTEST**, all entrants, including the parent or guardian of any Youth Entrants, must agree to the following terms. Because these terms form a legally binding agreement, please read them carefully. If an entrant, or the parent or guardian of a Youth Entrant, does not agree to these terms, the Entrant is not eligible to participate in the **CONTEST**.

## Rights:

Entrants retain all ownership to their **IMAGES**, subject to the license granted here to **NBP** and **AWF** described below.

## License Granted:

In consideration for the opportunity to win an award for your **IMAGE**, by entering the **CONTEST** you hereby grant **NBP** and **AWF** a nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to publicly display, reproduce, distribute, modify, excerpt, and transmit your entered **IMAGES** in relationship to the Mkapa Awards. This includes all associated reproduction, distribution, and derivative works in all media including, but not limited to:

- 1) **NBP** and **AWF** websites and social media channels.
- 2) **NBP** magazine and other **NBP** and **AWF** printed or digital publications, including videos.
- 3) Exhibitions including sublicensed display at third-party locations such as museums, hospitals, events, or trade presentations.

This license shall remain perpetual without further compensation or permission unless prohibited by law. For any **IMAGES** that are selected for acknowledgement or award at any level and in any category of the **CONTEST**, you hereby grant both **NBP** and **AWF** the following right to publish your portrait, your name, occupation, city, state, and country of residence as a selected honoree. To sell or auction prints of the **IMAGE** in support of the conservation mission programs of **AWF**, including the **CONTEST** program. In the event that prints of an entrant's **IMAGE** are sold, the entrant will receive 40% of the net proceeds from that sale minus the cost of printing and shipping. Certain other commercial opportunities may arise such as further print sales, merchandise, or licensing. In these cases, permission will be sought and terms reached with the entrant before use.

## **PRIZES AND TAXES**

### **Prizes to be awarded include the following:**

Cash Prizes – Grand Prize \$5,000 USD, Category Winners \$1,000 USD each

Sculptures – Values from \$1,000

Inclusion in a special NBP publication dedicated to the Mkapa Awards.

Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events and global exhibitions.

Youth winner will receive photography equipment and advisement.

Grand Prize winner will receive travel to awards ceremony.

A full list of prizes is listed further below.

Prizes for Youth Entrants will be awarded to a consenting parent or guardian on the Youth Entrant's behalf. All federal, state, and local taxes or governences due on prizes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners.

All expenses related to the acceptance or use of any Prize is the sole responsibility of the Prize winner.

**NBP** and **AWF** reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value. No substitution or transfer of prizes is permitted.

### **Warranties:**

By entering the **CONTEST**, you represent and warrant that (a) the **IMAGES** are your original creations, (b) no part of your **IMAGES** infringes upon or violates any copyright, trademark, or any other proprietary right of any third party, (c) that any recognizable individual in any photo has given you permission to use his/her image and if that individual is a minor, that you have received permission from his/her parent or guardian, and (d) no rights in the **IMAGES** have been previously granted to any person or entity that would limit or interfere with the license rights granted to **NBP** and **AWF** herein. Further, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless NBP and AWF and all **CONTEST** sponsors, partners, and supporters against any claims brought by any third-party claiming ownership of such rights. This warranty does not expire.

### **Other Legal Conditions:**

By entering the **CONTEST**, you agree to certain legal conditions. By entering, participants agree to release and hold harmless **NBP** and **AWF**, their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any injuries, loss, claim, action, demand, or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the **CONTEST**.

Neither **NBP** nor **AWF** shall be liable to you, or the photographer (if not you), in the event of inadvertent omission of credit.



Participant agrees that any and all disputes that cannot be resolved with NBP and AWF, and causes of action arising out of or connected with the **CONTEST**, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, before a court of competent jurisdiction located in Fairfax County, Virginia, USA, which court shall apply the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without regard for rules of conflicts of law. In any such dispute, participant shall, under no circumstances, be entitled to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, other than participant's actual out-of-pocket expenses (if any) associated with participating in the **CONTEST**. Participant hereby waives all rights to have damages multiplied or increased. Any attempt by an entrant or other individual to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of the **CONTEST** is a violation of criminal and civil laws, and should such an attempt be made, NBP and AWF reserve the right to seek damages to the fullest extent permitted by law.

NBP and AWF are not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by website users or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the **CONTEST** campaign, or by any technical or human error that may occur in the processing of submissions to the **CONTEST**, including but not limited to any misprints or typographical errors. NBP and AWF assume no responsibility for any error, omission, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. **NBP** and **AWF** are not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer equipment, servers, providers, computer on-line systems, software, or failure of email on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet, including injury or damage to participant's or to any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating or uploading images or information in the **CONTEST**.

In no event will **NBP** or **AWF**, their subsidiaries, affiliates and related companies, their advertising and promotional agencies, or their directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives, be responsible or liable for any damages or losses of any kind, including direct indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages arising out of participant's access to and use of NBP's website or the downloading or uploading and/or printing of material from said site. Without limiting the foregoing, everything on the **NBP** website is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. Some jurisdictions may not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability for incidental or consequential damages, so some of the foregoing limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

\*\*Check your local laws for any restrictions or limitations regarding these limitations or exclusions before entering the **CONTEST**.

## **COMPLETE PRIZE LIST**

**PRIZES:** \$30,000 in USD Cash and Awards.

All finalists will be published in and receive a complimentary Special Edition of Nature's Best Photography focused on the **CONTEST** award winners.

### **GRAND PRIZE / H.E. Benjamin Mkapa Award:**

- \$5,000 USD Cash Prize
- Large-size Shona Elephant Sculpture award: Value \$1,000 USD
- Invitation to attend Awards event in Nairobi (a limited stipend to cover certain travel and accommodation expenses is included)
- Publication in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions
- Interview and portfolio feature in future NBP magazine

**CATEGORY WINNERS:**

- \$1,000 USD Cash Prize
- Medium-sized Shona Elephant Award: Value \$800 USD
- Featured in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions

**YOUTH WINNER | AFRICAN**

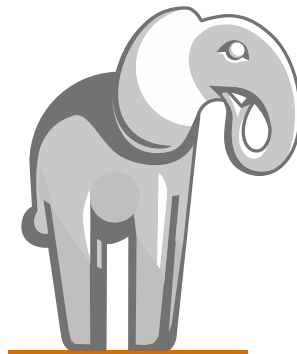
- Smaller-sized Shona Elephant Award
- Photo / outdoor equipment package
- Featured in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions

**YOUTH WINNER | INTERNATIONAL**

- Smaller-sized Shona Elephant Award
- Photo / outdoor equipment package
- Featured in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Inclusion in digital presentations, online galleries, events, and global exhibitions

**HIGHLY HONORED:**

- Personalized Highly Honored award certificates
- Featured in Special Edition of NBP magazine
- Possible selection for online presentations, events, and global exhibitions



**BENJAMIN MKAPA**  
AFRICAN WILDLIFE  
PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

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Nature's Best Photography, P.O. Box 9591, McLean, Virginia 22102 USA

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AWF Headquarters: AWF Conservation Centre, Ngong Road, Karen, P.O. Box 310, 00502, Nairobi, Kenya

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African Wildlife Foundation, 1100 New Jersey Avenue, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20003 USA

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