



**THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION**  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

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## History of the Mountain Protection Commission

Even in the early years of the UIAA, environmental issues were one of the organization's main priorities. Topics like 'measures against the construction of cable cars' or 'national parks in adjacent mountain ranges' were already debated at our General Assemblies in the 1930's.

In 1939, W. Goetel from Poland was asked to form a UIAA commission for nature protection. However, since this was just before the outbreak of World War II, the commission was not officially established. The environmental work of the UIAA continued without a commission and during the 50's and 60's the UIAA led the opposition against cable car and railroad projects in high mountains such as the Matterhorn and Jungfrau, sometimes with success. In 1953, the UIAA became a member of the [Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes \(CIPRA\)](#), an organization working for sustainable development in the Alps.

In 1969, the Environment Protection Commission was re-established and soon renamed Mountain Protection Commission (MPC). Radek Roubal from Czechoslovakia became the first post-war president and he encouraged the UIAA to join the [World Conservation Union \(IUCN\)](#), the world's largest and most important conservation network.

Since then, the MPC has helped UIAA member associations fight against destructive projects in their countries. It has co-operated with other organizations and published papers on environmental issues. The most important of these is the [Kathmandu Declaration](#), which outlines the UIAA's view on the environmental impact of mountain activities and was approved by the UIAA General Assembly in 1982. Another important document is called "**UIAA Environmental Objectives and Guidelines**", and was adopted by the General Assembly in 1997. This document gives an environmental framework for all of UIAA's activities, declarations and policy decisions.

The MPC was also strongly involved in the UIAA's efforts to secure freedom of access to mountains, especially arguing against unnecessary restrictions which supposedly were made to protect the environment. Nowadays such restrictions are often made for other reasons, such as liability, and therefore a specific UIAA [Access and Conservation Commission](#) was created in 1999. The MPC is represented in this commission, but now we can focus all our energy on environmental issues.

Presidents of the Mountain Protection Commission

W. Goetel from Poland 1939

Radek Roubal from Czechoslovakia 1969-1981

José Vandevoorde, Belgium, 1981-1991

Lutz Chicken, Italy, 1991-1993

Claude Eckhardt, France, 1993-1996

Miquel Rafa, Spain, 1997-2000

Dave Morris, Great Britain, 2001-2008

Linda McMillan, US, 2009-