



2020 **ANNUAL REPORT**



International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

GLOBAL MOUNTAIN NETWORK

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About the UIAA

THE GLOBAL MOUNTAIN NETWORK

*The **International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation** (UIAA) was founded in 1932 and has a global presence on six continents representing 90 member associations and federations in 67 countries.*

The UIAA, supported by over 150 volunteers, promotes the growth and protection of mountaineering and climbing worldwide by:

- **preserving** their spirit and traditions
- **advancing** safe and ethical mountain practices
- **promoting** responsible access, culture and environmental protection
- **supporting** youth participation and the Olympic movement

The UIAA fulfils its Mission Statement mainly through the work of its Commissions, which make recommendations, set policy and advocate on behalf of the international mountaineering community. UIAA Commissions are comprised of experts in their field.

The UIAA operates through the following Commissions: [Anti-Doping](#), [Ice Climbing](#), [Medical](#), [Mountaineering \(including Access & Training\)](#), [Mountain Protection](#), [Safety](#) and [Youth](#).

Further Reading: theuiaa.org/about



PLEDGE

The UIAA is the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation. As the leading global network, we promote climbing and mountaineering and advocate for access to climbing areas and mountain ranges. While looking to our future, we value our heritage and care for the mountains, their fragile ecosystems, vulnerable communities and cultures. We serve the best interests of our member federations and of our worldwide community. **For the climbers. For the mountains. For the world.**



theuiaa.org/members

This Annual Report is best viewed in digital format. To view or download the document please scan the QR code.

HONORARY MEMBERS

- 1964** Charles-Egmond d'ARCIS (SAC)
- 1968** Edouard WYSS-DUNANT (SAC)
- 1969** Hans von BOMHARD (DAV)
- 1975** Ugo di VALLEPIANA (CAI)
- 1980** Guido TONELLA (CAI)
- 1983** Franz HIESS (VAVOE)
- 1987** Fritz WIESSNER (AAC)
- 1990** Jaromir WOLF (CHS)
- 1992** Sir Edmund HILLARY (NZAC)
- 1995** Walter BONATTI (CAI)
Dr. Pietro SEGANTINI (SAC)
- 2000** Robbert LEOPOLD (NKBV)
- 2001** Dr. Carlo SGANZINI (SAC)
- 2002** Georges MOISSIDIS (EOOA)
William Lowell PUTNAM (AAC)
- 2003** Dr. Fritz MÄRZ (DAV)
- 2003** Nassos TZARTZANOS (EOOA)
- 2007** Jordi PONS SANJINES (FEDME)
- 2008** Pit SCHUBERT (DAV)
- 2010** Kazuo SAITO (JMA)
- 2012** Ang Tshering SHERPA (NMA)
- 2013** Claude ECKHARDT (FFCAM)
- 2014** Tamotsu NAKAMURA (JAC)
- 2016** Reinhold MESSNER (AVS)
- 2019** Injeong LEE (KAF)
- 2020** Doug SCOTT (BMC)

President's Report

WELCOME

Presidents' messages for Annual Reports are to be about the year past. But what can you say about a year like 2020? It was tough and unfortunately the problems continue into 2021. But climbers are an optimistic bunch. Even our most basic safety protocol, as the leader ties in, ends with the optimistic reply from her belayer of "climb on". And so we do.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

As a new President starts another retires after dedicating eight years to the UIAA. We owe great thanks to Frits as he took over in a time of controversy. He led with enthusiasm and a ready smile. Frits dedicated good portions of his free time to UIAA business which means something when you consider his young family, his very busy work schedule, and the days he missed in the hills. On your behalf I express my great thanks to Frits and wish him, Rose and their family the very best.

I will not belabour Covid; it has been enough of a test on all of us. I marvel every day at the remarkable resilience of all our members in dealing with the challenge so well.

I thought long about what to say to you in this Annual Report because in 2020 many UIAA activities were challenged.

But from challenge comes opportunity, and maybe it is best that I turn my attention to the future and where I hope to lead the UIAA over the next four years. You can use our progress on these ideas as a measure of our success.

The UIAA is a strong organisation based on sound principles and our common passion for all things "climbing". The Articles of Association

provide a solid base, but there are some areas where clear interpretation of the Articles' organisational structure and assigned responsibilities would help the UIAA in meeting members' needs and expectations.

As I said in my election speech, I don't think the UIAA needs a lot of change, it just needs some clarification. So I dedicate myself to providing defined and allocated responsibilities to best equip the UIAA to meet its mission and vision and strategic plan.

The central core of UIAA's existence, the reason that our federations come together in international union, is mountaineering and climbing in all their forms. The UIAA's primary role is to support our member federations so that they may better support their members' enjoyment of their mountain activities safely and with respect for the places and people they encounter. And if that is true, then environmental and cultural responsibility, safety (equipment, training and medical advice) and access must be the foundation of UIAA projects to provide direct resources to the needs of our members.

For the foregoing reasons, the Executive Board has organised working groups to focus on these areas for recommendations to the Management Committee, and from it to the General Assembly.

- A governance working group to make UIAA organisation clear and responsible, to enable our willing volunteers to make a full and meaningful contribution with the time and effort they so graciously offer us.
- An internal relations working group to focus on the members and their needs and issues.
- An external relations working group to improve existing relationships and to create meaningful links to potential partners or allies.
- A Commission working group to recommend how best to help our Commissions' projects advance our strategic plan.
- And a finance and audit working group to make sure that we are responsibly managing and allocating our financial resources.

There is work to do over the next four years. I'm looking forward to it. I hope you will join me in these tasks in whatever way your time allows.

And always, we will have some fun along the way.

Mind yourself out there,



Welcome Message by

Peter Muir

UIAA President

UIAA Presidents

1932-1964	Count Charles Egmond d'Arcis
1965-1968	Edouard Wyss-Dunant
1968-1972	Albert Eggler
1973-1976	Jean Juge
1976-1984	Pierre Bossus
1985-1989	Carlo Sganzi
1990-1995	Pietro Segantini
1995-2004	Ian McNaught-Davis
2004-2005	Alan Blackshaw
2005-2006	Pierre Humblet (acting)
2007-2011	Mike Mortimer
2011-2012	Jordi Colomer (acting)
2012-2019	Frits Vrijlandt
2019-	Peter Muir

UIAA Executive Board and Management Committee

As confirmed by the UIAA General Assembly (October, 2020)

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Peter MUIR
(President)
Canada
Alpine Club of Canada



Zoljargal BANZRAGCH
(Vice President)
Mongolia
Mongolian National
Climbing Federation



Lode BECKERS
(General Secretary)
Belgium
Climbing & Mountaineering
Belgium



Amit CHOWDHURY
India
Indian Mountaineering
Foundation



Mahmood HASHEMI
Iran
Iran Mountaineering and
Sport Climbing Federation



Africa: Greg MOSELEY
Republic of South Africa
Mountain Club of South Africa



Asia: Christine PAE
Korea
Korean Alpine Federation



**Central and
South America:**
Martin Lascano (*see EB*)



Europe: Anne ARRAN
United Kingdom
British Mountaineering Council



Oceania: Stuart GRAY
New Zealand
New Zealand Alpine Club



North America: Phil POWERS
United States
American Alpine Club

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS



Françoise JAQUET
(Treasurer)
Switzerland
Swiss Alpine Club



Martin LASCANO
Argentina
Federación Argentina de
Ski y Andinismo

MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
LARGEST FEDERATION
REPRESENTATIVES



Jean MICZKA
France
Fédération française des clubs
alpins et de montagne



Josef KLENNER
Germany
German Alpine Club



Simon ALDEN
Malta
Malta Climbing Club



Joachim DRIESSEN
Netherlands
Royal Dutch Mountaineering
and Climbing Club



Kul Bahadur GURUNG
Nepal
Nepal Mountaineering
Association



Steve LONG
United Kingdom
British Mountaineering
Council



Stein TRONSTAD
Norway
The Norwegian
Climbing Federation

UIAA Executive Review of 2020

UIAA. A YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

Following headlines about the climbing and trekking industry in Nepal, the UIAA supports the Alpine Club, the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and the mountain guides body the IFMGA, in publishing a [statement](#) to highlight some of the issues facing the Nepali government and how international organisations might help in its efforts to drive out bad practice and secure the future of mountain tourism in Nepal.



Australian bushfires ©Stock Library

In the arc of three weekends, the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour concludes with top-class World Cup action in [China](#), [Korea](#) and [Switzerland](#). Louna Ladevant of France claims the men's lead

title, the youngest athlete to ever achieve that feat. Anton Nemo won the men's speed crown while Maria Tolokonina, also of Russia, triumphed in both women's lead and speed.

The UIAA pays tribute to [Lloyd Gallagher](#), a legend of both the New Zealand Alpine Club and Alpine Club of Canada and extends its sympathy to all those affected by the [devastating bushfires](#) which enveloped many areas of Australia.

FEBRUARY

In preparation for the 2020 UIAA General Assembly, the federation [publishes its restated priorities](#) to support discussions for its new Strategic Plan. The UIAA and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) [sign an MoU](#). The MoU represents a huge step forward for the UIAA in its efforts to extend and expand its reach across the globe on the issue of mountain protection, enabling it to be at the forefront of tackling important issues such as waste management, environmental education and addressing concerns on climate change. [SafeCom publishes revisions](#) to one of its core standards, 101 Dynamic Ropes.

MARCH

The first, and ultimately only, UIAA Global Youth Series event of 2020 is [held](#). Supporting the next generation is also at the fore in ice climbing with the hosting of the annual [World Youth Championships](#). Meanwhile, the [UIAA Youth Commission](#) begins to define its future objectives. The UIAA publishes details on how to access assets related to [Alpinism becoming recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#). SafeCom shares an alert related to [canyoning harnesses](#). The UIAA publishes its [first statement on Covid-19](#), a topic which would dominate much of the year (*please refer to the dedicated Covid-19 chapter*). As a consequence of

Covid-19, the [UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award](#) and later the [Mountain Protection Award](#) are put back until 2021.

APRIL

The UIAA creates both an online [Covid-19 portal](#) and a dedicated [Taskforce](#) to support its members and wider climbing community with information. Between April and June nearly 80 updates are posted from more than 40 UIAA members. One of the first UIAA Commissions to adapt to the 'new normal' is the Training Panel who during the global lockdown works on developing and updating its [training literature](#). Published by High Altitude Medicine & Biology, members of the UIAA Medical Commission write an opinion position titled '[Preacclimatisation for expeditions to extreme altitude](#)'.

MAY

For the first time in the UIAA's near 90-year history, its Management Committee meeting [is held online](#). Following approval at the meeting, the [UIAA publishes its 2019 Annual Report](#) (in July print copies are sent to all member associations). During the MC, the decision is taken to also host October's UIAA General Assembly online. All organs of the UIAA embrace online platforms as a means not only of holding meetings but of convening more regularly. [The UIAA develops its partnership with Vertical-Life](#) to improve its results and scoring systems for competitions. The CCC Taskforce reflects on the [first easing of Covid-19 measures in some countries](#). During lockdown and with more and more people buying climbing gear online, SafeCom launches a [misuse page](#) to track and report inappropriate use of the UIAA Safety Label logo.

JUNE

Following May's MC, a number of UIAA Commissions meet to discuss adapting plans in the face of Covid-19. The Mountain Protection Commission agrees to focus on [developing its global partnerships and guidelines](#), the Access WG invites UIAA members to [contact them](#) should they require international support for any ongoing or new issues and [SafeCom reports](#) on the impressive progress made in research and development by numerous Working Groups. The [Covid-19 Taskforce](#) produces a summary on where it is currently possible to climb and under what conditions.

JULY

The UIAA, through its High Mountains Working Group, publishes a statement on the conservation of [transnational mountain areas](#). A new UIAA series focuses on the backgrounds of some of the hundreds of volunteers who dedicate precious time and considerable expertise to the federation each year. [Klara Dvorakova](#), head of



©UIAA/Klara Dvorakova

the UIAA's Legal Experts Working Group, is the subject of the first profile. The UIAA and The Petzl

Foundation [announce details](#) on new translations of the UIAA Alpine Summer Skills Handbook – Czech and Japanese. The Petzl Foundation also supports a fascinating study into how rockfalls occur in the [Gouter couloir](#), on the normal route up Mont Blanc. In a [story of solidarity](#), the UIAA reports on a heart-warming collaboration, related to the delivery of PPE equipment for medical staff, between one of its accredited safety laboratories in China and the Mountain Club of South Africa. The American Alpine Club pays tribute to outgoing [CEO Phil Powers](#) (in October Powers is elected to the UIAA Management Committee).

AUGUST

Extending its commitment to providing climbers with essential safety resources, SafeCom begins a regular Q&A series answering common questions submitted by climbers. The first in this new series tackles the subject of [suncream and climbing gear](#). In its latest statement, the [UIAA Covid-19 Taskforce](#) calls for caution and for climbers and mountaineers to ensure their activities do not have an impact in spreading the virus or stretching already overburdened medical resources. As part of the UIAA's commitment to the annual Mountain Protection Award, its Assessment Team offer support to nominated projects throughout their lifespan. In a new series, the UIAA profiles the progress made by recent recipients of the MPA, commencing with 2019 winner [Alpine Learning Project Weeks by the Swiss Alpine Club \(SAC\)](#).

SEPTEMBER

With October's General Assembly imminent, the UIAA Management Committee and Commission Presidents hold their [second online meeting of 2020](#). Commissions report extensively on recent progress despite the difficulties caused by Covid-19. Bally, sponsor of the [UIAA Mountain Protection](#)

[Award](#), shares details on the partnership between its Peak Outlook Foundation with [National Geographic](#) on a dedicated campaign to raise greater awareness on the issues plaguing the world's mountain environments, including Mount Everest. The latest articles from the MPA past winner series and SafeCom's Q&As focus on [Mountain Wilderness of France](#) and [rope testing](#)



©Mountain Wilderness France

respectively. The UIAA Access WG reflect on [Covid-19 lockdown measures](#) in countries represented by its delegates and the impact restrictions have had on climbing.

OCTOBER

For the first time in its history, the UIAA hosts its General Assembly online. Peter Muir is elected as the federation's 14th President. A full review can be found in the dedicated chapter of this report. Ahead of the GA, the [UIAA publishes a dedicated supporting guide](#), which serves as an update on activities since the release of its 2019 Annual Report. The groundbreaking Mount Everest Biogas Project (MEBP) past winner of the MPA, [reports](#) on the negative impact Covid-19 has had on its plans and funding.

NOVEMBER

The *UIAA Ice Climbing Commission* adapts its calendar for the upcoming season owing to the continued impact of Covid-19 especially on travel. Special protocols and guidelines are also introduced for all events. MedCom contributes to one of the first papers dedicated to [examining the specific risks of outdoor sports and Covid-19](#). During its final online meeting of the year, SafeCom prepares for the long-awaited release of its [Anchor](#)



© Tomas Prosek

[Corrosion Standard](#) and nominates Lionel Kiener as its new President. The CCC Taskforce [discusses vaccine testing and second waves](#). The newly-elected UIAA Executive Board [reports on a positive first meeting](#).

DECEMBER

International Mountain Day headlines December with the UIAA a keen participant in global conferences and through its series assessing the [importance of biodiversity](#) to mountain regions. UIAA honorary member and mountaineering great [Doug Scott](#) passes away aged 79. The UIAA publishes its annual [Carbon Footprint Report](#). [Standard 123, Rock Anchors](#) is published after 12 years of hard work and investment.



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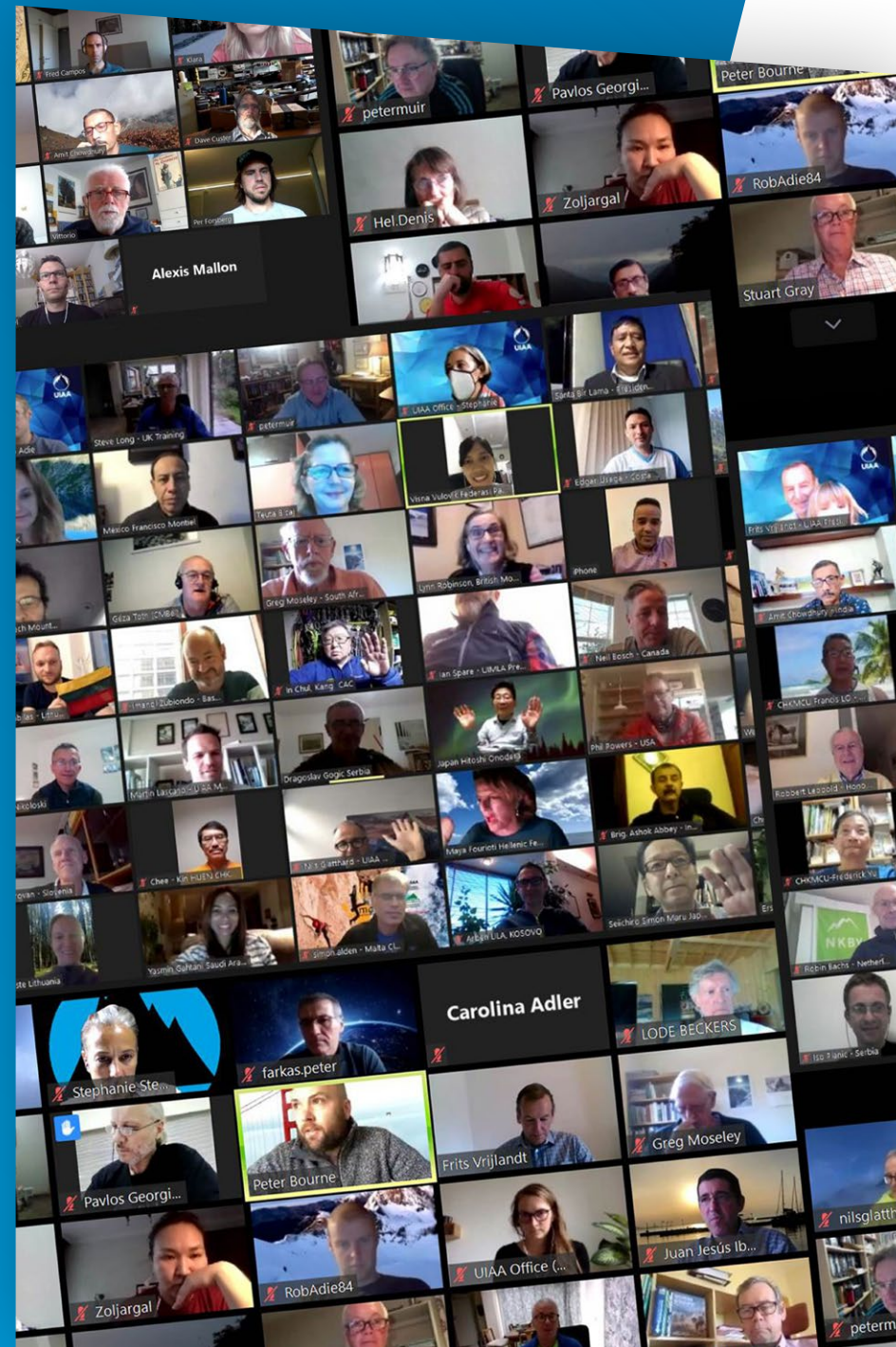
✉ SIGN UP



Article by

Peter Bourne

UIAA Communication Manager



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UIAA in the time of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on everybody's lives. For international organisations like the UIAA significant changes to the way the federation has communicated and operated have been implemented in the context of an ever-evolving situation.

The UIAA's response to Covid-19 was proactive and has taken on many different aspects. Below is a breakdown of some of the key effects:

OFFICE

From mid-March, staff at the UIAA Office in Bern, Switzerland worked remotely, returning only later in the year when conditions allowed and subject to restrictions such as the number of people who could be in the office at any one time. The UIAA is accustomed to agile working so there was no great change in terms of the working environment. The Office held weekly catch-up meetings with all members of the team to ensure regular communication and the delivery of key projects.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & EXECUTIVE BOARD

The UIAA Management Committee was due to host its in-person meeting in North Macedonia in May. This was cancelled and replaced, for the first time, by an online meeting. The format proved successful with more delegates attending than otherwise would have made the in-person meeting, particularly those from outside of Europe. There was also a follow up Management Committee meeting and an online meeting of

all Commission Presidents. During the virtual MC meetings, it was decided that the 2020 UIAA General Assembly would be held online. A first for the federation in its near 90-year history. Further details can be found in the dedicated section.

In an effort to ensure the UIAA remained efficient and met its targets, the UIAA EB held frequent virtual meetings. Indeed, the EB, MC and all UIAA Commissions all used online technology to meet more regularly during the pandemic. This signifies a positive step for the years to come with the UIAA reducing both its carbon footprint and creating a routine where shorter, online meetings leading to fruitful and productive collaboration.

COVID-19 PORTAL

One of the UIAA's first tasks was to direct all Covid-19 related updates to a dedicated website portal. Like similar bodies, whether in the sports world or NGOs, the UIAA's initial focus was on the impact of Covid-19 on its operations, projects and on its membership.

The portal has proved to be one of the most successful initiatives launched by the UIAA in recent times, bringing significant traffic to the federation's website and acting as a precious guide and reference point through these troubled times. During the early months of the pandemic, the focus of the portal was on supplying updates from individual UIAA members. Covid-19 has impacted different parts of the world at different times. Learnings from initial outbreaks in Asia and then in Europe proved crucial for countries yet to be impacted.

By the end of 2020, the UIAA has published over 80 articles from members in over 40 countries. Over half its membership has contributed to the platform. There has never been such a significant, coordinated campaign of this nature. Members were able to use the platform to share learning,

general rules and regulations and approaches to dealing with topics such as huts, climbing gyms, access and implementing social distancing.

As the pandemic evolved, the UIAA focused more on common themes and answering more global questions. Dedicated articles were produced regarding the opening of huts in Europe, worldwide travel restrictions and where people could climb. There was also specific information on climbing during Covid-19, regulations to follow particularly in relation to equipment and climbing with other people.

The portal also acted as a forum to share core information from wider climbing media – including mental and physical health articles and general opinion pieces on the economic impact of Covid-19 on the climbing world.

CCC TASKFORCE

At their 7 April e-meeting, members of the UIAA Executive Board unanimously decided to create a Covid-19 Crisis Consultation (CCC) Taskforce. Its mission was to provide fast responses to queries and Covid-19-related issues which may arise in the coming months. The CCC enabled the UIAA to have a dedicated structure in place. When approached, the UIAA would be able to provide

swift answers and leadership, mainly by promptly referring the question for consultation to a government authority, to a crisis management body, to a competent national federation or to a relevant UIAA commission.

By the end of the year, the CCC Taskforce had held five online meetings. With the support of experts from different UIAA areas (EB, MC, Commissions and well as medical professionals), this group has been able to provide guidance on a number of subjects as the nature of the pandemic evolved. Each meeting addressed the situation across a number of different countries with reports and findings shared on the UIAA portal.

Initiatives that came out of the meetings include dedicated UIAA position statements on responsible climbing, an online form for UIAA members to address concerns and share news as well as articles on core subjects of interest – access to huts, general rules for returning to sport and the mountains.

FUTURE

Mass in-person international meetings are unlikely to take place in the near future. As a global organisation, the UIAA anticipates conducting its affairs online for the foreseeable future.

The impact on UIAA projects such as the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, with competitions on three continents and athletes from nearly 30 countries, the Mountain Protection Award and Commission projects which require physical meetings and workshops are key challenges for the year ahead.

The UIAA welcomed initiatives such as the one recently put in place by the Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) to run online seminars and workshops, through the UIAA, to foster a greater sense of community. Early in 2021, the UIAA 2021 launched its own Mountain Network Series of webinars.

The UIAA understands that the current pandemic will have a significant impact on its members whether in retaining and attracting their own members, on sport competitions, safety and training programmes, sustainability initiatives, sponsorship and donations, huts and tourism.

During this uncertain time, the UIAA will continue to provide close support and relevant information to its membership.

For everything related to the UIAA and Covid-19 please click [here](#).



Report by

Lode Beckers

UIAA General Secretary,
UIAA Covid-19 CCC Taskforce

Peter Bourne

UIAA Communication Manager,
UIAA Covid-19 CCC Taskforce

Other CCC Taskforce Members

Buddha Basnyat (UIAA MedCom)

Amit Chowdhury
(UIAA Executive Board)

Nils Glatthard (UIAA Office)

Mahmood Hashemi
(UIAA Executive Board)

Urs Hefti (UIAA MedCom)

Carol Kahoun (UIAA Office)

Françoise Jaquet
(UIAA Executive Board)

Josef Klenner
(UIAA Management Committee)

Martin Lascano
(UIAA Executive Board)

Greg Moseley
(UIAA Management Committee)



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2020 General Assembly Review

The 2020 UIAA General Assembly (GA) was held on 23-24 October. Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual meeting took place online for the first time in the federation's 88-year history. A record number of delegates – 130 representatives from 68 countries – joined on Zoom and a further 250 member federation representatives and partners followed an accompanying livestream on YouTube.



GA Participants

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Peter Muir from the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) was elected as the new President of the UIAA. Muir becomes the UIAA's 14th President (including two Acting Presidents) and the second from Canada.

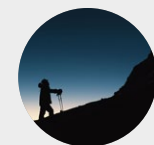
Muir succeeds Frits Vrijlandt, from the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Club (NKBV), Netherlands. Vrijlandt's second and, as defined in the UIAA Articles of Association, final four-year term came to an end at this year's General Assembly.

PETER MUIR, UIAA PRESIDENT

In his brief opening address, Muir said: "Thank you all for the faith you have expressed in me. I will work hard to meet a challenge that I take on with great enthusiasm. My message to all candidates and volunteers is that offering your time is appreciated and the most valuable thing you can give. Thank you to Frits for all of your contributions and dedication as UIAA President." Muir also paid tribute to the campaigns of Amit Chowdhury, now an EB member, and Peter Farkas, UIAA Mountaineering Commission President, who both ran for Presidency.

Frits Vrijlandt on his final GA as UIAA President: *"It is time for me to reflect on the past eight years. I am proud of all the work we have undertaken together and extremely proud to have been part of the UIAA family. There have been many highlights including welcoming new and returning members, witnessing the work of our Commissions and Continental bodies. Other achievements include the launch of the Mountain Protection Award, the Rock Climbing Festival Award, the Respect the Mountains Movement, the growth of competition ice climbing and the tremendous support we have received from sponsors and partners such as The North Face Korea, Outdoor Research, The Petzl Foundation and Bally. There have been some regrets as well such as the departure of CAI and for not succeeding yet in ice climbing becoming part of the official Olympic competition programme."*

Further Reading



UIAA MedCom contributes to paper on [Outdoor sports and Covid-19](#)



UIAA family supports delivery of [PPE to South Africa](#)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Muir will lead an Executive Board comprised of:

- Zoljargal **Banzragch**, Vice President, Mongolia (elected in 2019), *Mongolian National Climbing Federation*
- Lode **Beckers**, General Secretary, Belgium (elected in 2019), *Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium*
- Amit **Chowdhury**, India (elected in 2020), *Indian Mountaineering Foundation*
- Mahmood **Hashemi**, Iran (elected in 2019), *I.R. Iran Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation*
- Françoise **Jaquet**, Treasurer, Switzerland (elected in 2020), *Swiss Alpine Club*
- Martin **Lascano**, Argentina (elected in 2020), *Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo*

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following nominees were elected to the UIAA Management Committee by the General Assembly:

- Anne **Arran** (re-election), United Kingdom, *British Mountaineering Council*, Continental Representation: Europe
- Kul Bahadur **Gurung**, Nepal, *Nepal Mountaineering Association*, General Representation
- Steve **Long**, United Kingdom, *British Mountaineering Council*, General Representation
- Jean **Miczka**, France, *Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne*, Largest Federation Representation
- Greg **Moseley** (re-election), South Africa, *Mountain Club of South Africa*, Continental Representation: Africa

- Phil **Powers**, United States, *American Alpine Club*, Continental Representation: North America
- Stein **Tronstad**, Norway, *The Norwegian Climbing Federation*, General Representation

They join the existing MC members:

- Simon **Alden**, Malta, *Malta Climbing Club*, General Representation
- Joachim **Driessen**, Netherlands, Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Club, General Representation
- Stuart **Gray**, New Zealand, *New Zealand Alpine Club*, Continental Representation: Oceania
- Josef **Klenner**, Germany, *German Alpine Club*, Largest Federation Representation
- Christine **Pae**, Korea, *Korean Alpine Federation*, Continental Representation: Asia

The UIAA thanks Frits Vrijlandt and outgoing Executive Board members Hélène Denis (FFCAM, France) and Yongfeng Wang (CMA, China) as well as Management Committee members Georges Elzière (FFCAM, France), Juan Garrigos i Toro (FEDME, Spain) and Reza Zarei (IMSCF, Iran) for their longstanding commitment and dedication to the UIAA.

The backgrounds, skills and talents of new EB and MC members are diverse. They include those who have served in key roles such as president and board members of major national climbing federations. The range of professional backgrounds includes natural and political science, law, expedition and tourism management, international mountain guidance and training, polar research as well as civil and aeronautical engineering. The UIAA will undoubtedly benefit across all of its activities from the enthusiasm and

expertise of its new EB and MC members – the diversity of personnel offers the UIAA greater universality, better representation and increased resources when facing the many and varied aspects of the federation.

EB and MC members now represent 18 countries from all continents reinforcing the UIAA's role as The Global Mountain Network.

MEMBER ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

The UIAA General Assembly elected four new member associations during the General Assembly. They are:

Full Members

- **Mexico:** Federación Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada A.C
- **Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Climbing & Hiking Federation

Associate Member

- **Azerbaijan:** Mountain Club of Western Caspian University, Azerbaijan

Observer Member

- **International:** International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR)

Changes of Membership

- **Costarican Federation of Mountain Sports** (FECODEM) is now elected as a Full Member, formerly an Observer Member
- **National Adventure Association of Malaysia** is now elected as a Full Member, formerly an Observer Member



Doug Scott

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Following a nomination put forward by the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and presented by their President Lynn Robinson, legendary mountaineer Doug Scott, a former member of the UIAA Management Committee (2008-2012) and various UIAA Commissions (Mountaineering Commission 2011-2020 and the Traditional Values Working Group) was awarded Honorary Membership of the UIAA.

A champion for the traditional values of mountaineering, Doug Scott's achievements are significant. The first Briton, alongside his friend Dougal Haston, to conquer Everest and on a previously unclimbed route up the South West Face, his list of climbing feats are remarkable.

Doug has committed himself to a number of projects including writing several memoirs and through his stewardship of Community Action Nepal (CAN), a charity dedicated to causes in the country where Doug achieved many of his feats. CAN [won the UIAA Mountain Protection Award in 2018](#). He also spearheaded the UIAA paper '[Preservation of Natural Rock for Adventure Climbing](#)', a cause he passionately campaigned. Doug Scott is also an honorary member of The Alpine Club

and the American Alpine Club and Patron of the British Mountaineering Council.

Doug Scott was delighted with the recognition from the UIAA family: *"This has been an unexpected honour which I am very proud to receive. I join a long list of names over the years for whom I have the greatest respect."* Sadly Doug Scott passed away on [7 December 2020](#).

FUTURE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The location of future UIAA GAs is dependent on the possibility of international travel and the development of the Covid-19 pandemic. The GA voted on the locations of the next three meetings:

- **2021 Trabzon**, Turkey on 23 October
- **2022 Banff**, Canada, on 29 October
- **2023 Malta**, date TBC

STRATEGIC PLAN UIAA 2021-2024

Presented by Lode Beckers, UIAA General Secretary, the GA voted to approve the process for the UIAA Strategic Plan 2021-2024. Beckers paid tribute to the valuable work conducted by various groups over recent years and explained that the Strategic Plan 2021-2024 will be a

working process for the coming years.

It will be guided by the profile approved at the UIAA GA in 2019:

"The UIAA is the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation. As the leading global network, we promote climbing and mountaineering and advocate for access to climbing areas and mountain ranges. While looking to our future, we value our heritage and care for the mountains, their fragile ecosystems, vulnerable communities, and cultures. We serve the best interests of our member federations and of our worldwide community. For the Climbers. For the Mountains. For the World."

The mission will be carried out through strategic priorities which are defined as:

- 1) Providing guidance on critical and emerging mountaineering issues
- 2) Setting and maintaining high standards
- 3) Assisting, supporting and advocating the interests of national federations and their members at a global level

Beckers called for a 'broadly based ownership of the implementation process' from the new President through to member federations, Commissions, the EB, the MC and partners.

In charting the progress of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, the UIAA will communicate regularly on the process. *For further details please refer to pages 18-19.*

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

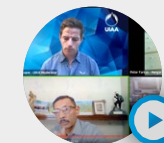
Alongside the formal part of the GA, a series of presentations and moderated panel discussions took place, designed both to provide members with information on UIAA activities, to discuss sharing of best practices and to debate some of the topical mountaineering questions of the day.

An extensive part of the GA was also dedicated to Commission and Continental Reports, subjects which are articulated in more detail in the corresponding chapters of this Annual Report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

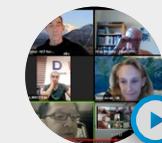
- For further details on the UIAA General Assemblies click [here](#).
- The digital magazine, a Guide to the 2020 UIAA General Assembly, can be found [here](#).
- A full directory of UIAA member associations can be viewed [here](#).

GA Video Stream



Day 1 - 23 October 2020

<https://youtu.be/2WSl2a5JqnA>



Day 2 - 24 October 2020

<https://youtu.be/kHwtUOovx04>

UIAA Strategy

A key component of the UIAA Executive Board and Management Committee's work over the coming years is developing the Strategic Plan 2021-2024. At the 2020 GA, agreement was reached on its guiding principles and three pillar structure (Safety, Sport, Sustainability). A road map is now being developed to define a clearer executive plan while working with Commissions to identify priority projects.

The current Strategic Plan, 2021-2024, can be downloaded [here](#). Some of the key messages are presented in this chapter.

RECENT HISTORY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The first Strategic Plan of the UIAA was presented to the 2011 General Assembly in Kathmandu and covered the period between 2012-2016. The plan was revised in 2016 in order to clarify some goals and to ensure that the objectives were in accordance with the so-called SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, Time-bound).

The next Strategic Plan was drawn up, by the Executive Board and Management Committee at the time, for the years 2017-2020. It defined the goals the UIAA sought to achieve by 2020, based on member surveys and a SWOT analysis. For the years 2017-2020, it has served as a basis for UIAA Commissions to prepare their own plans and for the UIAA to work towards those goals.

To prepare the UIAA strategy for the years after 2020, a number of documents were drawn up, developing a new strategy for the UIAA, assessing every aspect of the international federation, its activities and the support provided to its members. Ahead of the 2019 UIAA Management Committee meeting and the General Assembly in Cyprus, a Strategic Working Group (SWG) published their findings and recommendations in a report called 'The UIAA of the 21st Century'.

In the months following the Cyprus GA, the UIAA EB presented to the MC and to Commission Presidents an updated formulation of the UIAA's vision, objectives and role. Carried by the expertise which went into the preparation of the 'UIAA of the 21st Century' report, the resulting document is a compilation of the input received up to now from the various bodies of the UIAA.



©Remy Duding

The proposed reworded objectives were approved at meetings of the Executive Board and they were presented for further discussion to Management Committee members, to the UIAA Commissions, to former SWG members, and to voting federations at the 2019 GA where they were approved.

RESTATED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2020 AND BEYOND - A SUMMARY

MISSION

The mission of the UIAA Global Mountain Network is to uphold the values and interests of the climbing and mountaineering community and to provide assistance to member federations promoting environmentally responsible, enjoyable and safe mountaineering. The UIAA advocates for and upholds the interests of climbing and mountaineering federations and their members and maintains rewarding relationships with local communities and their relevant authorities, international sport sector authorities, international partners and agencies, and with international private sector operators. This mission is carried out by focusing on three priorities:

1. To provide guidance on critical and emerging mountaineering issues

The UIAA aims to contribute to mountain protection and stewardship through responsible behaviour, while providing UIAA members with international guidance on the increasing climbing and mountaineering risks caused by climate change and by emerging challenges to mountain access. The UIAA also seeks to participate in initiatives to understand and alleviate adverse developments in the mountain environment as a result of climate change which may additionally raise new and increased challenges of safety and cultural sensitivity.

2. To set and maintain high standards

Through UIAA Commission activities, the UIAA has led the way in a wide range of fields. The UIAA continues to set standards for climbing and mountaineering in areas such as safety, mountain protection, training, responsible access, mountaineering skills-building, sustainability, ice

climbing, skyrunning and mountain medicine research.

3. To assist, to support and to advocate the interests of national federations and their members at a global level

The UIAA exists to serve its members. Its task is to assist national federations, to respond to member inquiries, to defend their interests, to advocate among international and Olympic associations the cause of responsible and sustainable mountaineering. A pertinent example is the support and worldwide information currently provided during the Covid-19 crisis.

The Strategic Plan document also outlines the source documents which supported its creation, the UIAA three pillar structure (Safety, Sport, Sustainability) and the goals of each of these pillars.



The current **Strategic Plan, 2021-2024**, can be downloaded [here](#).



Report by

Lode Beekers

UIAA General Secretary

This chapter provides details on the UIAA member associations on all six continents, the organisations and associations who partner and sponsor the federation and details on the 2020 financial performance.

Information is also provided on the UIAA Office and communication deliverables



Left: Tiba Kangri, SW Face ©Tom Nakamura
Above: ©ICAR

UIAA Office

The UIAA closed 2020 with **90** Member Associations, comprising **66** full members, **one** unit member, **17** associate members and **6** observer members from **67** different countries, making a total of approximately **3.2** million individual members. Membership changes confirmed at the 2020 online UIAA General Assembly are highlighted in the following tables:

FULL MEMBERS

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
1	Afghanistan Climbing & Mountaineering Federation	ACMF	Afghanistan	2017
2	Albanian Mountaineering Federation	FSHALTM	Albania	2017
3	Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo	FASA	Argentina	1951
4	Verband Alpiner Vereine Österreichs	VAVOE	Austria	1951
5	Bangladesh Mountaineering Federation	BMF	Bangladesh	2013
6	Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium	CMBEL	Belgium	1932
7	Mountaineering Union of Federation Bosnia - Herzegovina	PS FBIH	Bosnia - Herzegovina	1997
8	Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada	CBME	Brazil	2005
9	Bulgarian Climbing and Mountaineering Federation	BCMF	Bulgaria	1935
10	The Alpine Club of Canada	ACC	Canada	1947
11	Federación de Andinismo de Chile	FEACH	Chile	1956
12	Chinese Mountaineering Association	CMA	China	1985
13	Costa Rican Federation of Mountain Sports	FECODEM	Costa Rica	2019
14	Croatian Mountaineering Association - Hrvatski Planinarski Savez	HPS	Croatia	1991
15	Cyprus Mountaineering Climbing & Orienteering Federation	CMCOF	Cyprus	2007
16	Czech Mountaineering Federation - Cesky Horolezecky Svaz	CMF	Czech Republic	1932
17	Danish Alpine Club - Dansk Bjergklub	DBKK	Denmark	1977

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
18	Finnish Climbing Association	FCA	Finland	1995
19	Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne	FFCAM	France	1932
20	Mountaineering and Climbing Association of Georgia	MCAG	Georgia	1933
21	German Alpine Club - Deutscher Alpenverein	DAV	Germany	1932
22	Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing	EOOA	Greece	1936
23	Federacion Nacional de Andinismo de Guatemala	FNAG	Guatemala	2017
24	China Hong Kong Mountaineering and Climbing Union	CHKMCU	Hong Kong	1988
25	Hungarian Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation	MHSSz	Hungary	2001
26	Indian Mountaineering Foundation	IMF	India	1981
27	Indonesia Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation	FPTI	Indonesia	2016
28	I.R. Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation	IMSCF	Iran	1972
29	Mountaineering Ireland	MI	Ireland	2004
30	Israel Climbers' Club	ILCC	Israel	2009
31	Japan Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Association	JMSCA	Japan	1980
32	Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation of the Republic of Kazakhstan	MSCRFK	Kazakhstan	2017
33	Korean Alpine Club	CAC	Korea	1969
34	Kosovo Mountaineering and Alpinist Federation	KMAF	Kosovo	2011
35	Liechtensteiner Alpenverein	LAV	Liechtenstein	1959
36	Lithuanian Mountaineering Association	LMA	Lithuania	1991
37	Luxembourg Federations	FLERA	Luxembourg	1938
38	National Adventure Association of Malaysia	NAA	Malaysia	2015
39	Malta Climbing Club	MCC	Malta	2018

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
40	Federación Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada A.C	FMDMyE	Mexico	2020
41	Club Alpin Monégasque	CAM	Monaco	1994
42	Mongolian National Sport Climbing Federation	MNSCF	Mongolia	2010
43	Federation Royale Marocaine de Ski et Montagnes	FRMSM	Morocco	2017
44	Nepal Mountaineering Association	NMA	Nepal	1975
45	Royal Dutch Mountaineering and Climbing Club	NKBV	Netherlands	1932
46	New Zealand Alpine Club	NZAC	New Zealand	1932
47	Norwegian Alpine Club - Norsk Tindeklub	NTK	Norway	1965
48	Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia	FPSM	North Macedonia	1999
49	Alpine Club of Pakistan	ACP	Pakistan	1974
50	Polish Mountaineering Association	PZA	Poland	1932
51	Clube Nacional de Montanhismo	CNM	Portugal	1955
52	Romanian Alpine Club - Clubul Alpin Român	CAR	Romania	1938
53	Russian Mountaineering Federation	RMF	Russia	1994
54	Saudi Climbing & Hiking Federation	SCHF	Saudi Arabia	2020
55	Mountaineering Association of Serbia - Planinarski Savez Srbije	PSS	Serbia	2002
56	Slovak Mountaineering Union - Slovensky Horolezecky Spolok	JAMES	Slovakia	1932
57	Alpine Association of Slovenia	PZS	Slovenia	1991
58	The Mountain Club of South Africa	MCSA	South Africa	1992
59	Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada	FEDME	Spain	1932
60	Swedish Climbing Federation - Svenska Klätterförbundet	SKF	Sweden	1973
61	Swiss Alpine Club - Swiss Alpine Club	SAC	Switzerland	1932

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
62	Chinese Taipei Alpine Association	CTAA	Chinese Taipei	1989
63	Turkish Mountaineering Federation - Türkiye Dagcilik Federasyonu	TDF	Turkey	1967
64	Ukrainian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation	UMCF	Ukraine	1991
65	British Mountaineering Council	BMC	United Kingdom	1947
66	The American Alpine Club	AAC	United States	1932

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
1	Mountain Club of Western Caspian University, Azerbaijan	MCWCU	Azerbaijan	2020
2	Ecole Nationale d'Escalade du Québec	ENEQ	Canada	
3	Fédération Québécoise de la Montagne et de l'Escalade	FQME	Canada	1975
4	Danish Climbing Federation	DCF	Denmark	1998
5	Nehru Institute for Mountaineering	NIM	India	2011
6	Alpenverein Südtirol	AVS	Italy	1974
7	Korean Alpine Federation	KAF	Korea	1970
8	The Norwegian Climbing Federation - Norges Klatreforbund	NKF	Norway	1993
9	Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal	FCMP	Portugal	1992
10	Federação Portuguesa de Montanhismo e Escalada	FPME	Portugal	2004
11	Centre Excursionista de Catalunya	CEC	Spain	1932
12	Basque Mountaineering Federation - Euskal Mendizale Federazioa	EMF	Spain	2002
13	Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya	FEEC	Spain	2000
14	Vereinigung der Akademischen Alpen-Clubs der Schweiz	VAAC	Switzerland	1985

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
15	Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association	CTMA	Chinese Taipei	1993
16	The Alpine Club (*)	AC	United Kingdom	1934
17	Alaskan Alpine Club	ALAC	United States	1985

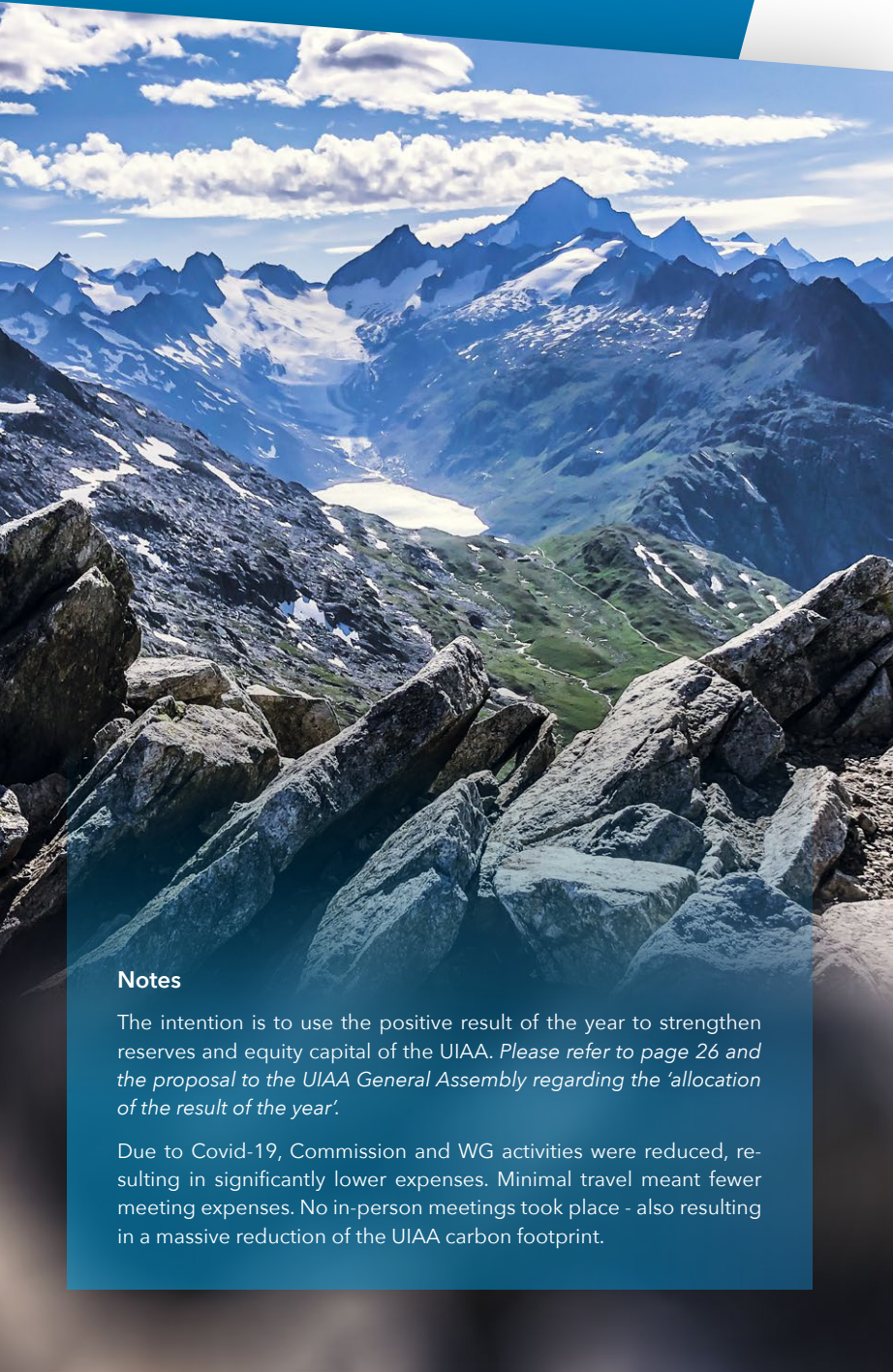
(*) Alpine Club first joined UIAA in 1934, rejoined in 2003

OBSERVER MEMBERS

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
1	Czech International Mountain Leader Association	CZIML	Czech Republic	2011
2	Union of International Mountain Leaders Association	UIMLA	France/ International	2019
3	International Commission for Alpine Rescue	ICAR	International	2020
4	Clube de Actividades de Ar Livre	CAAL	Portugal	2011
5	International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations	IFMGA/ UIAGM	Switzerland/ International	1987
6	International Slackline Association	ISA	Switzerland/ International	2019

UNIT MEMBER

	NAME	CODE	COUNTRY	JOINED UIAA
1	International Skyrunning Federation	ISF	Switzerland/ International	2016



Notes

The intention is to use the positive result of the year to strengthen reserves and equity capital of the UIAA. Please refer to page 26 and the proposal to the UIAA General Assembly regarding the ‘allocation of the result of the year’.

Due to Covid-19, Commission and WG activities were reduced, resulting in significantly lower expenses. Minimal travel meant fewer meeting expenses. No in-person meetings took place - also resulting in a massive reduction of the UIAA carbon footprint.

Finance

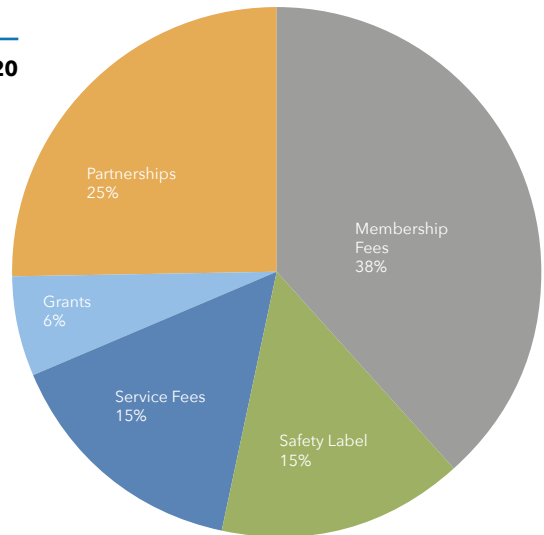
Profit and Loss Statement 2020

CHF	RESULTS 2019	BUDGET 2020	RESULTS 2020	NOTES	BUDGET 2021
INCOME					
Membership Fees	316.000	302.800	305.500	1	295.000
Safety Label Fees	132.400	122.800	117.100	2	123.000
Other Fees (IC Service, TS)	215.200	97.100	122.800	3	111.800
Grants	54.800	56.000	51.400	4	55.300
Partnerships	198.800	198.500	198.900	5	239.500
TOTAL INCOME	917.200	777.200	795.700		824.600
EXPENSES					
Staff	292.000	290.000	285.400	6	295.000
Services	40.200	40.800	41.800	7	41.200
Office, Administration	30.300	28.100	47.000	8	30.100
Meeting Expenses	45.700	37.000	9.100	9	37.000
Commission Operative Expenses	14.500	20.000	900	10	27.600
Commission Projects	484.600	330.750	324.500	11	356.500
Marketing, Communication	26.500	20.000	22.000	12	26.000
TOTAL EXPENSES	933.800	766.650	730.700		813.400
RESULT OF THE YEAR	-16.600	10.550	65.000		11.200
Allocation to Reserve		-10.000	-60.000	13	
NET RESULT	-16.600	550	5.000		11.200

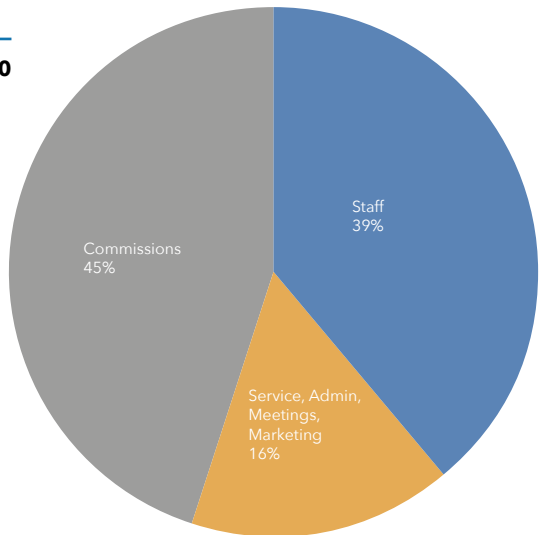
Notes

	INCOME	CHF	COMMENT
1	Membership fees	305'500	With few exceptions, UIAA membership fees were paid in full by member federations.
2	Safety Label fees, lab certification	117'000	4% lower than budget. Some manufacturers have reduced their number of Safety Labels significantly.
3	Service fees, athletes licences	112'800	Additional 20'000 service fees from local event organisers due to additional services provided by UIAA – also resulting in higher expenses for UIAA; license fees 3'700 below budget due to lower number of athletes, as only three World Cups were held
3	Training	10'000	Additional income from Alpine Handbook license fees
4	Office	20'000	Annual SAC contribution for Office costs
4	ARISF	5'000	Annual ARISF contribution for youth activities
4	IOC	26'400	Annual IOC contribution for anti-doping procedures and sport development (e.g. upgrading of results and registration system, livestream production and distribution)
5	Partnerships	198'900	Includes USD 120'000 cash and USD 80'000 in-kind

Income 2020



Expenses 2020



Balance Sheet

CHF	31 DECEMBER 2019	31 DECEMBER 2020	NOTES
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	427.299	567.945	A
Receivables	15.593	5.814	B
Prepayments and accrued income	70.042	13.009	C
Inventory	5.000	5.000	
Non-current assets			
Intangibles	0	0	
TOTAL ASSETS	517.934	591.768	
LIABILITIES & FUNDS			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable	8.209	6.651	D
Other short term liabilities	5.192	0	
Accrued expenses and deferred income	172.111	187.660	E
General provision	48.989	48.989	F
Total current liabilities	234.501	243.300	
Non-current liabilities			
Funds			
Solidarity fund	3.621	3.621	
Access and conservation fund	2.763	2.763	
Total funds	6.384	6.384	
Equity accounts			
Capital of the association as per 1 January	293.658	277.049	
Result of the year	-16.609	65.035	
Capital of the association as per 31 December	277.049	342.084	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	517.934	591.768	

Notes

	ASSETS	CHF	COMMENT
A	Cash and cash equivalents	+160'000	Due to pandemic: no in-person meetings, no travel and accommodation expenses, reduced/delayed commission activities and projects.
B	Receivables	-10'000	SAC: balance in favour of UIAA resulting from SAC services, SAC grant and UIAA payments.
C	Prepayments and accrued income	-57'000	Reduced pre-payments for 2021 Ice Climbing season compared to 2020 due to scaled back competition calendar.
	LIABILITIES	CHF	COMMENT
D	Accounts payable	-1'500	Reduced staff overtime and social charges
E	Accrued expenses and deferred income	+15'500	2021 sponsoring for Ice Climbing and some 2021 Safety Label fees received in advance.
F	General provision	+/-0	Varies depending on the allocation of the result of the year, tbd by the General Assembly.



©Mountain Club of Western Caspian University



©Czech Mountaineering Association

Proposal to the UIAA General Assembly 2021 regarding allocation of the result of the year 2020

	CHF
Contingency reserves	20'000
Solidarity fund	30'000
General reserve	10'000
Net result	5'035



Finance & Membership Reports by

Peter Muir
UIAA Treasurer (pre GA 2020)



Françoise Jaquet
UIAA Treasurer (post GA 2020)



Lode Beckers
UIAA General Secretary



Nils Glatthard
UIAA Director of Operations



Agnes Semelet
UIAA Accountant



Stephanie Stettbacher
UIAA Office

DONATE: Financial support for climbing

Support the **UIAA**, its members and partners in delivering international projects which *make a difference*.



<https://www.theuiaa.org/donate>



© UIAA/Monica Dalmasso

UIAA Office Report

The UIAA Office is located in Bern. The staff working in Switzerland are responsible for running the daily operations of the UIAA.

It is the staff's duty and commitment to serve UIAA members and to support, coordinate, plan and implement the activities and decisions of the Executive Board, the Management Committee and UIAA Commissions. On an operational level, the UIAA continues to benefit from a close collaboration with the SAC, Swiss Alpine Club.



NILS GLATTHARD

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

nils.glatthard@theuiaa.org

- General management and coordination of the UIAA staff in Bern and abroad.
- Management and implementation of UIAA projects.
- Coordination of internal and external communication.
- Preparation and presentation of budgets and financial reports in collaboration with the UIAA Treasurer.
- Link between staff, volunteers, EB, Commission Presidents, Management Committee and member associations.
- Development and presentation of partnership proposals and contracts.
- UIAA representation at events and on international platforms.



STEPHANIE STETTBACHER

OFFICE COORDINATOR &
SAFETY LABEL ADMINISTRATOR

office@theuiaa.org

- Member services: first and main contact for UIAA member associations, General Assembly organisation, GA agendas and minutes.
- Management Committee services: MC meeting organisation, preparation of agendas and minutes, implementation of MC decisions.
- Commission services: member administration, preparation and coordination of Safety Commission meetings.
- UIAA Safety Label administration: standards, test labs, manufacturers, certificates, invoices.



ROBERT ADIE
SPORT EVENTS COORDINATOR
rob.adie@theuiaa.org

- Support, coordination, planning and implementation of projects, activities and decisions of the UIAA Ice Climbing, Youth and Anti-Doping Commissions.
- Collaboration and development of relationships with sport organisations, stakeholders and partners: IOC, member federations, event organisers, sponsors, media, athletes and officials.
- Development and coordination of UIAA's international events such as UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships, UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, UIAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships and Continental Cup Series.
- Support and implementation of sport-related projects and decisions of the UIAA Executive Board, Management Committee, General Assembly and Commissions.



CAROL KAHOUN
PROJECT MANAGER
carol.kahoun@theuiaa.org

- Development of the "Global Mountain Network" through cooperation and exchange of information with relevant international organisations and partners.
- UIAA representation on national and international sustainability platforms.
- Development and coordination of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award, Respect the Mountains Movement and other UIAA projects and partnerships.
- Evaluation and development of new funding opportunities, linked to UIAA or UIAA partner projects, such as donations and legacies.
- Office support and link for UIAA Medical Commission and the International Skyrunning Federation.



PETER BOURNE
COMMUNICATION MANAGER
peter.bourne@theuiaa.org

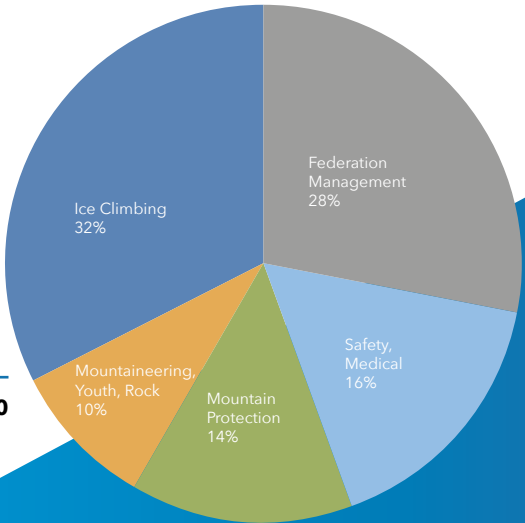
- Development and implementation of UIAA's communication strategy, plans and tools.
- Content producer and coordinator in general.
- Day-to-day website updates (coordination regarding website development which is managed by external webmasters) and social media management.
- Newsletters, press releases, member/partner/sponsor communications.
- Annual Report and GA magazine creation.



AGNÈS SEMELET
ACCOUNTANT
agnes.semelet@theuiaa.org

- Preparation of budgets, forecasts, profit and loss statements, balance sheet, in collaboration with the UIAA Treasurer and Director of Operations.
- Accounting, bookkeeping.
- Member surveys, invoices, reminders, payments.

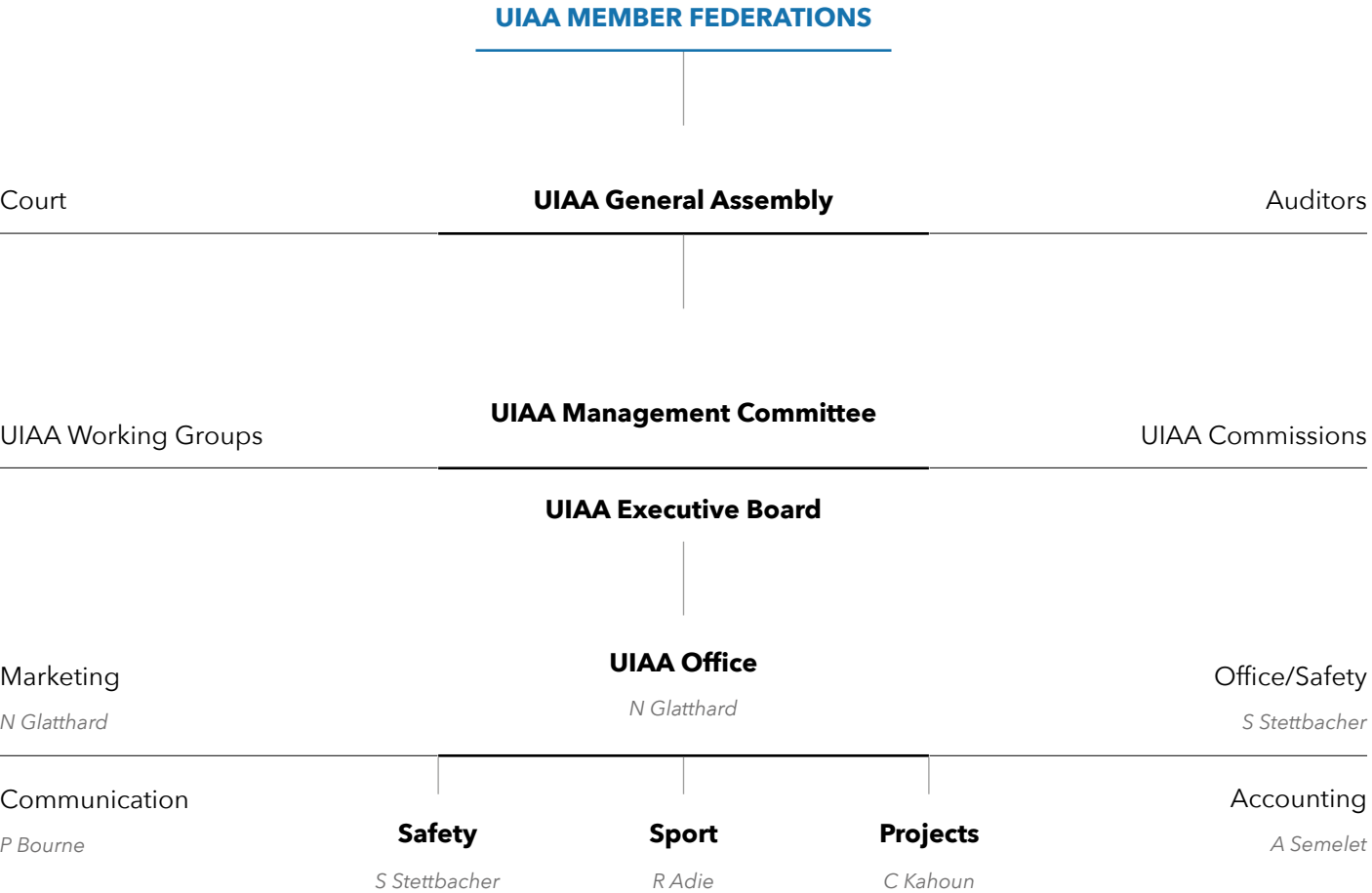
Staff Time Allocation 2020



In 2020, the Office is composed of six paid staff members, including one independent for communication, representing 4.2 full-time jobs in total.



UIAA
Organisational chart



Report by
Nils Glatthard
UIAA Director of Operations

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UIAA - International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
Monbijoustrasse 61
Postfach CH-3000
Bern 14
Switzerland

www.theuiaa.org
office@theuiaa.org

Communication

The UIAA's communication services are delivered both to its membership and to the wider climbing and mountaineering community.

STRATEGY

The UIAA communication strategy is built around collaboration with all of its Commissions, member associations, partners as well as events and projects. The strategy put in place ensures all aspects of the UIAA's activities (as defined by the Strategic Plan) are promoted throughout the year.

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report

One of the key deliverables to its members, the UIAA Annual Report was completely revised in 2018 to include dedicated areas on member benefits, greater access to digital material, links to key assets and presented in a more attractive, readable format. The [2019 edition](#) was built around this new model taking in feedback from members and the UIAA Management Committee. A print version of the 2019 Report was distributed to member associations. An archive of Annual Reports dating back to 2013 can be viewed [here](#).

General Assembly - Digital Magazine

To facilitate planning for the 2020 General Assembly (held online for the first time), the UIAA published a [digital magazine](#). The concept created for the 2018 GA serves both as a six-month update from the publication of the Annual Report and seeks to condense as many of the supporting documents for the GA into one publication. The aim in future years is for all reference materials to be consolidated into one document.

DIGITAL

Website

The UIAA website was last overhauled in 2016 and has undergone incremental updates ever since.

Throughout 2020, small adjustments and improvements were made to most areas. These include a new landing page for all Safety assets, a consolidated About/Organisation page and a reformat of the home page. Significant work was also conducted to improve site performance. One of the plans in 2021 is the creation of a dedicated document library, a 'one stop shop' of all UIAA core assets.

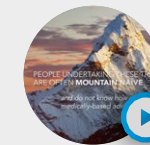
Compared to 2019, the UIAA website figures were down in terms of visits and page views. This can be largely attributed to Covid-19. The lack of a full UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, the postponement of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award and a freeze on certain other factors played contributing factors. However, the UIAA's [Covid-19 portal](#), a new feature on its website, designed to provide members with information and support throughout the evolution of the pandemic brought significant traffic, particularly during the initial global lockdown. Despite the overall figures being down, 2020 statistics were

Videos of Interest



UIAA Mountain Protection Award Promo (2021)

https://youtu.be/h_msy4f27xQ



Promo: UIAA Mountain Medicine Advice Papers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzmU0cQ8psA>



The Ice King: Heeyong Park

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-hZCkXQsM8&t=91s>

on a par with the then record year of 2018. The total page views of the UIAA website exceeded 600,000.

Website statistics compared to 2019:

- The number of **unique users** decreased by 15%
- The number of **new users** decreased by 15%
- The number of **visits** decreased by 19%
- The number of **page views** decreased by 20%
- The average **session duration** decreased by 5%

Most viewed pages on UIAA website in 2020(*):

- 1) Certified Equipment
- 2) Ice Climbing
- 3) Safety Standards
- 4) Rock Climbing Grades
- 5) Mountaineering
- 6) UIAA Safety Label
- 7) Covid-19 Portal
- 8) Training Standards
- 9) Member Associations Directory
- 10) Mountain Medicine Advice

(*) Excludes home page

Newsletters

The monthly emailed newsletter, primarily targeted at members, provides all subscribers with the latest, key news and updates from the UIAA. To subscribe to the newsletter please click [here](#).

Social Media

The UIAA is active on social media as a means of engaging with the climbing community and ensuring a wide distribution of UIAA information.

The UIAA is present on:

- f 45,000 followers
- t 12,000 followers
- y 9,000 subscribers
- i 7,000 followers *

(*) use for UIAA Ice Climbing competitions

In the near future, the UIAA hopes to dedicate more resources to social media and is exploring the use of new channels.

Video Content

Video content, especially when shared through social media, provides the UIAA with a dynamic way of sharing information about its projects. Increasing the creation of video material is one of the objectives of the coming year.

Video material currently available includes streams and highlights of UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour competitions, guides to Medical

advice papers, UIAA Safety Label and the Mountain Protection Award.

SERVICES

Core Global Resources

The UIAA offers its members and the wider climbing and mountaineering community a significant array of global resources, notably:

- Climber Safety advice
- Training and skills
- International calendars
- Medical advice
- Member associations directory
- Declarations and advice papers

Further details are provided in the dedicated chapters of this report.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The UIAA Communication team is always keen to share information about member association activities. Please email news@theuiaa.org. Likewise, any material produced by the UIAA is free of restrictions for members to use and share in their own publications and across digital channels. Working together we can provide the climbing and mountaineering world with the information important to them.



Report by

Peter Bourne

UIAA Communication
Manager



©Leigh McClurg, Pebbleshoo.ca. Courtesy of ACC

UIAA Court

In every structured and democratic organisation, there should be three separate powers: legislative, executive, and judicial.

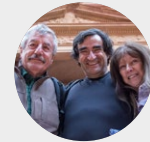
The UIAA Court is this internal and independent judicial body of the UIAA ([AoA 23](#)). Its task is to solve, when requested, any possible disputes between the UIAA, UIAA members and UIAA bodies, and between UIAA member organisations. This is a first instance internal Arbitration Court where possible disputes must be brought before any appeal to an external one, in this instance the **Court of Arbitration for Sport at Lausanne** (AoA 23 3) and 24)).

This is not the sole mission assigned to the UIAA Court. It is also the independent judicial body founded to decide upon the alleged violations of the [UIAA Code of Ethics](#) (Article 4). Additionally, the UIAA Court is also the Ethics Panel in charges of conflicts of interests, should the Executive Board be unable to reach a decision.

No case of any kind was filed in 2020. This is definitively good news. The main role of the Court over the past twelve months has been to offer advice about AoAs and UIAA regulations.

The UIAA Court is looking to recruit the expertise of more arbitrators. Any federations who have experienced arbitrators, lawyers or managers, are invited to propose candidates to the [UIAA Court](#).

Further Reading



UIAA Volunteer Series:
Pierre Humblet

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiiaa/uiiaa-volunteer-series-pierre-humblet/>



Report by

Pierre Humblet
(CMBEL, Belgium)

President, UIAA Court

Court Members

Denis PONCELIN (FFCAM, France)

Franz STÄMPFLI-GLATTHARD
(SAC, Switzerland)

Marco DEL ZOTTO



©Malta Climbing Club

Legal Experts Working Group

The Legal Experts Working Group (LEWG) provides assistance to any UIAA body or working group requires it support

The LEWG is formed of lawyers from national mountaineering associations across the globe, whose expertise ranges from environmental and public law, damages, professional liability as well as sports and travel law. The WG is established under the Mountaineering Commission, and provides assistance to any UIAA body or working group needs legal advice. In 2020 the WG assisted with UIAA activities related to the prevention of unauthorised use of its trademarks and logos or to the system of UIAA accredited testing laboratories. A Covid disclaimer form to protect the UIAA from any potential litigation has also been reviewed by the WG. Members of the group regularly exchange information about new case-laws related to the mountaineering and climbing. Starting from January 2021 the WG will hold more regular monthly online meetings.

Further Reading



UIAA Volunteer Series:
Klara Dvorakova

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiiaa/uiiaa-volunteer-series-klara-dvorakova/>



Report by

Klara Dvorakova

(Chair), Czech Republic (CMLA)

As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee (October 2020)

Full Members

Klara DVORAKOVA (Chair),
Czech Republic (CMLA)

Bénédicte CAZANAVE,
France (FFCAM)

Xabier EZEIZABARRENA, Spain (EMF)

Damjan OMERZU, Slovenia (PZS)

Edward EVERETT VAILL, USA (AAC)

Getulio RAINER VOGETTA,
Brazil (CBME)

Corresponding Members

Anna GILLOOLY, New Zealand (NZAC)

Pablo HEUSER, Chile (FEACH)

Dr Dominik KOCHOLL

Gerald LANNING, New Zealand (NZAC)

Matt MAKGILL, New Zealand (NZAC)

Jim MOSS, United States (AAC)

Sponsors & Partners

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 mountain-protection-award/](http://theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award/)

**OR OUTDOOR
RESEARCH**

OUTDOOR RESEARCH
theuiaa.org/ice-climbing

PETZL
Fondation

PETZL FOUNDATION
[theuiaa.org/
 mountain-qualification-label](http://theuiaa.org/mountain-qualification-label)

**SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS**

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
[the-uiaa-mountain-sustainability/
 respect-the-mountains/](http://the-uiaa-mountain-sustainability/respect-the-mountains/)

INTERNATIONAL
OBSERVER MEMBERS**ICAR**

ICAR
[International Commission for
 Alpine Rescue](http://International Commission for Alpine Rescue)

**IVBV
IFMGA
UIAGM**

IFMGA
[International Federation of
 Mountain Guides Associations](http://International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations)

**UNION OF INTERNATIONAL
MOUNTAIN LEADER ASSOCIATIONS
UIMLA**

UIMLA
[Union of International Mountain
 Leader Associations](http://Union of International Mountain Leader Associations)

**INTERNATIONAL
SLACKLINE
ASSOCIATION**

ISA
[International Slackline
 Association](http://International Slackline Association)

PARTNERS

ARISF

ARISF
[Association of IOC Recognised
 International Sport Federations](http://Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations)

GAISF

GAISF
[Global Association of
 International Sports Federations](http://Global Association of International Sports Federations)

**MOUNTAIN
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE**

MRI
Mountain Research Initiative

**PEACE
AND
SPORT**
BE PART OF WHAT MATTERS

PEACE AND SPORT
peace-sport.org

**OR OUTDOOR
RESEARCH**

Outdoor Research is dedicated to inspiring the journey ahead with innovative technical apparel and accessories designed for outdoor adventures. Outdoor Research is the Title Sponsor of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour 2019-2023.

**BALLY**

The 2020-2021 and 2022 UIAA Mountain Protection Awards will be partnered by Bally, the Swiss luxury fashion brand, founded in 1851, with a pioneering heritage in climbing and mountaineering.

Organisation
recognised by theINTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Recognised since 1995

by the
 International Olympic Committee (IOC)

sportaccord
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS' UNION

SPORT ACCORD
sportaccord.sport

UN
environment
programme

UNEP
[United Nations
 Environment Programme](http://United Nations Environment Programme)

10YFP
Global Action for Sustainable
Consumption and Production

10YFP
[United Nations 10-Year YFP
 Sustainable Tourism Programme](http://United Nations 10-Year YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme)

The UIAA fulfils its Mission Statement mainly through the work of its Commissions, which make recommendations, set policy and advocate on behalf of the international mountaineering community. UIAA Commissions are comprised of experts in their field.

The UIAA operates through the following Commissions: Anti-Doping, Ice Climbing, Medical, Mountaineering (including Access & Training), Mountain Protection, Safety and Youth.

Left: ©Remy Duding
Above: ©Shutterstock Library

Mountain Protection

MISSION STATEMENT

Since it was founded in 1969, the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission (MPC) has worked to guide action and be the voice of the UIAA for advocacy on mountain protection – the mountains being one of the last natural and free spaces of significance on Earth. The MPC's goal is to ensure that the mountain's unique environment and cultures will still be there for the benefit of future generations of mountaineers and wider humanity. The MPC also promotes the work of UIAA members and the broader mountaineering community that contribute positively to sustainable mountain development.

Read more: [Fifty years of the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2020

Despite considerable challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the MPC continued its work to support in the design and implementation for two of the key projects that support the UIAA's commitment to sustainability as part of its strategic plan - the [Mountain Protection Award \(MPA\)](#) and the [Respect the Mountains \(RtM\) global movement](#), as well as make progress with its third project - updating the existing UIAA Environmental

Objectives and Guidelines. Other key achievements were the confirmed signing of the [MoU between the UIAA and the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2020](#), and the participation and representation of the UIAA by MPC delegates in the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action Working Groups, among other notable events. The MPC was also active in a number of initiatives organised to coincide with [International Mountain Day](#) (see dedicated section).



©Mujer Montana

ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

The annual MPC meeting was due to take place on 29-30 May in Woerden, The Netherlands, at the invitation of the Royal Dutch Mountaineering Club (NKBV). The meeting was scheduled as a one-day pre-meeting workshop with key MPC stakeholders and partners - the IFMGA Environmental and Access Commission and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), among other experts, followed by a full-day MPC meeting the next day.

However, due to Covid-19, the session was adapted to a shorter virtual MPC meeting on Friday 30

May to address Commission matters only, postponing the workshop until 2021.

The meeting was chaired by re-elected Commission President Carolina Adler, who was appointed for a second term in the role. The Commission reviewed its delegate membership, proposed changes to draft Commission Regulations and prepared its inputs for the upcoming strategic plan for the UIAA for the period 2021-2024. Further details can be found [here](#).

EVENTS ATTENDED IN 2020

Presentation to President and Board of Limerick Institute of Technology (University) on the role and function of the UIAA and the work of the Mountain Protection Commission, 7 January, Limerick, Ireland. Vice President of the MPC, Mike Maunsell gave a presentation on the international collaborative potential of the UIAA and the MPC.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group II Contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Third Lead Authors Meeting – 25 January to 1 February, Faro, Portugal. Carolina Adler attended as IPCC Lead Author and Coordinating Lead for the Cross-Chapter Paper on “Mountains”. The meeting was an opportunity to ensure updates and assessment progress on the effects of climate change in mountain regions worldwide were reported and reflected in the draft of the report.

Virtual webinar event titled “Sustainable Development: Is it possible?”, 30 April, Baku, Azerbaijan. The Mountain Culture and Landscape Research Institute of Western Caspian University organised the event, titled “Sustainable Development: Is It Possible?”. The event focused on the role of sustainable development, subsequent change of the environment and the threats

and challenges of sustainable civilisations. It featured MPC delegate Hussein Baghirov as keynote speaker. Mr Baghirov is director of Mountain Culture and Landscape Research Institute. More information [here](#).

Exhibition material on “Mountaineering in a time of climate change” for the Slovenian Alpine Museum, Mojstrana, Slovenia. MPC delegate Professor Irena Mrak contributed to the research and material to be presented in this new exhibition at the Slovenian Alpine Museum.

<https://www.planinskimuzej.si/en/about-the-museum/>

Symposium on “Visiting the Mountains in the Time of Climate Change”, Alpine Museum of Slovenia, 20 June, Mojstrana, Slovenia. The symposium was one of many activities promoted in the region as part of the implementation of a project by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning to promote the Alpine Convention in Slovenia. Irena Mrak gave a presentation on the topic of “Aspects of visiting the mountains in Slovenia and around the world, shaped by climate change”.

Virtual webinar on Sustainable Development in the changing global context, 10 July, Baku, Azerbaijan. Event was coordinated and chaired by Hussein Baghirov.

Publication launch for book titled **“Irish Peaks Book: Irish Peaks”**, July. This is a large-format book, celebrating Ireland’s highest mountains through an inspiring collection of 71 hillwalking routes, covering all of Ireland’s main mountain areas. Mike Maunsell was invited as Vice President of the MPC to write the introductory section titled ‘Ireland’s Mountain Environment’ detailing the importance of mountain ecosystems, mountain geology, species of mountain plants, animals and birds in Ireland.



©Sunday Afternoons

UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action – various meetings held virtually in 2020. The following MPC delegates are contributing to and representing the UIAA in Working Groups created by the UNFCCC and the signatories to this Initiative to spearhead progress on the Initiative’s objectives: Carolina Adler, Ganesh Gurung, Mike Maunsell and Hussein Baghirov. Carolina Adler attended the Annual Meeting of the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action, held virtually on 30 September to reflect on the state of sports in the time of Covid-19, present the work that has been achieved so far and to inform the strategy going forward to deliver on the Sports for Climate Action commitments.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

The MPC continues to ensure that in the design of the two key mountain protection and sustainability projects at the UIAA – the MPA and the RtM global movement - are explicit provisions and mechanisms in place to prioritise, support and encourage the participation of UIAA members to not only showcase their initiatives, but also participate and be eligible for the prizes, resources and exposure on offer to promote their work.

The current joint work with the IFMGA in updating the Environmental Objectives and Guidelines ensures that the MPC also responds to the priorities and stated needs that member delegates expressed in a survey conducted in 2018.

Given the Commission delegates’ extensive and active engagement in several global platforms and initiatives on mountains and sustainability as part of its daily professional work, the MPC also offers the UIAA and all its members ample representation and opportunity to “carry their voices” at these important spaces for advocacy, able to present their ideas and concerns on their behalf. As always, the MPC is also available to provide all UIAA members and other Commissions professional advice on environmental sustainability issues or concerns, as the need or request arises, for example in the advice provided to the Ice Climbing Commission on sustainability guidelines for the hosting of competition events.

PROJECTS

MOUNTAIN PROTECTION AWARD (MPA)

The decision was taken by the Commission to [postpone the assessment award for 2020](#) due to Covid-19 challenges experienced by member federations and others, instead proposing to conduct the assessment and award the prize in 2021 and combining all submissions so far for the MPA 2020-21. This was approved by the UIAA Executive Board and Management Committee, as well as project sponsor, Bally. With the funding available by Bally, the MPC has identified tasks for experts to assist in a review of the MPA over the years, that would serve as a basis to inform future developments for the MPA. The new dead-



©High Altitude Mountain Cleaners

line to submit applications for the 2020-21 MPA is 31 May 2021.

Profiles of past winners

A significant focus of the Award is the support and showcase the UIAA offers all nominated

projects throughout their lifecycle. In the second half of 2020, the UIAA commenced a series profiling past [Mountain Protection Award](#) winners.

Featured projects included: [Mountain Wilderness France](#) (2016), [Mount Everest Biogas Project](#) (2017) and [Alpine Learning Project Weeks](#) (2019).

Biodiversity & International Mountain Day (IMD)

For the annual 11 December International Mountain Day (IMD), representatives from five MPA nominees on three continents provided information on the recent progress of their initiatives, how their project directly promotes biodiversity (the official theme of IMD 2020), the wider importance of biodiversity to mountain life and the impact Covid-19 has had on their operations. The projects featured as part of a dedicated IMD social media campaign (#mountainmatter).

Profiled Projects

[Patagonia Waste Management](#), Argentina
[Study and Monitoring of Chachacomani Glacier](#), Bolivia
[Save the Barun](#), Nepal
[Swat Project](#), Pakistan
[John Muir Trust](#), UK

CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT 2019

Climate change is another key focus of the UIAA and was debated in detail at the federation’s recent [General Assembly](#). At the end of 2020, the UIAA published its Carbon Footprint Report for 2019, comparing progress with its inaugural report for 2018.

RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS (RTM)

For the [RtM global movement](#), a new approach in

2019 suggested by the Commission centred on an online calendar of events and initiatives that not only address waste management but also focus on education. However, due to Covid-19, the calendar was not actively promoted since there were many restrictions to visit mountains destinations. A new proposal to invigorate the RtM series was put together by the MPC, with the support of UN Environment and with participation from the IFMGA and the Mountain Research Initiative. The proposed project centres on clean-up events in tandem with webinars and online education programmes, as well as workshops in the mountains.

UIAA ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

The underlying structure for the guidelines is the subject of consultations between MPC delegates and external experts, with the support of UN Environment and IFMGA in 2020. Workshops to build the content will be conducted in 2021 with parallel consultations with UIAA members, and the final document planned for launch in 2022 to mark the 20th Anniversary since the first declared International Year of Mountains back in 2002

PARTNERSHIPS

Key partnerships created and fostered in 2020 include the now signed [MoU with UN Environment](#), which facilitates and ensures that the UIAA is supported in its efforts to pursue projects and initiatives on mountain protection, backed by the technical and global reach and legitimacy of organisations such as UNEP. In 2020, focus was also directed to enhancing the existing collaboration with the IFMGA Environmental and Access Commission, flagging the opportunity to continue to pursue the joint project on sustainability guidelines in 2020-21. Consequently, and

with the support of UNEP, the MPC submitted a proposal to the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) in order to seek funding to support the development of the RtM series and develop the relationship with UN Environment and IFMGA on the sustainability guidelines. The proposal also supports the establishment of a partnership and collaboration with EOCA.

Other key partnerships have been supported and negotiated with key financial and in-kind donors such as Sunday Afternoons and Bally, the latter providing substantial financial support, details of which were unveiled at the GA in Cyprus in 2019, to support the development of the current MPA into a platform that offers broader incentive for participation and that adequately acknowledges and rewards initiatives and best practices.



Collaborations with and contributions to the work of the Training Panel and Ice Climbing Commission are also planned and/or underway.

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

For the United Nations’ **International Mountain Day (IMD)** – 11 December – the UIAA was incredibly active and supported initiatives run

by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#), UIAA member associations, [Mountain Partnership](#), the [Mountain Research Initiative \(MRI\)](#) as well as those organised by the UIAA itself.

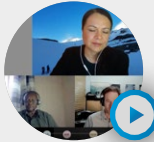
UNEP hosted a live Mountains High Virtual Event 'Adventure for Climate Action'. Carolina Adler was among the panellists. Together with mountaineer Will Gadd, the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action, speakers focused on how sports and adventure play a role in climate action. *A video stream of the session can be viewed from the link in the dedicated column on the right.*

UIAA President Peter Muir took part in a [Mountain Partnership](#) virtual event. Highlighting the work that many Mountain Partnership members, including the UIAA, are doing around the world, the event featured a high-level segment, a session on collaborative actions and programmes and a round table featuring Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassadors.

2021: THE YEAR AHEAD

Looking ahead, the MPC looks forward to continuing to fulfil its commitment to the MPA, RtM, and UIAA Environmental Objectives and Guidelines as key priorities in its project portfolio, not least given the support provided by Bally and the expected step change in evolving the concepts and their implementation and the hopeful EOCA support. The MPC will look at the results achieved in the combined 2020-21 edition of the MPA as basis for further development and improvement of the projects' concepts and implementation in 2021 and beyond, in addition to relying on the results of the internal review of the MPA and the projects promoted in it.

International Mountain Day Webinar



Adventure for Climate Action - Live on International Mountain Day

<https://youtu.be/8TqhmzYGpzI>

Key Links



Mountain Protection

<https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection/>



Respect the Mountains

<https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection/respect-the-mountains/>



Mountain Protection Award

<https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award/>

Report by



Dr. Carolina Adler

UIAA Mountain Protection Commission President

mountainprotection@theuiaa.org

As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee - October 2020

Full Members

Dr Carolina ADLER (President), New Zealand (NZAC)

Michael MAUNSELL (Vice President), Ireland (MI)

Hussein BAGHIROV, Azerbaijan (WCU)

Harshwanti BISHT, India (IMF)

Stephen GOODWIN, UK (BMC)

Ganesh GURUNG, Nepal (NMA)

Amin MOEIN, Iran (IMSCF)

Joop SPIJKER, Netherlands (NKBV)

Corresponding Members

Ahmed AUPAR, Bangladesh (BMF)

Maretha ALANT, South Africa (MCSA)

Lode BECKERS, Belgium (CMBEL)

Jan Ivar BOE, Norway (NTK)

Valeska BUCHEMI OLIVEIRA, Brazil (CBME)

Toba DYSION, Indonesia (FPTI)

Irena MRAK, Slovenia (PZS)

Mary SANSEVERINO, Canada (ACC)

BALLY PEAK
OUTLOOK
FOUNDATION

Bally is a Swiss luxury brand with an alpine heritage and pioneering legacy since 1851.

In 2020 and 2021, the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation has proudly partnered with the UIAA and its annual Mountain Protection Award, celebrating and supporting innovation and the desire of climbers to make a positive difference through transformative mountain projects.

Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout its history, mountain safety has been at the forefront of the UIAA's activities. The UIAA Safety Label, and associated safety standards, have been in operation since the 1960s.

The UIAA Safety Commission (SafeCom) is formed of experts with engineering backgrounds from different UIAA member federations, as well as international manufacturers with certified UIAA Safety Labels and accredited testing laboratories. SafeCom meets annually and is responsible for developing the UIAA Safety Standards and consequently working to help minimise accidents related to climbing and mountaineering gear.

Amit Chowdhury (India, IMF), after four years as SafeCom President, was elected as an Executive Board member of the UIAA at the 2020 General Assembly. In light of this appointment, he stepped down as President of SafeCom. Recommended to chair the Commission for the next four years was current Vice President Lionel Kiener of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC). *Kiener's nomination, as well as Alexis Mallon (FFCAM) as Vice President of SafeCom was confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee in early 2021.*

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

It was generally accepted that the Covid-19 crisis would have a big impact on the equipment industry. Due to the situation early in 2020

many lab tests and field work ground to a halt. Nevertheless, the UIAA Safety Commission had an active and productive year. Internal SafeCom meetings were held with greater frequency, there were seven internal SafeCom meetings and for the first time two online Plenary meetings. The first annual SafeCom meeting of 2020 was held online from 8-9 June. The session was attended by ten national delegates, two corresponding members, 11 laboratories, 27 manufacturers of climbing and mountaineering equipment, as well as guests from ICAR (International Commission for Alpine Rescue), later elected UIAA Observer Member, and the Italian Alpine Club (CAI)'s Centro Studi Materiali e Tecniche.

SafeCom working groups have become increasingly active and participated in more online meetings in 2020 than in the past. The move to online platforms has been a positive reaction to restrictions and will be continued into 2021.

SafeCom is in close contact with the climbing equipment industry and continues to regularly monitor the impact of the Covid crisis.

UPDATES TO UIAA STANDARDS

UIAA 123 Rock Anchors: Corrosion Update

After 12 years of research and testing the UIAA released its Anchor Corrosion Standard. The Commission is delighted to confirm the [results of this extensive project](#) and updated its [Standard UIAA 123 Rock Anchors](#) in December 2020. Three classes of materials, depending on location of usage have been specified. This major update is based on scientific research performed by the French Corrosion Institute in Brest (France) and Technopark Kralupy, UCT (Czech Republic) and coordinated and funded by the UIAA for the safety of all climbers worldwide.

24

Safety Standards

82

Safety Label Holders
from 23 countries

+2000

Safety Labels granted
in 2020

©UIAA/Rob Adie

Early in 2021 the Commission accredited [Technopark Kralupy, UCT Prague to test](#) for stress corrosion. A supporting guide with further details, on the work behind, and findings from, the revised Standard 123 have been translated into [Chinese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish](#).

FIXED ANCHORS NEEDED FOR TESTING

A communication was sent out for old anchors to be sent to SafeCom for research and testing.

Older anchors were designed and manufactured when Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC) was not

acknowledged as a serious problem. As a result, they may be more prone to failure and should

be monitored and used with caution in environments where SCC could possibly occur. The nec-

essary factors to cause SCC have been shown to exist in urban environments and as far as 200km

inland – if any signs of corrosion are present on stainless steel anchors it is safest to replace them

in their entirety. SafeCom will conduct further research on the anchors received, and publish its

findings by the middle of 2021.

Further details [here](#).

UIAA 101 Dynamic Ropes

The revision focused on correcting and reorganising information that had become outdated, as well as clarifying the optional water repellency test. It also includes length measurement as a manufacturer certified procedure instead of an annex, the procedure was verified by manufacturers in the working group.

UIAA 104: Proposal to define steel cord in Standard.

The UIAA Ice Climbing Commission and World Tour event organisers encourage athletes and officials to use UIAA certified equipment. Related to this subject, the UIAA Ice Climbing Commission recently opened dialogue with SafeCom regarding issues competitors had experienced in damaging textile quickdraws, as well as ropes, with their tools. In an attempt to make the quickdraw safer under the intense demands of competition, the UIAA Ice Climbing Commission, and event organisers, proposed the use of a metal cord instead of textile to reduce the level of damage. The Plenary agreed to clarify the language in UIAA 104 Standard to include steel cords in the testing of the quickdraw. SafeCom looks forward to having UIAA Standard-recognised quickdraws in future Ice Climbing competitions.

WORKING GROUPS

Avalanche probes: More work and testing will take place this winter. SafeCom looks forward to assessing results at its next meeting in May 2021.

Avalanche snow shovels: Discussions remain ongoing on whether to continue to work on the limits set for shovels in the Standard.

Canyoning harness: UV and humidity testing has been made on canyoning harnesses. There will now be second round of testing where UV

rates will be stronger and humidity levels increased. Harnesses have been sent to a national testing institute. Research is ongoing.

Safety Alert: Canyoning Harnesses

Forty-eight discarded harnesses (from one to twenty years of use) were provided by professionals for testing. The results of this first study seem to prove it could be a major safety issue, and should lead to complementary tests and research on canyon harness ageing. The reasons for these ruptures could be the influence of water and/or the conditions of use, such as drying and storage. The major finding was that the resistance of some harnesses had dropped severely, indeed to 10% of the standard value in a period of three to four years.

Helmet rim impact: The helmet positioning index for laboratories has been defined. A more precise testing method is being prepared and then round robin testing of samples will be made.

Sharp edge test: After several years of development by UIAA Safety Label holder Edelrid, a machine dedicated to sharp edge testing has been provided to a UIAA accredited laboratory. The lab presented the new tests, which are simple and rapid to conduct and only require a rope sample of 70cm, and found good reproducibility. They may use the testing machine on other textiles. Further work is still required to tackle ambient temperatures, criteria for labelling a rope as cut resistant and how reproducible it will be with different machines.

Trekking poles: The Working Group undertook exploratory work concerning the existing standardisation requirements for this type of gear; also, a limited survey to identify failure modes and TP-related incident causes was performed.

K Type Carabiner WG: The considerable amount of work preformed by the WG has not yet produced any conclusive results and work has to continue. Other working groups on EAS via-ferrata test method, load sharing devices (LSD), static ropes, and water repellent for other products e.g., semi-static ropes, presented the results of their work. Draft Standards are expected next year.

COLLABORATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

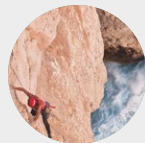
SafeCom has also commenced a [Question and Answer Series](#), where UIAA Safety and Training experts answer climbers' questions about equipment and usage (see below).

Collaboration with Training Panel: The UIAA is in the process of expanding the UIAA Safety Label logo to incorporate Training Standards

issued to national federations. A significant component of UIAA training programmes is spent on ensuring students use equipment that has been properly tested to the UIAA's international high level of standards. The Training Panel is now approved to use the UIAA Safety Label logo and will issue its certificates as of 2021 with the UIAA trademarked Safety Logo.

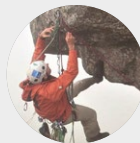
[Misuse page:](#) A "Misuse" search engine of the UIAA Safety Label was launched in June. Only UIAA accredited manufacturers are authorised to use the UIAA Safety Label logo. The UIAA is concerned about unauthorised use of its trade names and logos and takes active steps to address breaches or potential breaches of its rights. This database helps track inappropriate use.

UIAA Safety Commission Climber Q&A Series



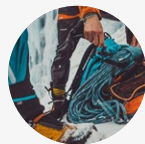
Sunscreen and Climbing Gear

[Read article](#)



Bolts near Edges

[Read article](#)



Rope Testing

[Read article](#)

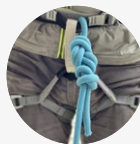
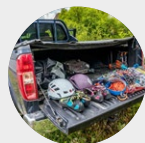


Figure-Eight Knots

[Read article](#)



Half Ropes

[Read article](#)

Invitation of FPME - Portuguese Climbing and Mountaineering Federation – and CIM – Mountain Environment Research Center – Earlier in December 2019 – Portugal National Delegate, Alexandre Velhinho gave a talk at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Bragança, Portugal, concerning "The role of UIAA on the promotion of safety"; this was part of a national level event to commemorate International Mountain Day. The talk centred on the multiple activities undertaken by the Safety Commission together with the Training Panel and the Medical Commission to insure ever increasing safety levels for climbing and mountaineering activities.

On 27 June, the SafeCom President held an hour long Zoom meeting with the **mountain guides of Nepal** on the importance of certification and the UIAA Safety Label.

The UIAA Safety Label logo is a registered trademark of the UIAA.

The UIAA Safety Label on a piece of climbing gear means that samples of the equipment have been tested by an accredited, independent third party and shown to satisfy the requirements set forth in the UIAA Standard. However, no lab testing can ever truly reflect the range of situations encountered in practice.

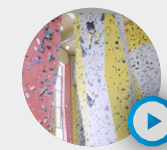
Purchasing climbing and mountaineering equipment bearing the UIAA Safety Label supports the UIAA and its global mission to promote safety, one of the key pillars of the UIAA. The Safety Commission's WG research is fully funded by the UIAA Safety Label.

In ensuring its standards are always relevant, the [UIAA Safety Commission](#) regularly studies the market and analyses accidents to determine if existing standards should be revised or upgraded. Furthermore, it [accredits laboratories](#) that test mountaineering and climbing equipment to ensure that the test results are in accordance with [UIAA standards](#).



The official logo of the UIAA Safety Label

Videos of Interest



UIAA/DAV Belay Safety Videos

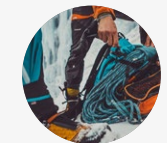
<https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering/uiiaa-and-dav-collaborate-on-safety-video-project/>

Key Links



Safety Standards

<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/safety-standards/>



Certified Equipment

<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/safety-standards/certified-equipment/>



Misuse Database

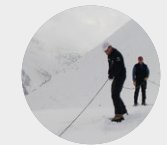
<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/uiiaa-safety-label/misuse/>



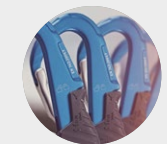
Recalls & Warnings

<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/safety-standards/recalls/>

SafeCom thanks all of its Safety Label holders, accredited labs and internal Commission experts who work to support the quality and safety of climbing and mountaineering equipment.



theuiaa.org/safety/uiiaa-safety-label/safety-label-holders



theuiaa.org/safety/uiiaa-safety-label/accredited-laboratories/



Report by

Amit Chowdhury

UIAA Safety Commission President
2017- 2020

Supported by

Lionel Kiener

UIAA Safety Commission Vice President
(President as of 2021)

Safety Commission

As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee - October 2020 (*)

Members

Lionel KIENER, Switzerland (SAC), President

Alexis MALLON, France (FFCAM), Vice President

Per FORSBERG, Sweden (SCF)

Nicholas GALPIN, United Kingdom (BMC)

Stephen GLADIEUX, United States (AAC)

Alan JARVIS, South Africa (MCSA)

Ali SAHIN, Turkey (TDF)

Alexandre VELHINHO, Portugal (FPME)

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Vittorio BEDOGNI, Italy

Marc BEVERLY, United States

Frederico CAMPOS MARTINS DOS SANTOS, Brazil (CBME)

Dave CUSTER, United States (AAC)

Christoph HUMMEL, Germany (DAV)

Da Chai WANG, Chinese Taipei (CTMA)

Agustin MOINAT, UK (ISA)

Hitoshi ONODERA, Japan (JMSCA)

Augustin UNSAIN, Argentina (FASA)

Thomas WEDLICK, United States (AAC)

(*) As of MC January 2021

Medical

MOUNTAIN MEDICINE

The mission of the UIAA Medical Commission is to provide the best possible advice through its network of doctoral-level mountain medicine experts, advice pages, the International Diploma in Mountain Medicine, and the dissemination of papers, translated into over ten languages. All members are doctors and many are active teachers in their respective countries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2020

Achievements

Translations and the updating of [MedCom recommendations](#) remain at the centre of the Commission's work. This includes: Continuation and progress on papers about eye problems; drug use and misuse in mountaineering and travel to altitude with neurological disorders.

For the revision of two particular papers, namely Vol.12 Women going to Altitude and Vol.14 Contraception at Altitude, a female-led group has been formed with the task of coming up with recommendations on Women's Health in the Mountains.

Several MedCom members joined the [UIAA Covid-19 Crisis Consultation \(CCC\) Taskforce](#). The

doctors with international experience contribute to the Taskforce in discussing the escalating issues in certain countries, the impact and progress of vaccination programmes, as well as the effects of the virus on mountain related sports.

In March, the UIAA's accredited laboratory for testing safety standards – Jiangsu Zhongzheng Testing Co., Ltd – made the kind gesture of providing 10,000 PPE facemasks for distribution by the UIAA. Through its Medical Commission, where a number of delegates have worked on the frontline during the pandemic, the UIAA identified areas where the donation would make a [significant and positive impact](#).

Challenges

Providing advice to a global community of outdoor enthusiasts is difficult, given the different situations around the world. For MedCom's recommendation papers, it remains a challenge to bridge the gap between physicians/experts and the general public in terms of sound advice and recommendations.

Online Meetings

In 2020 MedCom met in dedicated working groups, such as the Women's Health group, rather than as a whole commission. This allowed for specific and targeted discussions around topics.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

MedCom provides a range of services for both UIAA members and the wider mountaineering community. Its high-altitude advice papers are internationally respected and the fruits of years of research compiled by Commission representatives from UIAA member associations worldwide.

Translated into 13 languages they are a valuable resource which can be shared through member

31

Medical & high-altitude advice papers

13

Different languages

150

High-altitude papers in total



©UIAA/Monica Dalmasso

association communication channels. This expertise provides a broad range of mountain users – gap year travellers, novice climbers, experienced mountaineers and those with specific medical considerations – with potentially life-saving information. Furthermore, the UIAA International Diploma in Mountain Medicine helps improve knowledge and increase expertise amongst medical practitioners across the world. UIAA members are reminded to reach out to UIAA MedCom with requests or topics they wish to be covered.

PROJECTS

- International Diploma of Mountain Medicine
- As part of the International Diploma Administrative Group, three of the UIAA MedCom members work with ICAR (International Commission for Alpine Rescue) MedCom and the International Society of Mountain Medicine (ISMM) to administer the international UIAA/ ICAR/ISMM Diploma of Mountain Medicine.
- Library of recommendations
- Continuous updating of recommendation and advice papers
- Translation of papers still in progress
- Educative video(s) on expedition related topics in progress.

EVENTS ATTENDED IN 2020

Urs Hefti attended the four virtual between Commission Presidents and the Executive Board, following each of the 2020 online meetings of the UIAA Management Committee. During the UIAA General Assembly,

Hefti joined a moderated panel discussion, designed both to provide members with

information on UIAA activities, to share best practices and to debate some of the topical mountaineering questions of the day. Hefti and MedCom colleague Buddha Basnyat attended all CCC Taskforce meetings contributing through their experiences in Switzerland and Nepal respectively. Their advice on outdoor activities throughout the pandemic and the prospects of holding in-person meetings was incredibly valuable and sought-after.



©UIAA/Jason Williams

2021 THE YEAR AHEAD - PRIORITIES

Three larger MedCom project groups were formed in mid-2020 to tackle important topics. The first of which will work towards producing an [informative video on water treatment methods](#) when in the mountains or on an expedition. In collaboration with a professional creative team, content and style have been defined. The video will be available to UIAA members and on the UIAA website in late March.

A second working group, led by female members of the commission together with external experts, is focusing on the revision of two particular papers, namely Vol.12 Women Going to Altitude and Vol.14 Contraception at Altitude.

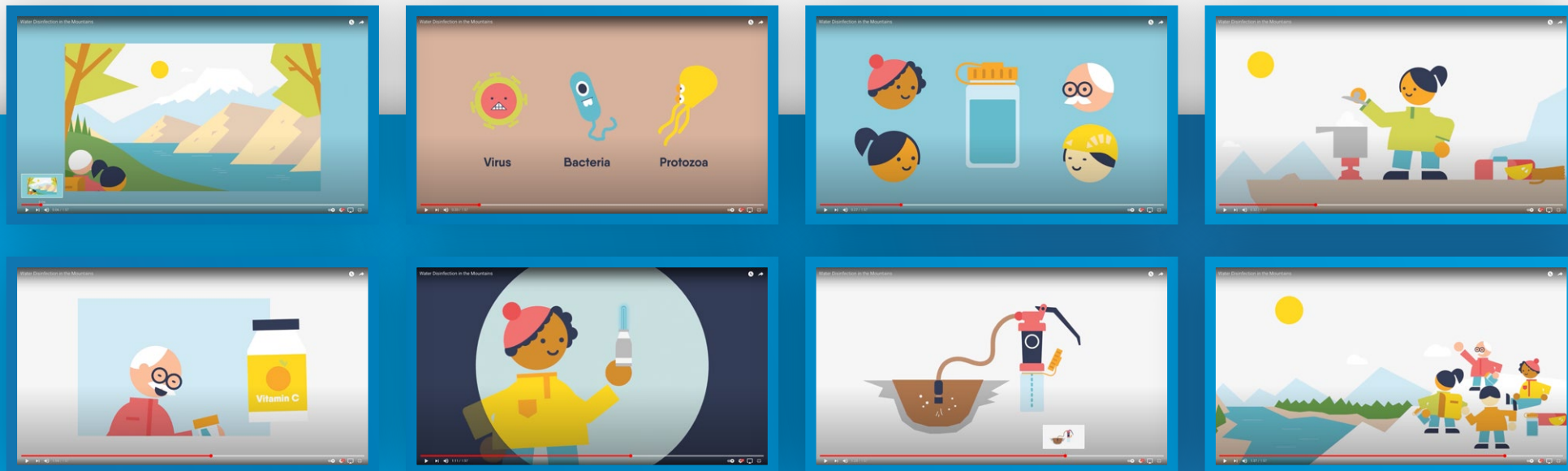
MedCom's third working group has its eyes on organising a training course alongside the 2022 annual meeting in South Africa. While the aim is to educate local and national doctors in (high) altitude medicine, expanding MedCom's reach to Africa supports the UIAA's overall strategic goal of increasing membership on the African continent, serving its members particularly through training instructions and assistance in areas of need.

Furthermore, MedCom continues to update and translate its existing recommendation papers.

While the Commission has a close contact with the UIAA Office, it is of great importance that the UIAA supports MedCom more closely. In that regard, it is looking forward to discussing work and strategic priorities with the Executive Board working group overseeing commissions.



©Grajales Expeditions



UIAA MEDICAL COMMISSION VIDEO SERIES

From early 2021 the UIAA MedCom will launch a series of short videos to promote advice provided in its high-altitude papers.

To support the production of future videos, a dedicated donation area has been made available.



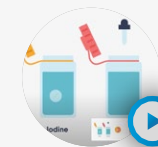
<https://www.theuiaa.org/donate>

Videos of Interest



Promo: UIAA Mountain Medicine Advice Papers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzmU0cQ8psA>



Water Disinfection in the Mountains

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX06NpIMxQ&t=13s>



Report by

Urs Hefti

Medical Commission President

As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee - October 2020

MEMBERS

Urs HEFTI, Switzerland (SAC), President

Thomas KUEPPER, Germany (DAV),
Vice President

Erhan ALEMDAR, Turkey (TDF)

AliReza BEHPOUR, Iran (IMSCF)

Pierre BOUZAT, France (FFCAM)

Sundee DILLON, UK (BMC)

Anil GURTOO, India (IMF)

David HILLEBRANDT, UK (BMC)

Johan HOLMGREN, Sweden (SKF)

Alzamani IDROSE, Malaysia (NAA)

Norihiro KAMIKOMAKI, Japan (JMCA)

Kaste MATEIKAITE, Lithuania (LMA)

John MCCALL, Canada (ACC)

Patrick PETERS, Luxembourg (FLERA)

George RODWAY, USA (AAC)

Giulio Sergio ROI, Italy (ISF)

Sonam Zangbu SHERPA, Nepal (NMA)

Rianne VAN DE SPEK, Netherlands (NKBV)

Marieke VAN VESSEM, Netherlands (NKBV)

Eduardo Garrigos VINHAES, Brazil (CBME)

Emma Linnea WICHARDT, Norway (NTK)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Giancelso AGAZZI, Italy

Marija ANDJELKOVIC, Serbia,
(UIAA Anti-Doping Commission)

Corrado ANGELINI, Italy

Buddha BASNYAT, Nepal (HRA)

Hermann BRUGGER, ISMM

Nenad DIKIC, Serbia,
(UIAA Anti-Doping Commission)

Tomaz GOZLER, Slovenia (PZS)

Matthias HILTY, Switzerland

Lenka HORAKOVA, Czech Republic (CMF)

Dominique JEAN, France (ISMM)

Alexandra KOUKOUTSI, Greece

Hidenori KANAZAWA, Japan (DiMM Japan)

Shigeru MASUYAMA, Japan (JMCA)

Heleen MEIJER, Netherlands (NKBV)

Audry MORRISON, UK (BMC)

Peter PAAL, Austria (OGAHM)

Miguel REIS E SILVA, Portugal (FCMP)

Alison ROSIER, Australia/Switzerland

Ivan ROTMAN, Czech Republic (CMF)

Steve ROY, Canada (FQME)

Jalaladdin SHAHBAZI, Iran

Volker SCHOEFFL, Germany (DAV)

Daniel TREVENA, Australia (NZAC)

Eckart VON DELFT, South Africa (MCSA)



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Mountaineering

MountCom is one of the largest Commissions within the UIAA, and houses the Training Panel, the Legal Experts Working Group and, more recently the Access Working Group, formerly an independent Commission. Most of the Commission activities are now carried out within these three groups.

At its 2019 Spring meeting held in Novi Sad, Serbia, Commission members expressed their intention to run some projects. The following projects options were identified for 2020:

- **Mountain Huts directory.** Based on the Alpine Club of Canada's online directory and booking system for its mountain huts, the Commission plans to investigate the option of making this available globally.
- **ISO 21101 certification** for federations and huts.
- **Instagram feed** showcasing best practices.
- Finalisation of the **Accident statistics project**, presentation of results.
- The Commission is also working on a 'facelift' of some of the **UIAA's historical declarations** including the [Tyrol Declaration](#). The idea is to adapt some of these ethics-based declarations to the realities of the present day.

Several factors necessitated the re-thinking of the activities of the Commission, such as the budget assigned for 2020, the integration of the former Access Commission as a Working Group and, as it became clear in March 2020, the Covid-19

pandemic. Indeed, the Commission decided to postpone or cancel projects whose implementation would have required physical participation and shifted its focus to those more suitable for online work.

Commission Meetings

The last in-person Commission meeting was held on 5-6 September 2019 in Hong Kong. The meeting planned for April 2020 in Calgary, Canada became an online session. The nature of most activities/projects of the Commission are such that they can be conducted online only to some extent. Therefore, in the online meeting the Commission decided that:

- The Mountain Huts directory project shall be postponed, possibly cancelled.
- Only one new project will start, called "Importance of New Routes & Style". This could eventually lead to a possible update of the Tyrol Declaration/Mountain Code with the involvement of world-class mountaineers and climbers.
- A huge amount of data and information has been collected in the accident statistic project. This shall be analysed and put into a presentable form in the first half of 2021.

TRAINING PANEL

Mission Statement

Access for mountain lovers throughout the world to safe and inspiring leadership and instruction; increasing safety, enjoyment and fulfilment in the world's wildest places. The Training Panel (TP) supports this by helping federations to empower their trainers and leaders.



©Steve Long

Executive Summary of 2020

Due to Covid-19, following the early training project in Maharashtra, India all other physical meetings and projects were cancelled. The main development work has been on the database and the new edition of the Alpine Summer Skills Handbook.

Work is still ongoing but has been completed and tested for one award category - summer walking - so the main work remaining is replication. The system will be launched early in 2021.

Several new requests for accreditation have been received and are ongoing.

Support for UIAA Members

- 1) **Accreditation of Leadership and Instructional qualifications.** UIAA accreditation demonstrates that a qualification is fit for purpose within its stated scope and regional remit. A vigorous induction and inspection process ensures that the programme meets or exceeds an agreed standard. Current accreditations are shown online on a [world map](#).
- 2) **Personal Skills (Good Practice) Training.** All other services and resources are secondary to this concept, which the TP believes will revolutionise training worldwide. In some ways this scheme can be likened to the PADI scheme for diving, except that the UIAA scheme empowers member organisations and enhances rather than competes with existing training programmes. The TP has successfully piloted courses using the syllabus and structure in several countries - including some countries that do not yet have any club or federation structure but do have a growing interest in mountain activities. This is a service that only instructors holding UIAA accredited qualifications can deliver. Piloted in Ladakh, Mongolia, Indonesia, Kenya, Maharashtra/India. CHKMCU (Hong Kong) has announced that it intends to use this licensing concept for all its Mountain Skills 1 and 2 courses, with other activities to follow suit pending accreditation. The UK has indicated an intention to join the UIAA scheme for its rock skills training programme. It is also available for delivery by IFMGA (International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations) and UIMLA (Union of International Mountain Leader Associations) members with suitable pedagogic experience/qualification - a short online induction is proposed in addition to seminars. Member organisations can choose whether to demand membership as a requirement for certification.
- 3) **UIAA Summer Skills Alpine Handbook.** A second edition of the French edition has been produced and the English language versions awaits new foreword sections for print. This includes a new section on avalanches, and substantial additions to the

sections on GPS, and trad climbing (at the request of Reinhold Messner and the late Doug Scott). The weather section had been completely re-written by mountain meteorologists. A completely new volume on canyoning is almost complete. The Handbook development has been sponsored by The Petzl Foundation. A full report on its progress can be found in the [digital magazine](#) published for the 2020 UIAA General Assembly.

- 4) **Approval of online videos.** The Training Panel works in partnership with the Safety Commission to ensure that UIAA-approved videos provide reliable and up-to-date learning materials for individuals and trainers.

Projects

The leadership training project in Maharashtra (Sahyadri) was timed to link up with the AGM of the Himalayan Club, allowing for subsequent meetings with the president of both this club and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. Twenty-six students completed the course, all regular hiking leaders. As usual the trainers comprised an international team. The course focused on trek leadership but included some rescue skills and awareness training in other adventurous mountain activities.

The ongoing projects in Ladakh, Mongolia, Kenya are all postponed but their funding remains in place.

Partnerships

- Regular dialogue and exchange with Safety Commission, also with Mountain Protection and Youth Commissions.
- The leadership training project in Maharashtra was sponsored by Allied Safety, a company based in Mumbai.

- The Petzl Foundation has continued to support development of the Alpine Summer Skills Handbook, however sponsorship for field projects has been postponed.
- Meetings were held with an Indian national skills training charity to use the UIAA skills training certification, however the Covid-19 pandemic has curtailed this potential development.
- Discussions are underway with Vertical-Life about developing a global system for crag cleaning and re-equipping.
- Red Wolf remains poised to begin marketing/PR work once the database goes live.

2021 The Year Ahead

- Introduction of a logo for Training Accreditation and certified skills training to avoid confusion over UIAA membership branding on cards and certificates.
- Ongoing projects in Ladakh, Mongolia, Kenya. Hopefully also Maharashtra + expansion to neighbouring state(s) subject to post-Covid 19 finances.
- Revalidation of existing accreditations
- Marketing drive for federation accreditations and individual climber registrations
- Publishing the second edition of English language Summer Handbook, with worldwide distribution centres.
- Implementation of Personal Skills/good practice training delivery by member organisations' instructors.
- Development of more online training videos and other resources.
- Seminar and new training project in Saudi Arabia when international flights re-open.

ACCESS WORKING GROUP

The mission of the UIAA Access Working Group is to promote the idea of responsible free access to mountains environments to mountain users worldwide.

The UIAA Access Working Group is also reactive to requests for action and assistance by UIAA member federations, especially to requests by new member federations.

Executive Summary of 2019-2020

- Support for 2019 X Anniversary of PanAm Access, the organisation that defends free access to climbing and mountaineering areas in South America supporting local communities. Activities currently focused in:
 - Argentina (climbing area of Arenales)
 - Brazil, project to support climbing in the area of Rio
 - Chile, legislative proposal to support mountaineering and climbing
- Argentina

A law to promote mountaineering passed the first step, it has been approval by the Chamber of Deputies. The project is waiting for approval in the National Senate to be implemented. Provincial Laws were created in three mountain provinces:

- San Luis (approved)
- Catamarca (approved)
- Salta, submitted

The proposed Argentine law to promote mountaineering is a very good example of

supporting climbing and mountaineering at a national level

- [Tatra National Park](#), Slovakia, the proposed regulation was stopped after motions supported by the UIAA.

Annual Commission Meeting

The Access WG had its 33rd annual meeting by video conference at the end of May.

The WG looked at:

- Restrictions for mountaineering in the time of Covid-19
- Key actions for Access WG:
 - Knowledge transfer (from large and experienced member federations to others in need and having less capacity to tackle access issue)
 - To provide extensive access regulation information: different ranges, different regulations, different actions developed.
 - To defend the interest of responsible access strongly as request of federation members (knowledge transfer, concrete information about similar problems, web and public support).

Support for UIAA Members

The Access WG members are experts in managing information about restrictions imposed on mountaineering activities, whether governmental, environmental or due to land ownership disputes. This knowledge can be used by all members to help resolve restriction issues in their territories. Please contact the UIAA Access WG should you wish to harness the UIAA network to raise awareness about issues in your regions.



Tatra Mountains
©Stock Library



©Remy Duding

Purchase: Alpine Handbook

To purchase the English language digital version of the **UIAA Alpine Skills Handbook** (including a free update to the forthcoming 3rd edition), click [here](#).



Please note that the “**LEGAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP**” on page **35** also forms part of the Mountaineering Commission.



Reports by

Peter Farkas

Mountaineering
Commission President

Steve Long

Training Panel President

Juan Jesús Ibáñez Martín

Access Working Group President

As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee - October 2020

Membership

Peter FARKAS, Hungary (MHSSz), President

Pavlos GEORGIADIS, Cyprus (CMCF), Vice President

Mike GALBRAITH, Canada (ACC), Secretary

Andreas ANDREOU, Cyprus (CMCF)

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Seyed Mahmoud MIRNOURI LANGEROUDI, Iran (IMSCF)

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Access Working Group

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Hank HWANG, Chinese Taipei (CTMA)

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Hitoshi ONODERA, Japan (JMSEA)

Boyan PETROV, Bulgaria (BCMF)

Joao Paulo QUEIROZ, Portugal (FCMP)

Richard SHERRY, South Africa (MCSA)

Expeditions

Mahmood HASHEMI, Iran (IMSCF)

Ulrike KIEFER, South Africa (MCSA)

Training Panel

Steve LONG, United Kingdom (BMC), President

Andreas ANDREOU, Cyprus (CMCF)

Ron FUNDERBURKE, USA (AAC)

Patrick LAMARQUE, France (FFCAM)

Jordi MAGRINA GUELL, Spain (FEED)

Matjas SERKEZI, Slovenia (PZS)

Ice Climbing

MISSION STATEMENT

- Create a fun and fair, sustainable and spectacular annual UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour with a focus on the athletes, fans and organisers - developing each event, every season.
- Build a financial structure that creates a sustainable future for the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, as well as allowing the financing of the development of the sport following the UIAA's Strategic Plan.
- Develop the sport of ice climbing in the areas of youth inclusion, gender equality and accessibility to bridge the gap between the mountains and urban environments across the winter sporting nations of the world.

2019-2020 UIAA ICE CLIMBING WORLD TOUR & COMMISSION REVIEW

Due to some late changes to the event calendar, the 2019-2020 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour was a little shorter than originally forecast. The one positive aspect of this is that the season was completed before the widespread outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Details on the events held are provided over the coming pages.

One of the major new innovations and improvements during the past season was the development of a more sophisticated online results system in [partnership with Vertical-Life](#).

The UIAA Ice Climbing Commission held an online meeting shortly after the completion of the season, reviewing recent progress and defining its roadmap ahead.

2019-2020 season

The Commission held a review of the positives (high quality of competitions, improvements on previous seasons) and negatives (too few competitions, issues with cancelled events) of the 2019-2020 season which witnessed three UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup events, a UIAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships and a number of continental competitions.

General

- The future direction of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour was discussed in view of its continued development and the ambition for the sport of competition ice climbing to one day become part of the Olympic Winter Games competition programme. A working group will be created to take these developments further.
- Through its Anti-Doping Commission, the UIAA is working closely on compliance with new WADA regulations coming into force in 2021.
- The Commission agreed to hold more frequent online meetings to facilitate communication and improve the speed of decision making.
- New sub-Commissions and Commission Corresponding Members were agreed. The Athlete Sub Commission (currently two athletes) will be expanded.
- A new booking system for pre-season ice climbing training camps will be launched.
- A Working Group to further improve the speed discipline of the sport will be set-up focussing on the development of more reliable timing equipment and better coverage through the UIAA livestream.

2020-2021 season

- Plans for the 2020-2021 season have to take into account the ever changing situation with Covid-19. The Commission released its first 2020-21 calendar in the summer, before confirming a shorter programme towards the end of the year. The [final decision](#) was that no UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour would be held with the UIAA instead supporting continental level and regional competitions. When publishing the final calendar the Commission also provided details on the Covid-19 protocols for all of its events.
- Sustainability was a key topic: UIAA Event Organisers will in the future need to adhere to new guidelines to ensure competitions meant more stringent sustainability criteria.
- The list of Officials for then 2020/2021 season was agreed.
- An increase in competition prize money was agreed.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

The UIAA Ice Climbing Commission has plans to reach out to UIAA member federations in the future as part of its new strategy to offer further support not only to countries where ice climbing is well established but also to help federations in developing competitive ice climbing. The Commission is currently working with members in Spain and Catalunya in this regard. The Commission would also like to widen its resources and skillsets by sourcing support from member federations in order to allow for motivated individuals to get more involved with the Commission and push forward its development targets for the future of the sport.

THE FUTURE

- The target is to stage five to six UIAA Ice Climbing World Cups plus a UIAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships every year, with the senior World Championship every other year, alongside a full calendar of Continental Cups.
- There is also a focus on developing Continental Cups in Asia and North America and the established European Cups encouraged to develop youth events to be run in conjunction with the existing events.
- Further develop training camps and youth events to get both of these established on all three continents on an annual basis, with youth events being run in conjunction with the senior Continental Cups.
- Further collaboration with ice festivals and urban events will continue in development.
- Increase the use of ice on lead structures in order to conform to the Winter Olympic

Charter and increase the sport's eligibility. A return to the icier structures of World Cups in the past, while retaining the technical difficulty developed in recent modern route setting is the target.

- Continued development of the registration, results and regulation and livestream production systems will increase efficiency, professionalism and the look and feel of all events for all stakeholders and maximise athlete and spectator enjoyment.
- Continue to grow the worldwide reach of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour with increase in online viewership and the introduction of global TV distribution through many national television networks.
- Continue to aim for multiple minor improvements at every event on the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour to add up to the perception of major gains - all led via feedback from athletes and fans through surveys and market research.

ICE CLIMBING WORLD CUP - OVERALL CHAMPIONS

LEAD



MARIA TOLOKONINA
(RUSSIA)



LOUNA LADEVANT
(FRANCE)



MARIA TOLOKONINA
(RUSSIA)



ANTON NEMOV
(RUSSIA)

SPEED





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Graham Zimmerman | 2020 Piolet d'Or Recipient
Outdoor Research Ambassador
Ouray, CO



2019/20 UIAA ICE CLIMBING SEASON STATISTICS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2019/20 UIAA ICE CLIMBING WORLD TOUR CALENDAR & SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

2020 UIAA ICE CLIMBING WORLD CUPS

CHANGCHUN CITY, CHINA	3-5 January	Lead & Speed
CHEONGSONG, SOUTH KOREA	10-12 January	Lead & Speed
SAAS-FEE, SWITZERLAND	23-25 January	Lead & Speed

2020 UIAA ICE CLIMBING WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

KIROV, RUSSIA	6-8 March	Lead & Speed
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2019/20 UIAA ICE CLIMBING CONTINENTAL CUPS

BERN, SWITZERLAND	23 November 2019	Lead
BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC	30 November 2019	Lead
ZILINA, SLOVAKIA	7 December 2019	Lead
TEHRAN, IRAN	8 February 2020	Lead & Speed
OULU, FINLAND	29 February 2020	Lead

Livestreaming & Video Stats

EVENT	TOTAL LIVESTREAM & TOP THREE CLIP VIEWS	TOTAL IMPRESSIONS*
CHANGCHUN CITY	130,409	356,000
CHEONGSONG	223,417	717,000
SAAS-FEE	244,961	864,000
KIROV	36,997	102,000
BERN & OULU	46,178	52,100
TOTAL	681,962	1,770,700



Youtube

- 466,300 unique views up by 45% on 2019
- 7,953 subscribers up by 1,600 from 2019
- Watch time – 45.6k hours
- Impressions – 4.6 million
- Average watch time – 5.52 minutes
- Top audience – USA, Germany, France, Canada, UK
- 86% views from non-subscribers
- 24-34 years largest demographic
- Top viewed playlist: Saas-Fee



Facebook

- 3,000 new followers gained (from 38,000 to 41,000)
- Reach for season posts 2.45 million (including non video content)
- 524,000 total video views
- 194.5k minutes viewed



Instagram

- 5,363 followers as of the end of March
- 22,000 views of all content
- Followers increased by 100% on from the end of last season.



Twitter

- 121,365 impressions on UIAA Tweets about World Cup Tour



Flickr

- 1,953 photos posted
- Combined photo views 565,000

UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour

LIVESTREAM & TELEVISION

All World Cup semi-finals and finals in both lead and speed were livestreamed on the UIAA Facebook and YouTube, with new graphics and improved on-screen information, by a single production company which permitted the production of many features and interviews.

New for 2020 the UIAA worked with UK based media company Boulder Creek to negotiate license agreements with global TV networks for both live and highlights of all the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cups. This season's 52-minute highlight shows were produced for all World Cups.

The entire archive of UIAA livestreams

and ice climbing features can be

viewed on the **UIAA YouTube channel**



[uiaamountainschannel](#)



Report by

Carlos Teixeira

President, UIAA Ice Climbing Commission

Rob Adie

UIAA Sports Events Coordinator

iceclimbing@theuiaa.org

As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee - October 2020

Full Members

Carlos TEIXEIRA, Portugal (FCMP), President

Pavel SHABALIN, Russia (RMF), Vice President

David DORNIAN, Canada (AAC)

Mohammad Amin HAVALEHDAR NEJAD, Iran (IMSCF)

Byeong GOO KIM, Korea (KAF)

Nadezhda LAUNITS, Russia (RMF)

Alex PAUN, Romania (CAR)

Ziga STER, Slovenia (PZS)

Luc THIBAL, France (FFCAM)

Corresponding Members

Nejat AKINCI, Turkey (TDF)

Benjamin GIGER, Liechtenstein (LAV)

Min GYUHYOUNG, Korea (KAF)

Shu LI, China (CMA)

Andrej PECJAK, Slovenia (PZS)

Kestutis SKRUPSKELIS, Lithuania (LMA)

Masoud ZEYNALI, Iran (IMSCF)

Athletes

Nikolay PRIMEROV, Russia (RMF)

Kendra STRITCH, United States (AAC)

Anti-Doping

The UIAA promotes Clean Climbing by adopting and implementing the World Anti-Doping Code. The UIAA Anti-Doping Commission (ADC) manages the federation's anti-doping programme, including in-competition and out-of-competition testing and results management process. In parallel, the UIAA is responsible for ensuring that all of its member associations and athletes respect and comply with all relevant International Standards and all the principles inherent to the World Anti-Doping Code, including education for successful prevention doping in sport. UIAA contributes to advancing a clean sport through scientific research and outreach initiatives under the name of Clean Climbing.

SUMMARY OF 2020

ACHIEVEMENTS

Doping controls

Anti-doping statistics for the calendar year 2020 did not change significantly from the previous report because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sport and doping controls were postponed due to Covid, and the only possible activity was out-of-competition controls for athletes in the registered testing pool.



©UIAA/ Kaspar Kellerhals

Education

The UIAA is one of few international federations who make it mandatory for athletes to pass an anti-doping test as part of their competition registration. The online anti-doping online education was created by Commission members - Dr Nenad Dikic (former President) and Dr Marija Andjelkovic (current President). More than 200 athletes passed the test in 2020.

ADAMS database

All UIAA doping control forms/tests are entered into ADAMS (world database of all WADA athletes). This action is essential for recognition by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) and IOC.

Annual Commission Meeting

The annual meeting was scheduled to be held as part of the WADA session in Lausanne in March but was cancelled due to Covid-19. The ADC has held regular online meetings in its place.

WADA Code Compliance

The new WADA Anti-doping Code will be effective from 1 January 2021. The ADC dedicated several months to adopting and coordinating

UIAA anti-doping regulation to WADA requirements. It took several online meetings with the WADA team to clarify the new changes and how they could be best implemented for the UIAA. This process was very thorough and involved a lot of resources and time. The UIAA Anti-Doping Commission is proud to announce that UIAA will be one of the first international federations to become Code compliant.

2021: THE YEAR AHEAD

Doping Controls

Owing to Covid-19, nothing is easy to plan. In-competition doping controls will be conducted if there is competition. In light of this and in the future, WADA will request more out of competition doping controls. The UIAA has two athletes in Switzerland who are part of the test pool for out of competition monitoring. These controls are conducted by the Swiss Anti-Doping authority.

2020	URINE TOTAL	IN-COMPETITION URINE SAMPLES	OUT-OF- COMPETITION URINE SAMPLES
Ice Climbing	16	13	3
Skyrunning	0	0	0
Total	16	13	3

Table: Doping controls in 2020 under UIAA as a testing authority

Participation of Russian athletes

The Commission has kept abreast of the situation concerning Russian athletes. WADA declared the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) as *non-compliant with its code* last December. However, Russia's ban for state-sponsored doping offences was subsequently halved. Russian athletes will be able to compete as neutrals in international competition - either as individuals and in national teams - so long as they are not banned for doping offences.



Report by

Dr. Marija Andjelkovic

President UIAA Anti-Doping Commission

As confirmed by the Management Committee (October 2020)

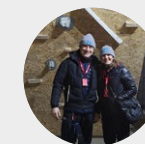
Members

Marija ANDJELKOVIC (President), Serbia (PSS)

Nenad DIKIC, Serbia (ISF)

Borja Osés GARCIA, Spain (EMF)

Further Reading



Anti-Doping/ Clean Climbing
www.theuiaa.org/anti-doping

Youth

MISSION STATEMENT

The Youth Commission (YC) provides safe and exciting opportunities for young people to experience the mountains. The Commission encourages not only an individual's technical development in a given discipline but also an appreciation for the environmental, cultural and ethical aspects of the areas the UIAA is engaged in. Young people are the future guardians of our wild spaces and it is our mission to teach respect for, and understanding of, these places. UIAA Youth Commission events therefore have not only a technical focus but also an environmental and cultural emphasis.

GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT (GYS)

The UIAA Youth commission coordinates international youth events under the UIAA Global Youth Summit series. As such it is the body responsible for:

- Receiving applications from UIAA member federations or other approved bodies to organise international youth events.
- Approving applications deemed to be in the interest of youth development, within the UIAA's Strategic Plan and being organisationally and financially viable.

- Advising on best practices, technical and other aspects of the events.

All UIAA approved youth events are organised and undertaken in strict accordance with the regulations and rules governing such events.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2020

The full programme of UIAA Youth Events was massively stunted this year by Covid-19. One ice climbing youth climbing camp did take place in February in [Guillestre, France](#) with over 70 young participants learning the core skills of ice climbing. Due to Covid-19 no further international youth events are planned for the foreseeable future. The Commission hopes to support and report on national level events in the coming months.

ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission met in person in March in Cyprus before the global lockdown. At the spring UIAA Management Committee meeting, Pavlos Georgiades succeeded Mark Dennison as Commission President.

One of the main objectives discussed was the goal of creating greater synergy between the YC and the UIAA Training Panel and other Commissions. The YC plans to develop personal performance standards and certification for youngsters attending events.

More stringent guidelines will be set for the organisation of events whether run by UIAA members or the Commission itself. A greater focus will be placed on the consistency of events, on teaching material and providing a revenue stream to help fund future youth camps and training courses.

All future UIAA Youth events will be organised with the following criteria:

- A two-tier system will be adopted for all events.
- Events will continue to be categorised as local (bottom of the pyramid), national and international (top of the pyramid)
- Event organisers (UIAA member associations or organisations endorsed by UIAA member associations) must apply by two set deadlines – February for 'summer' events: September for 'winter' events
- Events are currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, member associations can express their interest by registering future events via the dedicated [online form](#). Potential applicants are invited to first read the guidelines (available on request).
- Recognised events will be published on the official [UIAA calendar](#).

Tier A

- Events organised by UIAA member associations, as per the current model.
- UIAA personal performance certifications to be granted to all participants (of personal competence, not leadership).
- A delegate from a minimum of one UIAA Commission (or other UIAA body) to attend the event and support teaching (all expenses inc. teaching fee paid by the organiser).
- Events must comply with the basic principles as detailed in the Youth Commission Guidelines for planning and holding an event.
- Additional support will be provided by the commission to the federation organising the event.

- The organiser must be appointed by the national federation (who in turn is a member association of the UIAA).
- Participation fee of €10.00 must be paid to the UIAA by all course attendees.

Tier B

Events organised by the UIAA Youth Commission.

- Events organised in collaboration by the UIAA Youth Commission and national federations .
- The YC will design a selection of events (national or international) and promote these to all federations to host.
- The registrations for each event will be made through the dedicated UIAA online form or through the hosting national federation.
- UIAA YC and national federation will be responsible for marketing and promoting the event.
- The hosting federation and the YC will take a percentage from the profit of the event.
- UIAA personal certifications to be granted for all participants (of personal competence NOT leadership).

WORK WITH OTHER COMMISSIONS

The eventual implementation of the two-tier approach will give the YC the opportunity to increase the number of UIAA youth camps around the world. The Commission members will be contacting several federations who have never organised a UIAA youth camp to encourage collaboration. The YC will work with federations who have been certified by the UIAA Training Panel so their instructors can provide guidance at UIAA youth camps.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

As described above the YC is extending its reach to work with several new federations in the near future to support them to give them the skills and information to organise their first youth camps, and hopefully this will pave the way to allow further integration with other federations in the future to really expand the number and global development of UIAA Youth camps.

2021 THE YEAR AHEAD

Once the Covid-19 situation improves globally the main focus of the YC will be to restart its camps/event programmes. This will be achieved with the help of member federations and by reinvigorating the global youth calendar using the new tier system described in this report with more new and exciting events around the world offering great opportunities for young outdoor enthusiasts.

Report by



Pavlos GEORGIADIS

Youth Commission President

Youth Commission Membership

As confirmed by the Management Committee – October 2020

Full Members

Pavlos GEORGIADIS,
Cyprus (CMCOF), President

Dainius BABILAS, Lithuania (LMA)

Barbara BAJCER, Slovenia (PZS)

Christian BIARD, France (FFCAM)

Bhaskar DAS, India (IMF)

Magdalena JANCIKOVA,
Czech Republic (CMF)

Niki KAROULLA, Cyprus (CMCOF)

Alexander KLENOV, Russia (RMF)

Neda MILOSEVIC, Serbia (PSS)

Mrika NIKCI, Kosovo (KMAF)

Batsaikhan OCHIRBAT,
Mongolia (MNCF)

Tiberiu PINTILLE, Romania (CAR)

Mahmud AL RUBIYEATT,
Bangladesh (BMF)

Vladimir TRPOVSKI,
North Macedonia (FPSM)

Corresponding Members

Edgardo ABREU, Brazil (CBME)

Zurab KUTCHAVA, Georgia (MCAG)

Jordi MAGRINA GUELL, Spain (FEEC)

Jenny PATERSON, South Africa (MCSA)

Quick Links

[UIAA Youth Commission](#)



*iancorless.com / ISF

International Skyrunning Federation

The ISF is the governing authority of skyrunning – mountain running above 2,000m over extremely technical trails. Three disciplines define the sport and they are not just based on distance but also on vertical climb and technical difficulty: Sky, SkyUltra and Vertical. The ISF has been a Unit Member of the UIAA since the General Assembly in 2015.

ISF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2019, ISF activity was consistent with previous years, but 2020 was an all-round disaster: Covid-19 took its toll and prohibited many sport activities. All ISF events were cancelled by their organisers.

The second part of this report includes the main points discussed in the new ISF Strategic Plan prepared together with the Management Committee.

2019 REPORT REMINDERS

ISF EVENTS

The 2019 Continental Championships were a good opportunity to involve new areas like South America (Brazil) and North America (Colorado). In Europe participation in the three disciplines

was excellent, while the Asian championships, scheduled for December 2019, were first postponed due to riots in Hong Kong and then cancelled due to the pandemic.

ANTIDOPING TESTS

In 2019 testing was increased to meet the new minimums imposed by WADA in cooperation with the UIAA medical delegate. In the last period of the year, in addition to the tests conducted at the European Championships, urine-blood tests were carried out at the final SWS competition. All antidoping tests in 2019 were negative.

2019 ISF CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL

In order to identify and differentiate skyrunning from other sports like trail running and mountain running, both currently under World Athletics, the Certified Course Label project was developed and launched in 2019. It is designed to identify skyrunning courses, link them to the International Skyrunning Federation and to create revenue.

In 2019, the first step was the certification of 50 races of which the ISF already had the technical data, but the objective was to apply the certification globally, with the priority to the more technical routes and in 2020 the project was expanded.

2020 - ISF CURRENT SITUATION

The current situation is complex due to the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in almost the entire sporting season being cancelled: more than 80% of the events including both ISF Skyrunning Youth and World Championships were cancelled or postponed to 2021.

2020 ISF EVENTS

Youth Skyrunning World Championships

After the great success of the 4th edition, the 2020 Youth Skyrunning World Championships were cancelled and rescheduled for the same venue in August 2021 in Italy in the hope that by then the international situation will return to normal.

Skyrunning World Championships

The main event of 2020, the Skyrunning World Championships, is rescheduled at the same venue for July 2021 in Spain, open only to official teams selected by ISF Members. Hopefully the date and venue will remain as programmed and that teams from other continents can travel to Europe.

2020 Antidoping Tests

No tests were scheduled in 2020. The activities will start again in 2021 in collaboration with national federations, as already happened in Italy, Spain and Portugal.



*iancorless.com / ISF



*iancorless.com / ISF

2020 ISF CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL

The cancellation of many races in 2020 did not help the expansion of the project. Despite that, interest is still growing and in 2020 the Vertical Kilometers® were included. [Further details about the Certified Course Label.](#)

In the second year, close to 100 races were certified (or renewed), thanks to the introduction of new benefits like #MYSKYRACE.

#MYSKYRACE is a project offering skyrunners of all levels a unique preview of their own potential in a given race – in advance.

The personalised information based on biometrics helps to calculate a potential race time, to plan training and nutrition in safety.

2021-2023 ISF STRATEGIC PLAN - PROPOSAL, MAIN POINTS

Future ISF activities will be defined in a new Strategic Plan to be prepared together with the Management Committee. After the first year of

the pandemic, the ISF is focusing on its future to reshape its plans to better adapt to the current global situation. The new Strategic Plan addresses the following areas:

- 1) Sporting Plan - New Sport Vision after 2020
- 2) Skyrunning Events - Race Calendar & Format
- 3) ISF Budget - Business Situation & Plan
- 4) ISF Structure & Management to Support All Actions
- 5) ISF Head Office & MC Activities
- 6) Continental Councils, Commissions, Referees
- 7) Skyrunning Identity & GAISF
- 8) UIAA Position & IOC
- 9) ISF Members Position & Statutes
- 10) ISF Certified Course & Procedure
- 11) ISF License - Card & Global Ranking
- 12) Skyrunning Promotion & Member Activities



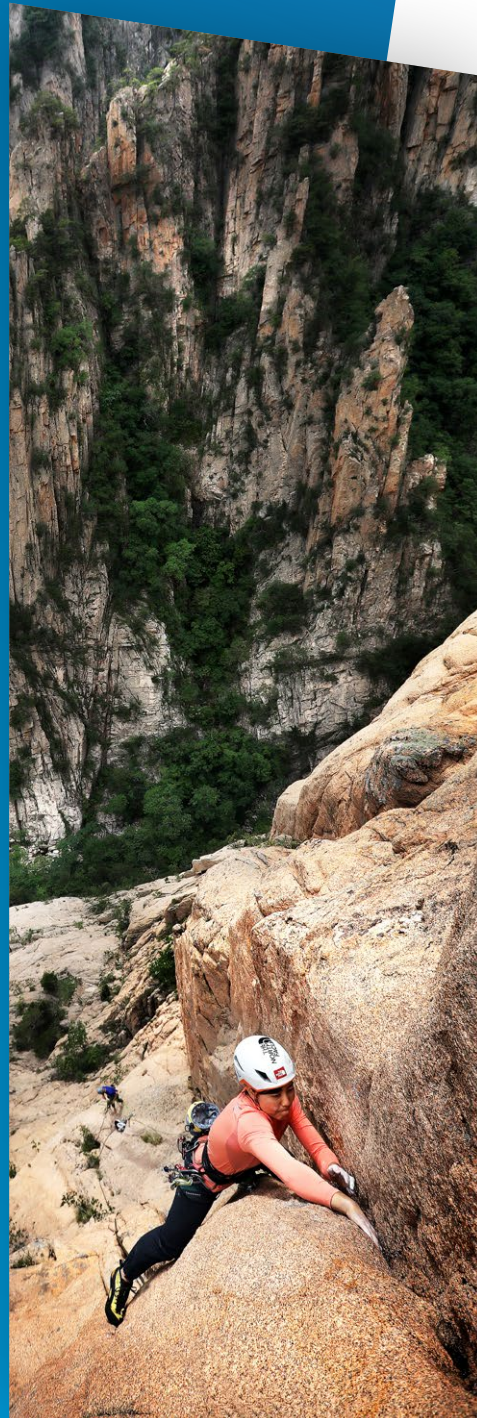
Report by

Marino Giacometti

ISF President

To discover more about the International Skyrunning Federation, please visit:

www.skyrunning.com



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UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award

OVERVIEW

In 2020 and owing to Covid-19 the panel decision was taken to postpone the UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award until 2021 in consultation with Stuart Gray, UIAA Management Committee Oceania representative.

2021 AWARD

Application for the 2020-2021 Award is open. For further details please click [here](#).

Applications are invited from:

- Australia and New Zealand, islands of the South Pacific, New Guinea, the regions of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.
- Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, East Timor, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The UIAA is underrepresented in these countries, despite there being some climbing/mountain-eering federations or clubs present and/or world class climbing areas such as in Thailand, Laos or Vietnam.

About The Award

Since 2015 the UIAA has organised the annual UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award. The Award is open to climbing festival organisers in



© Festival de Boulder de Mar del Plata (Argentina)

recognition for meeting the criteria of the UIAA Rock Climbing Working Group. Each year the focus of the Award switches to a different continent, to ensure the impact of the UIAA's commitment to rock climbing is truly global.

During the assessment process for the Award, festivals are reviewed, and a shortlist is drawn up of those which meet UIAA criteria and support the development of climbing in a particular region. It is an opportunity for the UIAA to lend support in the development of climbing and offer advice to organisers in terms of safety, sustainability and sport. It is also an opportunity to showcase diverse climbing styles and the points of the [UIAA Climbers' Manifesto](#).

As part of the application process, the following criteria applies:

- The festival is organised or approved by a national member federation of the UIAA. Development festival projects may also be recognised where there is no UIAA member federation present in the country.
- The festival is held in accordance with UIAA values.
- A contribution is made to sustainable

development of rock climbing in their country and/or continent.

- UIAA Safety label certified equipment must be used in any workshop held.
- Prominent climbers from that country or region must participate.
- The host events are published and promoted on the UIAA website at least two months in advance.

PAST WINNERS

2019 - [Suru Boulder Fest \(India\)](#)

2018 - [Festival de Boulder de Mar del Plata \(Argentina\)](#)

2017 - [International Climbers' Festival \(United States\)](#)

2016 - [Kalymnos Climbing Festival \(Greece\)](#)

The UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award team is looking for new recruits to support its work and future projects. Any rock climbing specialists working with UIAA member federations interested in supporting this global project are invited to contact Rob Adie, rob.adie@theuiaa.org



Report by

Anne Arran

UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award Panel

The UIAA's Continental Representatives undertake valuable work in representing the federations in their respective regions at a Management Committee level. The various continental bodies recognised by the UIAA serve as networks helping to address issues, projects and interests at a regional level. Together these reports offer an insight into the global state of the mountains. Each one of the Continental Reports addresses updates from individual members and common trends and talking points. *For each continent, and new for the 2020 Annual Report, a specific project from an individual member is spotlighted.*



©David Birri

Africa

As noted in the 2019 Annual Report, Africa is the smallest continental body in terms of membership but may be considered to have considerable potential to develop further as it holds almost 17% of the world's population and some of the most iconic mountains in the world are located on the continent.

MISSION FOR AFRICA

As a mission statement, it is considered valuable to look at the objectives of the Confederation of African Mountain Clubs ("CAMC"):

- Encourage, promote and develop the interests of mountaineers on the African continent and act as a forum for African mountaineers.
- Encourage and promote amongst African mountaineers the fullest regard for the mountain environment and wilderness values and to initiate and support actions towards protecting the natural beauty and wilderness character of mountains and to promote their effective conservation management.
- Organise and facilitate mountaineering on the African continent where appropriate.
- Procure and protect real rights in and access to mountains and mountain areas.
- Encourage and promote safety and good practice in all aspects of mountaineering and to provide or promote facilities for climbing and training and instruction.

- Promote the provision of search and rescue services.
- Promote the study of mountains and their environments and the dissemination of such knowledge.

It may be seen that these are entirely congruent with the aims of the UIAA.

EVENTS 2020

In common with the rest of the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has severely curtailed mountain activities in Africa. A particular casualty has been what has been developing into an annual event – a Pan-African meet in a different member country of the CAMC each year. It is hoped that this will resume in 2021.

PARTNERSHIPS

It is hoped that the CAMC will enjoy a strong collaboration with the UIAA. Currently, the membership structure of the UIAA is somewhat problematic for African mountain clubs and associations. Future developments may well resolve these difficulties.

The popularity of Africa's high mountains with climbers from other continents is marked and this will undoubtedly stimulate local climbers if there is good co-operation during such visits. Visiting climbers are strongly urged to contact local clubs when visiting the countries concerned.

FEATURED FEDERATION

Mountain Club Of South Africa

As the longest serving UIAA member on the African continent, the Mountain Club of South Africa has taken the lead in the CAMC and it is

hoped that this will bear fruit in the years to come. Currently the MCSA, with over 5,000 members is going from strength-to-strength and is extremely active within South Africa with 14 sections country-wide. A particular focus is the outreach programmes which are aimed at encouraging participation in mountain activities by disadvantaged youth. It is hoped that this will lead to a better understanding of the benefits of conservation and the concomitant improvement of conditions in the disadvantaged areas of the country. This is a long-term project but needs to succeed.



THE YEAR AHEAD - 2021

In common with the rest of the world, the hope is that the pandemic will be under control and that the development of mountaineering on the African continent can continue.

Report by

Greg Moseley

Mountain Club of South Africa,
UIAA Management Committee

Asia

The Union of Asian Alpine Associations (UAAA, founded in 1994) which leads mountaineering and climbing organisations in Asia, stands for friendship, development and promotion of responsible mountaineering activities & climbing for all in Asia.

The UAAA respects mountains, climbers and culture on a global scale aligning with the values of the UIAA as well as pledging to help promote reducing carbon emissions and the International Mountain Museum as a centre of mountain culture worldwide.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2020

The outbreak of Covid-19 suspended all the international activities of the Asian mountaineering community, including meetings, events, competitions, outdoor sports, joint expeditions and foreign exchange programmes. There was no practical progress on the plan which was put in place for in 2020. The new [website](#) of UAAA was launched at the beginning of 2020 and it has helped improve communication between members.

Annual Commission Meeting

Impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, all annual meetings including the Council meeting, planned to be held in Japan to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Japan Workers' Alpine Federation, and General Assembly meeting, scheduled to be hosted by the China Hong Kong Mountaineering and Climbing Union, were suspended. Online

meetings have been held between members and the annual activity report of the UAAA's members is posted on its website, www.theuaaa.org.



FEATURED FEDERATION

Chinese Mountaineering Association

The Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) organised the Mt. Qomolangma height measurement project in May 2020 to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the first Chinese summiteer from the north side of Qomolangma (Everest). [Eight climbers \(the only ones to do so in 2020\) reached the summit on 27 May and measured the highest point](#) (calculated as 8,848.86m).

The CMA also used the opportunity to extend its mountain protection work organising a waste collection project at basecamp in collaboration with the Tibet autonomous region sports bureau.

SUPPORT FOR UAAA MEMBERS

To support the exhibition 'Let's talk about mountains' organised by the Swiss Alpine Museum in November, 2020, the Korean Alpine Federation

and Asian Mountain Museum Alliance (AMMA) of the UAAA, communications have been shared throughout the UAAA membership.

PROJECTS

The UAAA is pursuing a long-term goal of linking mountain museums in Asian members and building alliances that promote mountain cultural exchange, artifact preservation and mountain education through museum. As alpinism is recognised as a UNESCO's intangible cultural [heritage](#), mountain museums must express their tangible value. The outbreak of Covid-19 suspended all the practical progress of this project, but online alliance is ongoing.

THE YEAR AHEAD - 2021

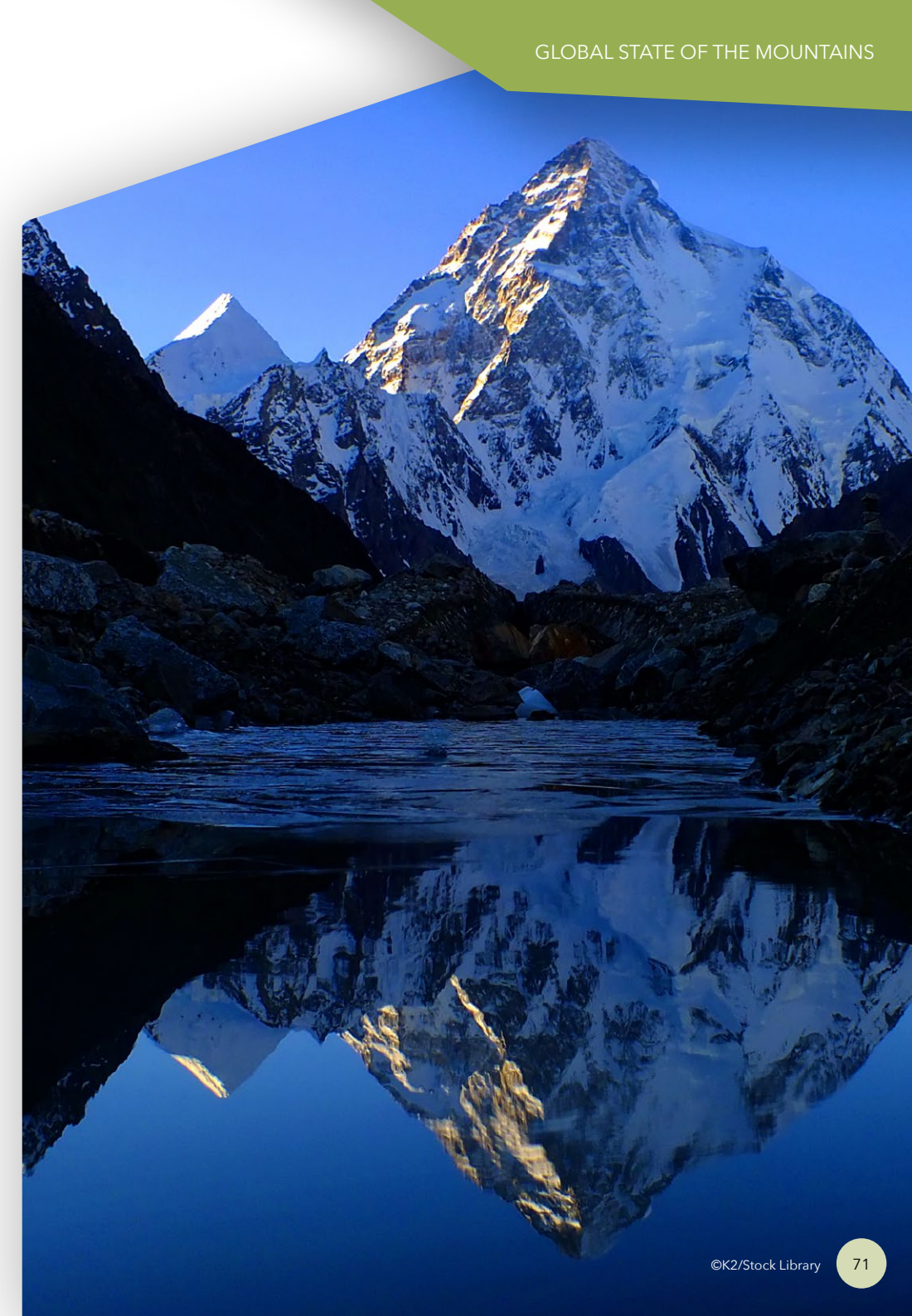
The agenda for the UAAA's 2021 meetings which was decided at the GA in 2019 is as follows:

- Council meeting in India by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation in May/June
- General Assembly in Nepal by the Nepal Mountaineering Association in November
- Asian Joint Expedition in Karly Tau in Kazakhstan by the Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation of Kazakhstan
- Traditional Rock Climbing Festival in Kazakhstan

Report by

Christine Pae

Korean Alpine Federation
General Secretary, UAAA
UIAA Management Committee



Central and South America

Although Latin America is made up of 24 countries, only federations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, and Guatemala were members of the UIAA in 2020. Mountaineering is practiced in all countries and almost all of them have national associations and or mountain and climbing clubs.

These national federations, despite being very small, organise a number of mountain activities and are witnessing a rise in interest and membership each year. The factors in favour of the growth of the sport is its greater visibility thanks to the internet and the massive use of social networks by Latin American mountaineers, especially increased by the isolation caused by the pandemic. There is also a strong increase in mountain tourism among the general population.

At the same time, this increased connectivity of mountaineers has strengthened the debate about the problems in the continent's mountain areas. Climbing communities from different countries have come together to grow and develop mountaineering, mountain culture, protection of the Andean environment and work for better access to the mountain and climbing sectors.

SUMMARY 2020

In the last months of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 there has been an increase in the activities of the national mountaineering federations in Latin America. More than 60% of these national federations (NFs) are involved in sport climbing. Owing to its Olympic recognition, National Olympic Committees and the governments have

given strong support to this sport and its federations. This has also offered greater visibility to traditional climbing and mountaineering. Today NFs which have both sports are highly considered and consulted by governments in strategic decisions with regard to mountain areas and national parks where climbing is traditionally practiced. This has also improved government financial support to NFs in some countries. This economic contribution from governments continues to be the main source of financing for Latin American NFs.

Mountaineering in Latin America has been affected by Covid-19 as in the rest of the world. Governments proceeded very strictly in closing borders and establishing significant internal social isolation within countries. The mountainous areas of interest on the continent are mostly within National Parks or protected areas, which have been closed to the public. Likewise, these same rules have forced the mountain clubs to close their doors without a certain date for reopening.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, all national federations suspended almost all their activities from February 2020 onwards. Likewise, during 2020 all the UIAA member countries have developed Covid-19 protocols to be able to return to activities as soon as the pandemic permitted.

FEATURED FEDERATION

Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo

FASA organises mountaineering, sports climbing, mountain skiing, alpine skiing and snowboarding, so the activity sphere is very diverse, and its sports are grouped in the Ski Secretariat and Mountaineering Secretariat, this last one is the maximum authority of the mountaineering and climbing in the country.



Access and Conservation issues

Two Andean provinces of Argentina have enacted provincial mountain access laws, they are San Luis and Catamarca.

FASA has worked hard on these aspects through its Mountaineering Subcommittee and active participation in the UIAA Access Commission. Despite the pandemic, efforts continue to achieve the final sanction of the "National Mountaineering Promotion Law" which today is approved by the Chamber of Deputies and awaits its final sanction in the Chamber of Senators.

Education: Mountain Youth School

After the success of the first edition the second selection of the mountain youth school, called "Jóvenes Andinistas," in December 2019. This school selects young climbers from all over the country to carry out school expeditions in different geographical regions of Argentina. In each of these expeditions they learn about rock climbing, traditional and ice climbing, backcountry skiing, high altitude mountaineering and general mountain techniques. In addition to mountain ethics, environmental protection and mountain culture. The objective is to educate future generations of

Argentine mountaineers with modern techniques and the traditional values of mountaineering like passion for the mountains, respect for their native inhabitants, always seeking sporting excellence and the quality of experience over success or the summit itself. Due to the pandemic, the start of school activities has been postponed.

FASA celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2021.

OTHER FEDERATIONS

BRAZIL (CBME)

Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada

The Brazilian confederation brings together 36 regional federations throughout the country and is one of the most active countries in terms of access and conservation issues. The activities mentioned below took place between October 2019 and February 2020. With the onset of Covid-19, all CBME mountain activities were suspended or postponed.

Access and Conservation issues

The national federation together with Pan American Access, carried out "Respect the mountains" campaign throughout the year, 15 cleaning actions were carried out in different mountain sectors of the country. The first lobbying actions were carried out in the National Congress in favour of climbing and mountaineering.

Meetings

To improve access and conservation, Climbing Management was carried out in "Serra do Cipó", which consisted of a field day and discussion of solutions.

Education

The CBME works intensively to consolidate a process of professional qualification of mountain guides. This year a new revision of the programme was carried out.

National Survey

During the pandemic, the CBME developed a National Survey on Climbing Injuries. This research aims to better understand the profile of injuries that occur in climbers and the methods used for their treatment and prevention. In this way, it seeks to have scientific-based proposals for the treatment and prevention of injuries.

CHILE (FEACH)

Federación de Andinismo de Chile

FEACH also combines its mountain activities with competitive sport climbing and skyrunning competitions. Its structure is made up of environmental, safety and cultural commissions. They have integrated the National High Mountain School (ENAM). During the Covid-19 lockdown, a series of online courses were held with very good attendance: Altitude Physiology Seminar, Wilderness First Aid Seminar and Mountain Risk Management Seminar. These courses are recognised by the Chilean Olympic Committee and will be held in 2021.

"Aconcagua Challenge"

Ascent of the Polish Glacier by a group of athletes who would attempt this traditional high mountain route with the ultimate goal of trying to scale the Aconcagua South face in 2022.

"South Patagonian Ice Field Crossing Challenge"

A long-distance crossing of the South Patagonian Ice Field, starting at the Jorge Montt Glacier to finish at the O'Higgins Glacier.

Education

The ENAM (National High Mountain School of Chile) conducts numerous mountain training courses throughout the year.

COSTA RICA (FECODEM)

The Costa Rican Mountaineering and Climbing Federation

The federation represents mountaineering, climbing, skyrunning, hiking and high mountain sports. FECODEM holds the National Cup and the National Skyrunning Championship.

Access and Conservation issues

In the field of conservation, "Environmental Days" were organised in the pre-Covid period, which consisted of planting native trees in mountainous areas of national importance.

Meetings & Education

During the past year there have been different campaigns and training courses: information campaign on national anti-doping standards aimed at mountain sports, mountaineering courses, cartography, orientation and mountain navigation courses.

Expeditions:

Two FECODEM expeditions were made: Mount Kilimanjaro National Expedition and the Mexican Volcanos Expedition.

Skyrunning

The Costa Rica Skyrunning Cup and the National Skyrunning Championship were held, the latter partially interrupted by Covid-19.

During the pandemic, and after overcoming a first stage of total suspension of activities, hiking and trekking resumed at a local level. In addition, FECODEM carried out the registration of its brand worldwide, updated mountain rules and regulations in Costa Rica and has started procedures to obtain significant sustainability certifications called "Escencial Costa Rica" and "Bandera Azul Ecológica."

GUATEMALA (FNA)

Federación Nacional de Andinismo de Guatemala

This federation, like all national sports federations in Guatemala, is directly funded by the National Sports Ministry. It is formed by ten departmental associations and has activities of mountaineering, sport climbing, speleology and trekking, its most outstanding mountain activities are the Fellowship Meetings with neighbouring countries.

Awards

In February 2020, the "Guatemala Mountain 2019 Awards" were awarded to the country's most outstanding climbers, which is presented in three different categories. The Awards seek to highlight mountaineering feats and inspire climbers.

2021: THE YEAR AHEAD

The Covid-19 lockdown has caused great changes in mountaineering in the region. However, the absence of outdoor activities and the need

of climbers to go out to the mountains has generated an incredible expansion of activity on the internet and social networks, which has created a greater visibility of the sport in society in general. The pandemic has also led to greater and better communication between countries and with the Latin American mountain community. This new reality will allow the mountain federations of Latin America to grow more quickly and integrate regionally, with the world and with the UIAA itself.

The challenges in Latin America for the practice of sport are the same:

- The great extension of the territory and its mountain ranges.
- The inaccessibility of certain areas due to political problems in some countries and / or the lack of transport and infrastructure in the most remote regions.
- The shortage of mountaineers and local explorers, guides and mountain instructors.

For 2021 the great challenge continues to be the growth of mountaineering in all its areas with new sporting goals, seeking to push the limit a little further, while preserving the ethics and tradition of mountaineering. This challenge must be faced from this new opportunity offered by technology and this new upswing of social networks that has impacted and benefited mountaineering so much in 2020. Without doubt, Covid-19 has generated many changes. This period offers the opportunity to regroup and come back stronger.

Report by

Martin Lascano Gonzalez

Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo
UIAA Executive Board

Europe

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2020

European-based member federations have continued to work in the UIAA's three pillars of sustainability, safety and sport in 2020, though progress has been hampered by Covid-19.

The UIAA has 40 European country members listed on the [UIAA website](#) and some observer members with their headquarters based in Europe. This report compiles some of the achievements and challenges faced by European federations and respective bodies primarily, EUMA.



European Union of Mountaineering Associations - EUMA

EUMA is an umbrella organisation of European mountaineering associations from 25 countries with approximately three million members. EUMA strives to include mountaineering in European Union priorities as an important factor of quality of life and to be recognised as the dialogue partner for mountaineering by EU institutions. Please refer to the [EUMA leaflet](#) for more details on the organisation's mission.

The main focuses in 2020 were:

- EUMA Erasmus + project progress – [Improvement of Good Governance](#) of Climbing and Mountaineering in Europe Project which runs from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2022.
- Platforms and statements surrounding Covid-19 and its impact on climbing and mountaineering from European bodies and the UIAA.
- Report of the Balkan Mountaineering Union and some member federations in support of continuing mountain and climbing activity, particularly for mountain huts, the vulnerable economies of rural and mountain areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

EUMA 2020

New EUMA staff recruited in 2020 include Dr Andreas Aschaber, General Secretary and Raul Cazan, Director (Representative in Brussels).

Map of Mountain Huts - The [hut database](#) continues to develop and this will also be a tool for the results of the ERASMUS+ project. Up until now Austria, France, Germany, Slovenia and Spain have contributed to this project. New huts are welcome. This is an evolving project.

EUMA will become a full member of European Environmental Bureau (EEB) - The EEB is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe. It has over 160 member organisations in more than 35 countries and representing some 30 million individuals. The EEB tackles Europe's most pressing environmental problems. <https://eeb.org/>

Erasmus + Update on EUMA – [Improvement of Good Governance of Climbing and Mountaineering in](#)



Wikipedia/User: Liridon / CC BY-SA 4.0

Europe Project

The main project objective is to set up and implement the principles for good governance in hiking, mountaineering and climbing sports at an the EU level. This objective will be achieved in particular through the establishment of EUMA as a credible actor providing good governance in hiking, mountaineering and climbing sport activities and their infrastructure.

The project will create mechanisms for implementing good governance principles within the EUMA itself and through the transfer of good governance principles to its members.

- Clear definition of objectives and strategic plan for EUMA.
- Setting up of communication, decision making and implementation structures of the EUMA strategic plan.
- Setting up European ethic codes, recommendations, examples of good practice and standards for selected issues.

The first tasks were assigned and the Charles University as EU policy expert in the project was involved with an expert in each working group.

BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION

4-6 September 2020

Molika, Pelister National Park, North Macedonia

The United Nations Development Programme project "Improving management of protected areas" aims to better nature protection and to promote sustainable use of natural resources while increasing the capacity of management authorities of protected areas, local self-governments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to manage and promote protected areas in a professional and sustainable fashion.

Active participation in conservation, management and use of natural resources of women will be enabled with the certification of 27 female mountain guides according the UIAA training standards.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Mountaineering Council of Ireland

Irish Peaks is a large-format book, celebrating Ireland's highest mountains through an inspiring collection of 71 hillwalking routes, covering all of Ireland's main mountain areas. Mountaineering Ireland and Women In Sport are inviting women of all ages and abilities to take part in future editions of the European Week of Sport. The activities will run nationwide, with 20 activities in as many locations.



FEATURED FEDERATION

Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia (FPSM)

The FPSM proved to be a particularly active member in 2020:

Training of Female Mountain Guides

Certified training of 27 female mountain guides was held in September 2020 in the Pelister National Park, North Macedonia in the auspices of the UNDP Project "Improving the management of protected areas"

Borders between Balkan countries have always been subject of dispute

The FPSM has already established very good cooperation with mountaineering and climbing federations of Albania and Kosovo, on mountain guide training in order to avoid disagreements in the marking the border peaks and FPSM will extend this cooperation by choosing appropriate signs and by marking border peaks.

Collaboration on the translation of the Petzl Handbook "Alpine Skills: Summer"

The Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia (FPSM) has translated the Alpine Skills: Summer Handbook into Macedonian (translator: Katica Garoska Acevska). Meteorology section changes were made with Gligor Mitkovski from North Macedonia, with the collaboration of Jure Jerman from Slovenia and Nikolco Petrov from North Macedonia. This is proof of how the UIAA can connect people from close and faraway countries towards one goal - safe mountaineering.

Updates on how individual European members tackled the Covid-19 situation can be found on the dedicated [UIAA portal](#).

COVID-19 RESPONSE

EUMA shows solidarity for mountain tourism

The Covid-19 pandemic has paralysed mountain tourism and mountaineering, as well as other activities, and has thus severely affected people who live in and make a living from mountain regions. Read in full [here](#).

MEETINGS 2020

28- 29 January EUMA: Erasmus + project kick-off meeting held in Prague The project content was presented to the project administration team.

On 29 May 2020 the **EUMA General Assembly** was held online with 23 member federations present with collaborating organisations (BMU and CAA) and guests Frits Vrijlandt (UIAA), Boris M. Micic (partner organisation ERA), Marco Onida (EU Commission, Directorate), Michael Maunsell (Ireland Mountaineering), and Niklas Winbom (Swedish Tourist Association, STF).

The **Club Arc Alpin** held its annual meeting in September. At the invitation of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC), the Presidents (or their representatives) of the CAA member associations met in Bern. The main point of discussion on the agenda was a motion to merge the CAA, which operates throughout the Alps, with the European Mountaineering Association (EUMA). It was decided that a working group consisting of representatives of both federations should start work by the end of 2020 and examine and prepare this merger by 2023.

It was also agreed to adopt joint recommendations on "Safe Snowshoeing" and that the CAA would finance the extension of the existing online reservation system for huts, used by the majority of CAA associations, to include an availability check for multi-day tours.



2021 AND THE YEAR AHEAD

Priorities and events:

- Continuing with the Erasmus plus project
- Supporting key federation projects
- Supporting European member associations through the Covid-19 pandemic and tackling issues which have impacted membership as a whole

Report by

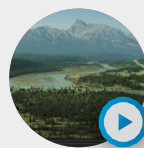
Anne Arran

British Mountaineering Council
UIAA Management Committee

State of the Mountains



Report by the ACC
[Read report](#)



Video by the ACC
<https://vimeo.com/410063941#at=1>



Credit: Pat Morrow. Courtesy of Alpine Club of Canada

North America

The pandemic wrought it's first blow to the American Alpine Club (AAC) when it's annual dinner was forced online on 14 March. Since then both the AAC and Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) have hosted virtual gatherings, closed lodging operations and it is still not possible to traverse the border between the two countries.

During the rest of the year, the AAC went through a planned CEO transition. After fifteen years Phil Powers stepped aside and Mitsu Iwasaki took the helm. A long time climber and skier, Mitsu served as the CEO for several other outdoor NGOs before stepping into this role. Among his early actions was the implementation of a new membership scheme to better meet the needs of all climbers. In the fall of 2020 the AAC created "Climb United" to engage the climbing community in the process of reflection, learning, and growth around diversity, equity and inclusion.

Public policy remains central to the AAC. The "Climb the Hill" gathering in Washington D.C. was held virtually in 2021. The Alpine Club of Canada published its second "State of the Mountains" report. Canadian Peter Muir was elected President of the UIAA. Phil Powers replaced him as North American representative.

The ACC, North America's largest backcountry hut operator, added the Shadow Lake Lodge to its portfolio ([a reciprocity agreement on fees remains in for UIAA members](#)).

As covered in the Featured Member area, UIAA members are encouraged to download and read the second iteration of the ACC's "State of the

Mountains" report. It provides a comprehensive view of the threats and opportunities facing the great mountains of Canada and, by extension, North America.



FEATURED MEMBER

Alpine Club of Canada

The ACC's annual mountain report highlights the changes in Canada's alpine environment.

The State of the Mountains Report is a commitment by the ACC to provide accessible, current, and accurate information about the forces that affect Canadian mountain places, ecosystems, and communities.

In 2011, the ACC published the first State of the Mountains Report, which highlighted the startling impacts of climate change on the alpine environment of Alberta and British Columbia.

The 2011 report was motivated by the ACC's commitment to summarise and better communicate an understanding of the environmental and cultural forces affecting these high places. The tradition continues with an annual State of

the Mountains Report produced by the ACC in collaboration with mountain researchers, community members and partner organisations.

The State of the Mountains Report gives Canadians, and all readers alike, the opportunity to hear the voices of people who have spent countless hours researching our alpine environment. The contributors in the report have, in one way or another, dedicated their lives to the alpine and have offered their first hand experiences, expertise and photographs to tell the stories of how change in Canadian mountain environments is affecting people and ecosystems.

Report by

Phil Powers

American Alpine Club
UIAA Management Committee

Oceania

Oceania includes Australia, New Zealand and the many island states scattered across the South Pacific. The New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) with 4,500 members is the principal mountaineering club in the region, established in 1891 and with geographical sections in both NZ and Australia. There are also many climbing clubs active at a local or regional level.

NZAC operates both high and base huts, delivers instruction at all levels, publishes guidebooks and on-line route guides, a quarterly magazine and annual Journal, offers insurance and advocates on behalf of climbing with access and other issues. NZAC was a founder member of the UIAA.

SUMMARY OF 2020

Covid-19

As with much of the world, measures to control Covid-19 such as lockdowns and tight restrictions on gatherings and domestic travel have severely impacted the ability of Oceania climbers to get into the hills and on the crags. In March international travel to both New Zealand and Australia was stopped other than for returning nationals and this remained in place for the rest of the year.

The financial impact on the NZAC has been severe. Membership fee income has remained steady but there has been a very significant reduction in revenue from activities such as hut fees, instruction and established fundraising

events. As a result staff have had to be let go and much normal activity curtailed. Looking past Covid-19, three interrelated themes continue to be the focus of attention by the Oceania climbing community:

Climate Change Impacts

Significant glacial recession in New Zealand is impacting physical access to traditional mountain regions and changing the time of year in which much climbing is conducted. A dry winter has amplified the issue.



©Shutterstock

Access Challenges

As reported last year a number of well known rock climbing areas have been closed or threatened with closure in both Australia and New Zealand. There are a variety of reasons but a common thread is traditional owners in both countries increasingly asserting their legal right to manage and control access to their lands, which are often the very places that attract climbers.

These issues are complex, heartfelt and grounded in the colonial histories of both countries. There are significant differences between Australia and New Zealand.

In Australia the closure last year of large areas of the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) to climbing (closing some 3,000 routes) was initiated by the state Park Service and supported by local traditional owners who are concerned at claims regarding damage to traditional rock art and landscapes by climbers, as well as wider ownership and control issues. This is one of the largest closures of climbing area seen anywhere. Please refer to: <https://savegrampiansclimbing.org>

In New Zealand, a number of well known rock crags have closed due to concern at the behaviour and impact of climbers. Local protocols can hopefully be established through dialogue and building trust. The NZAC is increasingly being asked to intervene and contribute to these discussions. In New Zealand discussion is often framed by the Treaty of Waitangi founding document signed between most Maori and the British Crown in 1840, coupled with differing world views of the central spiritual role of land. For instance, the very concept of a legislated "National Park" is now being questioned by some. In several places an innovative legal framework has been established that give a river or land areas the same rights in law as a person.

In both countries outdoor users are increasingly having to confront these very real issues, with changes in thinking, climbing ethics and behaviours.

Tourism Impacts on Mountain Environments

Covid-19 has put an end, at least in the short term, to international tourism to New Zealand and Australia, with dramatic impacts on the local tourism industries which focus heavily on the spectacular natural environments of both countries. This collapse in activity and associated financial stress does provide an opportunity



©Stock Library

for a "reset" in thinking with hopefully a renewed commitment by tourist operators to minimising environmental impacts. Rampant growth in numbers has placed great pressure on fragile environments, an issue which was starting to be recognised before Covid arrived. As an example, in New Zealand noise pollution from heavy use of helicopter and fixed wing aircraft for sightseeing has been a major concern in the southern New Zealand glacier region. NZAC had made submissions to the reviews of important National Park management plans which have now been placed on hold due to changing economics arising from Covid-19, but also as local traditional owners assert their right to a greater say in how the land is protected and managed. There had been a trend in plans towards greater commercial exploitation of National Parks against their prime purpose which is the preservation and conservation of unique natural environments.

Highlights from Individual Members

Despite the interruption caused by Covid, climbing continues to grow in popularity.



FEATURED FEDERATION

New Zealand Alpine Club

The NZAC is regarded as a model for NZ outdoor recreation clubs at a time when many established clubs are seeing declines in membership. However the financial stress as a result of Covid-19 is leading to a re-assessment of how the Club can stabilise and secure its financial base.

Impacts on the guiding community have also been substantial with no international clients and limitations on domestic travel in both Australia and New Zealand. Many guides have had to seek out alternative employment. Many established events had to be cancelled in 2020. But several climbing meets did manage to take place under tight Covid restrictions such as the annual Remarkables Ice and Mixed festival.

Digitisation of the New Zealand Alpine Journal (NZAJ) has meant the NZAJ now joins many of the world's other leading climbing journals in providing easy, free online access to past issues. See <https://www.nzaj-archive.nz/>

NZAC has a large online database of climbing routes in New Zealand.

<https://climbnz.org.nz> provides free information on more than 12,000 routes, both crag and alpine.

In the same vein the regionally based Canterbury Mountaineering Club has scanned its journal, Canterbury Mountaineer 1932-2013 which is freely available at <https://www.cmc.net.nz/mountaineer>

2021: THE YEAR AHEAD

The pandemic means much is uncertain and planning ahead is difficult. It is clear however that our climbing communities expect organisations like the New Zealand Alpine Club to provide facilities such as huts and guidebooks but to also engage and advocate on the big issues facing the outdoor community - such as access, impacts arising from climate change and the changing views of how mountain environments should be managed and for whom. Alongside these challenges is the need to financially stabilise the organisation and adapt to a world in which some things are going to be different.

The UIAA is the global network for mountaineering and climbing. Oceania supports the UIAA using its global reach to advocate selectively for climbers and mountaineers on issues such as access and protection of mountain environments.

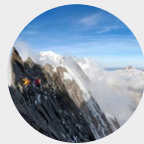
Report by

STUART GRAY

New Zealand Alpine Club
UIAA Management Committee

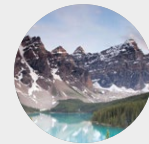
Complete List of UIAA Declarations

The UIAA declarations have tackled a number of diverse issues from protection and preservation of the mountain environment to ethical codes aimed at defining values and providing common standards for conduct. Please note a number of these declarations are currently being revised by UIAA Commissions.



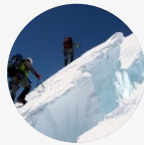
2018 UIAA CODE OF ETHICS

Read declaration



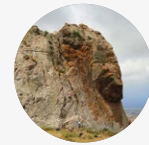
MOUNTAIN ETHIC DECLARATION

Read declaration



ARGEOS CHARTER

Read declaration



PRESERVATION OF NATURAL ROCK FOR ADVENTURE CLIMBING

Read declaration



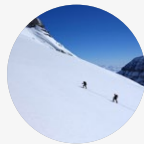
CLIMATE CHANGE

Read declaration



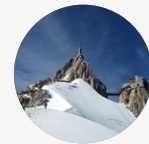
THE CLIMBER'S MANIFESTO

Read declaration



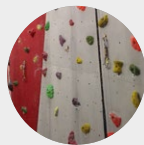
ETHICAL CODE FOR EXPEDITIONS

Read declaration



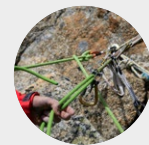
TYROL DECLARATION

Read declaration



INDOOR CLIMBING WALLS

Read declaration



UIAA ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

Read declaration



THE KATHMANDU DECLARATION ON MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES

Read declaration



THE UIAA SUMMIT CHARTER 2002

Read declaration

NOTES



“

At its finest moments climbing allows me to step out of ordinary existence into something extraordinary, stripping me of my sense of self-importance."

Doug Scott, 1941-2020

UCAA Honorary Member



International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

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