

Mountain Protection Project Review

2024 GUIDELINES for project review & feedback

In 2024 the Mountain Protection Award (MPA) will be pausing our usual award structure so we can celebrate 10 years of MPA projects. It also allows us the time and capacity to rework the award process – based largely on the successes, challenges, and lessons learned over the past 10 years. However, we know from feedback provided by applicants and assessors alike, that winning is just one part of the MPA. Equally, if not more important, is the review process each project goes through.

In 2024, even though we won't be selecting a winner, we would like to continue to offer our internal/external review process. No award money or publicity – just targeted reviews from our internal and external experts focused on providing project feedback in three key areas – namely **Project Impact** (especially with regard to how your project fosters sustainability and addresses climate change issues), **Financial Viability**, and **Overall Observations**.

1. WHO CAN SUBMIT A PROJECT FOR REVIEW?

An applicant can be an individual or a group who identifies as one of the following:

- An association and/or alpine club (member of the UIAA);
- A not-for-profit/non-governmental organisation or volunteer community group;
- A for-profit business (e.g. tour operators, expedition agencies, etc.).

1.1 NEW APPLICANTS

New review applicants must meet the general eligibility profile as stated above.

1.2 PREVIOUS APPLICANTS

Previous applicants must also meet the general eligibility profile as stated above, and are welcome to submit one or more projects for review. The projects can be:

- An entirely new project; or
- A project that was previously submitted as a 'new idea or concept';
- A project that was previously submitted as an 'ongoing project', and is complete.

2. PROJECTS

Each project submitted for review should be involved in at least one of five of the following UIAA MPA categories:

- Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, including flora and fauna;
- Sustainable resource consumption and management, such as energy or water;
- Sustainable waste management and disposal;
- Climate change adaptation and/or mitigation; and/or
- Protection of the environment through culture, local traditions and education.

Furthermore, projects are reviewed according to their stage of development. A project can fall under one of the following categories:

- A new idea or concept;
- An ongoing project (under implementation);
- A finished project realised in the current or past calendar year.

2.1 NEW IDEA OR IMPLEMENTED PROJECT?

There is no prize or promotion this year, but all submitted projects will be reviewed for **Project Impact** (especially with regard to how the project fosters sustainability and addresses climate change issues), **Financial Viability**, and **Overall Observations**.

In order to get feedback targeted to your project please tell us the project is implemented/ongoing, or if it is at more of a new initiative/new idea/proof of concept stage.

Not sure what stage your project is at? Here are a few guidelines:

<p>Implemented and/or ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project is completed or has had at least one full round of implementation. - Project has a fully formed budget that has been put into practice at least once. - Project applicants have had an opportunity to evaluate or reflect on actual project successes and challenges. 	<p>New initiative / idea / concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project is at the idea stage or possibly has undergone a proof-of-concept trial. - Project has a proposed budget or one that is only partially determined. - Project applicants are planning for project evaluation, or have undertaken only a partial evaluation.
<p>Examples of implemented and/or ongoing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gear Tips Recycling Program (Brazil) - Self-Managed Climbing Parks, Asociación 7a Escalada (Peru) - Save Lake Belis, Romanian Alpine Club (Romania) 	<p>Examples of projects in the idea/concept phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repurposing Windfarm Blades (Ireland) - No Bins Project, Zero Waste Mont Blanc (France) - Save Rinjani, Federation of Indonesian Climbing Activity (Indonesia)

If there is uncertainty about which category is appropriate for your project review please contact mountainprotection@theuiaa.org with any questions.

3. ASSESSMENT

3.1 ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment team consists of UIAA Mountain Protection Commission delegates and external experts. Each project can be reviewed by up to **three members** of the assessment team.

3.2 PROCESS

First, each project submitted for review is checked by the UIAA Office for completeness. Incomplete applications cannot be processed for review. Validated projects are then forwarded to the assessment team for review.

Reviewers will look at the following:

- Does the project addresses at least one of the five UIAA MPA categories (yes/no)?
- Does the project have a vision and stated project goals?
- What are the expected outcomes?
- Is there an implementation plan? Is it followed?
- How does the project contribute to some aspect of mountain protection (e.g. conservation; sustainability; culture; education; etc)?
- How does the project acknowledge, mitigate, and/or adapt to climate change?
- Does it clearly detail human and financial resources, including in-kind contributions, source of funding and allocation?

It is the goal of the assessment team to have an internal and external expert review each project. Assessors will provide feedback based on three areas: (1) project impact; (2) financial viability; and (3) overall project commentary and recommendations.

Providing this service to the mountain community at large can help review applicants see how their project fits in to the mosaic of mountain protection initiatives. It can also suggest what areas, if any, could further be improved and how.

4. GOING FORWARD

Since 2024 will be a year to celebrate past Mountain Protection Award winners and nominees there will be no set time schedule for submitting mountain protection projects. In 2024 we will be accepting projects via the [UIAA website portal](#) for review from March 1 until International Mountain Day on Dec 11th.

If you are considering sending in a project for review don't hesitate to contact mountainprotection@theuiaa.org with any questions.

The 2024 MPA will be different – we will have lots of past projects to showcase and learn from – but no new winners will be selected. However, 2025 will see the UIAA back with an updated and expanded MPA process reaching out for new mountain protection projects to celebrate.

In the meantime, the UIAA is keen to provide project feedback throughout 2024 to groups from UIAA Member Federations and others interested in mountain protection. We hope our reviews will help bring all your projects another step closer to successful implementation.

5. TIMELINE

01 March 2024	Online Project Review Portal opens http://theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award
07 Nov 2024	Celebration of past MPA Award Winners and Nominees at the UIAA General Assembly

11 Dec 2024

Online Project Review Portal closes on International Mountain Day

6. REVIEW & EXPERT FEEDBACK APPLICATION FORM (unofficial offline version)

2024 UIAA Mountain Protection Form to Request Review & Expert Feedback

This is an offline version for preparation only. The official online form must be filled out for valid submission.

Please note that in 2024, the UIAA is not giving out a Mountain Protection Award (MPA). The application process will open back up in 2025. To bridge the year the UIAA is opening this platform for those organisations/individuals interested in receiving feedback and reviews on their project (ideas) from the UIAA assessment team. The team is composed of members of the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission and external experts. They will provide project feedback in three key areas – namely **Project Impact** (especially with regard to how your project fosters sustainability and addresses climate change issues), **Financial Viability**, and **Overall Observations**.

Before commencing this form, please ensure you have read the Mountain Protection Project Review Guidelines and are ready to answer all questions in detail. Please note there is no ‘save and come back later’ function.

This platform will be open from 1 March – 11 December 2024, midnight CET

All questions of the form can be accessed from the guidelines to help you effectively prepare ‘offline’. Should you need assistance, due to language barriers or other concerns, please contact mountainprotection@theuiaa.org – we will be happy to help!

Any information supplied in relation to this form will only be used in conjunction with the 2024 UIAA Mountain Protection Project Review.

FORM TO REQUEST EXPERT FEEDBACK

1. Contact details
 - a. First and last name of contact person; phone number (please add format with country code +); and email address
 - b. Position/role of contact person

2. Applicant
 - a. Name of organisation (should you be applying as an individual, please reconfirm the name here)
 - b. Address of organisation (should you be applying as an individual, please reconfirm your personal address here)
 - c. Official website link of organisation (if available)
 - d. Applicant identifies as a:
 - i. UIAA member federation and/or alpine club
 - ii. Not-for-profit/non-governmental organisation or volunteer/community group

- iii. A for-profit business (e.g. tour operators, expedition agencies)

3. Project

- a. Official name of the project
- b. Official website link of project (if available)
- c. Has this project been submitted for the UIAA Mountain Protection Award before?
 - i. Yes, as a new idea or concept
 - ii. Yes, as an ongoing project
 - iii. Yes, as a finished project
 - iv. No
- d. Project status - our project is (select best option)

In case of uncertainty, please refer to the 2024 UIAA Mountain Protection Project Review Guidelines and/or contact us at mountainprotection@theuiaa.org

- i. A new idea or concept
- ii. Implemented and ongoing
- iii. Finished

4. Project details

- a. Please select the UIAA MPA category(ies) that best fit(s) your project:
 - i. Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, including flora and fauna
 - ii. Sustainable resource consumption and management, such as energy or water
 - iii. Sustainable waste management and disposal
 - iv. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - v. Protection of the environment through culture, local traditions and/or education
- b. Country/countries where the project is implemented
- c. Time period of implementation (started in ... / ending in ...)
- d. Please explain what the project is about and how it relates to climbing, mountaineering and/or outdoor sport. Consider including information on project vision, goals, and/or aims. *(100-500 words – can be a bit longer if necessary)*
- e. Please describe how the project contributes to one or more aspect of mountain protection (e.g. conservation; stewardship; sustainability; culture; education; etc). *(100-500 words – can be a bit longer or shorter if necessary)*
- f. How does your project addresses climate change issues? *(100-500 words – can be a bit longer or shorter if necessary).*
- g. Describe the human and financial resources needed by your project, including sourcing and allocation such as budget, human and financial resources and allocations. *(100-500 words – can be a bit longer or shorter if necessary). Please note a budget (or budget proposal) is requested and can be included in a later section.*

- h. Is there anything else you would like to mention (e.g. communication strategy, local/regional/national partners, community engagement, etc.) that you think would help the reviewers better understand your project?

5. Attachments

- a. Please attach your budget (or budget proposal) here (if available)
- b. Please attach any additional documents here (if available)
Documents may include annual report, business plan, promotional flyers, additional letters of support, etc.

If you couldn't upload all your documents, or should you have more to share, please send them via email or by WeTransfer to mountainprotection@theuiaa.org before the deadline of 11 December 2024.

- 6. Please note that, by submitting video, photographs, logo and other material, you confirm that you agree to grant to the UIAA and its partners a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, right and license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, create derivative works from, distribute, make available to the public, with respect to your photograph worldwide and/or to incorporate your photograph in other works and publications in any media now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in your photographs or video.
 - i. I accept
 - ii. I don't accept
- 7. Your information will be assessed as defined in the 2024 UIAA MP Project Review Guidelines. By filing your information, do you agree to have met all the criteria and prerequisites?
 - i. I accept
 - ii. I don't accept

If you have questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA team under mountainprotection@theuiaa.org

Thank you for using the platform and requesting feedback on your project from the UIAA experts.

Our team will be in touch with you shortly regarding the completeness your project review application.

More details on the 2025 UIAA Awards will be made public on the UIAA website, so we invite you to keep an eye out and sign up for the newsletter here.