

IF Sustainability Project
**UIAA RESPECT
THE MOUNTAINS
GOES GLOBAL**



NOC AND IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of

sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce;

and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan

to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.



“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”
Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IOC FOCUS AREAS



UN SDGs



THE UIAA'S RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS PROJECT ENTERS ITS FOURTH YEAR GLOBALLY



OBJECTIVES

Created by the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission, the Respect the Mountains project aims to:

- Raise awareness about sustainable environmental and socio-cultural practices, setting a concrete example within the outdoor community.
- Preserve mountain ecosystems and cultures in their natural state for future generations, promoting sustainable mountain recreation, sports and related tourism activities.
- Educate the next generation of mountain explorers, empowering them to become effective sustainable future mountaineers.
- Extend the initial environmental project to a worldwide initiative by using an international platform for UIAA member and partners.

The International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)'s Respect the Mountains (RTM) is an initiative launched in 2015 that encourages UIAA stakeholders to combine a clean-up operation with an education and awareness programme implemented at their events.

The project has since gone global, and between 2016 and 2018, 18 RTM events were held in nine different countries from Canada to Spain, with 1,500 volunteers collecting some 9.2 tonnes of waste.

At the start of 2019, the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission announced that the project would increase its focus on educational subjects and become an international movement. Initially a model for UIAA-organised events – primarily located

in popular European mountain resorts – the UIAA extended its scope to being an international platform for events organised by UIAA members and recognised partners. The response to this initiative has been successful, with more than 50 RTM events already published on the International Federation (IF)'s online international calendar.

Several events organised by UIAA member associations have already taken place or been confirmed for 2019. These include initiatives from the German Alpine Club (DAV), the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), Mountaineering Ireland (MI), the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC).

Clean-up initiatives included roping up at local crag clean-ups, trail maintenance near

backcountry hut locations and partnering with local conservation agencies to spread environmental knowledge.

Collecting data from all events to measure the impact of RTM events in terms of the number of participants and waste collected, the IF encourages all members to send details of their events by completing a form.

RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS 2016-2018

- **26** events
- **1,956** participants
- **10,926 km** cumulative distance covered
- **1,000** refuse bags filled
- **9.2** tonnes of waste collected

EVALUATION

As the scope of the project continues to evolve, the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission is monitoring how the 2019 RTM campaign develops and unfolds to evaluate options for future development. The UIAA will continue to contact members enabling the IF to factor in their experiences, views and ideas for development. To deliver an even more far-reaching campaign in the coming years, the UIAA also plans to enter new partnerships.

“WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE IMPACT OF THE NEW UIAA RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS CONCEPT. MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION ABOUT THE EXTRA VISIBILITY AND AWARENESS PROVIDED THROUGH THE UIAA PLATFORM, AND THE SENSE OF BEING PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.”

CAROL KAHOUN,
UIAA PROJECT MANAGER



BENEFITS

- By providing an adapted event-registration tool, an IF can engage and involve its stakeholders, inspiring the creation of new projects that focus on protecting the mountains.
- From an event-based environmental action, an IF can develop a worldwide project that promotes the UIAA's environmental values.
- By gathering data from its stakeholders, an IF can gain an overview of the sustainability measures implemented by its own community and find inspiration for further development.