# The Global Mountain Network

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The Global Mountain Network

The International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) was founded in 1932 and has a global presence on six continents representing 89 member associations and federations in 66 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

UIAA Management Committee Members
As confirmed by the UIAA General Assembly (November, 2019)

Executive Board
Frits VRIJLANDT (President), Netherlands
Zoljargal BANZRAGCH (Vice President), Mongolia
Lode BECKERS (General Secretary), Belgium
Peter MUIR (Treasurer), Canada
Helène DENIS, France
Mahmood HASHEMI, Iran
Yongfeng WANG, China

Largest Federation Representatives
Juan Garrigos i TORO, Spain
Francoise JAQUET, Switzerland
Josef KLENNER, Germany

Continental Representatives
Africa: Greg MOSELEY, South Africa
Asia: Chisato MIYAKE, Japan
Central and South America: Martin LASCANO, Argentina
Europe: Anne ARRAN, United Kingdom
Oceania: Stuart GRAY, New Zealand
North America: Peter MUIR, Canada (interim)

Representative Members
Simon ALDEN, Malta
Amit CHOWDHURY, India
Jochem DRIESSEN, Netherlands
Georges ELZIERE, France
Reza ZAREI, Iran

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

Further Reading: theuiaa.org/about
Dear member associations, partners and friends of the UIAA,

We are delighted to present you with the 2019 Annual Report. This document – available both in digital and print format – provides a valuable insight into the dedicated work of UIAA Commissions, our collaboration with partners and member associations, the current strategic direction of the UIAA, the role of the federation as the global network for climbing and mountaineering and the numerous benefits provided to UIAA members.
Our key gathering in 2019 was the UIAA General Assembly in Larnaca, Cyprus which was expertly hosted by the Cyprus Mountaineering Climbing & Orienteering Federation.

As communicated during the GA, the UIAA continues to represent the interests of its members on a global scale through close partnerships with numerous major organisations including the IOC, departments of the United Nations and Sport Accord. Throughout this report you will read numerous examples of the outstanding work spearheaded by our Commissions and the progress made in key areas.

Led by the work of the Mountain Protection Commission, who celebrated its half century in 2019, both the Mountain Protection Award and the revamped Respect the Mountains campaign continue to go from strength to strength. The partnership recently announced with a prestigious sponsor, Bally, for the 2020 and 2021 MPAs, will add even greater exposure to the work showcased as part of this magnificent project. In 2019, the Commission also spearheaded the UIAA’s first Carbon Footprint Report and has produced a statement on Climate Change. The topic of climate change is a hugely significant subject at present. The UIAA has a longstanding history as a major player in the combat against global warming.

The UIAA leads the way in climber safety through the work of both its Safety Commission (SafeCom) and Medical Commission (MedCom). In 2019, significant time and resources have been invested by SafeCom into anchor corrosion testing.

The 2018-2019 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, partnered by Outdoor Research, was the largest and most viewed to date. Meanwhile, the UIAA Global Youth events continue to thrive with six events held in Europe and Asia helping to encourage and educate the next generation of mountain enthusiasts.

Our desire is to further strengthen the UIAA to become the global platform for all aspects of climbing and mountaineering. This can only be achieved by working together. Addressing our main concerns as a collective is essential whether related to free access, mountain protection, the development of mountaineering, youth engagement and promoting training and safe practices.

The UIAA also lobbied on a number of subjects including the issues surrounding the 2019 Everest climbing season and proposals to build a cableway on Kilimanjaro.

The UIAA family is made up of a number of talented and dedicated people who give valuable time and expertise to the federation, all because they believe in the organisation and what it represents. A significant amount of volunteer time across the Executive Board, Management Committee and Commissions is dedicated each and every day. I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who with the support of the Offices have ensured that the UIAA has made tremendous progress over the past twelve months.

Finally, 2020 marks the final year of my Presidency. It has been an honour and privilege to serve an organisation close to my heart. One thing that remains clear is that there is very much a need for the UIAA as a global organisation. We must continue to strive to work harder, address the concerns and promote the needs of our members and to reposition the UIAA as a progressive and modern organisation of the 21st century. I am proud of the work we have all achieved, together, and am positive that our new enthusiastic Board Members – elected at the recent GA – will embrace this philosophy.

To this end, dialogue is essential. The UIAA is always available to you, its members. We will continue to serve you and your interests. Yours in climbing and mountaineering.

WELCOME MESSAGE BY
FRITS VRIJLANDT
UIAA President

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1968–1972 Albert Eggerer
1973–1976 Jean Juge
1976–1984 Pierre Bossus
1985–1989 Carlo Sganzini
1990–1995 Pietro Segantini
1995–2004 Ian McNaught-Davis
2004–2005 Alan Blackshaw
2005–2006 Pierre Humbert (acting)
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A year delivering diverse projects, initiatives and events at the UIAA witnessed significant activity across the federation’s three pillars of safety, sport and sustainability, thanks to the endeavours of its Commissions, Management Committee, Executive Board and Office based in Bern.

**Executive Review**

**THE UIAA IN 2019**

Highlights include the UIAA’s increased commitment to global advocacy and supporting causes of concern to its member associations, the evolution of the Mountain Protection Award and Respect the Mountains projects, the continued success, and record breaking figures enjoyed by the UIAA World Ice Climbing Tour.

Given its current resonance, a particular highlight has been the UIAA’s commitment and focus on the topic of climate change, with the publication of the UIAA’s first Carbon Footprint Calculation as well as the organisation being recognised by the IOC for its commitment to sustainability. The UIAA also continues to promote and lead the way in the issue of safety standards, where the current focus is dedicated to anchor corrosion research. While a new strategy is developed in 2020, the UIAA will continue to deliver tangible benefits to its members, and act on the valuable feedback received from delegates during the 2019 General Assembly.
ANCHOR CORROSION PROJECT GATHERS MOMENTUM

The year began with the publication of details related to the advancements made by the UIAA Safety Commission in terms of their anchor corrosion project. This included the publication of a Google Map of known corrosion locations. Commission members and external experts have invested significant time and resources into collecting data from climbers and running analysis of samples of faulty anchors. The map provides an informative guide and reference point for climbers as to the known current location of where corrosion has been logged. To aid this research, a dedicated form has been made available for climbers to share information regarding corrosion and failed anchors.

The 2019 UIAA Ice Climbing Tour began in earnest with a World Cup event in Cheongsong, South Korea. There were further competitions in Beijing, China and a special occasion in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, which celebrated its 20th anniversary of hosting the event. The competition in Beijing, in particular proved enthralling. There were historic medals in women’s lead event for Eimir McSwiggan of Ireland and Enni Bertling of Finland, while in the men’s event, Nathan Clair of France claimed a silver medal.

A feature was published on mountain access in South Africa and the role of the Mountain Club Of South Africa (MCSA), the first UIAA member in Africa. The article covered the many hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing and bouldering opportunities which can be enjoyed within the country.

Applications opened for the 2019 UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award with a focus on the promotion of events in Asia. The Award offers 2,500 USD in prize money as well as the opportunity to work closely with the UIAA and benefit from the expertise of its different Commissions.

The UIAA published the latest in its line of articles promoting MedCom’s high-altitude Medical Papers - focusing on information related to pre-existing medical conditions. The paper paid particular attention to a number of specific conditions, ranging from respiratory issues such as chronic bronchitis and other lung conditions.

The UIAA Alpine Skills Series returned with a guide on which knot to use when joining two ropes. This extract comes from the Climbing section of the UIAA Alpine Summer Skills Handbook.

FEBRUARY

RECORD CROWDS IN DENVER

The UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour concluded with an exhilarating event in Denver which was watched by record breaking crowds. The 25,000 fans who attended the two-day event represent not only the largest ever in the World Tour’s history but also make it one of the most well-attended climbing events of all time. The overall World Tour winners were Maria Tolokonina (RUS, women’s lead), Ekaterina Koshcheeva (RUS, women’s speed), Nikolai Kuzovlev (RUS, men’s lead) and Anton Nemov (RUS, men’s speed).

During January and early February, representatives of the UIAA visited both the Asian and European editions of the annual ISPO trade shows. Mountain protection was the focus of the UIAA’s visit to ISPO Munich.

At the 2018 UIAA General Assembly, the International Slacklining Association (ISA) was voted in as a member of the UIAA. In a dedicated feature, the UIAA focused on the organisation’s evolution, role and future aspirations.

The UIAA Alpine Skills Series returned with a guide on which knot to use when joining two ropes. This extract comes from the Climbing section of the UIAA Alpine Summer Skills Handbook.

MARCH

NEW FOCUS FOR RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS

The month began with applications opening for the UIAA’s Mountain Protection Award. Since 2013, the initiative has showcased 106 projects from over 30 countries. The platform has enabled initiatives to receive international recognition and much-needed funding.

The 2019 UIAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships were held in Oulu, Finland. Winners included Swiss athletes Yannick Glatthard and Sina Goetz, who took their impressive World Tour form into the Youth Championships claiming lead gold in the U22 age group. A total of 84 athletes from ten countries competed across three categories.

Meanwhile, the UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships were held in Kirov, Russia. Nikolai Kuzovlev added the world title to his overall lead World Tour victory. Vladislav kulov took the men’s speed title, while in the women’s event there were gold medals for Woonseon Shin of South Korea and Maria Tolokonina of Russia in the lead and speed events respectively.

There was the sad news to report - the death of British climber, and one-time UIAA Ice Climbing athlete Tom Ballard who died in Pakistan alongside Italian climbing partner Daniele Nardi.

The UIAA was one of number of international bodies who took part in a climate change workshop hosted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Switzerland. All of those attending expressed their intention to...
APRIL

UIAA SUPPORTS PREMIERE OF FREE SOLO

The UIAA and the German Alpine Club (DAV) teamed up to produce a series of ten videos designed to help improve climber’s belay technique. Originally produced by the DAV, the videos have been translated into English following collaboration with the UIAA Safety Commission and UIAA Training Panel.

The UIAA celebrated the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on 6 April calling on the action and direct involvement of its member associations and their individual members, athletes, climbers and mountaineers. #WhiteCard, Champions for Peace and IOC Ambassador Programme for Climate Change were chosen as initiatives to support and explore.

The premiere of Free Solo, winner of the Best Documentary at the 91st Academy Awards was held in Switzerland on 9 April. The documentary focuses on Alex Honnold’s daring attempt to climb El Capitan free solo in June 2017. The UIAA partnered the Swiss release of the film.

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) launched its Hills to Oceans Campaign which focused on litter picking to help reduce the amount of debris and rubbish in the oceans. The BMC launched a number of clean-up events throughout Britain.

The UIAA Mountaineering Commission met in the UK on 5-6 April. The meeting, which was hosted by the Mountaineering Association of Serbia (MAS) and Sport and Tourism Faculty (TIMS), was attended by 18 delegates from 12 different countries. In response to the developing strategy of the UIAA, a number of new projects will be carried out by MountCom which will sustain and enhance its value within and beyond the UIAA.

MAY

UIAA HOSTS SPRING MEETINGS

Hosted by the Malta Climbing Club (MCC), the UIAA held its spring meetings which provided an opportunity for close collaboration between various organs of the UIAA – notably Management Committee, Commissions, Office as well as representatives from member associations. Three Commission meetings - Access, Ice Climbing and Safety - also took place.

The UIAA issued a statement regarding the recent fatalities on Mount Everest. The majority of incidents during the 2019 climbing season occurred due to mass overcrowding on the southern route on the Nepalese side of the mountain. The UIAA called for all stakeholders to engage in urgent dialogue to work towards a safer and more sustainable approach to climbing on Everest.

This year’s Mountain Protection Commission meeting took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. Among other matters discussed were an environmental footprint calculation and sustainability guidelines for UIAA events. Confirmation of the UIAA signing of the UNFCCC’s Sports for Climate Action Framework was communicated, with Dr Carolina Adler, MPC President, suggesting the idea of proposing a “mountain” working group in collaboration with other federations and organisations that have also signed up to this UNFCCC initiative.

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the first Slovenian ascent of Mount Everest. The Alpine Association of Slovenia (PZS) celebrated these milestone achievements of Slovenian alpinism with a series of special events.

The latest in the series of Alpine Skills was published, featuring advice on how to secure the crux of a rope.

The UIAA attended the 2019 edition of Sport Accord in Queensland, Australia. Represented by President Frits Vrijlandt, the UIAA discussed a wide variety of subjects from competition ice climbing, global advocacy to the UIAA’s projects in sustainability. The UIAA was also able to discuss steps for Ice Climbing to potentially become part of the Winter Olympics competition programme.

There was a comprehensive feature on what was another successful and highly entertaining UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour.
JUNE
DONATE PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association (CTMA) celebrated its 15th anniversary. The CTMA was founded on June 1969 in Taipei by General Yang Shen and some elite mountaineers of the time. Its original mission was to promote hiking, mountaineering and cross-country within the country and beyond, to study the science of mountaineering, and represent the individuals who engaged in these activities. The UAA was honoured to be part of the celebrations and represented by Vice President Thomas Kähr.

DONATE PROJECT LAUNCHED

The UAA launched its Donate Project with the intended aim of helping to raise money for mountain related initiatives worldwide. The Donate scheme provides the opportunity to promote the UIAA and its projects and causes run by UIAA members and partners. It also allows the UIAA to react more proactively in creating fundraising opportunities following natural disasters or unexpected events.

The UAA expressed its concern about the proposal to build a cableway up Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest mountain. The UIAA expressed its concern with representatives of member associations, brands, sponsors and UIAA Safety Label holders. With an increasing number of manufacturers focusing on promoting sustainable values as well as sustainable products and production, the UIAA is well positioned to present its initiatives and expertise in this area, promoting sustainable values as well as sustainable products and production.

JULY
AWARD SEASON INTENSIFIES

Nominees for the UIAA’s Rock Climbing Festival Award were announced - festivals from India, Kazakhstan and Korea. Almost 15 organisations active in over 20 countries submitted details of their projects for the 2019 Mountain Protection Award. The overall MPA winner stands to receive a 5,000 USD cash prize as well as an invitation to present at the UIAA General Assembly in Cyprus, 2 November 2019. Summit projects eventually vyed for the competition.

The provisional calendar for the 2019-20 UIAA Ice Climbing Tour was launched, with the announcement of a new Chinese venue - Changchun City.

The UAA continued its regular presence at ISPO trade fairs attending the event in Munich. This year, a delegation from the UIAA took the opportunity to network with representatives of member associations, brands, sponsors and UIAA Safety Label holders. With an increasing number of manufacturers focusing on promoting sustainable values as well as sustainable products and production, the UIAA is well positioned to present its initiatives and expertise in this area, notably the new format of the worldwide Respect the Mountains Movement.

The month ended with the tragic news of the passing of Slovenian climber Svoljsak while on an expedition to climb Tahu Rutum, Pakistan. He had been a regular competitor on the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour.

AUGUST
DAV TURNS 150

The UAA published details of the German Alpine Club (DAV)’s 150th anniversary celebrations. Since it was founded in 1869, the DAV has gone on to accumulate an increasing number of online retailers were selling products falsely bearing the UIAA Safety Label. The UIAA issued advice to climbers that all products can be verified by visiting the dedicated UIAA Safety Label database.

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SEPTEMBER
MEMBER NETWORKING PLATFORM

The UIAA created a new members associations directory. The resource provides links to dedicated articles and features, contact information, member social media channels and information about climbing in different member countries. Another association to enjoy an anniversary was the Fédération québécoise de la montagne et de l’escalade (FQME), established in Canada, which celebrated its 50th birthday.

The Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) announced that its government had agreed to open 137 Himalayan peaks to foreign climbers. Until these new measures were announced, foreign climbers had to seek permission from the Ministries of Defence and Home to climb these peaks. Foreigners can now directly apply to the IMF for permits.

There was the sad news of the passing of another friend of the UIAA, the former vice president of the Climbing Federation of Russia (CFR), Yuriy Svec. He was just 25 years of age, died after falling ill at base camp while on an expedition to climb Tahu Rutum, Pakistan. He had been a regular competitor on the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour.

The DAV turns 150

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The UIAA Office produced a digital presentation ahead of the General Assembly in Larnaca, Cyprus. The publication was created to support delegates’ planning and preparations for the event. Content included the programme and agenda as well as a snapshot of key discussion points and progress made by the UIAA during the current calendar year.

Anna Damlam was announced as the inaugural winner of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award Community prize. Their project High Altitude Mountain Cleaners received over 60% of the Facebook poll. Scheduled to run from March-May 2020, the project High Altitude Mountain Cleaners is dedicated to cleaning and removing all old fixed ropes and abandoned garbage on the normal climbing route of Ama Dablam.

The UIAA closed the year by sharing a research paper with the Swiss luxury fashion brand, Bally. It was confirmed that the UIAA’s new one at that in Brno, Czech Republic on 30 November.

The UIAA was recognised by the IOC for its commitment to sustainability and featured in the official Sports for Climate Action brochure as a dedicated case study. The (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 in order to obtain an annual UIAA Mountain Protection Award. Following the announcement, it was confirmed that the 2020 and 2021 UIAA MPA will be partnered by Bally, the Swiss luxury fashion brand, founded in 1851, with a pioneering heritage in climbing and mountaineering.

The UIAA was announced as the winner of the 2019 UIAA Rock Climbing Mountain Protection Award. Following the announcement, it was confirmed that the 2020 and 2021 UIAA MPA will be partnered by Bally, the Swiss luxury fashion brand, founded in 1851, with a pioneering heritage in climbing and mountaineering. Meanwhile, the Suva Boulder Fest was announced as the winner of the 2019 UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award.

The UIAA produced an in-depth look at one of its members, the China Hong Kong Mountaineering and Climbing Union. The CHMKCU has been a UIAA full member since 1988. The UIAA Mountaineering Commission met in Hong Kong in October 2019. The meeting hosted by CHMKCU was attended by 14 delegates from 11 different countries. Among the topics discussed were the management of high mountains, ISO certification for federations and clubs and UIAA training and mountain qualifications.

The UIAA World Tour 2019-2020, partnered by Outdoor Research, began with Bern, Switzerland playing host to the opening European Cup event on 23 November. It proved a successful one for the home nation who claimed four medals. There was a further European Cup event and a new one at that in Brno, Czech Republic on 30 November.

The UIAA was awarded the gold medal from the Mongolian National Olympic Committee for his contribution to the development of Mongolian sport. Farkas, a former UIAA Vice President was presented with the award at a ceremony in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

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The UIAA, as part of its commitment to tackling climate change and reducing its own CO2 emissions, published its first annual Carbon Footprint Calculation. This report, covering 2018, outlines the ongoing results of monitoring and reporting of the UIAA’s carbon footprint, which is in response to its signed commitment in early 2019 and participation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action. The impact of climate change was a key topic discussed at the General Assembly. The UIAA issued a statement providing a summary of the UIAA’s longstanding commitment to the protection of the mountain environment and climate action, and its future goals.

To mark the International Mountain Day (IMD) the IOC announced the launch of the Mountain Summit – a group of sports organisations concerned with the current state of the world’s mountains and committed to protecting them. It currently includes 11 members, of which the UIAA is one. Their aim is to assess and minimise the negative impact of sports activities on mountain environments, and leverage the power of sport to raise awareness about the importance of these environments.

On IMD, alpinism was recognised by the United Nations as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of outstanding and universal value and universal recognition. The UIAA had supported this longstanding initiative, led by its honorary member Claude Eckhardt. The UIAA closed the year by sharing a statement with a number of partners – the Alpine Club, the BMC, and the FIMGA – about the proposed changes in Mountaineering restrictions in Nepal.

During the current calendar year.

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**Alpinism Gets Recognition from UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**


**UIAA Statement: Mount Everest Climbing Season**


**Downtown Denver: World Cup Conclusion**

[https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/downtown-denver-world-cup-conclusion/](https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/downtown-denver-world-cup-conclusion/)

**UIAA and DAV Collaborate on Safety Video Project**


**Join the UIAA Respect the Mountains Movement**


**Latest Updates to 2019-2020 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour Calendar**


**Ten Things to Consider When Buying Climbing Gear**


**Joint Statement on Proposed Kilimanjaro Cableway**

[https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/joint-statement-on-proposed-kilimanjaro-cableway/](https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/joint-statement-on-proposed-kilimanjaro-cableway/)

**Identifying the World’s Corrosion Locations**

[https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering/identifying-the-worlds-corrosion-locations/](https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering/identifying-the-worlds-corrosion-locations/)

**Safety: Is Your Equipment Really Certified?**

[https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/is-your-equipment-really-certified/](https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/is-your-equipment-really-certified/)

The UIAA published 133 website articles in 2019. Here are the ten most read:
The UIAA closed 2019 with 89 Member Associations, comprising 63 full members, one unit member, 16 associate members and 9 observer members from 66 different countries, making a total of 3,049,510 individual members.

No new members were elected at the 2019 UIAA General Assembly.
## UIAA Membership 2006 - 2019

![UIAA Membership Graph](image)

## UIAA Member Organisations 2006 - 2019

![UIAA Member Organisations Graph](image)

### Associate Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>JOINED UIAA</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1. Ecole Nationale d’Escalade du Québec</td>
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<td>3. Danish Climbing Federation</td>
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<td>5. Alpenses Studerl</td>
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<td>7. Norweg Klæberforbund</td>
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<td>10. Centro Excursionista de Catalunya</td>
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### Full Members

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<td>15. The Alpine Club</td>
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### Associate Members

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<td>17. Air and Extreme Federation of Azerbaijan</td>
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**Note:** The information provided is derived from the text available in the image. The source of this data is the UIAA MEMBERSHIP 2006 - 2019 document.
<table>
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<td>ACF</td>
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MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION

- 26 -
# Observer Members

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Czech International Mountain Leader Association</td>
<td>CZML</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Costa Rica Federation of Mountain Sports</td>
<td>RCCDM</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<td>Union of International Mountain Leaders Association</td>
<td>UIMLA</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td>Jordan Tourism Board</td>
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<td>National Adventure Association of Malaysia</td>
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<td>Club de Actividades de la Montaña</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations</td>
<td>IFMGA</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Slackline Association</td>
<td>ISA</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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# Unit Member

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<td>International Skyrunning Federation</td>
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The 2019 UIAA General Assembly, hosted by the Cyprus Mountaineering Climbing & Orienteering Federation, was held in Larnaca and Ayia Napa, Cyprus on Saturday 2 November. Delegates from 51 member associations and 42 countries were present.

Following opening addresses from the President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, Mr. Dinos Michaelides, and the Sport Advisor of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Phivos Zachariades, UIAA President Frits Vrijlandt presented key points from the 2018 Annual Report (AR). The full digital version of the AR can be viewed here. Vrijlandt also introduced the final year of his Presidency. His second four-year term ends in October 2020.

UIAA General Secretary and Treasurer Peter Muir presented both the 2018 and 2019 budgets and the 2020 budget forecast. While confirming that current losses were not sustainable, Muir remarked that budgeting provisions for 2020 were encouraging.

The UIAA EB (Executive Board) and MC (Management Committee) proposed new membership fee categories (Annex 1, AoA) for smaller national federations. This was approved and will open the possibility of UIAA membership to more federations worldwide.

No new applications for UIAA membership were received for GA 2019 meaning the current number of members – 89 associations from 66 countries – remains the same.
The new EB composition is as follows:

- Frits Vrijlandt, President
- Zoljargal Banzragch, Vice President
- Peter Muir, Treasurer
- Helène Denis, Member
- Mahmoud Hashemi, Member
- Yongfeng Wang, Member
- Lode Beckers, General Secretary
- Amit Chowdhury (Indian Mountaineering Club) and existing UIAA SafeCom President

Two vacant Management Committee seats were filled by Simon Alden (Malta Climbing Club) and existing UIAA SafeCom President Amit Chowdhury (Indian Mountaininng Foundation).

A motion by the German Alpine Club (DAV) on climate change was unanimously approved. Further details can be found here. As well as fully supporting the DAV motion, the UIAA also stressed the longstanding work it has dedicated to the subject including signing MoUs with key international parties and UN bodies (UNEP and UNFCCC).

The UIAA Mountain Protection Commission is also working on Sustainability Guidelines related to climate change (guidelines will include travel/event planning advice, a UIAA internal climate change policy and an assessment of an acceptable carbon footprint baseline).

The UIAA was also a leading voice at COP21, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Together with experts, the UIAA proposed a Declaration on Mountain Change for COP21, ensuring the vulnerability of mountains is recognised in the final Paris Agreement. It can be viewed here. Together with experts, the UIAA proposed a Declaration on Mountain Change for COP21, ensuring the vulnerability of mountains is recognised in the final Paris Agreement. It can be viewed here.

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UIAA Mountain Protection Award

Alpine Learning Project Weeks run by the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) was announced as the overall winner of the 2019 UIAA Mountain Protection Award. SAC President Françoise Jaquet collected the Award from UIAA Mountain Protection Commission Vice-President Mike Mauweli. A dedicated review of the 2019 MPA is available here.

New UIAA Mountain Protection Award Partner: Bally

Shortly after the confirmation of the 2019 UIAA Mountain Protection Award winner an exciting announcement was made regarding the future of the project. The 2020 and 2021 UIAA MPAs will be partnered by Bally, the Swiss luxury fashion brand, founded in 1851, with a pioneering heritage in climbing and mountaineering.

Further details on the partnership are available here.

UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award

Suru Boulder Fest, India, was confirmed as the winner of the 2019 UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award (RCFA). The festival is supported by UIAA member association, Indian Mountaineering Foundation, with the latter’s Amit Chowdhury (also UIAA SafeCom President) accepting the Award on their behalf. The 2019 RCFA was only open to festivals from Asia. A full review, and details on the 2020 Award, can be found here.

UIAA AND PETZL FOUNDATION: ALPINE SKILLS HANDBOOK

As has become tradition at the UIAA General Assembly, Stéphane Lozachmèr, Petzl Foundation Project Manager, presented the progress made regarding the UIAA Alpine Skills Handbook. The project unites Petzl Foundation, the UIAA Training Panel, the UIAA Mountaineering Commission and UIAA members worldwide. Lozachmèr confirmed that a new chapter on Canyoning has been produced. New agreements regarding translations were signed with Federació d’Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya (FEEC), Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia (FPSM) and the Indonesia Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (FPIT). Translation in the following languages are in progress: Albanian, Farsi, Greek, Japanese and Romanian. The following languages are currently available: English (including digital version), Chinese, French, Korean, Mongolian and Turkish. The following languages were printed for the first time in 2019: Czech and Serbian.

Purchase: Alpine Handbook

To purchase the DIGITAL VERSION of the UIAA Alpine Skills Handbook (in English), including any future updates to the digital version, click here.

UIAA Heritage Timeline

At every GA, the hosts find new ways of providing delegates a diverse and interesting cultural programme. As well as offering a captivating insight into Cypriot music and dance, a number of delegates also enjoyed the island’s numerous rock climbing opportunities. Pavlos Georgiades, federation President, spearheaded a project focused on the history of the UIAA. Following months of research, Georgiades created a visual graphic tracing the key moments in the federation’s history. The end result was a giant banner which was also reproduced as a tablecloth gift for all delegates.

In the near future, the UIAA Office will work on amendments, updates and corrections to the visual following feedback received from delegates at the GA. The objective is to provide a visual version on the UIAA website. The UIAA thanks Georgiades for this initiative and hosts CMCOF for its excellent organisation of the 2019 GA.
The 2020 GA will be held in Antalya, Turkey on 24 October and hosted by TDF – Turkish Mountaineering Federation.

**ARTICLE**

BY

PETER BOURNE

UIAA Communication Manager

FURTHER RESOURCES

Photos from the GA can be found [here](#).

Read more about UIAA General Assemblies [here](#).

**FUTURE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

The 2020 GA will be held in Antalya, Turkey on 24 October and hosted by TDF – Turkish Mountaineering Federation.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

Ahead of the GA, the UIAA Executive Board, UIAA Management Committee and Commission Presidents all held meetings. A UIAA Communication workshop was presented by Communication Manager Peter Bourne.

**Update**

**UIAA STRATEGY PROCESS**

The current Strategic Plan of the UIAA, approved at the 2016 UIAA General Assembly (GA) in Brixen, was built around the three pillars of safety, sport and sustainability and covers the period 2017-2020. Throughout recent years, significant time has been dedicated to developing a new strategy for the UIAA, assessing every aspect of the federation, its activities and support for members. A Strategic Working Group (SWG) published their findings and recommendations ‘The UIAA of the 21st century’ ahead of the 2019 UIAA Management Committee and General Assembly in Cyprus.

Following meetings dating back to the 2019 General Assembly in Cyprus and involving the UIAA General Assembly and Management Committee, the Executive Board worked on realigning and reformulating the UIAA’s vision, objectives and role. Taking elements from the expertise which went into the preparation of the ‘UIAA of the 21st century’, the resulting proposal includes a mission and three derived objectives.

The proposed reworded objectives (detailed below) were discussed at meetings of the Executive Board, and will be presented for further discussion and approval by the Management Committee and the UIAA GA in 2020. It serves as a draft Mission and Statement of Priorities intended to incorporate the Profile Statement (page 33), and other points agreed by the GA in October 2019 in Cyprus. A group of MC/GA representatives will review all documentation produced to date and work on a proposal for discussion at the 2020 GA.

**RESTATED PRIORITIES FOR 2020 AND BEYOND: MISSION**

The mission of the UIAA is to provide value-adding assistance to member federations in promoting practices of environmentally responsible, enjoyable and safe mountaineering. The UIAA intends to defend the interests of climbing and mountaineering federations and sports practitioners through rewarding relationships with international public and sports sector authorities, local entities and private sector operators.
In 2019, the UIAA significantly reduced meeting, travel and staff expenses. All projects continued, as proposed by the Commissions and approved, as part of the 2019 budget, by the 2018 General Assembly. On the income side, the UIAA failed to obtain the budgeted and anticipated additional sponsorship income of CHF 20'000.

Compared to 2018, staff costs were reduced by CHF 50'000.— (15% in total or 70% of a full-time employment). At the same time, the Office reduced accumulated overtime from a high of CHF 18'000.— in March 2019 to CHF 5'000.— by the end of the year. This could be achieved through:

- reduced Office availability in July, August and December
- no UIAA-organised “Respect the Mountains” events
- re-focusing of administrative processes

Due to a very full Ice Climbing World Tour calendar and centralised services, the income from newly introduced organizer service fees was CHF 77'000.— over budget, while expenses for Ice Climbing related services were CHF 86'000.— higher than anticipated.

All other Commission projects were more or less in line with the budget. Due to some delayed projects, Mountain Protection and Safety Commissions’ expenses were below budget.

Income as budgeted was generated from membership fees (loss of a large member compared to 2018), the UIAA Safety Label and contributions, the Swiss Alpine Club and the International Olympic Committee. For some smaller federations, CHF 6'500.— membership fees were paid by the UIAA solidarity fund. The 2019 General Assembly decided to introduce two new membership fee categories for small members. The UIAA continues to benefit from a multi-pillar income structure (membership fees, contributions, Safety Label fees, partnerships and service fees).

The overall 2019 loss amounts to CHF 16'600.— (2018: CHF 29’900.—).
Keeping UIAA finances in balance remains a challenge for the Treasurer, the Executive Board and the UIAA Office.

The 2020 budget was prepared based on the results of 2019 and is conservative. With the introduction of the new membership categories and the expulsion of members resulting from non-payment, income from membership fees is expected to decrease by CHF 10’000.—. Additional income will be generated from a new partnership with Bally for the UIAA Mountain Protection Award. On the expenses side, a continued reduction of travel is expected through increased use of online meeting tools and a critical analysis of the value of UIAA participation in third party meetings including the number of attendees, and continuing to encourage commission meetings in conjunction with Management Committee meetings and/or General Assemblies, all with a view to protect main projects of the UIAA.

The 2020 UIAA budget shows a projected profit of CHF 7’500.— (including GA 2019 decisions with regards to membership fees and new Bally partnership).

Of course, future decisions on the Strategic Plan and UIAA structure will affect the budget but primarily into 2021. Based on the strategic priorities, a sustainable financial strategy needs to be developed.

### Table: Results and Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income/ Expenses</th>
<th>CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>338’000</td>
<td>318’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Label Fees</td>
<td>127’100</td>
<td>130’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fees (IC Service, TB)</td>
<td>67’100</td>
<td>136’100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>51’400</td>
<td>57’700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>257’900</td>
<td>215’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>839’500</td>
<td>856’800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>341’200</td>
<td>290’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>43’000</td>
<td>40’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office, Administration</td>
<td>41’600</td>
<td>30’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>79’100</td>
<td>40’200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Operative</td>
<td>17’000</td>
<td>18’300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Projects</td>
<td>316’400</td>
<td>408’800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing, Communication</td>
<td>31’160</td>
<td>28’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>869’400</td>
<td>865’900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-29’900</td>
<td>-9’100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results 2018**

**Budget 2019**

**Results 2019**

**Budget 2020**

**Forecast 2020**
UIAA STAFF ALLOCATED TO COMMISSIONS 2019

Staff allocated to Commissions
Results 2018

General Federation Management 84'600
Safety Commission 58'200
Medical Commission 2'400
Mountain Protection Commission 77'000
Mountaineering Commission, TS 6'600
Access Commission 2'900
Rock Climbing 4'300
Youth Commission 4'300
Ice Climbing Commission 98'500
Anti Doping Commission 2'400
Total Staff 341'200

Ad: 1%  Safety: 17%  Medical: 2%  Mountain Protection: 23%  Mountaineering: 1%  Access: 1%  Rock Climbing: 2%  Youth: 1%  Ice Climbing: 33%  Anti Doping: 1%  Total: 1-33%

Staff allocated to Commissions
Results 2019

General Federation Management 84'600
Safety Commission 58'200
Medical Commission 2'400
Mountain Protection Commission 77'000
Mountaineering Commission, TS 6'600
Access Commission 2'900
Rock Climbing 4'300
Youth Commission 4'300
Ice Climbing Commission 98'500
Anti Doping Commission 2'400
Total Staff 341'200

Ad: 1%  Safety: 17%  Medical: 2%  Mountain Protection: 23%  Mountaineering: 1%  Access: 1%  Rock Climbing: 2%  Youth: 1%  Ice Climbing: 33%  Anti Doping: 1%  Total: 1-33%

UIAA STAFF ALLOCATED TO COMMISSIONS

Results 2018
Budget 2019
Results 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>Results 2018</th>
<th>Budget 2019</th>
<th>Results 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Federation Management</td>
<td>84'600</td>
<td>96'300</td>
<td>82'900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Commission</td>
<td>58'200</td>
<td>52'300</td>
<td>42'400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Commission</td>
<td>2'400</td>
<td>2'400</td>
<td>6'600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Protection Commission</td>
<td>77'000</td>
<td>40'800</td>
<td>42'400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountaineering Commission, TS</td>
<td>6'600</td>
<td>5'600</td>
<td>9'400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Commission</td>
<td>2'900</td>
<td>1'000</td>
<td>2'800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
<td>4'300</td>
<td>4'400</td>
<td>4'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Commission</td>
<td>4'300</td>
<td>4'000</td>
<td>4'700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Climbing Commission</td>
<td>98'500</td>
<td>80'900</td>
<td>97'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti Doping Commission</td>
<td>2'400</td>
<td>2'000</td>
<td>2'900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staff</strong></td>
<td><strong>341'200</strong></td>
<td><strong>290'000</strong></td>
<td><strong>292'000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### UIAA Balance Sheet

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>31 December 2018</th>
<th>31 December 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>531,329</td>
<td>427,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivables</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of goods</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General provision</td>
<td>106,610</td>
<td>70,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>637,939</strong></td>
<td><strong>511,041</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>31 December 2018</th>
<th>31 December 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>27,992</td>
<td>4,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other short-term liabilities</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>5,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses and deferred income</td>
<td>247,947</td>
<td>169,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General provision</td>
<td>56,543</td>
<td>48,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>332,697</strong></td>
<td><strong>227,608</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidarity fund</td>
<td>8,821</td>
<td>3,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access and conservation fund</td>
<td>27,763</td>
<td>27,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>352,967</strong></td>
<td><strong>227,608</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Capital of the association as per 1 January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital of the association as per 1 January</td>
<td>323,554</td>
<td>293,658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Profit/loss for the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profit/loss for the year</td>
<td>-29,896</td>
<td>-16,609</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Capital of the association as per 31 December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital of the association as per 31 December</td>
<td>293,658</td>
<td>277,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Total liabilities and funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and funds</td>
<td>637,939</td>
<td>511,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Note:** Figures rounded to two decimal places. Prepared in conformity with the normative rules for the reporting of non-group and group financial statements. Detailed financial statements in the annual report 2019/2020.
Based in Switzerland

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.

In 2019, the Office is composed of six paid staff members, including one independent for communication, representing 4.2 full-time jobs in total.
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.

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.

NIFS 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.

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 relevant national and international 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.
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.

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: commission member administration, preparation and coordination of Safety Commission meetings.
- UIAA Safety Label administration: standards, test labs, manufacturers, certificates, invoices.

REPORT BY
NILS GLATTHARD  
UIAA Director of Operations

Office Address:
UIAA - International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
Monbijoustrasse 61
Postfach CH-3000
Bern 14
Switzerland
T: +41 (0)31 370 1828
www.theuiaa.org
office@theuiaa.org
The UIAA’s communication services are primarily delivered to its members and secondly, to the wider climbing and mountaineering community.

During the 2019 UIAA General Assembly, the UIAA conducted a dedicated Workshop which ran through its current Communication planning, tools, deliverables, future objectives and greater focus on member benefits. The presentation also tackled some feedback from the 2018 UIAA General Assembly:

‘The UIAA should communicate more the benefits to its members’

‘The UIAA should be an/the international reference point’

‘THE UIAA LACKS A CLEAR IDENTITY’

‘The UIAA should bring its members closer together’

‘The UIAA: is it B2B or B2C?’
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.

Past Annual Reports
theuiaa.org/members

To facilitate delegate’s planning for the 2019 General Assembly in Cyprus, the UIAA published a digital magazine. The resource proved useful as a guide to meetings and topics discussed during the GA. The UIAA will endeavour to publish the magazine for the GA a little earlier in 2020.


During 2019, the UIAA focused increasingly on global advocacy in relation to key issues, notably the Everest climbing season, proposals to construct a cableway on Kilimanjaro, climate change and Alpinism’s recognition by UNESCO.

The UIAA also supported more regional advocacy, notably projects related to the Tatra Mountains and Grampian Mountains.

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 are promoted in equal measure throughout the year. UIAA news articles are shared through newsletters, press releases and social media.

The top ten most viewed news articles from 2019 are listed in the Review of 2019.
Website
The UIAA website was last redesigned in the autumn of 2016 and has undergone incremental updates ever since. In 2019, developments included:

A revised Member Associations Directory which provides more details about individual UIAA members, their news, activities and serves as a resource for members to share details on climbing in their country. The idea is to provide Members with their own networking area.

A Donate page where businesses, partners, members and individuals – can support the UIAA on a one-off or ongoing basis by donating to specific projects or causes. The resource is also open to UIAA member associations.

In 2020, new developments in the pipeline include:

• A new layout for the UIAA home page
• Simplification of the UIAA website
• Improvements to core pages and pages for core projects
• A global UIAA calendar
• A mix-use page for the UIAA Safety Label

Website statistics compared to 2018:

• The number of unique users increased by 23%
• The number of new users rose by 21%
• The number of visits rose by 19%
• The number of page views increased by 12%
• The average session duration decreased by 7%

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

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 to share content. 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.

Below are some examples of close collaboration between the UIAA and its members in 2019:

• UIAA AND DAV COLLABORATE ON SAFETY VIDEO PROJECT
  https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering/uiaa-and-dav-collaborate-on-safety-video-project/
• FQME: 50 YEARS OF DISCOVERY AND EXCELLENCE
• MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION
• AAC TO HOST 12TH INTERNATIONAL CLIMBERS’ MEET
  https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering/aac-to-host-12th-international-climbers-meet/
• LOVING THE MOUNTAINS SINCE 1869
• SLACKLINERS JOIN THE UIAA COMMUNITY
  https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/slackliners-join-the-uiaa-community/
• UIAA AND DAV COLLABORATE ON SAFETY VIDEO PROJECT
  https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering/uiaa-and-dav-collaborate-on-safety-video-project/
In sustainability, the 2020 and 2021 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. Sunday Afternoons continues to support the UIAA Respect the Mountains Movement.

Revenues from sponsorship account for about 30% of all UIAA income. The Bern office is continually exploring new sponsorship opportunities and means of approaching potential sponsors. Members of the Executive Board, Commissions and Office staff were present at major international trade shows such as ISPO Beijing and Munich and Outdoor by ISPO to represent the UIAA and to build relationships with partners. Many of these meetings are detailed in individual chapters.


FULL STORY
UIAA AND BALLY ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP
The UIAA partners with a number of international organisations across its projects in safety, sport and sustainability.

**SPONSORS**

- BALLY
  - theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award/
- OUTDOOR RESEARCH
  - theuiaa.org/ice-climbing
- PETZL FOUNDATION
  - theuiaa.org/mountain-qualification-label
- SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
  - theuiaa.org/mountain-sustainability/

**PARTNERS**

- ARISF
  - Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations
- GAISF
  - Global Association of International Sport Federations
- ICAR
  - International Commission on Alpine Rescue
- IFMGA
  - International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations
- MRI
  - Mountain Research Initiative
- PEACE AND SPORT
  - peace-sport.org
- SPORT ACCORD
  - sportaccord.com
- UNE
  - United Nations Environment
- 10YFP
  - United Nations 10-Year YFP, Sustainable Tourism Programme

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.
The UIAA MPC believes all those who have a stake in the well-being of the mountain environments should collectively work to raise awareness about the fragile nature of the mountain ecosystems and encourage responsible and sustainable behaviour and practices.

The protection of the mountain environment has always been a chief concern for the UIAA. Since it was founded in 1969, fifty years ago, the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission (MPC) has worked to protect the mountains – one of the last natural, unspoilt and free spaces on earth. The Commission’s goal is to ensure that mountains will still be there to enjoy for future generations of mountaineers and mountain people.
SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

The UIAA Mountain Protection Commission has ensured that in the design of the two key mountain protection and sustainability projects at the UIAA – the MPA and the RtM global movement - there are explicit provisions and mechanisms in place to 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 IFMGA - International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations - on the Sustainability Guidelines will ensure the UIAA also responds to the priorities and stated needs that member delegates expressed in the survey the UIAA MPC undertook in early 2018 that were reported in its findings in late 2018 (“Sustainability is one of our core values!” the UIAA & IFMGA 2018 Environmental Survey). Given the Commission delegates’ extensive and active engagement in several global platforms and initiatives on mountains and sustainability as part of daily professional work, the MPC also offers the UIAA and all its members professional advice on environmental sustainability issues or concerns, as the need or request arises.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT:
UIAA MOUNTAIN PROTECTION AWARD

One of the UIAA’s principal activities in the field of mountain sustainability is its annual Mountain Protection Award - a platform designed to showcase, support and promote projects which strive to unite tourist, or other organisations to engage in protecting the mountain environment with mountain communities and mountaineers. These initiatives support local people, encourage economic growth, provide improvements to infrastructure, education and health services, promote the practice of sustainable climbing and mountaineering and have mountain protection at their core.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

The UIAA Mountain Protection Commission has ensured that in the design of the two key mountain protection and sustainability projects at the UIAA – the MPA and the RtM global movement - there are explicit provisions and mechanisms in place to 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 IFMGA - International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations - on the Sustainability Guidelines will ensure the UIAA also responds to the priorities and stated needs that member delegates expressed in the survey the UIAA MPC undertook in early 2018 that were reported in its findings in late 2018 (“Sustainability is one of our core values!” the UIAA & IFMGA 2018 Environmental Survey). Given the Commission delegates’ extensive and active engagement in several global platforms and initiatives on mountains and sustainability as part of daily professional work, the MPC also offers the UIAA and all its members professional advice on environmental sustainability issues or concerns, as the need or request arises.

THE 2019 AWARD WINNER
The Swiss Alpine Club’s (SAC) AlpineLearning Project Weeks was confirmed as the seventh winner of the annual UIAA Mountain Protection Award at the 2019 UIAA General Assembly.

ABOUT ALPINE LEARNING PROJECT WEEKS
https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa/alpinelearningproject/

2019 AWARD SHOWCASE

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE ON WINNER OF 2019 UIAA MPA

Editions
Projects
Countries
- 67 -
NEW PARTNERSHIP: BALLY AND THE UIAA

Shortly after the confirmation of the 2019 UIAA Mountain Protection Award winner, the Swiss Alpine Club’s Alpine Learning (AlpenLernen) Project Weeks, an exciting announcement was made regarding the future of the project. The 2020 and 2021 UIAA MPAs will be partnered by Bally, the Swiss luxury fashion brand, founded in 1851, with a pioneering heritage in climbing and mountaineering.

For the RM global movement, the Mountain Protection Commission initiated and advised the UIAA at the 2018 General Assembly that the concept needed to be changed in 2019 to accommodate better for limited resources and to also shift from a clean-up reactive initiative to a more proactive global movement that centres on education for waste minimisation and management.

The suggested approach for 2019 was to first focus on generating and providing an online calendar of events and initiatives that not only address waste management but also focus on education, providing an opportunity to inform the broader community about these events for their consideration and participation and also showcase the individual initiatives of those hosting events and projects.

A total of 19 initiatives were promoted collectively, 74 events worldwide. An estimated total of 5,000 participants were involved in these events in 2019.

The results based on this experience with this changed approach will be evaluated by the Commission who will seek feedback from those that participated by sharing their events online, in order to adapt and come up with new ideas for a new concept in the coming years. The support of Sunday Afternoons and the external experts in the MPA, as well as the partnerships with IFMGA and UN Environment, are also sources of important expertise and insights from whom the Commission can count on to improve and expand the RM global movement concept in 2020 and beyond.

In 2019, focus was directed to enhancing the existing collaboration with the IFMGA Environmental Commission, flagging the opportunity to continue to pursue the joint project on sustainability guidelines in 2020. The MPA 2019 also provided an opportunity for continued engagement and exchange with our network of external experts.

Other key partnerships created and fostered in 2019 include the MoU with UN Environment, which facilitates and ensures that the UIAA is supported in its efforts to pursue projects and initiatives on mountain protection, supported by the technical and global reach and legitimacy of organisations such as UN Environment.
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, 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.

This year’s Mountain Protection Commission meeting took place in Baku, Azerbaijan on 9 May 2019, following an invitation from Commission member and FAIREX representative Husein Bagirov. The meeting took place at the new campus facilities of the Mountain Culture and Landscape Research Institute, Western Caspian University, with online connection to those members and UIAA Office staff who could not attend in person. Six delegates were present in Baku with another three joining online.

The meeting was chaired by Commission President Carolina Adler, recalling the minutes of the previous meeting held in 2018 in the UK. A report from Helene Denis, UIAA Executive Board link, updated the Commission on discussions and decisions taken at Management Committee meeting held a week earlier in Malta. This included confirmation of the Vice President role for Michael Maunsell (Mountaineering Ireland, MI) and new full member Dr Ganesh Gurung (Nepal Mountaineering Association, NMA).

Other key discussion points centered on the assessment process for the MPA for 2019, as well as budget consideration for future work and projects such as the sustainability guidelines. A key area of concern for the Commission, and discussion point at the meeting, was the perceived uncertainty and lack of strategic clarity and differentiated expectations expressed by the UIAA Board and MC versus the General Assembly on the new UIAA strategy and the financial model to support Commissions, making this a difficult environment in which to prioritise and plan effectively for future work. A key conclusion reached by the Commission was to commit to find clarity at the General Assembly in Cyprus, when the full details and debate on the proposed future strategic direction should be decided with members.

Professor Bagirov, MPC delegate and host to the meeting, also presented on the state of mountain tourism and recreation in Azerbaijan, highlighting some of the key challenges regarding increasing tourism development in the country, while maintaining and aspiring towards environmental and cultural values that align with broader sustainable development.

For International Mountain Day, 11 December, the UIAA published a series of articles dedicated to its longstanding work on climate change.
In December 2018, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) co-launched the new Sports for Climate Action Framework and defined the role of sport in the worldwide fight for climate change. The UN Sports for Climate Action Framework aims to help sports organisations reduce emissions caused by their operations and leverage the worldwide popularity of sport to engage millions of fans in the effort.

UIAA STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The impact of climate change on mountain regions was one of the core topics discussed at the 2019 UIAA General Assembly (GA) in Cyprus. The UIAA issued a statement reflecting this. This scope of the statement was to provide a summary of the UIAA’s longstanding commitment to the protection of the mountain environment and climate action, and its future goals.


UIAA PUBLISHES FIRST CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATION

As part of its commitment to tackling climate change and reducing its own CO2 emissions, the UIAA has published its first annual Carbon Footprint Calculation. This report, covering 2018, outlines the ongoing results of monitoring and reporting of the UIAA’s carbon footprint, which is in response to its signed commitment in early 2019 and participation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action Framework.


UIAA PROJECTS HELD UP AS SUSTAINABILITY MODELS

In December 2018, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) co-launched the new Sports for Climate Action Framework and defined the role of sport in the worldwide fight for climate change. The UN Sports for Climate Action Framework aims to help sports organisations reduce emissions caused by their operations and leverage the worldwide popularity of sport to engage millions of fans in the effort.

Sport in all its forms is increasingly threatened by climate change. The increasing lack of snow during winter, unpredictable heatwaves and rising sea levels are among the issues seriously affecting athletes, event organisers and spectators.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 in order to obtain an overview of IF’s sustainability initiatives, which are to identify common topics, challenges and good practices. One outcome was a series of cases studies demonstrating how IFs are contributing to a more sustainable world.

The UIAA has been recognised by the IOC for its commitment to sustainability and features both in the official Sports for Climate Action brochure and as a dedicated case study paper about the Respect the Mountains Movement (RTM). The initiative, which started in 2015 forms part of the UIAA’s longstanding commitment to sustainability and mountain protection. Initially an event based initiative that championed a clean-up operation alongside education and awareness, some 1,500 volunteers collected 7.5 tonnes of waste during its 18 events between 2016-2018 has since gone global as an international movement which likeminded projects from across the globe can join through an international calendar.

UIAA PROJECTS RECOGNISED AS SUSTAINABILITY MODELS

https://www.theuiaa.org/home/uiaa-projects-held-up-as-sustainability-models/

Carbon Footprint Calculation Report:


IF Sustainability Case Studies:


IF Sustainability Project RTM:

2019: EVENTS ATTENDED

The Mountain Protection Commission was represented and participated at the following events, conferences and meetings in 2019:

- MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
  26-27 March, Rome, Italy

- 4TH UNWTO EURO-ASIAN MOUNTAIN TOURISM CONFERENCE
  2-5 March, Berchtesgaden, Germany

- UNESCO CHAIR MEETING
  29 April, Naters, Switzerland

- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “MOUNTAINS: CULTURES, LANDSCAPES, AND BIODIVERSITY”
  10-12 May, Baku, Azerbaijan

- IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON THE OCEAN AND CRYOSPHERE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE
  September, Monaco

- UNFCCC SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION SIGNATORY MEETING
  18 September, ICC Lausanne, Switzerland

- IF FORUM SUSTAINABILITY SESSION
  30 October, Lausanne, Switzerland

- MOUNTAIN SUMMIT WORKING GROUP, FIRST MEETING
  31 October, Lausanne, Switzerland

- COP25
  December, Madrid, Spain

2020: THE YEAR AHEAD

The Mountain Protection Commission looks forward to continuing to fulfill its commitment to the MPA and RM projects as key priorities in its portfolio, not least given the support provided by Bally and the expected step change in evolving the concepts and their implementation. The MPC will look to the results achieved in 2019 and use these as basis for further development and improvement of the projects’ concepts and implementation in 2020.

In 2020, the MPC can also expect to participate at COP26 to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November.
The mission of the UIAA Medical Commission is to give 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. Many members are active teachers in their respective countries.
Annual Commission Meeting
7-8 November 2019
Bolzano, Italy

The UIAA Medical Commission was hosted by EURAC Research. Alongside five invited guest speakers, 16 MedCom members met in Bolzano to discuss membership and involvement of the commission, while also planning and preparing future advice papers. The discussions highlighted the need to address advice and recommendations both to the general public and physicians/experts. Safety being a key topic for mountaineers, the UIAA through its work of MedCom plays an important role in making mountaineering even more interesting and especially safer.

Through the leadership of the newly elected Commission President, Dr Urs Hefti, and in collaboration with EURAC Research a joint symposium on “Altitude pre-exposure for inducing climbers’ acclimation: is it effective, ethical and legal?” was held on the second day of the meeting.

The topic was discussed from viewpoints of a scientist, an expedition operator, a climber, a lawyer and a UIAA representative. The meeting ended with an organized visit of the extreme environmental simulator “terraXcube”.

The Commission will meet only briefly in 2020, alongside the ISMM Congress in Interlaken and plans to meet for several days again in 2021, gathering for the first time in Africa – a joint project with the University of Zurich, the local University in Kampala and UIAA MedCom. Work is in progress.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBERS

The UIAA 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 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.

Challenges
Among the major challenges and requests made to MedCom is the checking of the quality of a commercially organised trek or expedition. A paper has been published and updated, but it remains a topic of discussion at meetings. Bridging the gap between physicians/experts and the general public in terms of sound advice and recommendations made remains a challenge.

Projects
- International Diploma
- 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
- Translation of papers still in progress.

Partnerships
Momentarily, the closest cooperation is with EURAC, less with ISMM (although many Commission members will attend their congress in 2020) and constant collaboration with ICAR.

Achievements
Translations of MedCom recommendations are still ongoing. This includes:
- Continuation and progress on papers about dental emergencies during trekking or expeditions; malaria prevention for climbers; the prevention of altitude illness; minimal standards for safety in artificial hypoxia; and diabetes and mountaineering.

Events attended in 2019
Urs Hefti attended the 2019 UIAA Management Committee spring meeting in Malta, where he was officially elected President of MedCom. The joint meeting between Commission Presidents and especially with the Management Committee gave him a sound understanding of the value and contribution of MedCom to the UIAA and its members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2019

Events attended in 2019
In 2019, Urs Hefti attended the 2019 UIAA Management Committee spring meeting in Malta, where he was officially elected President of MedCom. The joint meeting between Commission Presidents and especially with the Management Committee gave him a sound understanding of the value and contribution of MedCom to the UIAA and its members.
The possibility of creating videos and/or e-learning manuals based on the advice papers was discussed during the in-person meeting in Bolzano. A key aim for the year ahead is to continue the success the Commission has achieved with further publication of MedCom advice papers most likely in the fields of dental emergencies during trekking and expedition, malaria prevention for climbers and the prevention of altitude illness. The Commission will continue to reach out and co-operate with other mountain medicine groups around the world as well as increasing its efforts to spread the Commission’s message to those areas of the world in most need of medical advice. A 2021 meeting in Uganda should provide an excellent opportunity. While the Commission has a close contact with the UIAA Office, it is of great importance that the UIAA supports MedCom more closely. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the MedCom to conduct professional work without greater financial and logistical support. Furthermore, the UIAA must define which questions must be answered or processed by the UIAA MedCom. A clear strategy in this respect is missing.

On its side, MedCom must be more active in its core businesses such as prevention, training and education. A core team of a few very active members should be supported to fulfil these tasks.
Support for UIAA Members

Resources provided by the UIAA Safety Commission, such as the development of international Standards, granting of UIAA Safety Labels, research into safety issues and publication of key advice messages are designed to improve climber safety and offer climbers greater access to information in making choices about how they climb and the equipment they use. Resources are free for all members to share on their own channels.

The UIAA has coordinated this analysis to create a Google Map of known corrosion locations. This map is intended as a reference to identify areas where examples of corrosion have been logged. It is designed only as an informative guide based on data received and assessed. There is an ongoing investigation by UIAA SafeCom into the reasons behind these multiple failures.

Two related articles were published in Corrosion, The Journal of Science and Engineering:

- https://corrosionjournal.org/doi/full/10.5006/3227
- https://corrosionjournal.org/doi/full/10.5006/3242

An update of the Standard is expected in 2020.

Mountain Safety

SafeCom

The UIAA, through its Safety Commission, supports climbers and mountaineers in their goal of managing the inherent risks of their activities. This objective is achieved by establishing excellent equipment Standards, together with recommendations concerning the correct use of this equipment and the granting of Safety Labels to manufacturers whose products meet UIAA Standards.

Anchor Corrosion Project

Over recent years the subject of corrosion has been a significant concern for the research arm of the UIAA Safety Commission (SafeCom). Commission members and external experts have invested significant time and resources into collecting data from climbers and running analysis of samples of faulty anchors.

The UIAA has co-ordinated this analysis to create a Google Map of known corrosion locations. This map is intended as a reference to identify areas where examples of corrosion have been logged. It is designed only as an informative guide based on data received and assessed. There is an ongoing investigation by UIAA SafeCom into the reasons behind these multiple failures.

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An update of the Standard is expected in 2020.
In 2019 UIAA and the German Alpine Club (DAV) teamed up to produce a series of twelve videos designed to help improve climber’s belay technique. Originally produced by the DAV, the videos have recently been translated into English following collaboration with the UIAA Safety Commission and UIAA Training Panel.

The principal focus is different belaying techniques and the instructor in the video is Christoph Hummel, a member of both the DAV Safety Research department and Corresponding Member of the UIAA Safety Commission, who spearheaded the initiative.

“This project is the fruit of excellent collaboration between the UIAA and one of our largest member associations.”

The project has helped further discussions between a number of Commissions in the UIAA and the DAV about further collaboration. The important messages about safety covered in these features. Furthermore, the project has helped increase awareness and the important messages about safety covered in these features. Furthermore, the project has helped further discussions between a number of Commissions in the UIAA and the DAV about further collaboration.

“This project is the fruit of excellent collaboration between the UIAA and one of our largest member associations,” explains Nils Glatthard, UIAA Director of Operations. “Making these videos available in English and through the UIAA’s international network will help increase awareness and the important messages about safety covered in these features. Furthermore, the project has helped further discussions between a number of Commissions in the UIAA and the DAV about further collaboration.”

UIAA AND DAV COLLABORATION PROJECT

How to belay with weight difference
https://youtu.be/06qEtYuUVq0

How to Handle Soft Belaying
https://youtu.be/53OlifLK2asy

How to belay with the Grigri
https://youtu.be/BAxY-BBSlGc

How to belay with the ATC (*)
https://youtu.be/H1pjGl4gs0A

How to belay with the ATC
https://youtu.be/06qEtYuUVq0

How to belay with the Ergo/ATC Pilot
https://youtu.be/405n8b39pU0

How to belay with the ATC (*)
https://youtu.be/H1pjGl4gs0A

How to belay with the Fish
https://youtu.be/7RMzKykSg5o

How to belay with the Jul*
https://youtu.be/bMvBx1mJFw4

How to belay with the Click Up
https://youtu.be/UiXADkRctrQ

How to belay with the Jul*
https://youtu.be/bMvBx1mJFw4

How to belay with the Smart
https://youtu.be/3vx0mKXoElY

How to belay with the Smart
https://youtu.be/3vx0mKXoElY

How to belay with the Fish
https://youtu.be/7RMzKykSg5o

How to belay with the Jul*
https://youtu.be/bMvBx1mJFw4

How to belay with the ATC (*)
https://youtu.be/H1pjGl4gs0A

How to belay with the ATC
https://youtu.be/06qEtYuUVq0

How to belay with the Fish
https://youtu.be/7RMzKykSg5o

How to belay with the Jul*
https://youtu.be/bMvBx1mJFw4

How to belay with the ATC (*)
https://youtu.be/H1pjGl4gs0A

How to belay with the ATC
https://youtu.be/06qEtYuUVq0

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How to belay with the ATC (*)
https://youtu.be/H1pjGl4gs0A

How to belay with the ATC
https://youtu.be/06qEtYuUVq0

How to belay with the Fish
https://youtu.be/7RMzKykSg5o

How to belay with the Jul*
https://youtu.be/bMvBx1mJFw4

(*) How to belay with the ATC
This video is also available but comes with an advisory. Please refer to the UIAA website.

CLIMB SAFE
SAFETY
Current Working Group research includes helmet rim impact testing, where a maximum impact force of 8kN had been chosen. Continuing research is needed with test helmets including foam models, and results will be taken from round robin tests at laboratories. SafeCom welcomed two guest presentations, one from the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) and one from International Slackline Association (ISA). A close relationship is developing with ICAR with representatives of the UIAA and ICAR regularly attending each other’s annual meetings. ISA presented their activities and information on the types of equipment used in slacklining.

New Working Groups are set to propose future standards for the following areas; Prusiks, Static Ropes, Trekking Poles and Rigging Plates.

Work started by CAI (Italian Alpine Club) regarding avalanche probes is continuing. First stage work on the standard for Ice Climbing structures has been completed and feedback is pending from the Ice Climbing Commission. Meanwhile, SafeCom is beginning its collaboration with the International Federation of Canyoning.

The Commission has set high standards in terms of its goals for the next four years. Their goals include revising all 24 UIAA standards, and setting ten new UIAA standards, as well as devising a marketing campaign to encourage UIAA member associations to spread awareness among their membership about the importance of the UIAA Safety Label, what the UIAA Safety Label represents, the research and collaboration of global experts, manufacturers, and accredited laboratories who work together to make equipment safer for the climbing community.
The expansion and development of the Training Panel programme is a key priority for the Mountaineering Commission. This includes work on the implementation and diffusion of the digital version of the Alpine Handbook (see chapter on Training) and a new administration system for UIAA members. Throughout 2019, the Commission was engaged in a number of subjects including topics related to ethics and liability insurances. The Commission promotes best practices by identifying and addressing technical, training, legal, access and ethical issues of international importance. As of 2019, the Access Commission became integrated into Mountaineering Commission.
This Standard outlines the requirements of a safety management system for adventure tourism activity providers and was established by private outdoor activity companies in Europe. The standard covers guidelines, procedures and good practices for all activities that clubs and federations undertake, with a view to preventing accidents and improved understanding and management of members’ and group activities. The benefits include a demonstration of professionalism and commitment to safety, lower insurance premiums, and may prove extremely valuable in legal cases. As such, it will be a prized certificate for national federations, training bodies and larger clubs – particularly those that provide training, coaching and mentorship.

In training (see dedicated pages), leadership and rescue training were provided in India and Mongolia, with the long-term aim to create qualifications that are eligible for UIAA accreditation, and personal skills training has been piloted in Indonesia, Kenya and Mongolia. Other projects which continue to develop including a thorough study of mountaineering accidents and near misses. Documents and data are currently being analysed.

The MountCom Annual Training Seminar, which was held in Hong Kong for club coaches and trainers, addressed training priorities and course design for hiking, climbing and canyoning. These seminars are a useful and valuable forum for sharing and discussing best practice, skills and safety with world experts and at an international level.

The second edition of the UIAA Alpine Summer Skills Handbook has just been completed, with a new section that covers traditional climbing and additions to Alpine skills. This is of value in other areas of MountCom’s work, including the Tyrol Declaration, Management of the High Mountains of the World, and for the UIAA and federations to ascertain best and acceptable practice.

The UIAA continues to collaborate with the Petzl Foundation on the Alpine Handbook, who has also funded training in Mongolia. MountCom continues in partnership with SafeCom to produce training videos which are available on the UIAA website. There is an agreement for future promotion of training courses and the handbook using the services of Red Wolf.

The Himalayan Club meanwhile, in coordination with the UIAA has funded training programmes in India.
ALPINISM AS AN INTANGIBLE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

On 11 December 2019, Alpinism was officially recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The UIAA supported this initiative through its honorary member Claude Eckhardt and member associations in France, Italy and Switzerland.

The full article can be found here.

ACCESS COMMISSION REPORT

ACCESS AND EXPEDITION WG MISSION STATEMENT

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

The UIAA Access WG also supports requests for action and assistance by UIAA member federations, especially requests by new member federations.

The Personal Skills training programme will be launched as well as a promotional campaign for training and potentially the ISO Certification. The Commission will continue to promote safety and best practices amongst agencies in high mountain regions, while work will continue on the Alpine Handbook.

PETER FARKAS RECEIVES OLYMPIC MEDAL

While there were still 290 days to go until the next summer Olympic Games in Tokyo take place - where 339 gold medals will be awarded - a member of the UIAA family attended his own Olympic medal ceremony on 2 October in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

UIAA Mountaineering Commission President Peter Farkas (pictured right), former UIAA Vice President, received a gold medal from the Mongolian National Olympic Committee as recognition for his ‘contribution to the development of Mongolian sport’. This included his instrumental role in bringing the Mongolian National Climbing Federation (MNCF) into the UIAA. The MNCF hosted a very successful edition of the UIAA General Assembly in October 2018.

ACCESS-RELATED MEETINGS

During the Malta MC meetings, it was decided that the Access Commission would be integrated into the Mountaineering Commission.

The Access members convened in Malta to define its future and directed the following topics to the Mountaineering President:

- How to develop future work
- Role of Access WG members of the Commission
- How to work together within the Mountaineering Commission

The Mountaineering Commission held its second meeting of 2019 in October and the Access President and Mountaineering President then met for a second time during the GA in Cyprus to coordinate future actions. This included:

- Setting a first Access WG meeting to prepare future, actions, projects
- Joining if possible, the EUMA Access Workshop and continuing UIAA Access meetings
- Joining future Mountaineering Commission meetings

The Canadian Alpine Club has created an online directory and booking system for its mountain huts, MountCam is investigating how their system can be adapted to create a global booking system for mountain huts - like an AirBnB for climbers and will be inviting federations to become part of this project.

The Commission plans to have a fully functioning database which will allow management of walking, climbing and mountaineering training, accreditation, courses and seminars.

The Personal Skills training programme will be launched as well as a promotional campaign for training and potentially the ISO Certification.
REPORT BY
PETER FARKAS
Mountaineering Commission President
JUAN JESUS IBANEZ MARTIN
Access Working Group President

KEY LINKS
https://www.theuiaa.org/mountaineering

MOUNTAINEERING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP
As confirmed by the UIAA Management Committee –
November 2019

MEMBERS
Peter FARKAS (President), Hungary (MHSSz)
Pavlos GEORGIADES, Cyprus (CMCF), Vice-President
Mike GALBRAITH (Secretary), Canada (ACC)
Andreas ANDREOU, Cyprus (CMCF)
Chiaki AOYAMA, Japan (JMA)
Roman BRYK, Russia (RMF)
Debraj DUTTA, India (IMF)
xabier EZEIZABARRENA, Spain (EMF)
Ron FUNDERBURKE, USA (AAC)
Nona KALADADZE, Georgia (MCAG)
Krishan KUMAR, India (IMF)
Patrick LAMARQUE, France (FFCAM)
Steve LONG, UK (BMC)
Jordi MAGRINA GUELL, Spain (FEEC)
Darko MRSNIK, Croatia (HPS)
Signar Andre NILSEN, Norway (NTK)
Laza POPARA, Serbia (PSI)
Laura SAMISO, Spain (PEDEME)
Doug SCOTT, UK (BMC)
Meija SERMANIUK, Slovenia (PZS)
Shiwen SO, CHMCMU (Hong Kong)
Mr VOGEL, Czech Republic (CMF)
Phil WICKENS, UK (BMC)
Frederick YU, CHMCMU (Hong Kong)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS
Pedro CUICA, Portugal (FCMP)
Klara DVORAKOVA-HAVLICKOVA, Czech Republic (CMLA)
Nabih GHANEM, Syria (GSM)
Mahmood HASHEMI, Iran (IMSCF)
Hamed HAVALEHDAR NEJAD, Iran (IMSCF)
Seyed Mahmoud MIRNOORI LANGEROUDI, Iran (IMSCF)

ACCESS WORKING GROUP
MEMBERS
Juan JESUS IBANEZ MARTIN, Spain (PEDEME), President
Lode BECKERS, Belgium (EMBEL)
Han HWANG, Chinese Taipei (CTMA)
Sudhir KRISHNANKUTTY, India (IMF)
Mitosz JÓDLOWSKI, Poland (PZA)
Mohamed SOHEL FAREED, Iran (IMSCF)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS
Vassilis BAGIROV, Azerbaijan (FAI)
Jack BERGIN, Ireland (MI)
Carla MILIONI, Brazil (CBME)

LEGAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP
MEMBERS
Klara DVORAKOVA-HAVLICKOVA (Chair), Czech Republic (CMLA)
xabier EZEIZABARRENA, Spain (EMF)
Damjan OMERZU, Slovenia (PZS)
Edward EVERETT VAILL, USA (AAC)

Throughout 2019 the Access WG continued to support and provide information regarding issues in different regions:

Slovakia (JAMES), to lobby against the measure. The authorities then agreed to a period of consultation and negotiation.

Mont Blanc, (France)
Due to over-crowding in the Mont Blanc region, authorities established a regulation to control summit attempts. The UIAA Access WG followed this subject closely.

Nepal regulations
The Government established a new set of rules for Everest summits (age, physical attributes, experience). Close contact was established with the Nepal Mountaineering Association. This is an ongoing situation.

2020 THE YEAR AHEAD
The 33rd Access Commission meeting will be held in 2020. The preference is to join an Access Workshop organised by EUMA in May. Topics will include:

• Integration into the Mountaineering Commission, relaunch of activities.
• Increase restrictions around the world, is a UIAA Strategy required?
• Access knowledge or guidelines to follow in case of restrictions.

LEGAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP
MEMBERS
Anna GILLOOLY, New Zealand (NZAC)
Dr Dominik KOCHOLL
Gerald LANNING, New Zealand (NZAC)
Matt MAGKILL, New Zealand (NZAC)

SAFETY
TRAINING

Training is one of the core services offered by the UIAA. In particular, the UIAA Mountain Qualification Label (MQL), managed by the UIAA Training Panel (TP), is an internationally recognised accreditation and certification scheme which examines and evaluates the training and assessment programmes of UIAA member associations.

TRAINING

All UIAA members can apply for, and benefit from, MQLs. The process includes an independent assessment of the training provided to voluntary leaders and instructors by a UIAA expert, which is then endorsed by an international panel of experts. Accredited UIAA member associations include representatives from over twenty countries.

PRACTICAL TRAINING PROJECTS

Mongolia, September
Sponsored by the Petzl Foundation. Successfully trained ten leadership candidates, including two trainees from the National Emergency Rescue team. A pilot introduction course using UIAA personal skills programme was also completed. Trainers came from Cyprus, Mongolia and the UK. This was phase one of a three-year project.

The contribution from sponsors amounted to €3,000 (€10,000 over three years).

There was also additional sponsorship from various Mongolian organisations amounting to €30,000 over three years. The long-term outcome will be the availability of a sustainable guiding qualification for hiking including glacial treks.

Kenya, October
Sponsored by James Savage. The successful venture resulted in the qualification of 48 leadership trainees, as well as the creation of a pilot introduction course using the UIAA personal skills programme. Contribution from sponsorship amounted to €4,000. Trainers came from New Zealand and the UK.

In Hong Kong, the ‘Train the Trainer’ course resulted in the qualification of six senior coaches; advanced tutor training and induction into UIAA personal skills training concept. Delivered by trainers from Cyprus and the UK.

In addition to the voluntary training projects, the team also completed professional assignments requested by UIAA member organisation China Hong Kong Mountaineering and Climbing Union (CHKMCU).

In Hong Kong, the ‘Train the Trainer’ course resulted in the qualification of six senior coaches; advanced tutor training and induction into UIAA personal skills training concept. Delivered by trainers from Cyprus and the UK.

SAFETY
The Training Panel now has a team of trainers in place with proven experience to deliver “cutting-edge” training on the mountain as well as in the classroom, anywhere in the world. Its network of trainers include individuals from IFMGA, UIMLA and many national associations, including the AMI (Association of Mountaineering Instructors), the AMGA (American Mountain Guides Association), and the NMLA (Nepal Mountain Leader Association). The Hong Kong seminar produced a cross-activity format that could potentially be delivered for any member organisation as a member service and showcased the work of several commissions.

The Training Panel met twice in 2019, as part of the Mountaineering Commission. Thanks to its “filter” procedure of requiring MountCom membership as a pre-requisite for membership, the Training Panel has a dedicated team comprising senior trainers from Catalunya, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Slovenia, Spain, the UK and the USA. It should be noted that this sub-commission already contains the maximum number of members proposed in the draft constitution document circulated prior to the GA and has several other aspirant members.

TRAINING RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Personal Skills (Good Practice) Training

All other services and resources are secondary to this concept, which the TP believe 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.

A leading team of Training talent

FRANCIS HUDSON

Meetings

The Training Panel met twice in 2019 as part of the Mountaineering Commission. Thanks to its “filter” procedure of requiring MountCom membership as a pre-requisite for membership, the Training Panel has a dedicated team comprising senior trainers from Catalunya, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Slovenia, Spain, the UK and the USA. It should be noted that this sub-commission already contains the maximum number of members proposed in the draft constitution document circulated prior to the GA and has several other aspirant members.

The TP has successfully piloted courses using the syllabus and structure in several countries - including some countries that do not yet have a 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. It has been piloted in India, Indonesia, Kenya and Mongolia.

CHKMCU have announced that it intends to use this licensing concept for all their Mountain Skills 1 and 2 courses from 2020, 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 and UIMLA members with suitable pedagogic induction - a short online induction is proposed in addition to seminars.

UIAA Summer Handbook. A second edition of the French and English language versions has been finalised ready for print. This includes a new section on avalanche, and substantial additions to the sections on GPS and trad climbing (at the request of Reinhold Messner and Doug Scott). A completely new section on canyoning is almost complete. This project has been sponsored entirely by the Petzl Foundation.

Demand for this book exceeds availability. The English language digital version has brought an income to UIAA training of approximately €500. Participating federations are contracted to pay a small fee for each copy sold of the printed version. It is estimated that worldwide sales to date are in the region of 5,000 copies: this represents a significant potential income to offset against UIAA commission running costs. Invoices will be submitted in 2020.

The dedicated UIAA Skills series has promoted extracts from the book with the aim of promoting sales of the digital version.
Translation of DAV videos. This was a Safety Commission project; the Training Panel was asked to comment after the production of the English language versions. This was straightforward for eight of the videos, but the remaining video - belaying with an ATC/tube style device - generated considerable correspondence and also controversy within at least one federation. The Training Panel is keen to coordinate future filming or post-production work on training videos in collaboration with the Safety Commission; two of the panel members have a professional background in directing successful training videos. This episode demonstrates that the climbing public expect UIAA videos to present internationally agreed techniques and is an important medium for potential future expansion.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

This has taken two years longer to complete than the developers had originally anticipated. It should be noted that a database capable of handling every qualification for every mountaineering culture and environment is unprecedented: some would say impossible. The TP has paid €2,000 for what eventually required a ground-up rebuild - therefore the casualty has been timing, since the database developer naturally focusses on its fee-paying clients for developer time. In the meantime, the TP has successfully added all the CRM components for the skills training registrations, a fundamental expansion requirement from single organisation representatives to potentially the entire online world - something which did not exist when the development work was commissioned. Therefore, this has required considerable groundwork and diplomacy, and many weeks of populating data fields by the Training Panel representative to avoid any accusation of “scope creep”.

MARKETING

Peter Bourne, UIAA Communications Manager, has done a great job at promoting the UIAA Summer Skills Handbook through the website and newsletters, along with uploading meeting reports and papers. However, this is “preaching to the converted” - whereas there is a need to ensure that every climber and mountaineer worldwide knows and respects the UIAA brand and gains awareness of its training services. Since the budget request for investment in this crucial aspect of the development work was rejected when the business plan was first proposed in 2012, the Training Panel has recruited a professional marketing company on a “no-win, no fee” percentage income basis. This marketing drive will commence as soon as database testing is complete.

FUTURE PLANS

There are ongoing projects in India, Kenya and Mongolia. As well as the revitalisation of existing accreditations, there is a planned marketing drive for federation accreditations and individual climber registrations. There have been various additional training requests, including from the Mumbai region, Morocco and Thailand.

Plans are afoot to publish the second edition of the English-language Summer Skills Handbook, with worldwide distribution. There is also a desire to implement a Personal Skills/Good Practice training delivery by member organisations’ instructors, while there is also a Back-Country Snow Sport Seminar planned in the spring of 2020 in Canada.

FINANCE

The TP is effectively working on a shoestring budget. Total investment by the UIAA in the ambitious database and marketing work has been €2,000 to date. However, the funding for specific projects by the Petzl Foundation has enabled the TP to pilot, test and refine the service products described elsewhere in this chapter.
Ice Climbing

COMPETITION ICE CLIMBING

The UIAA has organised the sport of ice climbing for nearly twenty years and in that time has witnessed the incredible growth in popularity of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour. Ice climbing is a dynamic, exciting sport, rewarding determination, technique, speed and precision. The sport is increasingly appealing to young people both as a competition and as a way of developing core mountaineering skills.

The 2018 World Tour was one of the largest to date comprising five World Cups, four European Cups and a World Youth Championships. Events received signature exposure and coverage through the UIAA’s livestreaming platform and relationships with partner channels, including The Olympic Channel.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2018/19 UIAA Ice Climbing Season Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018/2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAA Ice Climbing World Cups</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New UAA Ice Climbing World Combined Championships</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAA Ice Climbing World Championships</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAA Ice Climbing European Cups</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletes</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event entries total</td>
<td>4M</td>
<td>3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National federations represented</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-quality livestream</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased livestream distribution</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Cup winners from Korea, Russia, Switzerland + podiums for Canada, Finland, France, Ireland &amp; Iran</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.84 million UNIQUE views of all video content
Over 2.9 million views of livestream + 94% on 2018
Total reach of nearly 7.5 million people
Dedicated media distribution partners - Extreme Channel, Olympic Channel, EpicTV, Red Bull TV, TrekTV, Swiss-Sport TV

The Olympic Channel
2018/19 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour Calendar

The UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour is supported by the work of the UIAA Anti-Doping Commission who ensure competitions are fully WADA compliant from running a mandatory athlete questionnaire (athletes must complete this to receive their competition licence) as well as in and out of competition testing. Please refer to the dedicated chapter of this report. Further details: www.theuiaa.org/anti-doping

UIAA Anti-Doping Commission

For results from the 2019 UIAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships in Oulu, Finland please click here: https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/ice-climbing-resultscentre/

DENVER: A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEASON

The UIAA Ice Climbing World Cap in Denver, organised in conjunction with the American Alpine Club, was one of the highlights of the season. Here are just a few of the reasons:

- First UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup event held in a major city centre – event structure situated right outside city hall in the Civic Centre Park, downtown Denver.
- Event run in conjunction with a large winter festival organised by Barbegazi.
- 25,000 spectators over the two-day event – possibly the biggest climbing competition attendance ever worldwide.
- Over 10,000 spectators attended the lead final on Sunday night.
- Voted best event of the 2019 season by athletes.

The UIAA plans to focus efforts on recreating this concept in other major cities worldwide to show competition ice climbing to a wider public.
2018/19 UIAA ICE CLIMBING WORLD TOUR MEDAL WINNERS

WORLD CUP: CHEONGSONG, SOUTH KOREA
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/world-combined-champs-china-in-south-korea/

LEAD Men
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- H Park (KOR)
- L Younggeon (KOR)

LEAD Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- E Koshcheeva (RUS)
- M Filipova (RUS)

SPEED Men
- A Nemov (RUS)
- V Iurlov (RUS)
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)

SPEED Women
- W Shin (KOR)
- H Song (KOR)
- V Koshcheeva (RUS)

WORLD CUP: BEIJING, CHINA
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/new-medal-winners-in-beijing/

LEAD Men
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- N Clair (FRA)
- L Younggeon (KOR)

LEAD Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- E McSwiggan (IRL)
- E Bertling (FIN)

SPEED Men
- V Iurlov (RUS)
- V Kartashov (RUS)
- A Sukharev (RUS)

SPEED Women
- E Koshcheeva (RUS)
- E Feoktistova (RUS)
- M Tolokonina (RUS)

WORLD CUP: SAAS-FEE, SWITZERLAND
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/lead-men-winner-third-place/

LEAD Men
- Y Glatthard (SUI)
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- L Primerov (SUI)

LEAD Women
- W Shin (KOR)
- S Goesta (SUI)
- H Song (KOR)

SPEED Men
- A Nemov (RUS)
- V Iurlov (RUS)
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)

SPEED Women
- V Bogdan (RUS)
- E Koshcheeva (RUS)
- N Savitskaya (RUS)

WORLD CUP: RABENSTEIN, ITALY
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/live-from-rabenstein/

LEAD Men
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- H Park (KOR)
- L Ladevant (FRA)

LEAD Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- W Shin (KOR)
- P Klingler (SUI)

SPEED Men
- A Nemov (RUS)
- H Song (KOR)
- D Bouffard (CAN)

SPEED Women
- E Feoktistova (RUS)
- E Koshcheeva (RUS)
- D Grebennikov (RUS)

WORLD CUP: CHAMPAGNY-EN-VANOISE, FRANCE

LEAD Men
- Y Glatthard (SUI)
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- V Sypavin (UKR)

LEAD Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- W Shin (KOR)
- E McSwiggan (IRL)

SPEED Men
- V Bogdan (RUS)
- E Koshcheeva (RUS)
- C Jary (FRA)

SPEED Women
- V Bogdan (RUS)
- D Grebennikov (RUS)
- M Thomas (FRA)

WORLD CUP: DENVER, UNITED STATES
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/recap-mixed-winters-world-cup-finals/

LEAD Men
- Y Glatthard (SUI)
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- V Sypavin (UKR)

LEAD Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- W Shin (KOR)
- E McSwiggan (IRL)

SPEED Men
- V Bogdan (RUS)
- E Koshcheeva (RUS)
- C Jary (FRA)

SPEED Women
- V Bogdan (RUS)
- D Grebennikov (RUS)
- M Thomas (FRA)
WORLD COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIPS: MOSCOW, RUSSIA

COMBINED Men
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- N Glazyrin (RUS)
- M Safdarian (IRN)

COMBINED Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- V Bogdan (RUS)
- M Filippova (RUS)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: KIROV, RUSSIA
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/new-world-champions-crowned-in-kirov/

LEAD Men
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- M Tomilov (RUS)
- A Marshalov (RUS)

LEAD Women
- W Shin (KOR)
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- M Filippova (RUS)

SPEED Men
- V Jurlav (RUS)
- A Sukhanov (RUS)
- A Nemov (RUS)

SPEED Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- N Savitskaya (RUS)
- V Bogdan (RUS)

WORLD TOUR, OVERALL (ALL WORLD CUPS)
https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/2018-19-uiaa-ice-climbing-season-review-stars-on-ice/

LEAD Men
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- H Park (KOR)
- Y Glatthard (SUI)

LEAD Women
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- W Shin (KOR)
- E McSwiggan (IRL)

SPEED Men
- A Nemov (RUS)
- N Kuzovlev (RUS)
- V Jurlav (RUS)

SPEED Women
- E Kosachewa (RUS)
- M Tolokonina (RUS)
- N Savitskaya (RUS)

The Red Bull TV promotional video for the fifth round of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup Tour - Champagny-en-Vanoise – using footage from previous rounds – 1,500,000 views in 48 hours! 56,000 likes, 1,211 comments and 1,104 shares on Facebook!

No. 1 Post of the season

SPORT

MEDIA RETURN
### LIVESTREAM FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NUMBER OF VIEWS*</th>
<th>TOTAL VIEWS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>513,532</td>
<td>527,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheonggyeong</td>
<td>351,963</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>268,900</td>
<td>297,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saas-Fee</td>
<td>423,044</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabenstein</td>
<td>420,708</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champagny-en-Vanoise</td>
<td>86,900</td>
<td>109,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>160,100</td>
<td>172,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirov</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>198,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oulu</td>
<td>182,200</td>
<td>198,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2,867,197 views on data collected so far

The Outdoor Research official UIAA Ice Climbing Trailer was played as part of all livestreams.

### MEDIA PARTNERS

The Extreme Channel took fully embedded feeds of all the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, the Olympic Channel took the full World Cup series. Red Bull TV streamed the European World Tour legs which were available to watch on Apple TV, and will hopefully take the full season in 2020. EpicTV were present in Saas-Fee and Oulu and produced live and non-live content. TrekTV, the French television channel, also took the whole season’s livestream which the UIAA hopes to expand on in the future.

### ATHLETE PROFILES

Throughout the recent season, the UIAA produced a number of features profiling individual athletes. There focused both on the individual athlete's backstory and technique and performances. The videos proved very popular and provide the UIAA with a wealth of content to promote off-season. The UIAA would be keen to work closely with OR regarding both feature content and sponsored-content going forward.
354,000 impressions on UIAA Tweets about World Cup Tour

Top audience: UK, USA, Spain, Italy, France

2,065 photos posted
Combined photo views 613,305 up by 30% on 2018

The UIAA & QTV posted 64 videos to Instagram and regular picture posts

+20,000 views of video content on Instagram were achieved

5,000 new followers gained (from 33,000 to 38,000)
Reach for season posts 2.61 million
Five posts with a reach of over 100K
Two posts with over 100K unique viewers (Glattard/Denver; Clair/Rabenstein)

587,000 messages viewed
819,403 3-second views
Top audience: USA, Italy, India, UK, Spain
Top reach: USA, UK, Canada, France, Italy

211,700 unique views up by 51% in 2018
6,096 subscribers, up from 4,300 in 2018
Watch time ~ 2.5 million minutes
Top audience - USA, Russia, UK, Switzerland, S. Korea
77% views from non subscribers
84% views from males
25-34 years largest demographic
Top videos: Denver Lead Finals - 162K minutes; 12.3k views, Saas-Fee Lead Finals – 98.9K minutes; 5K views, Beijing Lead Finals – 79K minutes; 4.1K views

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TOP AUDIENCE: USA, Italy, India, UK, Spain
Top reach: USA, UK, Canada, France, Italy

2,065 photos posted
Combined photo views 613,305 up by 30% on 2018

PRESS RELEASES
One preview and one review press release sent for every World Cup and World Championship.
Preview usually 72 hours before the event; review within 24 hours of event finishing – 18 over the course of the season.

WEBSITE
The Ice Climbing pages on the UIAA website between 1 November and 15 March had 253,328 page views (up 42% on 2018) from 89,307 (up 52% on 2018) unique visitors and 142,065 sessions.
The event in Denver attracted the biggest audience by some margin – 36,887 page views, 24,267 sessions and 16,649 users.
With livestreaming traffic not necessarily directed to the UIAA website, the increase in numbers are very high.
The results section of the website had over 7.8 million page views (up 105% from 2018) from 25,749 unique visitors! (up 57% from 2018)

FACEBOOK
• 5,000 new followers gained (from 33,000 to 38,000)
• Reach for season posts 2.61 million
• Five posts with a reach of over 100K
• Two posts with over 100K unique viewers (Glattard/Denver; Clair/Rabenstein)

TWITTER
• 354,000 impressions on UIAA Tweets about World Cup Tour
• Top audience: UK, USA, Spain, Italy, France

INSTAGRAM
• The UIAA & QTV posted 64 videos to Instagram and regular picture posts
• 20,000 views of video content on Instagram were achieved

YOUTUBE
• 211,700 unique views up by 51% in 2018
• 6,096 subscribers, up from 4,300 in 2018
• Watch time ~ 2.5 million minutes
• Top audience - USA, Russia, UK, Switzerland, S. Korea
• 77% views from non subscribers
• 84% views from males
• 25-34 years largest demographic
• Top videos: Denver Lead Finals - 162K minutes; 12.3k views, Saas-Fee Lead Finals - 98.9K minutes; 5K views, Beijing Lead Finals - 79K minutes; 4.1K views

Flickr
• 2,065 photos posted
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The International Skyrunning Federation (ISF) represents 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, Ultra and Vertical.

The principal aims of the Federation are the direction, regulation, promotion, and development of Skyrunning on a worldwide basis. Safety in the mountain, clean sport and respect of the environment are the federation’s main goals. The ISF has been a Unit Member of the UIAA since 2015.

The ISF has developed and sent new guidelines to all ISF Members to support, increase and stimulate activities and promotion of Skyrunning. 2019 saw the welcome addition of Bolivia, Korea Republic and North Macedonia.

At the same time, the ISF is working to annually verify the activities of each member federation in terms of competitions/championships organised, participation of athletes at international events and, of course, to check the payment of membership fees. The GA in 2018 made a decision that non-paying members will be expelled after two years. It is the ISF’s intention to support the activity of each member, but also to protect the Skyrunning image in countries where there are defaulting members.
SKYRUNNING AT ALTITUDE

This year, ISF sponsored high altitude historical events, such as Monte Rosa SkyMarathon and Mount Elbrus, promoting the concept of "altitude" which was the main element at the start of our sport, together with scientific research at the birth of Skyrunning.

2019 Sporting Events

The 2019 Continental Championships is a good opportunity to involve new areas and finally this year the ISF had the chance to add championships in South America (Brazil) which were a remarkable media success and in North America (Colorado, US).

In Europe the participation in the three disciplines is remarkable, while the Asian Championships were held in Hong Kong in December.

The 4th edition of the Youth Skyrunning World Championship took place in August 2019 and was another incredible success thanks to the participation of many young teams and the commitment of the Italian Federation. Young athletes came from 28 nations and 11 teams were on the podium with 36 medals.

In 2018 the Anti-Doping activity continued with sample tests at the World Championships, Youth Championships and a stage of the World Series. Obviously, there are limitations due to high costs but in 2019 the federation will increase its testing to meet the new minimums imposed by WADA for each discipline. Therefore, the ISF also asks for the co-operation of national federations, as has already happened in Italy and Spain.

2020 AND NEXT STEPS

Globally Skyrunning competitions are increasing year by year and social media is also growing in terms of numbers and dedicated pages. The original Skyrunning Facebook page, which now mainly follows Skyrunner World Series (SWS) events, grew in one year from 115,000 to 128,000. This year new accounts were created for the International Skyrunning Federation with a Facebook and Instagram page, dedicated exclusively to federation activities.

The following activities, events and projects will expand Skyrunning’s appeal and will also increase the resources to ISF budget for the organization, anti-doping campaigns, security and youth promotion.

Skyrunning World Championship (confirmed for Spain on July 2020):

- Youth World Championships (rules and location tbc at the next GA)
- Cooperation for SWS and National Series (update of the format)
- Vertical World Circuit (update of sky climb / vertical rules)
- Iconic Skyrunning Events at Altitude (Sky Summit Tour proposal)
- ISF Certification Course (second step for 200 Skyrunning races in 2020)

SKYRUNNING VISION AND PROMOTION

2020 AND NEXT STEPS

TECHNICAL CLASSIFICATION

The project announced at 2018 GA to hand out a "Course Certificate" for competitions has begun and has been integrated with the formula for technical classification of race routes. This planning work took up the first four months of 2019, so the real operational phase only started in May.

The first step was the certification of the 50 races of which ISF already had the technical data, but the objective is to apply the certification globally, giving priority to the more technical routes. This programme will lead to a better identification of Skyrunning as a sporting discipline, to inform athletes of actual difficulties, preparation, equipment and safety.

ANTI-DOPING

In 2018 the Anti-Doping activity continued with sample tests at the World Championships, Youth Championships and a stage of the World Series. Obviously, there are limitations due to high costs but in 2019 the federation will increase its testing to meet the new minimums imposed by WADA for each discipline. Therefore, the ISF also asks for the co-operation of national federations, as has already happened in Italy and Spain.

REPORT BY

MARINO GIACOMETTI
ISF President

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

www.skyrunning.com
UIAA and Clean Climbing

ANTI-DOPING

The UIAA promotes Clean Climbing by adopting and implementing the World Anti-Doping Code. The federation manages an Anti-Doping programme, including in-competition and out-of-competition testing and results management processes in ice climbing and skyrunning.

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 the education for successful prevention of doping in sport. UIAA contributes to the advancement of clean sport through scientific research and outreach initiatives under the name of Clean Climbing.

During the 2018/2019 season, Anti-Doping Commission (ADC) conducted the highest possible number of doping controls - 33 in total.

Four doping controls per competition is consistent with the previous season. The difference this season was six out-of-competition doping controls on two athletes from the Registered Testing Pool and for the first time the ADC conducted blood testing.

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 the education for successful prevention of doping in sport. UIAA contributes to the advancement of clean sport through scientific research and outreach initiatives under the name of Clean Climbing.

The biggest challenge was finding two athletes who were available to be tested out of competition, having in mind cost implications. Maria Tolokonina and Alexey Dengin (both from Russia) were included in the test group in 2018 and were informed about their obligations to be available for testing out-of-competition. Their co-operation was excellent and without that it would have been almost impossible to fulfill this request from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
IN A UNIQUE POSITION

The UIAA makes it mandatory for every competition athlete in the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour to pass an anti-doping education test before registration. The UIAA is one of few international federations to insist on this practice.

The Anti-Doping online education created by ADC members – Dr Dikic and Dr Andjelkovic - is still active and up until April 2019 (close of 2018-2019 season), more than 200 climbers successfully qualified for a certificate.

ADAMS database

All UIAA doping control forms/tests for Ice Climbing and Skyrunning are entered into ADAMS (world database of all WADA athletes). This action is important for recognition by WADA and the IOC.

WADA Code Compliance

Following communication from WADA regarding the Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) review process, the UIAA received a Corrective Action Report (CAR). All non-conformities identified as part of the Code Compliance monitoring process are implemented. The UIAA can be proud to be recognised as Code Compliant. This was a very demanding process because it requires high level auditing of all ADC activities. Nevertheless, all amendments that WADA requested were undertaken. WADA was satisfied with the outcome.

REPORT FROM ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING(S)

The Anti-Doping Commission meeting was held during the E DINOS seminar in Luzern, 14 March 2019, in the presence of Borja Osés García, Marija Andjelkovic and Nenad Dikic. The current anti-doping situation was discussed and all activities of the ADC were approved. A subsequent meeting was held in Katowice, Poland at the beginning of November because WADA is bringing in a new Anti-Doping Code which will have an impact on UIAA testing procedures.

EVENTS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS

Event 1 – WADA Annual Meeting

Lausanne, March

This year’s meeting concerned the new WADA Code and Standards that will come into effect from 2020. There will be changes that affect all stakeholders in the fight against doping. The major difference from last year is the establishment of ITA (International Testing Authority) as an organisation with roots in the IOC responsible for independent testing in all Olympic sports. Over the next few years the ITA will probably become a dominant testing authority in the world of sport.

Event 2 – WADA Conference

Katowice, October

This conference takes place every four years. In Katowice, the Anti-Doping Code that comes into effect in 2020 was detailed. The UIAA will adopt this new Code on all levels of its activity, as this is now mandatory.

2020: THE YEAR AHEAD

In this section ADC would like to put an emphasis on the very important issues that will impact UIAA WADA Code compliance in future.

On the level of anti-doping statistics that WADA monitors through information in the ADAMS database, the UIAA exists as a sport with two disciplines – Ice Climbing and Skyrunning. That means that all mandatory requests from TDSSA (WADA Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis) gather these two disciplines into one total. In TDSSA it is written:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>DISCIPLINE</th>
<th>ESAs%</th>
<th>GHS%</th>
<th>GHRFs%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountaineering and Climbing</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESA, GH and GHRF are mandatory analyses that need to be done in urine or blood analyses. The percentage described in TDSSA refers to the total number of UIAA doping controls conducted during a calendar year. WADA monitors the total number of controls through reports from both the laboratory and the ADAMS database. In 2019, the UIAA conducted 33 controls, with Skyrunning until November 2019 having 26 controls. That makes a total of almost 60 controls. According to that the UIAA needs to analyse 6 ESA, 3 GH and 3 GHRF.

Skyrunning has started active communication regarding permission to conduct tests under the UIAA umbrella. Skyrunning even conducted specific analysis in urine like ESA and GHRF.
The UIAA is proud to reward those who promote responsible rock climbing. Ever since its foundation in 1932, the UIAA has supported and developed mountain sports and rock climbing in parallel with its commitment to protecting the environment in which they are practised.

High mountains, big walls, bouldering, ski mountaineering, ice climbing and rock climbing; these are all activities in the DNA of the UIAA and run in parallel to its commitment to sustainable practices. Since 2015, the UIAA has organised a dedicated annual Award for rock climbing festivals worldwide.

UIAA ROCK CLIMBING RESOURCE
As part of its commitment to supporting international rock climbing events, the UIAA recently launched a tool for organisers to showcase their festivals and for climbers to seek out festivals held near them. The calendar is available to view here.

INTRODUCING:
UIAA ROCK AND ICE FESTIVAL CALENDAR
https://youtu.be/eKDoLz0gEGo

Rock Climbing
UIAA ROCK CLIMBING FESTIVAL AWARD

The UIAA is proud to reward those who promote responsible rock climbing. Ever since its foundation in 1932, the UIAA has supported and developed mountain sports and rock climbing in parallel with its commitment to protecting the environment in which they are practised.

High mountains, big walls, bouldering, ski mountaineering, ice climbing and rock climbing; these are all activities in the DNA of the UIAA and run in parallel to its commitment to sustainable practices. Since 2015, the UIAA has organised a dedicated annual Award for rock climbing festivals worldwide.
2019 UIAA ROCK CLIMBING FESTIVAL AWARD

Suru Boulder Fest was confirmed as the winner of the 2019 UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award (RCFA) during the Award Ceremony held as part of the UIAA General Assembly. The Almaty International Rock Climbing Festival and Korea’s Trad Climbing Festival, both supported by UIAA member associations, were also nominated. Amit Chowdhury of the Indian Mountaineering Federation (also UIAA SafeCom President) accepted the award on their behalf.

The fourth edition of the Suru Boulder Fest (held between 25 August and 7 September) witnessed 150 climbers participating. The organisers are committed to raising awareness about rock climbing in India and in particular the area around Ladakh. Many international climbers visit the region each year and share experiences with the local community, most of whom are unable to travel and explore their passion for climbing. As a result, the festival succeeds in the development of the climbing community as well as awareness about the sport.

Given the quality of all three of the 2019 candidates, while Suru was confirmed as the overall winner and receives 1,500 CHF in prize money, the Panel decided to offer 500 CHF to the two other nominees. All candidates demonstrated excellent organisation and received positive feedback from attending climbers. Suru was chosen for a number of factors not least its involvement of women climbers, close relationship with local community, support for youth climbers and waste disposal programme. This year’s Award was also supported by the UIAA – Union of Asian Alpine Associations – who kindly donated to the prizemoney pool.

2020 the award will focus on Australasia and South East Asia.

SUPPORT FOR UIAA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Festivals recognised as part of the Award must be endorsed by a UIAA member association in that country. The Award provides an international platform for festivals run by, or supported by, UIAA members. Benefits not only include additional international exposure but the opportunity to collaborate with the UIAA and its different Commissions.

In 2020 the award will focus on Australasia and South East Asia.

PAST AWARD WINNERS

2015 - ORIGIN CLIMBING FESTIVAL, SOUTH AFRICA
https://www.theuiaa.org/home/inaugural-uiaa-rock-climbers-award-africa/

2016 - KALYMNOS CLIMBING FESTIVAL, GREECE
https://www.theuiaa.org/rock-climbing/kalymnos-a-rock-climbers-paradise/

2017 - INTERNATIONAL CLIMBERS’ FESTIVAL, UNITED STATES
https://www.theuiaa.org/home/a-true-commitment-to-all-aspects-of-rock-climbing/

2018 - FESTIVAL DE BOULDER DE MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA
The Youth Commission 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.

**Guiding the next generation**

**YOUTH**

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The UIAA Youth Commission (YC) held meetings in Spain and in Cyprus.

A number of key topics were addressed. This included ways to increase engagement with national federations and their youth officers with the scope of organizing more national and international camps. The ultimate goal is to encourage and inspire young people to begin their journey into climbing.

The meetings also set out the Commission’s vision for its future and the Strategic Plan for the Global Youth Summit events for 2020.

The YC has facilitated the successful organisation of a number of events for young people from federations from across the globe. These events have given young people valuable experiences and training in various aspects of walking, rock climbing and ice climbing. An important aim of the Youth Commission is to continue to attract new members.

The Commission will continue to encourage more member federations to participate in its activities, seek to establish greater co-operation with other UIAA Commissions and enhance the promotion of the Commission among all member federations.

The Youth Commission has a programme of GYS events for the coming year, including well established events in France, Iran, North Macedonia and the UK. The Commission has focused primarily on organizing events and although work has been conducted on producing documentation and handbooks, to ensure these events run safely it has a bigger role to play.

Future plans include the development of new international camps as well as continuing to help with grass route development within federations.

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One of the main roles of the Youth Commission is to provide a pathway and make it easier, especially for member associations in developing countries, to put together a youth programme. The Youth Commission not only organizes and promotes youth events organized by members but encourages information sharing between federations. “For a lot of federations it is not about getting something out of the UIAA’s work in youth but what they can give”, explains Mark Dennison, Commission President. “Many federations have strong youth programmes in place and a clear pathway from when a young person first shows an interest in climbing or mountains to getting them to where they want to be.”
GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT EVENTS

Six Global Youth Summit Events were held in 2019, in France (3), Georgia, Iran and the Czech Republic.

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

In 2019, the UIAA extended its online international calendar to provide access to information about Youth events, whether UIAA GYS events or national events organised by its members.

The calendar can be viewed from the Youth Events page of the UIAA website. Members can supply details on the events through the dedicated form:
https://theuiaa.typeform.com/to/Hy899t

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ICE CLIMBING CAMP
Guillestre (Hautes Alpes), France
24 February - 2 March
https://www.theuiaa.org/youth/guillestre-2019/

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CLIMBING FESTIVAL
Fontainebleau, France
29 May - 1 June
https://www.theuiaa.org/youth/global-youth-summit-damavan-alam-kuh-summer-camp/

DISCOVERING BOULDERING IN FONTAINEBLEAU FOREST
Fontainebleau, France
29 May - 1 June

YOUTH CLIMBING CAMP
Ariege, France
6 - 11 July
https://www.theuiaa.org/youth/ariege2019/

MOUNTAINEERING CAMP
Mount Kazbek, Georgia
23 - 30 July
https://www.theuiaa.org/youth/global-youth-event-mount-kazbek-mountaineering-camp/

SANDSTONE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CLIMBING CAMP
Ostrov u Tise, Czech Republic
11 - 17 August
https://www.theuiaa.org/youth/register-for-sandstone-international-climbing-youth-camp/

GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT EVENTS

REPORT BY
MARK DENNISON
President, UIAA Youth Commission

MEMBERS
Mark DENNISON (President), UK (BMC)
Mohammad NAVID AHMAD, Pakistan (ACI)
Darius BABLABA, Lithuania (LMA)
Barbara BULEA, Romania (PSD)
Christian BIARD, France (FFCAM)
Mahmoud HASSANI, Iran (IMSCF)
Marcus GARCIA, USA (AAC)
Magdalena JANCOVA, Czech Republic (CMF)
Alexander KLENOV, Russia (RMF)
Iraj MAANI, Iran (IMSCF)
Neda MILOSEVIC, Serbia (PSI)
Batsaikhan OCHIRBAT, Mongolia (MNCF)
Keerthi PAIS, India (IMF)
Tiberiu PINTILLE, Romania (CAR)
Mahmud AL RUBAYEATT, Bangladesh (BMF)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS
Edgardo ABREU, Brazil (CBME)
Zurab KUTCHAVA, Georgia (MCAG)
Jenny PATTERSON, South Africa (MCSA)

Information correct as of the UIAA General Assembly in Cyprus, November 2019
This chapter is dedicated to the reports produced by the Continental Representatives of the UIAA Management Committee.

Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Central and South America, Oceania.

As the smallest continental body, in terms of number of member associations, Africa presents unique challenges and opportunities for the UIAA.

OPPORTUNITY

It was noted in the last Continental Reports that Africa is a definite growth opportunity for the UIAA. Indeed, it comprises an enormous area with a huge population - approximately 17% of the world's people live on the African continent, making it the second largest continent by population after Asia. It also has some of the world's best-known mountains from the high peaks of East Africa to the Atlas Mountains in the north and Table Mountain in the far south.

As the smallest continental body, in terms of number of member associations, Africa presents unique challenges and opportunities for the UIAA. Indeed, it comprises an enormous area with a huge population – approximately 17% of the world's people live on the African continent, making it the second largest continent by population after Asia. It also has some of the world's best-known mountains from the high peaks of East Africa to the Atlas Mountains in the north and Table Mountain in the far south.

However, currently there are only two member associations in Africa. The primary one is the Mountain Club of South Africa. The Fédération royale marocaine de ski et sports de montagne (Morocco) has been a member since 2017 and efforts have been made to engage more closely and gain a greater understanding of their activities. There are other clubs in Africa with a long and distinguished history – the Mountain Club of East Africa, precursor to the clubs in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania - dating back to the early 1930s. Of course, the presence of the high, glaciated peaks in those countries means that the climbing potential there is reasonably well-known to "outsiders" and are visited on a regular basis by climbers from all parts of the world.

ISSUES

This in itself, is generally a good thing but it does mean that there is tremendous pressure on Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Ruwenzori Mountains, which creates even more problems and opportunities both for the development of climbing in Africa and for an increase in tourism with all the ramifications that spring from that.

The UIAA has been at the forefront of efforts to optimise the various factors involved in this relatively new wave of development. In much the same way that Mount Everest is experiencing tremendous pressures due to the number of people wishing to "tick off" the mountain, Kilimanjaro is under extreme pressure with some 30,000 people (plus 50,000 support staff) attempting to scale this iconic peak. Due to its lack of technical difficulty, it is increasingly popular, so much so that the Tanzanian authorities, seeing an opportunity, are considering the construction of a cableway to a point high on the mountain.

This would inevitably increase the pressure on the mountain and its environment - as well as increasing the likelihood of altitude-related conditions affecting tourists and potential climbers. The UIAA has put out a statement - similar to the statement concerning Everest - pointing out the opportunities and problems involved with such a development. It is a complex problem in a developing country such as Tanzania.

Last year, the Africa Report stated that it is imperative to support these (East African) countries as the high mountains are at significant risk owing to climate change and the loss of the tropical glacier systems. This
becomes more and more critical with the passing of time. Elsewhere, the story is more encouraging with the Confederation of African Mountain Clubs continuing its progress. The second (hopefully) Annual Pan-African Meet was hosted this year by the Mountain Club of Malawi on Mount Mlanje. Reports are still coming in but we expect that it will be highly successful. Negotiations are on-going for the third meet and all UIAA member associations will be informed when plans solidify.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) continues to excel. The MCSA currently boasts around 5,000 members and supports a number of activities, ranging from rock climbing (traditional, adventure, sport climbing and bouldering) to hiking, mountaineering and ice climbing.

South Africa has proved a popular destination for mountaineers, offering excellent value for money for visitors. The MCSA has helped organize numerous climbing events and exchanges with climbers from other associations. This has seen exchange meets with The American Alpine Club (AAC) and the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) over the last couple of years. Other clubs are also on the programme for exchanges. The MCSA sees this as an excellent way to foster cross-pollination of climbing communities worldwide.

It is hoped that the other Clubs on the continent will be able to apply for membership of the UAAA in the near future but it will require a change in the thinking of both the various clubs concerned and the UAAA itself.

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**ASIA**

The Union of Asian Alpine Associations (UAAA) stands for friendship, unity and promotion of mountaineering activities in Asian members. It contributes to international mountaineering on a global scale related to the UIAA. The UAAA aims to promote and exchange mountain culture amongst Asian members. A great effort is made to maintain the mountain environment and support the International Mountain Museum as a centre of mountaineering worldwide.

The UAAA is pursuing a long-term goal of linking mountain museums in Asian member countries and building alliances that promote mountain cultural exchange, artefact preservation and mountain education through museums. As Alpinism is recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, mountain museums must express it as a tangible value. In 2019, IMM (Nepal) and KNMM (Korea) signed a MoU to take a step for alliance, and the programme of ‘Visit Mountain Museums in Asia’ began.

The UAAA Council meeting was held in Taiwan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association, in June, with thirteen members participating. Thomas Kähr, EB member of the UAAA, was invited which provided a perfect opportunity to discuss the latest workings of the UAAA.

The General Assembly meeting was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October. A total of 30 participants from 16 members attended. During the General Assembly, there were annual activity reports from each member and joint hiking programs to Ala-Archa national park and a visit to the climber’s graveyard.

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**EVENTS**

The 2019 UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award was focused on the Asian region, to support the award, the UAAA, following its meeting in Taiwan in June, donated a total of $500 prize money.

In January, the UAAA also donated $5,000 to the International Mountain Museum in Nepal as part of the museum development fund.
The UAAA created a ‘Sherpa of the year award’ to recognise the world’s best Sherpas. The prize was awarded to Mingma Gyabu, a Sherpa who has participated in various rescue activities more than 50 times at over 7,000 meters.

PARTNERSHIPS
The UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour has a very strong relationship with UIAA members in Asia, in particular, China, Korea and Mongolia. The China Hong Kong Mountaineering and Climbing Union hosted the UIAA Mountaineering Commission meeting in August with great success and the federation was awarded a training standard accreditation.

2020
In June, a council meeting will be held in Tokyo, Japan, organised by the Japanese Workers Alpine Federation marking its 60th anniversary. Organised by the Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association (CTMA) and the Kyrgyz Alpine Club (KAC), the Mountain Spirit Project will be held in June and July. In August, organised by the Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation of Kazakhstan (MSPFK) there will be a joint expedition to Karly Tau Peak. The country will also hold the traditional rock-climbing festival (TRAD).

The General Assembly meeting will be held in Hong Kong in October.

REPORT BY
CHRISTINE PAE
Director of Korean Alpine Federation, International Relations; General Secretary, Union of Asian Alpine Associations; UAAA Management Committee

SUMMARY OF 2019
The EU Commission has approved EUMA’s ERASMUS+ project application for “Improvement of conditions of climbing and mountaineering sports”. The project will start with a meeting in January 2020.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS
British Mountaineering Council
The Changing Behaviours Conference was held in Manchester, England, on 14 November, 2019. [https://www.thebmc.co.uk/ changing-behaviours-access-conference]

The aim of the Conference was to look at how climbers can influence positive behaviour in the outdoors in order to continue to care for the places they love. The conference focused on a range of issues that are currently affecting such places and landscapes from litter, wild fires and parking, to wild camping and human waste in the great outdoors. The BMC explored how changing people’s behaviour and highlighting these concerns can help minimise impact and conserve these spaces for future generations.

Club Arc Alpin
On 14 September, the CAA General Assembly elected Dr. Nicole Slupetzky, Vice-President of the ÖAV, as President of the CAA. The meeting decided on a “collaborative membership” of the CAA in the European Union of Mountaineering Associations EUMA [https://www.hoch-salzburg.at/messwerkstatt/sicherheit.html].

There was also the adoption of updated joint rules on safe indoor climbing, new recommendations on bouldering outdoors and a new version of the position paper on mountain sports and risks involved.

Malta Climbing Club
Having successfully set up a UAAA approved training and certification programme for instructors and climbers in general, the MCC is in the process of applying for environmental development permits to regularise the bolting of sport climbing crags as well as identifying a supplier for liability insurance to instructors and guides.

Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia
In December 2018 an agreement between MFNM, UAAA and the Petit Foundation for the translation of the Alpine Skills Handbook into Macedonian was signed and the translation is almost done.

In March 2019, a UAAA Expert completed the evaluation of MNFV Voluntary Mountain Leaders trainings and accredited both trainings: Mountain Walking and Trekking (summer), Winter Mountain Walking and Snowshoeing.
In May 2019, the 30-year anniversary of the first climb on Mount Everest by the Macedonian climber, Dimitar Ilievski-Murato was held on Baba Mountain, above Bitola, Dimitar’s hometown. The anniversary was a joyous occasion, though one tinged with sadness, celebrating Dimitar’s success but also mourning his death which occurred on the route down.

In June 2019, the symbol of mountaineering in North Macedonia and Balkan, the Titov Peak Tower was renovated and provides shelter to mountaineers and hikers.

At the beginning of October 2019, MFNM Mountain Orientation team participated in The Balkan Mountaineering Union’s (BMU) Mountain Orienteering Competition in Bosnia and Hercegovina, together with teams from other BMU member countries.

Mountaineering Ireland

MI have appointed a Women in Sport Officer with the aim of increasing participation by women at every level of climbing including coaching. www.mountaineering.ie/aboutus/news/2019/?id=233

Mountaineering Ireland is awarding the 2019 Mountaineering Ireland ‘Lynam Medal’ to Sir Chris Bonington for his lifetime of achievement in Mountaineering, coinciding with the UN International Mountain Day in December.

Meanwhile, Mountaineering Ireland is in the process of publishing a book ‘Irish Peaks’, which will be of interest to anyone visiting Ireland’s mountains. The Mountaineering Ireland affiliated Club Environmental Officer training continues to prove a success in educating mountaineering club members in the increasing fragility of the mountain environment.

Swiss Alpine Club

Key themes included the Glacier Initiative and the challenges for the SAC regarding climate changes (including mobility, energy supply, huts, helicopter transports to huts). Delegates of the SAC decided in June to officially support the federal popular initiative for glaciers (The Glacier Initiative calling for net zero emissions by 2050, seeking to enshrine the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement in the constitution and put Switzerland on a climate change course).

The SAC began to work on a new strategy that will enter into force in 2022. Delegates will vote on the proposal in June 2021. Digitalisation and "the route portal" are two ongoing projects.

New Partnerships –

EUMA and other organisations

EUMA (European Union of Mountaineering Associations) was able to conclude a cooperation agreement with the European Ramblers Association (ERA), which will greatly assist its goals. The Tenerife Walking Festival has again issued an invitation to EUMA members for 2020. The leaders of the guided groups will receive very favourable conditions also in 2020.

EVENTS

UIAA members are supported through EUMA on many matters. This representation offers a platform for federations to inform others attending the GA of their news and areas of concern that they would like to share through UIAA channels and any projects they seek partnership.

Report by

ANNE ARRAN

British Mountaineering Council (BMC), UIAA Management Committee

Latin America is a vast continent with large mountain ranges. Despite this, in general terms mountaineering is not widespread compared with other sports. The region is made up of twenty-four countries, with only Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Guatemala being full members of the UIAA.

The national federations and their clubs are working on the promotion of the activity and are great defenders of the mountains, the environment and mountain culture.

Government support remains poor, but it has changed substantially in some countries as Sport Climbing has become an Olympic sport, which has brought benefits for mountaineering and traditional climbing as well.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

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Continental Bodies
The objective of the courses is to train rock route setters, create a quality standard in the open lines and develop new climbing areas in the country. In 2019, four courses were held in different parts of the country, where four new climbing areas have been created.

EVENTS

In Sierra de los Padres the "Boulder Festival of Mar del Plata" was held as it has been every year since 1999. It brings together more than 500 climbers from all over the country as well as neighbouring countries. Festival celebrations were double this year, as the meeting was awarded the UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award in 2018. The Argentine Federation successfully made its first edition of the "Escuela Juvenil de Montaña" (Mountain Youth School) where young climbers selected from all over the country were trained and made expeditions through different geographical regions of Argentina. These youngsters have been trained with the support of FASA with the aim of training future generations of Argentine mountaineers.

As in previous years, courses and trainings continue, the "National Course of Rock Route Setters" were given by the National Federation. The Argentine Federation made an important national expedition to consolidate a process of professional qualification of mountain guides. This year a new revision of the program has been established. In 2019 was the fifth edition of the "Mosquetao de Ouro" (Golden Carabinier Award). These national awards had six categories across different mountain activities.

The CBME together with Pan-American Access, have carried out the "Respect the Mountains" and the construction of toilets for climbers and visitors, repeating previous work in the Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre area.

The CBME also works intensively to consolidate a process of professional qualification of mountain guides. This year a new revision of the program has been established. In 2019 was the fifth edition of the "Mosquetao de Ouro" (Golden Carabinier Award). These national awards had six categories across different mountain activities.

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By 2020, the big challenge is to grow sports in all areas. Mountaineering in Latin America is not a massive sport, but it is already being considered of great importance linked to environmental activities and conservation, so the national federations increasingly relate to their governments as advisors. In addition, work with institutions such as Pan-American Access has increased, where the joint effort has yielded great results, so it will seek to advance further in this type of relationship.

Latin America is a continent where its mountains are relatively well preserved and have not negatively been impacted by human activities. There are可是 relatively few mountaineers and local explorers, but that at the same time that mountaineering can develop whilst respecting nature, the inhabitants and the culture of each region.

In recent years, the activity of the national federations has increased substantially and progress has been important. The main issues are legal, access and conservation, as well as training in mountain and climbing activities.

2020

As mentioned in previous years, there are numerous challenges for sport and its national federations in Latin America and these remain very large. These include the extension of the territory and its mountain ranges. The inaccessibility of certain areas due to problems in some countries and/or the lack of transport and infrastructure in the most remote regions. There remains a shortage of mountaineers and local explorers, guides and mountain instructors. Those factors create a lot of work for few people because, as mentioned, the national federations are very small and only five countries are currently members of the UIAA.

In other countries

Countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have strengthened their mountain activities, but they remain distant from becoming members of the UIAA due to economic problems and a lack of mountain sports leaders.

REPORT BY

MARTIN LASCANO GONZALEZ

Central & South America Representative UIAA Management Committee

NORTH AMERICA

North America's full UIAA members are the American Alpine Club (AAC) and the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC). UIAA associate members are Federation Québécoise de la montagne et de l'escalade (FQME), Province of Quebec, Canada; L’École Nationale d’escalade du Québec, Canada and the Alaskan Alpine Club (USA).

AAC – AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB

The American Alpine Club staged its annual and successful “Climb the Hill” advocacy campaign at Washington DC and were joined by notable climbers such as Steve House, Tommy Caldwell and Alex Honnold. More details are available at: https://americanalpineclub.org/climb-the-hill

The ACC in cooperation with the UIAA and its significant sponsor Outdoor Research staged a tremendously successful Ice Climbing World Cup Denver, Colorado in February. The exciting event culminated in two rounds of quarter-finals and finals on Saturday and Sunday attended by the largest crowds in UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup history estimated to be in the range of 12,000 to 15,000 people each day.

On or near the Canada Day long weekend 2019, 19 of the ACC’s 24 local sections across Canada held UIAA Respect the Mountains programmes. The well-attended events were fun for all while cleaning up many areas and providing education on various climbing and environmental topics.

As the year closed, the ACC added to its status as the operator of the largest number of backcountry huts in North America by acquiring the Shadow Lake Lodge in the backcountry of Banff National Park. Shadow Lake diversifies the ACC hut system’s hiking options for club members and the public.

By 2020, the big challenge is to grow sports in all areas. Mountaineering in Latin America is not a massive sport, but it is already being considered of great importance linked to environmental activities and conservation, so the national federations increasingly relate to their governments as advisors. In addition, work with institutions such as Pan-American Access has increased, where the joint effort has yielded great results, so it will seek to advance further in this type of relationship.

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In recent years, the activity of the national federations has increased substantially and progress has been important. The main issues are legal, access and conservation, as well as training in mountain and climbing activities.
OCEANIA

Climate Change Impact
Significant glacial recession in New Zealand is impacting physical access to traditional mountain areas & requiring mountaineers to reconsider when and where they climb.

Access Challenges
In the past 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 for these closures. Traditional owners in both countries are increasingly asserting their 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 very places that attract climbers. These closures are significant, heartful and grounded in the colonial histories of both countries. There are significant differences between Australia and New Zealand. In Australia the closure of much of the well-known Grampians National Park to climbing (closing some 3,000 routes) was initiated by the state Park Service and supported by local Aboriginal owners who are concerned at disputed claims regarding damage to traditional rock crags have closed while local protocols with closure in both Australia and New Zealand. NZAC has undertaken a major reorganisation of its Governance structure and now has an elected Board in place with responsibility for governance, financial and strategic oversight. The quality of candidates, from within the membership, was high with an impressive range of skills and experience. Three interrelated themes have been the focus of attention by the Oceania mountain community:

1. Access Challenges
2. Climate Change Impact
3. Growth in Visitor Numbers

GOVERNANCE
NZAC has undertaken a major reorganisation of its Governance structure and now has an elected Board in place with responsibility for governance, financial and strategic oversight. The quality of candidates, from within the membership, was high with an impressive range of skills and experience. Three interrelated themes have been the focus of attention by the Oceania mountain community:

1. Access Challenges
2. Climate Change Impact
3. Growth in Visitor Numbers

SUMMARY OF 2019
NZAC has undertaken a major reorganisation of its Governance structure and now has an elected Board in place with responsibility for governance, financial and strategic oversight. The quality of candidates, from within the membership, was high with an impressive range of skills and experience. Three interrelated themes have been the focus of attention by the Oceania mountain community:

1. Access Challenges
2. Climate Change Impact
3. Growth in Visitor Numbers

HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
As always, there has been lots of activity in the Oceania mountaineering and climbing world. Much of this is not reported. People just get out and do it. It can be said that the popularity of climbing is growing as reflected in a number of new local Clubs being formed in both Australia and New Zealand.

The formation of the Australian Climbing Association Victoria, specifically to legally challenge the closure of climbing areas in the state of Victoria was a notable development. These closures attracted considerable media attention in Victoria, some of which was negative to climbers.

NZAC publishes a range of guidebooks. The federation was thrilled when the Aoraki-Tai Poutini National Park was declared a World Heritage Site in December 2019. This is a major step forward in the long standing principle that preservation of the environment comes first in National Parks. The NZAC has firmly objected to a range of proposals that would allow the expansion of commercial activity such as flights in remote parts of National Parks to meet ever growing tourist demand.
**Poutini Guide for Mountainers**, by Rob Frost (covering the heavily glaciated heartland of NZ mountaineering) won the Guidebook section at the 2019 Banff Mountain Book Awards.

The NZAC goes from strength to strength as reported elsewhere. It is regarded as a model for NZ outdoor recreation clubs at a time when many established clubs are seeing declines in membership. As always there is a shortage of resources given the demands.

**Events, Conferences, Meetings**

The annual New Zealand Alpine Journal (NZAJ) has been digitised for the years 1892-2014, with 2015 & 2016 to be added shortly. This was a major project working with a team at Innsbruck University, Austria. 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/](https://www.nzaj-archive.nz/)

NZAC also maintains a large online database of climbing routes in New Zealand. [https://climbnz.org.nz](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](https://www.cmc.net.nz/mountaineer).

Bouldering meets are gaining popularity. The NZAC National Bouldering series is attracting a wide range of younger and talented climbers.

The Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival was successfully held again by the Expedition Climbers Club in Queenstown, South Island, with cold weather delivering some excellent ice conditions.

**2020: The Year Ahead**

Climbers are increasingly asking the New Zealand Alpine Club and other regional climbing organisations to engage and advocate on their behalf with issues facing the outdoor community such as access and the impacts arising from climate change and increasing tourist numbers. There is a need to step up NZAC’s advocacy capability as these challenges grow. In 2020 we can expect to see these issues become more pronounced.

NZAC members are involved in planning for the next Sustainable Summits Conference to be held in Kathmandu in June 2020.

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. Its members expect this of the UIAA.

**REPORT by**

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