

IF Sustainability Case Study
**MOUNTAIN
PROTECTION AWARD**



IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

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

With this in mind, and in response to recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC

conducted the International Federations (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016. This allowed the IOC to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identify

common topics, good practices and mutual challenges; and share information. One of the Project’s outcomes was a series of case studies, illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

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

sharing of IF sustainability case studies should be continued. These case studies form part of the enhanced support system provided to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. The studies are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’

(UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement since in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that

sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The UN’s 17 SDGs provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. The IF case studies attest to the fact that the Olympic Movement contributes to the achievement of many of these.



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

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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



THE UIAA SAFEGUARDS THE ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVES THE LIVES OF MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES WITH A UNIQUE ANNUAL AWARD

The rich yet fragile nature of the mountain ecosystem means it is imperative that we manage human-induced impacts, to ensure both the sustainability of these regions and the future of International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) sports such as mountaineering, ice climbing and rock climbing. Over recent decades,

“THE MPA IS ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGING PROACTIVE EFFORTS ON MOUNTAIN PROTECTION, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE NOT FIND THE RECOGNITION OR PROMOTION NEEDED TO GROW.”

**DR CAROLINA ADLER,
UIAA MOUNTAIN PROTECTION
COMMISSION PRESIDENT**

mountain regions have seen a substantial increase in tourism and sports activities, which has resulted in the over-exploitation of natural resources, increases in pollution and waste, changes in land use and disturbances to flora and fauna.

[The UIAA's Mountain Protection Award \(MPA\)](#) has been designed to promote responsible mountain tourism practices and reward outstanding initiatives from mountain stakeholders.

THE MOUNTAIN PROTECTION AWARD

- Annual award, established in 2013.
- Judged by the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission and a panel of international sustainability experts.
- More than 80 projects submitted to date, with annual applications increasing by 270 per cent in five years.
- Winners receive a grant of USD 5,000.
- Applicants receive recognition through the UIAA's communication channels.



CRITERIA

Projects submitted for the MPA must be linked with at least one of the following activities, established through consultation with the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission:

- biodiversity conservation;
- sustainable energy and resource management;
- sustainable waste management and disposal;
- adaptation to/mitigation of effects of climate change; and
- protection of the environment through culture and education.

EVALUATION

The MPA is a fundamental part of the UIAA's commitment to supporting the

OBJECTIVES

With sustainability as one of its three pillars, the UIAA wants to play a key role in preserving mountain regions around the world. The goals of the UIAA's Mountain Protection Award are to:

- Contribute to the conservation of ecosystems and the sustainable livelihoods of people who live in mountain regions.
- Encourage the exchange of knowledge.
- Support mountain stakeholders who share objectives and values.
- Maintain close contact with the mountaineering community, especially in remote areas.



conservation of mountain regions, and has already made a tangible difference to lives, communities and the environment. It has enabled organisations and project founders to raise additional finances to build infrastructures, conduct vital research and fulfil pending goals. It also provides recognition and visibility through an international communication platform. The MPA celebrates innovation and a desire to make a difference.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Building awareness may help to increase the numbers of projects and applicants. The UIAA has established an online platform that provides project progress reports and shares best practices.
- Independent experts may be useful when assessing applications, and can also provide advice and recommendations.



WINNERS OF THE MOUNTAIN PROTECTION AWARD

2013

Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area, Ethiopia

Designed to protect rare animals and deal with illegal grazing, this ecotourism project has helped local communities to protect their environment and increase their economic self-sufficiency.

2014

Pamir Horse Adventure, Tajikistan

This horse-riding and trekking organisation creates jobs for local communities and promotes sustainable tourism, helping to improve the livelihoods of local people and protect the biodiversity of the region.

2015

KTK-BELT Studio, Nepal

Platform for farmers, teachers, designers and environmentalists building community-based biodiversity conservation strategies – tackling a variety of concerns and sharing best practice.

2016

Mountain Wilderness, France

Dedicated to removing obsolete manmade facilities, infrastructure and waste that were polluting the Alps, this project has so far removed over 400 tonnes of waste with the help of 1,500 volunteers.

