

2023 Annual Report



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

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Cover photo: Fitz Roy (Argentina/Chile)



Part 1: Executive Review

Mission Statement

The UIAA 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.

Discover more: theuiaa.org/about

Global Mountain Network

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

Photo: Ibn Sinā Peak / Lenin Peak (Tajikistan)



Annual Reports

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

All information contained in this Annual Report refers to events which took place in the calendar year of 2023.

Please note that the terms Management Board/ Management Committee and Executive Board/Executive Committee may be used interchangeably in this report

UIAA in numbers



Welcome from UIAA President Peter Muir

The 2023 UIAA General Assembly (GA) in Trabzon marked the start of Peter Muir's fourth year as UIAA President. Following his election in 2020 during the UIAA's first ever online GA, a situation repeated for the meeting in 2021, last year was his first opportunity to address the UIAA membership in person as President, fittingly in his home country of Canada. In this interview, Peter reflects on the progress made during the last three years and what members can expect as he enters the final year of his first term.



...on becoming President of the UIAA...

I've been involved in the mountaineering community for a long time starting in the mid to late 1980s with the local section of the Alpine Club. It's ironic that when I became national President of the Alpine Club of Canada and then President of the UIAA people said you must be a very good climber and I said no actually my climbing is average at best! For me, climbing is fun. Mostly I find the climbing community very engaging and interesting and have always been struck by its inherent solidarity. Mountain organisations are by nature helpful, they help the community.

...on organisational changes...

I felt at the time of my election, that the UIAA was struggling a bit organisationally with communication between its various levels. For example, there was a disconnect between what the Management Committee expected of the Commissions and what the Commissions expected of the Management Committee. We needed to conduct a review of this relationship to better reflect what the Articles of Association expected. It's not directional one way or the other, it's both directional and consultative. There has been some great progress here and a much clearer direction has emerged. I think generally we have made the UIAA more relevant, more active. The review of the Commissions, led by a number of EB members, has borne fruit. Communication across all levels, it's coming together.

...on progress made during the pandemic...

I'm actually quite proud of the progress we made during Covid. We were able to meet more frequently and engage new and more people. Working online is not as effective as in person but you can meet more regularly, set more goals and monitor progress. I am proud of the way the UIAA adapted, we kept things together without incurring any significant fiscal impact.



Composition of UIAA Executive Committee following the 2023 General Assembly. (Left to right) - Lode Beckers, Yongfeng Wang, Martin Lascano, Peter Muir, Françoise Jaquet, Amit Chowdhury, Simon Alden. Credit: Tom Tushaw/UIAA

...on increasing membership...

I've never been there, but I understand that they have some pretty decent mountains in South America! It didn't make sense to me from a mountaineering perspective why so few of the countries were not members of the UIAA. The last few years online communication has enabled people to engage in different ways, interact more regularly and not feel cut off. I'm pleased with the way South America membership has grown with the arrival of Ecuador and Peru and potentially more to follow. I still think there's room for opportunity there. The next objective is definitely to increase representation in Africa and that's going to be a challenge. We are encouraged by the collaboration being made at a continental level.

I'm pleased by the way federations in Middle East are showing increased interest. Another key moment was the return of the Italian Alpine Club (CAI). That was a major step, the world of mountaineering needed their presence.

I am also very happy to have witnessed the solidarity between our members particularly when we've needed to support certain members during difficult times. Looking at the GA in Trabzon, it was great to see such a diverse geographical spread of members present and the introduction of three new members.

We have also developed the relationship with the IFSC (Sport Climbing) and ISMF (Ski Mountaineering). Our message on key global topics needs to be aligned. I think all three federations have done a great job here particularly the recent IFSC stance on supporting human rights.

...on the 2023 General Assembly...

The event was a success. There were some practical governance type issues that we dealt with. For example, we took our first steps at updating the AoAs. They have served us well but needed reviewing to more fit the current landscape. One of the most important aspects of the GA was the Climate

Change Summit where we can continue to understand how the UIAA can help its members and what the members want and expect from us. We also set the ball rolling on the development of a new UIAA Strategic Plan.

A key part of the GA was the marketplace where Commissions had more time to explain the work they are doing and to network more closely with delegates. Here common ground and projects of mutual interest can be developed. This can only be a good thing.

...on progress in the Safety pillar...

Our Safety Commission continues to produce excellent work with significant commitment from the UIAA in terms of resources. It is important that the message is amplified about what the UIAA does and we call on our members to support this.

When climbers purchase UIAA certified gear, all the money is invested directly back into mountaineering. It is a constant cycle of developing standards to improve climber safety and ultimately reduce accidents. In parallel, our Medical Commission continues to deliver first-class papers with the updates to advice for women and children to be released shortly. Our message to members is that these safety resources are available for them to use and share with their community. The [Safety Label video](#) is a perfect example. This is a compelling and important piece of content and needs to be shared.

...on competition ice climbing...

From the beginning, I knew that ice climbing was going to be a challenge and one of the reasons that I got more actively involved was because I saw the struggles going on. There has been a lot we couldn't have anticipated including the ban on Russian athletes. Furthermore, partly due to the pandemic, an active organiser like China moved away. I think it is important we bring the Chinese back as hosts and as participants.

The Ice Climbing Governance Group is doing a lot of good work. We need to fundamentally look at the way we're organising the sport. Events need to have more of a grassroots orientation to begin with. We need to look at the quality of smaller and local events, develop more pathways for athletes and make it more accessible. The fact is that ice climbing is not as accessible as sport climbing due to many factors, including needing more gear and of course ice. The members who can realistically participate in ice climbing need to step up and participate. People are interested but they need a clearer pathway to get in, perhaps even through organisations who are not yet strictly members of the UIAA. The Olympic dream remains alive but there's a lot to do before that can become a reality.

...on ensuring projects are fully developed...

As an EB we have worked at being more responsible in reviewing projects. Before we commit to them, we need to make sure we can follow through. I'm not sure that in the past we have applied enough rigour to assessing both what a project was going to be, where it was going to go and what it

was going to accomplish. The lesson that I've learned is that we need to be more cautious, more deliberate on what projects we're going to undertake. We have to be committed to see them through to their conclusion. There are some new projects in development which we are dedicated to getting right such as the new UIAA Social & Environmental Sustainability Guidelines as well as the work being done on near misses and accident reporting.

...on climate change...

With the Climate Change Taskforce, we've started to refine how we're going to go about this by forming small but key focus working groups within the Climate Change Taskforce. One of them is advocacy. Another one is organising Climate Change Summits, and that really is where we see getting back direct information to and from our members. One of the key things that I think we need to do is continue to develop our Carbon Footprint Reports and align them with our budget. All budgets are economically or fiscally based, and that, to me, is irresponsible because it doesn't take into account the carbon consequences of what you're doing. For me, during these first couple of years of our work in climate change, it is important to involve our members, but more importantly that we get our own house in order.

In terms of policy, creating mountaineering does and don'ts is very difficult because you need to reconcile many different views and different situations in different parts of the world. The one thing that we have to concentrate on is the sport aspect. We are mountaineers first and foremost. We're not an environmental organisation. We're not even a safety organisation. Those two things that supplement what we are.

...on the relevance of the UIAA globally...

We are heading in the right direction. Climbing and mountaineering are personal challenges and essential to the human condition. Left to their own devices, they wander off into different directions and this can have unfortunate consequences as we have recently seen on some of the high mountains of the world.

Our role is more about ethics than regulations. Tragic or ugly events leading to negative publicity doesn't just affect mountaineering but also the wider perception of mountaineering and mountaineers. When we see things which are not right or not fair, we need to act. There is room for improvement, particularly in developing our messages, our position and making them more clearly communicated. But progress here, notably through the Mountaineering Commission, is impressive.

Final reflections

Overall, I'm quite proud of our three-year progress. And I'm very thankful for the EB, MC and commissions for their commitment and collegiality. We will continue the course through 2024 and I encourage all members to come along as and when you can.

2023: The big stories, month-by-month

JANUARY

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / Study: Implication of Warmer Winters for Ice Climbing Guides
<https://www.theuiaa.org/implications-of-warmer-winters-for-ice-climbing-guides/>
- **ANTI-DOPING** / How a doping control progress works at a UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup
<https://www.theuiaa.org/doping-control-process-at-a-uiaa-ice-climbing-world-cup/>
- **ICE CLIMBING** / Saas-Fee crowns UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour winners
<https://iceclimbing.sport/saas-fee-crowns-world-tour-winners/>

FEBRUARY

- **ACCIDENTS** / UIAA working group to study accident and near miss data
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-bolsters-commitment-to-studying-accidents-and-incidents-in-the-mountains/>
- **SPONSORSHIP** / Youngone signs extension of UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour partnership
<https://www.theuiaa.org/extension-of-uiaa-ice-climbing-world-tour-partnership/>

- **MEMBERS** / Review of first UIAA Management Committee meeting of 2023
<https://www.theuiaa.org/review-first-2023-uiaa-management-committee-meeting/>

MARCH

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / Case Study: Abbot Pass Hut in Canada
<https://www.theuiaa.org/climate-change-case-study-abbot-pass-hut/>
- **YOUTH** / First UIAA youth camp of 2023 held
<https://www.theuiaa.org/youngsters-enjoy-first-climbing-camp-of-2023/>

APRIL

- **MEMBERS** / EUMA creates map of core European climbing areas
<https://www.theuiaa.org/euma-creates-map-of-core-european-climbing-areas-2/>

MAY

- **MEMBERS** / Review of UIAA Spring meetings
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-confirms-positive-momentum-across-key-projects/>

- **ACCESS** / Case Study: Piedra Parada rock formation in Argentina
<https://www.theuiaa.org/access-case-study-piedra-parada-in-argentina/>

- **MEMBERS** / UIAA releases 2022 Annual Report
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-releases-2022-annual-report/>

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / Mountain communities, climbers and scientists sound alarm from Everest and call for world leaders to decarbonise
<https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-communities-climbers-and-scientists-sound-alarm-from-everest-and-call-for-world-leaders-to-decarbonise-now/>

JUNE

- **MEMBERS** / Turkish federation offers frontline support during earthquake disaster
<https://www.theuiaa.org/turkish-federation-offers-frontline-support-to-earthquake-disaster/>

- **ACCESS** / Case Study: Mont Blanc
<https://www.theuiaa.org/access-case-study-mont-blanc/>

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / UIAA publishes 2021 Carbon Footprint Report
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-publishes-2021-carbon-footprint-report/>

JULY

- **YOUTH** / UIAA confirms positive momentum in hosting of 2023 youth events
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-confirms-impressive-momentum-in-hosting-of-youth-events/>
- **SAFETY** / UIAA releases canyoning harnesses warning
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-safety-alert-canyoning-harnesses/>

- **MOUNTAIN PROTECTION** / 2023 UIAA Mountain Protection Award nominees announced

<https://www.theuiaa.org/from-the-himalaya-to-the-andes-uiaa-announces-2023-mountain-protection-award-nominees/>

AUGUST

- **MEMBERS** / UIAA President visits Bern office
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-president-peter-muir-pays-visit-to-uiaa-bern-office/>

- **MOUNTAIN PROTECTION** / Progress stories from past Mountain Protection Award winners

<https://www.theuiaa.org/giroparchi-nature-trail-continuing-an-excellent-tradition/>
<https://www.theuiaa.org/a-year-on-a-fresh-impetus-for-2022-uiaa-mpa-winner/>
<https://www.theuiaa.org/alpine-learning-project-weeks-going-beyond-borders/>

SEPTEMBER

- **ROCK CLIMBING** / Inauguration of Asian rock climbing festival

<https://www.theuiaa.org/inauguration-of-asian-rock-climbing-festival/>

- **SAFETY** / Interview with SafeCom President Lionel Kiener as the UIAA continues to set the standards

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

- **MOUNTAINEERING** / Statement on historic 8000m achievements

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-statement-on-historic-8000m-achievements/>

OCTOBER

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** / Review of 2023 UIAA General Assembly

<https://www.theuiaa.org/review-2023-uiaa-general-assembly/>

- **MOUNTAIN PROTECTION** / Gear Tips from Brazil wins 2023 UIAA Mountain Protection Award

<https://www.theuiaa.org/mpa-winner-2023/>

- **ICE CLIMBING** / Calendar for 2023-24 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour announced

<https://iceclimbing.sport/up-date-2023-24-uiaa-ice-climbing-competition-calendar/>

NOVEMBER

- **MEDICAL** / Women at altitude papers published and released

<https://www.theuiaa.org/women-at-altitude-essential-medical-advice-published/>

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / Alpine Club of Canada release State of the Mountains report

<https://www.theuiaa.org/acc-releases-2023-state-of-the-mountains-report/>

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / UIAA publishes 2022 Carbon Footprint report

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-releases-2022-carbon-footprint-report/>

DECEMBER

- **SAFETY** / UIAA publishes guidance on electromagnetic interference in avalanche transceivers

<https://www.theuiaa.org/electromagnetic-interference-in-avalanche-transceivers/>

- **CLIMATE CHANGE** / Outdoor Research publishes inaugural Impact Report

<https://www.theuiaa.org/outdoor-research-publishes-inaugural-impact-report/>

- **MOUNTAIN PROTECTION** / Release of UIAA Social, Environmental and Sustainability guidelines is imminent

<https://www.theuiaa.org/release-of-uiaa-social-environmental-sustainability-guidelines-imminent/>

- **MEMBERS** / UIAA launches new website and database

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-launches-new-website-and-databases/>

- **MEDICAL** / 2024 International Mountain Sports training course announced

<https://www.theuiaa.org/save-the-date-international-mountain-sports-training-course/>

Review: 2023 UIAA General Assembly

The 2023 UIAA General Assembly was held in Trabzon, Türkiye from 20-21 October, expertly hosted by the Turkish Mountaineering Federation (TDF). Over 40 UIAA member associations from as many countries attended the event in-person.

Opening address from UIAA President Peter Muir

A welcome address from UIAA President Peter Muir covered the progress made during the first three years of his Presidency and outlined the priorities for the coming months. Muir's address closed:

"I'm quite proud of our three-year progress (since his election as President in 2020). And I'm very thankful for the Executive Board, Management Committee and commissions for their commitment and collegiality. We will continue the course through 2024 and I encourage all member federations to come along as and when you can."

Elections

Below are details of the EB and MC elections. Details on the full composition of the UIAA EB and MC can be found on the UIAA website.

Executive Board (EB)

- Simon Alden (MCC, Malta) elected to Executive Board
- Lode Beckers (CMBEL, Belgium) re-elected to Executive Board
- Yongfeng Wang (CMA, China) elected to Executive Board

Management Committee (MC)

- Davide Avagnina (CAI, Italy) elected to the Management Committee

The UIAA thanks outgoing EB members Zoljargal Banzragch (MNCF, Mongolia) and Mahmood Hashemi (IMSCF, Iran) for their dedication and commitment throughout their tenures.

Membership

New Full Members

- Mountaineering Association of Montenegro
- Singapore Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation

New Associate Member

- Fujairah Adventures Centre, UAE

Change of membership

- Norwegian Climbing Federation now an Active Member
- Norwegian Alpine Club - Norsk Tindeklub now an Associate Member

These changes come into effect on 1 January 2024. With the new membership figures, the UIAA will currently start 2024 with 97 member associations in 72 countries.

Articles of Association (AoAs)

A number of small amendments were proposed and approved to the AoAs including name changes - Management Board and Executive Committee replacing Management Committee and Executive Board, an update to office role descriptions and timeline adjustments for document distribution.

[Download the revised AoAs here.](#)

Finance

Regarding finance: The 2022 results were approved, discharge to the Management Committee granted. The forecast for 2023 with a projected loss of around CHF 20'000 was acknowledged. The budget for 2024 with a projected loss of CHF 75'000 was also approved.

UIAA Strategic Plan

The current UIAA Strategic Plan 2020-2024 is about to expire with the focus on the creation and development of an SP for the period 2025-2028. UIAA General Secretary Lode Beckers reflected on the achievements of the current SP (a successful emphasis on the three main objectives of lead, inform, represent and improved internal and external communication) as well as the objectives still to be reached (including widening of its reach to continental international associations, more member federations, other international mountaineering and mountain sports federations). The drafting process for the new SP is underway. It will be broken into three phases: **(1) formation of a small focus group, (2) wider consultation and survey and (3) final drafting in time for approval at the 2024 GA.**

Commission Reports

During the GA, the nine UIAA Commissions provided updates about the progress made this year and priorities for the next 12 months. Please see comprehensive details [here](#) and in the respective Commission chapters of this Annual Report.

International Skyrunning Federation

A Unit Member of the UIAA, the International Skyrunning Federation shared a report about its recent activities. This included:

- New statutes were approved and the ISF Card for athletes and Performance Ranking projects launched. In the period 2024-2026 the focus of the federation includes expansion of the ISF Card and Ranking projects, improved budget, partnerships and sponsorships and multi-year agreements for head office structures.

- Details on the successful hosting of events in 2023 including four continental championships, the inaugural Skyrunning Masters World Championships and the 7th edition of the Youth World Championships. In parallel, the Skyrunner® National Series took place in eight countries.

Panel Discussions

Commission Presidents were among the experts who took part in four panel discussions held as part of the GA. Topics covered, and not including in the Commission reports detailed above, were:

Global mountain accident data

Progress is being made by a working group focusing on bringing together the international resources collating information about global mountain accident and near miss reporting systems. As well as collating this data into one central area, the WG will develop a system to highlight specific reports and their findings.

Turkish earthquake disaster

The host federation, the TDF, was directly involved in the rescue operations during February's earthquakes which devastated areas of the country. As covered in a recent UIAA [article](#), the TDF provided both frontline support and equipment. The UIAA has opened a [fundraising channel](#) for the climbing community to help the TDF recover equipment. Members and the climbing community are encouraged to contribute. At the close of 2023, the UIAA and its community had raised a total of nearly 5,000 euros.

Continental reports

The UIAA Management Committee Continental Representatives all provided information and case studies regarding environmental issues and efforts in their respective geographical regions. These ranged from campaigns to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy at Everest Base Camp to a United in Yosemite campaign focused on inclusion. Please refer to the dedicated section of this Annual Report.

Safeguarding

The UIAA, in line with other international federations, is developing a safeguarding policy particularly for its projects in youth and competition ice climbing. This should be available on the UIAA website in 2024.

Communication

The UIAA launched its new website shortly ahead of the GA. The new website has been built and designed around a clear brief to:

- Ensure information is more easily accessible.
- Provide a greater showcase for current and seminal UIAA projects.
- Create an immersive, digital mountain experience.
- Ensure all core pages can be found within one click of the home page.
- Provide an automated sync with the UIAA database which provides information on membership, Commission delegates, certified safety equipment and the legal case studies database.
- Offer an international calendar of UIAA sanctioned events, to evolve in the future as a general international mountaineering calendar.
- Host a dedicated UIAA newsroom with a full archive of news and the option to more easily follow news and filter stories by category.
- Provide a publications library of core UIAA documentation.



Group photo of delegates at the 2023 UIAA General Assembly in Trabzon
Credit: Tom Tushaw/UIAA

The communication report also detailed plans to launch a UIAA podcast covering topical climbing and mountaineering stories (during the first quarter of 2024) and the availability of a UIAA toolkit of members to access digital assets to share on their own websites.

Climate Change Summit

Following the success of the first Climate Change Summit at the GA held in Banff, Canada in 2022, a second and more extensive summit was held in Trabzon. Among the featured case studies were:

Travel

The role of the UIAA in providing guidance: UIAA will continue to measure and report on its carbon footprint, develop policy and address the impact of travel, and offer external advocacy.

Report from *Climbers Cutting Carbon*: takeaways included encouraging climbers to make most of fewer travel, the positive impact of carpooling, using electric vehicles, and how individuals show measure their own impact using a carbon calculator.

Water

Two case studies were presented:

- The Impact of the Glacier Retreat on Mount Ararat, Turkey
- Case studies from South Korea: Towangseong Falls, Guksadae Falls and Pandae Ice Park

Huts

A focus on hut network in the Alps and in Canada. Looking at the impact of climate change on huts, how huts can adapt, and whether huts part of the problem or the solution? Discussion on whether huts should apply for a sort of green label which would allow visitors to make informed choices about which huts are doing more to be climate conscious.

More specific information on these studies is covered in both the Climate Change Summit and Continental areas of this Annual Report.

Mountain Protection Award Ceremony

At a special Award Ceremony that the UIAA announced that the Brazilian project Gear Tips Recycling Program became the tenth recipient of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award (MPA).

Gear Tips becomes the second project from South America to win the Award. Earlier in October, *Sierra Madre Nature Trail* by University of the Philippines Mountaineers was named the 2023 MPA Runner-Up and *Repurposing Windfarm Blades by Clare Local Development Company*, Ireland claimed the Best New Initiative prize. The 2023 MPA Award was partnered by the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation.

A total of 12 international projects operational on four continents were showcased as part of *2023 MPA*.

A review of the MPA ceremony, including a profile on Gear Tips and a link to a video stream can be found [here](#) and in the Special Projects area of this Annual Report.

Future General Assemblies

The 2024 UIAA General Assembly will be held in Malta on 8-9 November, hosted by Malta Climbing Club.

The 2025 UIAA General Assembly will take place in Kosovo, hosted by the Kosovo Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation.

Honorary Membership

Honorary membership, proposed by the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Club (NKBV), was awarded to Frits Vrijlandt, UIAA President from 2012 to 2020.

Other Meetings

In parallel, meetings also took place for the Medical, Mountaineering and Training Commissions as well as between UIAA Commission Presidents.

Additional Resources

[GA Photo Gallery](#)

To discover more about the UIAA General Assembly click [here](#).

Launching in 2024, the UIAA podcast Mountain Voices

theuiaa.org/mountainvoices/



<https://open.spotify.com/show/2ksycJUD3nLQ78fDxkDNFS?si=ce2925f10c5b4c2f>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/mountain-voices/id1730892794>

<https://shows.acast.com/mountain-voices>



Discussing
issues of
the day and
bringing the
climbing and
mountaineering
community
together



Part 2: 2023 Special Projects

Part 2: 2023 Special Projects

Climate Change Summit

Climate Change Summit #2 - Mountaineers draw from experiences

Climbers and mountaineers are unique in their perceptive role of witnessing climate change at high altitude.

Mountains are known to be exceptionally vulnerable, and as climbers, we see and experience the changes the environment has undergone over the years. We adapt. We are forced to take a different route. And yet, we feel like there is more we could and should do. In an effort to keep climate change and action on top of the agenda, the UIAA Climate Change Taskforce, has launched the concept of a Climate Change Summit to approach the topic, supported by the leading climbing and mountaineering organisations worldwide, to tell the stories we need to share with the world.

After a successful first edition in Banff, Canada, the UIAA held a second Climate Change Summit in 2023 as part of the UIAA General Assembly programme in Trabzon, Türkiye. Whilst the [first Climate Change Summit](#) focused on two case studies followed by round table discussions on various climate related topics, the event in Trabzon saw four key topics highlighted: travel, equipment and training, water and mountain huts. Each of the topics was introduced by a keynote speaker and then debated from various angles by experts and representatives of either UIAA Commissions or member federations.

Travel

As is the case for many (international) organisations, travel remains the number one concern when it comes to climate impact and the effort of reducing it. Those UIAA federations that have started collecting data on their organisation's Green House Gas (GHG) footprint, clearly state that travel makes up the biggest part of it, close to 70% for many.

The fact is, mountaineers travel for their endeavors and often, they don't stop at climbing "only" close to home. Phil Powers, UIAA Management Board member and representative of the American Alpine Club (AAC), shared his personal experience in a keynote speech, and spoke about how climate change awareness has changed things for himself, and also for the AAC. Powers also addressed the [Climbers Cutting Carbon project](#).

The panel discussion that followed Powers' talk, approached topics such as a federation owned carbon fund, bold climate strategies that go as far as lobbying governments (see [Swiss Alpine Club](#)), and lastly the dilemma of mountain tourism, and its role in some nations' wealth and communities' livelihoods.

Equipment and Training

Due to the climate changing and with its consequences for glaciers, rock and ice, mountaineers are and will continue to be faced with new challenges when out practicing their sport. [Graham Zimmerman](#), Board President of the American Alpine Club, Outdoor Research ambassador, and avid climate activist, introduced this session through a keynote speech which he began by saying: "As I have gained more perspective on the world around me, I've learned that a really big component of being a climber is also how we can utilise our stories from the mountains of the world in order to create change in the world around us."

Zimmerman told the story of his visits to Denali National Park and witnessing the glaciers melting away. He highlighted that despite appearances, we humans have a massive impact on these landscapes, and that "we will solve the climate crisis by decarbonising the systems in which we live, the systems that provide us with electricity, transportation, heating, cooling, as well as all of that outdoor equipment that we utilise in order to go to these wild spaces."

The panel on equipment and training, focused on questions like: "Is climate change on the mind of engineers/experts developing safety standards?" and whether federations are beginning to adapt their training curricula due to the climate changing.

Water

Marie Poulain, Researcher at the Department of Geography & Environment at the University of Geneva, opened the session by presenting a local case study to where the Climate Change Summit took place, namely Trabzon, and focused her keynote speech on the impact of the glacier retreat of Mount Ararat/Ağrı Dağı on mountain tourism and the socio-economic landscape. In her presentation, Poulain emphasised that glacier retreat is reshaping our connection with the mountains. The disappearance of the ice cap atop Mount Ararat signifies more than just a physical loss; it's a poignant symbol for both the local inhabitants and mountaineers alike. Climate change is fundamentally altering our interactions with mountainous regions, underscoring the profound impact of environmental shifts on our collective relationship with nature.

With climate change topics such as water sourcing and the migration of illnesses and diseases become relevant for climbers and mountaineers. These were discussed in a panel talk as well as hearing on a local case from Korea on how ice climbing has changed due to decreased snow fall and milder temperatures.

Huts

After travel, many UIAA federations claim that the maintenance and provisions for mountain huts has a significant impact on their GHG emissions. Jean Miczka, UIAA Management Board member, pursuing a PhD in hut adaptation to the Alpine transition at Lausanne University, gave the last keynote speech of the afternoon and painted a picture of the many challenges that huts face, providing examples from the Alps.

Miczka raised an important question: How extensively should we adapt huts to climate change? This reflection necessitates thorough discussion with all stakeholders involved. Engaging in dialogue with a diverse array of voices is essential for crafting effective and inclusive strategies to address the challenges posed by climate change. The panel discussion then focused on various subtopics such as avoiding and reducing the biggest causes of emissions, what the expectations of mountaineers and especially also the younger generation of climbers were, and finally the perspective of those federations that do not own or have huts in their nations. Panelists were asked what role they thought mountaineers who visit huts play in preserving the environment and water sources and furthermore what they thought a hut ought to provide for mountaineers in the first place versus what are considered luxuries.

The 2023 UIAA Climate Change Summit was an eventful and thought-provoking closure of the UIAA General Assembly and nicely led into the last event of the day, the celebration of the 2023 UIAA Mountain Protection Award winner. Working groups of the UIAA Climate Change Taskforce are using the content and discussions to formulate a Climate Action Plan for the UIAA and its member federations. This is due in 2024 and will be a central topic of the next edition of the summit to be held in Malta.

Report by

Carol Kauer	Stuart Gray	Jean Miczka
UIAA Office	UIAA Management Board	UIAA Management Board



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UIAA Carbon Footprint Reports

Strategy: A focus on 2025-2028

The current [UIAA Strategic Plan](#), active since 2021, expires at the close of 2024.

At the UIAA General Assembly in October 2023, a kick-off meeting was held to set in motion the drafting of the next Strategic Plan (SP).

The existing Strategic Plan has proved agile especially in negotiating the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 years. Its guiding mission and three-pillar structure have helped guide the federation's progress and focus during recent years. The new SP is likely to be an evolution of the existing one rather than witnessing a significant change of direction.

At the kick-off meeting, the following questions were posed as a means of helping shape debate about the new SP:

- Why does a global mountain sports organisation of the UIAA need a periodical update of its strategy? Should its duration be longer term than four years?
- When updating the strategy of a global organisation, is it always necessary to revise its mission statement?
- What is the difference between 'mission' and 'strategy'?
- On behalf of its member federations and UIAA commissions, the UIAA adopted the following three strategic objectives in 2022: to lead, to inform, and to represent (integrated into the existing SP)
 - Are those 3 objectives still relevant? Should they be replaced? Reworded? Supplemented?

The findings of the first few meetings of this focus group has been:

- To focus on longer term goals and make these objectives more accountable and easier to track.
- To ensure that the UIAA is the global voice for mountaineering and the mountains, especially in relation to sustainability, access to the mountains and safe climbing.
- To ensure that any update to the UIAA mission statement is harmonised and made relevant to member federations and their sections/clubs, and to our external partners and correspondents. Recognise and acknowledge the differences across different continents.
- To create a clear, concise and rallying document which lends itself more to dissemination via different channels including social media. It should be a live document and not 'sit on a shelf'.
- To work in a collaborative and positive spirit and ensure the process is accessible to all UIAA management layers, member categories, and commissions.
- To define the constituent elements of a strategy formulation process : **Mission > Objectives > Strategy document > Dissemination > Implementation > Monitoring of Impact.**

The UIAA will continue to communicate on the progress of the creation of its Strategic Plan 2025-2028. Significant discussions will take place during both the April 2024 meetings in Bariloche, Argentina and at November's General Assembly in Malta.

Report by

Lode Beckers

UIAA General Secretary

UIAA Mountain Protection Award

Gear Tips announced as 2023 UIAA Mountain Protection Award winner

At a special Award Ceremony held at the 2023 UIAA General Assembly, the Brazilian project Gear Tips Recycling Program became the tenth recipient of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award (MPA).



Gear Tips became the second project from South America to win the Award. *Sierra Madre Nature Trail* by University of the Philippines Mountaineers was named the 2023 MPA Runner-Up and *Repurposing Windfarm Blades by Clare Local Development Company*, Ireland claimed the Best New Initiative prize. Thanks to the work of the MPC for the MPA, and with the support from the UIAA Office, a total of 12 international projects operational on four continents were showcased as part of 2023 MPA.

About the 2023 MPA Winner: Gear Tips

In Brazil, nearly two million gas cartridges are sold annually for use in stoves during outdoor activities. Among users, doubts about how and where to correctly dispose of these cartridges when empty are very common. Due to a lack of information and collection points, these cartridges are often disposed of in the common trash, without proper sorting, and thus end up in landfills or local dumps. The organisation Gear Tips created a system to properly collect and recycle cartridges, in an effort to promote sustainable waste management and disposal.

“This is a nifty project that is building a circular approach for managing gas canisters, a hazardous waste disposed of by the outdoor sports community. Whilst the initiative supports outdoor people to help them dispose of empty gas cartridges, at a higher level, the project also contributes to instilling a change in the consumer mindset in the Brazilian outdoor community towards more sustainable choices and behaviour.”

- UIAA Assessment Team

“This is the tenth year anniversary of the UIAA’s Mountain Protection Award. And what a great year it has been. The projects nominated and showcased in 2023 continue to show how many in the climbing community are committed to making positive change in mountains around the world. Once again all of the projects in the running for either the MPA Award or the Best New Initiative offered the project adjudicators “mountains” of amazing ideas and choice. Speaking as an adjudicator myself I can testify to the care, attention, expertise, and reflection we all bring to bear when undertaking our assessments. Speaking as the Chair of the MPA Working Group let me offer a huge thank you to all my assessment team colleagues, UIAA office support, and our sponsor Bally Peak Outlook Foundation. You, along with the MPA nominees, are a crucial part of showing that together we can make a difference when it comes to protecting the world’s mountains. Now, more than ever, mountains matter.”

- Mary Sanseverino, UIAA Mountain Protection Commission and UIAA MPA Assessment Team

Following the Award announcement, the UIAA spoke to Pedro Lacaz Amaral, CEO & Founder of Gear Tips.

UIAA: How does it feel to have won the 2023 UIAA Mountain Protection Award?

Gear Tips: We are very proud to win the UIAA Mountain Protection Award. I believe that in Brazil people in general are not yet conscious about the different ways we harm the environment, and the focus is to bring back from nature what you brought. However, it is not just bringing back what you take but also the correct disposal of what you bring back. Winning the UIAA MPA will make the Brazilian mountaineering community look at the project with different eyes and hopefully more people will commit to it, from the national federation through to the local mountaineering clubs.



Top: Paul Kwakkenbos (UIAA Mountain Protection Commission VP), Pedro Lacaz Amaral (CEO & Founder of Gear Tips), Hunsu Arda Odabasioglu (UIAA Mountain Protection Commission), Carolina Adler (UIAA Mountain Protection Commission President).
Photo: UIAA/Tom Tushaw
Below: Photo supplied by Gear Tips



What do you hope winning this international award brings to your project?

I hope that more people get engaged with the project. As explained in the previous question, we saw that people that should commit were not committed and, winning such an important award, for sure, will make people realise the importance of the project. Now we will ask for the formal support from the CBME (Brazilian Mountain Hiking and Climbing Confederation – UIAA member association) and all the regional federations as well, that way we can have all the mountain clubs engaged and committed. We are also having conversations with the government agency that take care of all state parks in Rio de Janeiro (INEA) and hopefully, with the support from UIAA, we will have more chance to work together with them.

What will you spend the prize money on?

We must grow the project and the main challenge is the investment in new recycling collectors. Furthermore, we have different places to put the collectors with different individual demands. For example, Decathlon in Brazil is very interested in having the Recycling Program in their shops. However, due to the characteristics of the shops, we are building a different collector. Also, for camping areas, national and state parks, we had built a different model. Therefore, we will use the money to produce more collectors so we can spread the project everywhere in Brazil.

What inspired the creation of your project? How big an issue was waste related to gas cartridges and why?

As a chemical engineer, I worked in the environmental department of a company. Around 20 years ago, and I implemented a recycling program. When I found out that Brazil alone sells more than two million gas cartridges a year and most of them were not sent to recycling, I decided that something had to be done. However, the main problem was a logistic problem. How to send the cartridges back to the manufacturers or to a recycling facility? I contacted one of the main steel companies in Brazil and they said they could support the program if we would concentrate all gas cartridges in one place, what is impossible due to the logistic cost.

Together with Bruno Negreiros, the Environmental and Social Sustainability Coordinator at Gear Tips, we managed to organise a project in a way that the places where the gas cartridges would be collected also would have the responsibility to take them to a recycling facility near them. Bruno mapped all the recycling facilities close to the collection points to triangulate the process among them. Therefore, logistics were not an issue anymore, although we have to coordinate a lot of people in order for the project to work.

If you are successful in implementing your project throughout Brazil, will you look to expand or share your knowledge and practices with likeminded organisations in other South American countries?

We want to expand the project to all Latin America and, who knows, North America, Europe... the world. But for now, let's focus on Brazil, make it work, find out the best practices and then we can think about expanding. Since I know several distributors from brands, it might not be so difficult to

expand, but we need to concentrate our strengths (human and financial resources) in Brazil. Part of the process is to train people in Leave no Trace principles and make sure people are aware of the impact we cause and what can we to reduce it. Gear Tips is an educational platform and therefore we believe that through outdoor education we can achieve a better world.

What steps are being taken to reduce the reliance on gas cartridges?

Some people started to use alcohol stoves, especially ultralight trekkers. We see this as a possibility, since Brazil is a huge producer of sugar cane alcohol (including for the car industry) and this is a fuel from a renewable source and, in theory, zero CO2 emission since the sugar cane capture CO2 when growing. However, people still prefer an easy way to use a stove. We also have a few workshops showing the use of alcohol stoves so people can start to understand the benefits. However, it will take a while until people change their mindsets.

Have you been able to establish any relationships with companies making the cartridges to raise awareness with say extra information on product packaging or labelling?

Yes. Nautika is the biggest gas cartridges manufacturer in Brazil and they will soon start to include in all their cartridges a QR Code referring the Recycling Program. It is an important step to make all the consumers aware of both the problem and solution.

Are there other types of waste in Brazil's green spaces which you may look at dealing with in the future?

Human waste is one of the biggest problems in our green spaces. We intend to increase the availability of online content and information on our platform to make people aware of the problems and to try and reduce human waste on trails.

Further Reading

[Organisation website](#)
[UIAA 2023 MPA Nominee page](#)

Support for Past Winners

All projects nominated for the UIAA MPA receive close support and promotion from the UIAA during their lifecycle. For the annual winner of the Award, there is the added factor of global publicity and prize money. In 2023, the UIAA speaks to the past three recipients of the Award to discuss their recent progress and the positive impact winning the MPA had.

Discover more here:

[Alpine Learning Project Weeks](#) (Switzerland)
[Giroparchi Nature Trail](#) (Italy)
[Asociacion 7a Escalada](#) (Peru)

List of 2023 Nominated Projects

A total of 12 international projects operational on four continents were showcased as part of [2023 MPA](#).

<https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award/showcase-2023/>



[American Alpine Club](#)



[Apus Aventuras](#)



[Clare Local Development Company](#)



[Croagh Patrick Stakeholders Group](#)



[Gear Tips](#)



[Mountains Beyond Borders](#)



[Mountain Wilderness Switzerland](#)



[Nepal Mountaineering Association](#)



[Nokta Mountaineering Sport Club](#)



[Roeland van Oss](#)



[Swiss Alpine Club](#)



[Sierra Madre Nature Trail](#)

Photo credit: Clare Local Development Company (Ireland)

Communication

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

2023: Launch of new digital platforms

A significant focus of 2023 was the improvement of the UIAA’s digital platforms. Shortly before the *General Assembly*, the UIAA launched its new website and completed work on a number of associated databases.

Having last updated its website in 2016, the UIAA has completely revamped its site to offer a new visual experience, specifically a ‘digital mountain concept’. In addition to an attractive interface, a clearer site map and more video content, the new website includes:

- All principal pages accessible in one click from the home page
- A UIAA *calendar* of activities (filtered by subject)
- A one-stop *Newsroom* complete with filters and optional RSS feed
- More *information* on the federation, its services and key personnel
- A revamped *Members Directory* directly integrated with UIAA database (including details on delegates represented within the UIAA by each member. A dedicated members’ news feed will be added early in 2024).
- Improved presentation of content including for core UIAA services like *medical* papers and *safety* databases
- A dedicated area for the UIAA’s *climate change* initiatives
- Re-worked showcase of *Mountain Protection Award* projects
- Clearer instructions on how to access UIAA benefits; including *become a member*, *training qualifications* and *mountain hut exchanges*
- A UIAA library offering direct access to core publications
- Information on all UIAA Commissions, their objectives, goals and projects
- Guidance to how to contact the UIAA and how to follow on social media
- The UIAA will shortly launch its database of verdicts on international climbing and mountaineering accident cases. It is expected to go live in the first half of 2024.

In parallel, the UIAA has worked on building a number of new databases. Members will be able to access these databases [here](#).

These platforms will offer members the opportunity to do the following:

- Input their annual information (such as contact details and key personnel - this information will then appear live on the UIAA website)
- All invoicing and financial services
- Access key documents related to UIAA meetings such as the General Assembly supporting documents/regulations/guidelines
- Have an overview on federation Commission membership (term information) and submit nominations
- Access UIAA training qualifications (apply, renew, etc.)
- Furthermore a worldwide database is being created by the UIAA Legal Affairs Commission of mountaineering accident judgments from courts, tribunals, and authoritative bodies. It covers accidents during mountaineering activities globally, regardless of the location

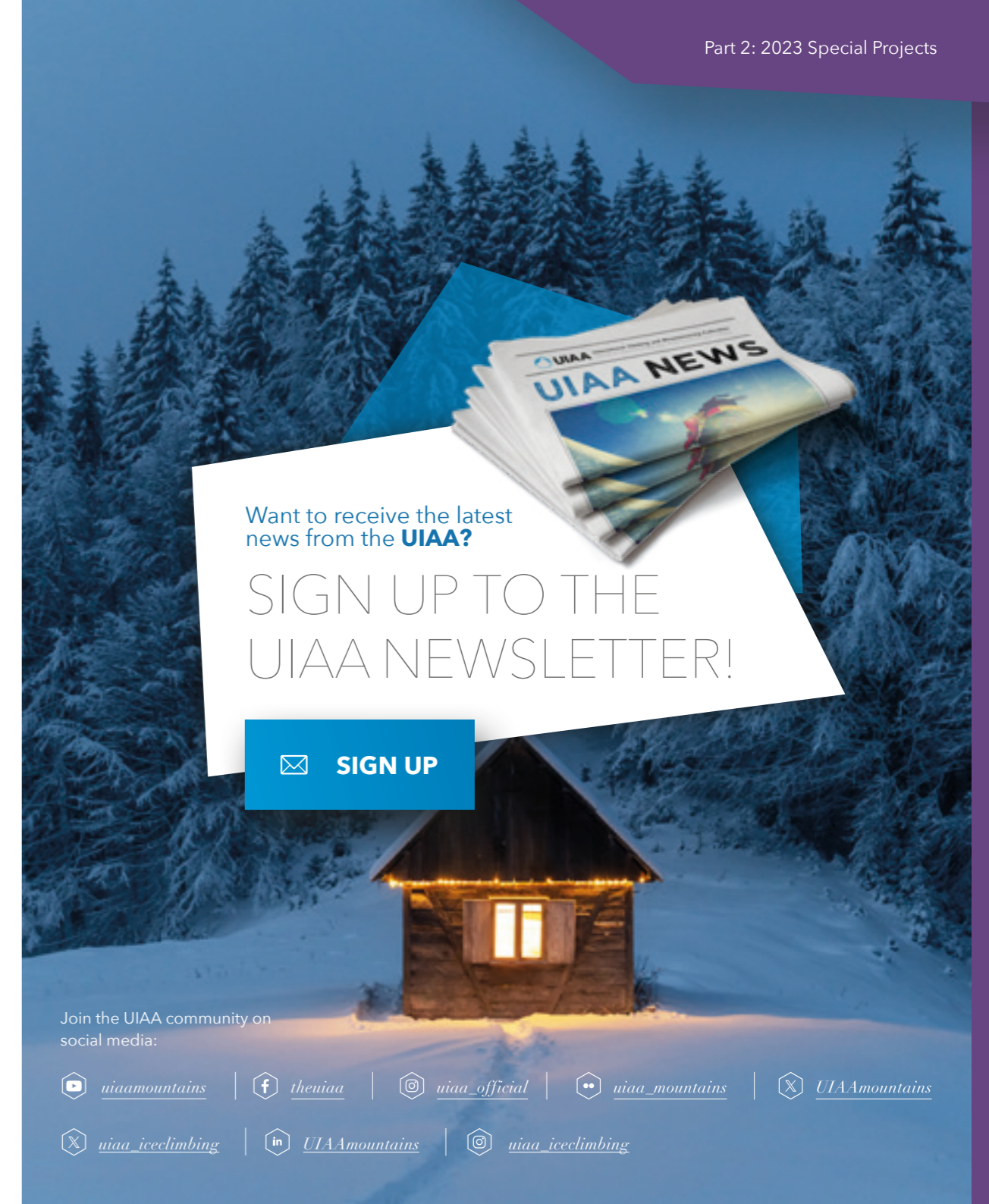
Other Communication Goals and Achievements

- Supported by a Social Media consultant, Tom Tushaw, the UIAA has implemented a more robust social media strategy integrated into the annual communication plan. The UIAA’s total audience rose by over 30% across the calendar year with impressive engagement figures. The UIAA has focused both on creating social media-specific content campaigns as well as adapting content for social media in a more attractive and interesting format.
- The monthly UIAA newsletter remains a key distribution tool, recapping the latest news from the federation in one package. The engagement rate for the newsletters is very high (typically nearly at 50%). In parallel, and in collaboration with the Management Board Continental Representatives, a quarterly newsletter is being created focusing exclusively on news from UIAA member associations.
- In 2024, and with these new digital assets in place, the UIAA will focus more on outreach. One commitment is the creation of a toolkit for all member associations. These will include the UIAA logo, details on their affiliation with the UIAA and links to key UIAA assets. The UIAA will also work in closer collaboration with member associations who have a dedicated communication and media team in order to develop a closer relationship for cross-collaboration and sharing of articles and ideas.

Report by

Peter Bourne

Communication Manager



Want to receive the latest news from the UIAA?

SIGN UP TO THE UIAA NEWSLETTER!

✉ SIGN UP

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Unit Member report: International Skyrunning Federation

Report from International Skyrunning Federation

ISF Card and ranking

The year kicked off with the much-anticipated launch of the ISF Card, mandatory for all participants in the various World and Continental championships. The card, available online, also unlocks the new ISF ranking. Developed with an exclusive algorithm, the performance-based ranking rates athletes in all ISF Championships, the Skyrunner® World and National Series races, plus all CC races (Course Certified) – overall some 165 races worldwide.

Masters Skyrunning World Championships

The first annual Masters Skyrunning World Championships for the over-forties launched on 30 July, at the Royal Ultra SkyMarathon in Piedmont, Italy. With 21 medals at stake, official teams from 17 countries took on the challenge of the 55km-long course with a gruelling 4,141m vertical climb. The tough, technical, and immensely spectacular race is overlooked by 3,000m peaks and crosses seven summits. Brazil, Portugal and Czech Republic headed the country ranking. French mountaineering clothing brand Millet partnered with the ISF for these first Masters Skyrunning World Championships.

Youth Skyrunning World Championships

The seventh edition of the Youth Skyrunning World Championships for 15-23-year-olds were held once more in the Apennine mountains in Gran Sasso, Italy on 4-6 August where athletes from no less than 31 countries battled for the 75 medals. Spain, Italy and Japan headed the country ranking and new countries Mongolia and Chile took home medals at their first attempt, a confirmation of the expansion of the sport on a global level.

The Championships also represented a first occasion to carry out scientific research on young skyrunners with the aim of establishing realistic race parameters for this category in the future. WADA anti-doping tests were also carried out.

Captions: (left) Youth Skyrunning Championships. Credit: Discover Abruzzo

(top right): European Skyrunning Championships. Credit: Ian Corless

(bottom right): Masters Skyrunning Championships. Credit: Ian Corless

2023 Continental Championships

No less than four continents hosted the biennial Skyrunning Continental Championships stretching across the globe from North & Central America, to South America, Europe and Asia, and also across the calendar from April to December. Costa Rica launched the Continentals in April, followed by Brazil in June, Montenegro in July and Hong Kong in December, closing an intensive skyrunning season.

ISF General Assembly

Limone sul Garda, Italy, was once more the seat of the annual ISF General Assembly which took place on 27 October, concomitant with the VK OPEN Championships Grand Finale and the final race of the Skyrunner® World Series – the SkyMasters, sanctioned by the ISF.

The ISF today counts a total of 47 nations, between full members, associate members, and aspirant members. Twenty-four voting members, either direct or by proxy, were represented. A new Secretary General, Pavlos Georgiades from Cyprus (current UIAA Youth Commission President), previously on the Management Committee, was elected.

Skyrunning and the IOC

The International Skyrunning Federation is working actively for IOC recognition expanding the numerous skyrunning World and Continental championships, the establishment and development of the new SkySnow winter discipline and, together with UIAA, opening a dialogue direct with the IOC.

Always with an eye on the sky, the ISF continues its upward climb with an ever-stronger federation working for “Less cloud. More sky”!

Report by

Marino Giacometti

ISF President



The UIAA offers a fundraising initiative which allows both the climbing community to contribute to the funding of UIAA projects and for the UIAA to help raise funds for causes submitted by its member associations.

In 2023, one of the fundraising initiatives was in support of the Turkish Mountaineering Federation (TDF)'s earthquake appeal.

Fundraising initiative of the year

Turkish Mountaineering Federation offers frontline support to earthquake disaster

Background to a Tragedy

As the British Red Cross reported:

“On Monday 6 February at 4:17am local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey (Türkiye) near the city of Gaziantep, devastating parts of Turkey and Syria. It was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks. On the same day, at 13:24 local time, a second earthquake (M7.5) hit the Elbistan district around 80 miles north of Gaziantep. Rescuers raced to save people trapped beneath the rubble, and get shelter and support to those in Turkey and Syria who had lost their homes or were afraid to return inside. Then, on 20 February, two weeks after the first earthquake, there was another 6.4 magnitude earthquake near Antakya in Turkey (an area already severely affected by the first earthquakes), again followed by significant aftershocks. More lives were lost as further buildings collapsed. So far, it's been reported that more than 50,000 people have died as a result of the earthquakes, with many thousands more injured.”

The Turkish Mountaineering Federation (TDF), a UIAA full member, played a significant part in the rescue operation, offering climbing equipment, volunteer resources and also financial support.

As detailed in [Outside](#), Dr. Ersan Başar TDF President, put out an immediate appeal via WhatsApp asking for volunteers to help with the rescue efforts. As Outside reported:

“The TDF could organise the necessary travel permissions from regional governors in the affected areas.” Approximately 750 TDF members from across Türkiye supported the rescue efforts. The Outside article tells the story of Polat Dede whose team, experienced in high mountain environments, pulled around 12 people alive from the rubble.

Outside continues:

“The search and rescue techniques that Dede and his friends had learned from their years of mountaineering proved invaluable. So did their physical stamina from endurance training.”

The UIAA spoke to Dr Başar to gain a more detailed understanding of the rescue operation. He explained:

“The TDF reacted as soon as the earthquake happened. We were in the field at the first opportunity. Initially our search and rescue team were deployed for ten days. For our rescue teams, significantly affected by what they witnessed, we provided a lot of psychological and well-being support. As well as being on the frontline in terms of rescue we took part in delivering aid to victims and then at a third stage directly supporting young people and organising social programmes to help a carve a pathway back to normality.”

UIAA General Assembly

The UIAA General Assembly was held in Trabzon, Türkiye from 20-21 October. This was scheduled long before the earthquakes took place. During the GA, the TDF provided further details on both its rescue efforts but more significantly its recovery programmes. The federation was in desperate need of climbing and rescue equipment to replace much of it which had been dedicated to the earthquake operations. The UIAA was able to raise 5000 euros through its fundraising campaign and has put several of its Safety Label manufactures in touch with the TDF to supply equipment and gear.

Support from the Climbing Community

Businesses, partners, members and individuals – can support the UIAA on a one-off or ongoing basis by donating to specific projects or causes. Please visit the [UIAA Donate page](#).

Member associations can submit causes and initiatives to be highlighted via the platform. Please contact office@theuiaa.org.



Photo credit: TDF

Climbing and mountaineering is the art and joy of challenging gravity by fair means, and sometimes gravity wins. From the beginning climbers have recognised the dangers inherent in their play with the forces of nature, and gradually improved their skills, methods and equipment in order to escape unharmed. Yet accidents and incidents still happen. To make climbing a safer sport it is important that we keep learning from what goes wrong.

Accident reporting

Accident Working Group: Making climbing a safer sport

For this purpose a number of member federations have established systems to collect data about accidents. Their approaches vary, from gathering of individuals stories for publication, through data collection by online reporting forms to general statistics compiled by the rescue services. Some efforts are community-driven, some organised by climbing federations, and some by public services. Altogether a substantial amount of data is being collected and often put to good use for the benefit of climbing safety, but there is no uniform way of doing it.

For a number of years, the UIAA has aimed to bring together data and knowledge from the national systems that exist, and perhaps create an international database. After the hiatus during the Covid-19 this work has now been restarted and reorganised. In April 2023 a new Working Group on accident reporting was formed, and its work is now well underway. The Working Group sits under the UIAA Mountaineering Commission, and due to the cross-disciplinary nature of mountain safety work also has involvement from the Safety, Training and Medical Commissions.

At the core, the goal of the Working Group is to facilitate international collaboration to produce knowledge based on climbing accident and incident data, in support of risk management and accident prevention. More specifically the Working Group will work to facilitate the exchange and compilation of data about accidents and incidents in climbing and mountaineering worldwide, to provide recommendations on accident reporting and support member federations to develop and implement compatible accident and incident reporting systems, and to support the safety related work of UIAA Commissions by compiling accident and incident data from national reporting systems.

Initially, the Working Group is compiling information about existing, national systems and processes for accident and incident reporting relating to climbing and mountaineering. This work serves two purposes. One is to learn about the capabilities of the existing systems, what data they are able to provide, how the data is being used to support climbing safety, their success factors as well as the barriers and obstacles faced in collecting the data. Based on this information the Working Group will proceed to develop recommendations on best practices in accident reporting, and ideally also standards to facilitate data exchange and data comparison between systems.

The other purpose is to create a «database of databases», or a catalogue of accident reporting systems with relevant information that can be published on the UIAA website. Such a catalogue will benefit climbers who want to know if accident reporting systems exist in their countries, where they can go to report accidents, and where to find data and knowledge based on accident data. The catalogue should be online and available for use later in 2024.

Report by

Stein Tronstad (Norway, NKF)

UIAA Management Board & Working Group Chair



Part 3:
Commission Stories



34 Multi world-champion Woonseon Shin of South Korea. Photo: UIAA/Nils Paillard

Part 3: Commission Stories

Anti-Doping

Ensuring full compliance with new WADA norms

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

UIAA Doping Controls in 2023

	Number of in-competition doping controls	Number of out-of-competition doping controls	Additional analyses EPO	Additional analyses GHRF
Ice Climbing/UIAA	12	6	2	1
Skyrunning/ISF	15	6	2	0
Total	27	12	4	1

In competition doping controls in ice climbing were conducted at the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cups held in Cheongsong, Saas-Fee and Champagny-en-Vanoise. Out-of-competition controls were performed on ice climbers in the registered testing pool who fulfilled their duties regarding whereabouts information and during the Skyrunning European Championships.

The ADC cooperates closely with the ISF regarding their doping controls because they are under UIAA custody on that level.

Two TUEs (Therapeutic Use Exemptions), containing prohibited substances, were approved as medication which climbers used in therapy. One retroactive TUE was approved for adverse analytical finding of diuretic (acetazolamide) used for altitude sickness in skyrunning.

Online education for ice climbers is still a key commitment. This year the ADC reinforced the message by sharing a [step-by-step guide](#) to a doping control process from UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup event.

Dr Marija Andjelkovic, President of the ADC, was part of the UIAA MedCom Women’s Health Project and supported the creation of a seven-part series about women-specific health concerns in the

mountains and at high altitudes. They were officially [published](#) in November. The Anti-Doping Commission is working tirelessly to fulfil all requests from WADA and this process is ongoing.

2024: The Year Ahead

The UIAA is still completing the WADA Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) as part of the World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA’s) World Anti-Doping Code (Code) Compliance Monitoring Program. The purpose of the CCQ is to assess the implementation of the 2021 Code and International Standards by Code Signatories to strengthen and harmonise the global anti-doping system further.

Report by

Marija Andjelkovic (MAS, Serbia)
Anti-Doping Commission President

Legal Affairs

Finalisation of a database of laws related to mountaineering and climbing accidents

The UIAA Legal Affairs Commission was created in 2022. Its general purpose and primary tasks are detailed in the dedicated [page](#) about this Commission.

The main achievement of the Legal Affairs Commission in 2023 was the near finalisation of its ambitious project to create a worldwide database of judgements related to mountaineering and climbing accidents.

The database will include judgments from courts, tribunals, and authoritative bodies. Users can search for cases based on the key activity, e.g. winter hiking, outdoor climbing, indoor climbing, the accident location, or type of a proceeding, e.g. civil, criminal, or disciplinary. Each entry includes a comment from the UIAA Legal Affairs Commission and links to the original case-law if available. The intention is for the database to serve as a live tool with regular updates.

The database will serve as a tool to increase knowledge amongst members and the climbing community regarding legal risks and consequences of mountaineering and climbing. In its report findings, there will be an opportunity to showcase UIAA's other work in international safety standards (medical, training, Safety Label) and introduce a more educational component.

The [database](#) is expected to go live in April 2024.

Report by

Klara Dvorakova (CMLA, Czech Republic)

Legal Affairs Commission President

The UIAA Medical Commission gives the best possible advice through its network of doctoral-level mountain medicine experts, the International Diploma in Mountain Medicine, and the dissemination of high-altitude advice papers. All MedCom members are doctors and many are active teachers in their respective countries.

Medical

MedCom delivers essential advice for women climbers

Members of the UIAA Medical Commission, together with external experts, played a leading role in the publication of a number of papers dedicated to women and mountaineering. These papers, the result of a number of years of dedicated research and work, have been published in the [High Altitude Medicine & Biology](#) journal.

The [articles](#) cover a number of critical topics:

[Women's Health at High Altitude](#)

Women have travelled to high altitude since the beginning of modern mountaineering and in increasing numbers over the past few decades. The sex ratio of women engaged in mountain activities is significant, ranging from 15% of Everest climbers, to 40% of Everest trekkers, 33% of American Alpine Club outdoor climbers, and over 40% of Swiss Alpine Club members. Yet despite such participation rates, and distinct female specific features relevant to physiological adaptation and performance at high altitude—including menstruation, pregnancy, and postmenopausal changes—the published research on high-altitude medical conditions predominantly involves male subjects. Women in such studies tend to be in the minority—or completely excluded. Consequently, scant data exist for women's health at high altitude, and there are correspondingly few female specific evidence-based recommendations.

[Nutrition in Women at High Altitude](#)

For physically active women sojourning at high altitude (>2,500m), nutrition plays a key role in health, performance, and safety. While dietary concerns such as food composition, energy intake, absorption of nutrients, and fluid balance are important at any altitude, differences in metabolism at high altitude may result in short-term detrimental impacts to the body. Likewise, adequate energy availability is essential at any altitude, but high altitude plays a critical role in hypoxic adaptation, iron metabolism, training adaptation, injury and illness prevention, and hence high-altitude safety. Because high-altitude exposure may result in increased energy expenditure, altitude-induced anorexia and reduced fluid intake, careful nutritional planning, and management for women physically active at high altitude are essential.

[Menopause and High Altitude](#)

An increasing number of older people travel to high altitude, which means more menopausal women travelling to high altitude. The oldest woman to climb Mount Everest is Japanese Tamae Watanabe, who at 73 years old broke her previous record of summiting at age 63. In 2019, Anne Lorimor, an American woman, set the record for the oldest person to summit Mount Kilimanjaro, at a stunning 89 years of age, narrowly beating another woman who summited at age 86. American Sharon Crawford still competes in ski mountaineering races at age 75. These are just a few instances of older female mountain enthusiasts whose example is followed by female mountain climbers and travellers of all ages. The conclusion: data is limited on the effects of high altitude on postmenopausal women. The effects of short-term, high-altitude exposure on menopause symptoms are unknown. Menopause has minimal effect on the physiological responses to hypoxia in physically fit women and does not increase the risk of acute mountain sickness. Postmenopausal women have an increased risk of urinary tract infections, which may be exacerbated during mountain travel. More research is needed on the physiology and performance of older women at high altitude.

[High-Altitude Pulmonary Edema in Women](#)

High-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) is a rare form of acute high-altitude illness. HAPE can progress rapidly and is particularly life threatening during expeditions with a limited rescue chain and medical care. However, to date little gender differentiated research has been conducted, despite the significantly increased proportion of women participating in high-altitude trekking and mountaineering over recent years.

[Acute Mountain Sickness and High Altitude Cerebral Edema in Women](#)

Acute mountain sickness (AMS) and high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE) are illnesses associated with rapid ascent to altitudes over 2,500 m in unacclimatized lowlanders. AMS is defined by a cluster of symptoms including primarily headache, along with malaise, poor appetite, nausea, dizziness, and sleep disturbances. Data are limited on female-specific findings regarding AMS, with most publications addressing only prevalence or incidence of AMS with regard to sex. Of these, the majority did not find sex to be a risk factor for AMS or HACE. While there were a couple of publications that looked at acetazolamide and women, more data are needed on sex-specific prevention and treatment for AMS and HACE.

[Frostbite and Mortality in Mountaineering Women](#)

For mountaineers in the harsh environment of high altitude (HA), cold temperatures can pose a serious health risk. The cold may inhibit physical performance, prevent safe and enjoyable mountaineering, and lead to injuries, the need for rescue and long-term morbidity. Although the objective risks of mountaineering are the same for women and men, it is not clear whether there are sex differences in susceptibility to cold and other injuries. Female mountaineers—like their male counterparts—may risk

cold injuries or death as a consequence of HA illness, exhaustion, avalanche, or trauma, especially at extreme altitude.

Additional papers are expected to be published throughout 2024. The papers are available, free of access restrictions, until November 2024. The UIAA Medical Commission will also work on a paper which will consolidate findings from these different articles with the scope of updating the existing UIAA paper '12' Women Going to Altitude.

Climbing The World's Most Iconic Peaks. Medcom Launches New Series.

A UIAA Medical Commission Working Group is embarking on an ambitious project to provide guidance about climbing some of the world's most iconic peaks and famous mountain ranges. In 2023, the Working Group released a revised guide to [Denali](#) (6194m), the highest peak in North America as well as a new paper on [Fuji](#) (3776m), one of Japan's most recognisable landmarks. Scheduled for re-release is an extensive revision to the paper on Aconcagua (6960.8m), the highest peak in the Americas, and a first-time paper on Mount Kosciuszko (2228m), Australia's tallest mountain.

Across 2024, the Working Group, made up of medical doctors and mountaineers from over 15 countries, plan on creating a paper for each of the Seven Summits. A guide to Everest (8848m), including both a trek to the south side (Nepal) Base Camp and then how best to climb to the summit via the south col route, is being drafted as is an update to the paper on Kilimanjaro (5895m), Africa's highest point. The papers provide a range of advice including the pros and cons of different routes, the best time(s) of year to climb, information on access and permits as well providing guidance on the experience required, what to consider and how to prepare. There is significant cross-over with the UIAA Medical Commission's [high-altitude papers](#). Covering topics including altitude sickness, drinking clean water, preparing for an expedition as well as specific advice for women, children and people with different medical conditions, important and relevant aspects from these papers are referenced.

Coming Up in 2024

International Mountain Sports Training Course

From 19-21 April 2024, alongside scheduled meetings of the UIAA Executive Committee and Management Board, the UIAA will hold an International Mountain Sports Training Course in Bariloche, Argentina together with the hosting Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo (FASA).

Participants will delve into topics of mountain medicine, techniques and safety during the three-day workshop. The first half of the course will focus on lectures on mostly medical and rescue topics, including (waste) water, altitude illnesses, hypothermia, frostbite and relative energy deficiency syndrome RED-s as well as delve into differences and similarities in men and women at altitude.

Additional speakers are lined up to present on topics such as responsible climbing and the development of training curricula. Complementary and entertaining panel discussions on climate change, the use of modern rescue gear, and comparing rescue situations and operations will round the first half of the course, whilst the second will focus on workshops and applying what was learned in the field out climbing.

A pool of international experts will hold lectures and lead workshops, representing various UIAA Commissions – Medical, Training and Safety – and Argentine mountaineering and rescue institutions.

Further Reading

- [High-altitude advice papers](#)
- [Diploma in Mountain Medicine](#)

Report by

Urs Hefti (SAC, Switzerland)
Medical Commission President

Mountaineering

The Mountaineering Commission was created to promote best practices by identifying and addressing development, access, ethical, cultural and technical issues of international importance. The UIAA and the Mountaineering Commission's strategic priorities are to focus on: providing guidance on critical and emerging mountaineering issues; setting and maintaining high ethical standards in international mountaineering such that the style of climbing without causing damage to the human or natural environment is maintained; and encouraging and supporting national federations and their members in their mountaineering activities.

In support of its mission statement, the UIAA Mountaineering Commission (MountCom) produced a number of important statements in 2023. These include:

Statement on historic 8000m Achievements

The generally accepted 14 x 8000 metre peaks have an iconic historical value that in many ways transcends mountaineering as they have entered a more universal culture. When Reinhold Messner completed the 14 x 8000 metre peaks in 1986 he was lauded for that fact but perhaps even more so for the manner in which he had accomplished this extraordinary feat before many others even considered it possible. No oxygen, often solo and frequently by climbing a new route. He has been recognised for this in various ways, not least by the awarding of UIAA Honorary Membership.

His feat deserves all the recognition that has been given to him despite two of his achievements recently being stripped by Guinness World Records. To now assert that his accomplishments are any less laudable or that he did not complete all 14 climbs is unfair and unreasonable, especially given what is understood as being the main summit of certain 8000m peaks may have changed in the subsequent decades.

The UIAA rejects this attempt to alter mountaineering history and expresses its overwhelming support for Reinhold Messner and the other pioneering mountaineers who have seen their considerable achievements questioned. [Published in September 2023.](#)

Statement on 14x8000m peaks

The subject of 8000m peaks has, in the past few years, created great debate and intrigue among the climbing community. Many people recognise the 14 x 8000m peaks located in the Himalayan and Karakoram regions. UIAA Honorary Member Reinhold Messner was the first to climb them all. As noted above, the UIAA has recognised Messner's feat as legitimate.

The 14 peaks are: Everest (Sagarmāthā or Chomolungma), K2, Kangchenjunga, Lhotse, Makalu, Cho Oyu, Dhaulagiri I, Manaslu, Nanga Parbat, Annapurna I, Gasherbrum I, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum II, Shishapangma.

There has been a discussion going on in mountaineering circles as to what constitutes a "mountain" and what constitutes a separate "peak" as opposed to a "top", a subsidiary summit or just a minor bump along a ridge.

The Nepal Mountaineering Association and the Government of Nepal are to be commended for raising this issue inasmuch as it relates to the 8000 metre peaks in Nepal. Their investigations suggest that there may be as many as six more points over 8000 metres which would change the landscape of the quest for the "8000ers" more than somewhat. All of the "new" points are associated with the currently known 8000 metre mountains and have, in the past, been considered as subsidiary peaks of the main massifs involved.

The UIAA Mountaineering Commission was requested to comment on this matter as it has, in the past, been involved in the definition of the 4000 metre mountains in the Alps ([Mountain classification: 4000ers of the Alps – March 1994](#)). In the present instance, involving the 8000 metre peaks in Nepal, the opinion of the UIAA may have some economic repercussions as well as being a marker of national definition for the Nepali nation.

In order to be as "scientific" and rational as possible, the UIAA resisted the temptation to be dogmatic in this matter and therefore contacted the International Geographical Union ("IGU") to establish if there was a generally accepted definition of a "mountain" or a "peak". The UIAA was, in turn,

referred to the IGU Commission of Mountain Studies for an expert opinion. This body then sent the UIAA query, to various of its experts in mountain markers. These ranged from the purely topographical to the more pragmatic and spiritual. While there is a lack of a full consensus it was established that there is no one definition of a “mountain” or a “peak” or a “top” or “point” in topographic terms. In fact, the query from the Nepalese (and the UIAA) has sparked an interesting debate amongst the experts – and one which they are very keen to continue until some definition is reached – or not!

The UIAA Mountaineering Commission has considered the arguments and opinions put forward by the IGU Commission for Mountain Studies experts and, while there is no definitive “answer” the fact that this is open ground leaves MountCom and the UIAA to consider the best interests of the world mountaineering community.

The UIAA has taken into consideration all the aspects that are pertinent in this discussion. These include the topographical details, the historical facts, the interests of the local communities and the Nepalese government, the previous UIAA experience in defining the alpine peaks over 4000 metres and the “spiritual” aspects in individual cases. This later aspect is of considerable importance.

Firstly, the topographical details of the individual cases. As previously noted, there is no set definition of a mountain peak. Attempts have been made to define a peak by its “prominence” above the nearest col or summit, the distance from those features. All these attempts “fail” as the situation is different in the cases in different mountain ranges. What might work in the Alps will not work in the Himalaya where the scale is completely different. We therefore agree with the IGU experts that no common definition is possible.

The spiritual and local community interests tend to coincide in a number of cases. In particular, the case of Kanchenjunga where four more “tops” are measured at over 8000 metres. There is an argument to consider these as separate peaks. However, when the meaning of the Sikkimese name “Kanchenjunga” is considered – the “Five Treasures of the Great Snow”, it is clear that the local population consider the five peaks to be one mountain.

This reasoning can also be applied to other of the newly defined 8000 metre peaks as they are all considered as part of a greater mountain mass, e.g. Lhotse, Lhotse Shar, Lhotse South. Mountaineering history also confirms the recognition of the main mountain summits over 8000 metres with 14 being universally recognised – eight of those being in Nepal, (or on the border with China) five in Pakistan (or on the border with China) and one in China (Tibet). This historical fact, while by no means definitive, is generally recognised by the mountaineering community worldwide. And since that is the community, together with the local population, which has the most interest in these mountains, it is perhaps appropriate that this definition be used.

The Mountaineering Commission strongly recommends that, while this discussion is of continuing interest, climbers the world over are more interested in the “journey” than they are in the summit – “it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive”.

It is therefore the opinion of the UIAA that the number of mountains over 8000 metres be recognised as the “classic” 14 peaks. Should the Government of Nepal, for administrative and other reasons, choose to recognise more summits they are of course, entirely within their rights. [Published in October 2023.](#)

Work on ‘new Tyrol Declaration’

One of MountCom’s primary projects is inspired by the 2002 Tyrol Declaration. Developing some of the themes of the original Tyrol Declaration, MountCom, together with the MPC, is creating a more concise version which reflects the challenges facing climbers and mountaineers in 2023. A draft version of the cover page (or poster) was presented to delegates at the General Assembly in Trabzon. Further content of the paper addresses subjects such as Environment and Access; Local Culture and Communities; Ethics; Style.

It is hoped to release a final version in 2024. With this document “active”, it is expected that the UIAA view on ethics, style and best practices in mountaineering will be more widely known.

2024: Other Projects

- The current Mountaineering Commission inherited the Mountain Worker Initiative (MWI), a project created to tackle the growing issues faced by mountain workers and guides in the expedition and trekking industry. The MWI was designed to establish, disseminate and support the creation of guidelines for ethical trekking, mountaineering and company outfitters worldwide. An initial project focused on a collaborative effort at Everest and throughout Nepal with the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and Trekking Agencies’ Association of Nepal (TAAN). MountCom is currently focusing on how best to revive this important project and the next steps. Further clarity will be provided in 2024 – particularly after the release of the ‘new Tyrol Declaration’.
- Details on the project related to the creation of an international database of accident and near miss reporting is covered in a dedicated section of this Annual Report.
- Following an initiative from the Italian Alpine Club (CAI), MountCom has formed a working group dedicated to hiking and trails. This WG has now started work.



Photo: On route to Everest Summit.
Stock Library

- Following a period of inactivity due to the ill-health of the convenor of the Working Group on access issues, the interim head of this working group sent out a questionnaire in order to obtain a “snapshot” of access issues facing member associations. Some replies are still pending and an interim report will be issued once the results have been assessed.
- An additional project that came about after a successful event in Kazakhstan and discussions in Trabzon will be an effort to revive the climbing festivals that have been very popular in the past. A Working Group has been put in place and is currently busy with this project.
- MountCom envisages that the practice of re-acting timeously to mountaineering “incidents” and media reports will continue as happened in 2023 (and covered earlier in this report).

Report by

Greg Moseley (MCSA, South Africa)
Mountaineering Commission President

Mountain Protection

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

Celebrating 10 years of the Mountain Protection Award

A key activity for the MPC in 2023, was the technical support and oversight of the Mountain Protection Award, which saw its tenth anniversary celebrated in 2023. The MPC formed a very active Working Group, who helped design the application process, defined the evaluation criteria, and coordinated the evaluation process with external experts, with the facilitating support from the UIAA Office. The winner of the MPA in 2023 was awarded at the UIAA GA alongside the MPC President, Vice President, and MPC delegate from the hosting UIAA member. *Please refer to the [dedicated section](#) of this report.*

Finalisation of UIAA Social & Environmental Sustainability Guidelines

Towards the close of 2023, the MPC reported on the positive progress, and near finalisation, of its updated UIAA Environmental Objectives and Guidelines. These guidelines were first released in 2002 to mark the inaugural UN declared International Year of Mountains. A decision to revise the document was made in 2022 to coincide with the UN International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development and the resulting 2023-2027 UN Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions.

The UIAA, spearheaded by the MPC, has embarked on significantly more than a simple revision of the 2002 document. The new publication, to be released in 2024, will be titled ‘UIAA Social & Environmental Sustainability Guidelines’, in recognition of the close connection between people and nature. There have been significant developments over the last 20 years in our understanding of climate change in mountain regions, in the science and evidence of its impacts, and on the need to respond and adapt. The commitment and responsibility of organisations such as the UIAA is imperative, not only in monitoring its own footprint and implement response measures, but also provide leadership, advocacy, and guidance at the international level. Carolina Adler, President of the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission, reflects on the importance of the new guidelines:

“These updated guidelines not only reflect the numerous conversations had over the years within the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission on key issues concerning environmental and social sustainability that affect, and are affected by, our mountain activities. We have also been keenly inspired by the stories and lessons that have emerged from projects showcased as part of the Mountain Protection Award and its 10-year legacy, including the valuable inputs and advice from external experts serving as part of our assessment team. Furthermore, the platform offered by recent UN proclamations in raising awareness around the importance of mountains, and their value for the people and ecosystems that depend on them, was indeed a timely opportunity for this revision as a contribution to that observance.”

The new document raises a number of topics and addresses the impact of mountaineering as an activity. Sections are dedicated to the subjects of climate change action and adaptation, waste and pollution, biodiversity, and social impacts. As well as addressing issues, the document also seeks to provide guidance, raise awareness, and support education and collaboration initiatives. For example, it offers advice on how the climbing community can take positive action and how climbers and mountaineers can continue about their activities in a more sustainable and less impactful way and engage in affecting positive change.

The updated guidelines received a very positive reception and endorsement at the joint UIAA Executive Committee and Management Board meeting that preceded the 2023 General Assembly in November in Trabzon (Turkiye) with relevant themes and excerpts cited in dialogues and presentations featured at the UIAA Climate Summit event as part of the General Assembly.

Once released, the guidelines are not intended to be a stagnant document. It will continue to be developed with the UIAA by grounding and sharing specific real-life case studies and best practices about specific action points. The UIAA will create an outreach campaign and toolkit for member federations to adapt, translate and use specific parts of the guidelines, and connect and cross-reference with other ongoing initiatives at the UIAA, such as the Climate Action Plan under development. Peer-to-peer workshops will also be organised during major UIAA meetings (such as the General Assembly). Here member federations, whether large or small, can participate by providing inputs and also receive guidance, effectively benefiting from the lessons learned and experiences of others who are in a similar role.

Compared to the 2002 version of the guidelines, “climate change” has become a core focus. “Social” being the newcomer as mountain protection embraces supporting the ethics, heritage and social and cultural aspects of mountaineering and mountain lives as well.

UIAA releases 2021 and 2022 Carbon Footprint Reports

The MPC has made numerous contributions to the work of the UIAA Climate Change Task Force (CCTF), including technical reviews of the UIAA’s own Carbon Footprint Reports. In 2023, the UIAA [published](#) both its fourth and fifth annual Carbon Footprint Reports. The latest releases outline the results for the calendar year 2021 and 2022 of ongoing monitoring and annual reporting of the UIAA’s carbon footprint, which is in response to the federation’s [signed commitment](#) in early 2019 and participation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action Framework, which in turn was in response to the MPC’s proposal to the UIAA for the federation’s participation in this initiative.

As a participant and signatory to this initiative, the UIAA has pledged to reduce its footprint by 50% by 2030 and reach (net)-zero by 2040. As part of this process, annual public carbon emission reports are expected.

Specific comments on the 2022 Carbon Footprint Report:

- The scope and methodology remain identical to previous reports.
- The main focus was on travel by airplane and the impact of office infrastructure.
- The sum of UIAA CO2 emissions generated in 2022 is 209.48 tonnes, compared to 12.08 tonnes in 2021, 146.5 tonnes in 2020, 353.33 tonnes in 2019 and 365.56 tonnes in 2018.
- 2022 saw a shift from previous reports. As most other international organisations, the UIAA also reverted to more in-person meetings and events, at least to some extent, after an impactful Covid-19 pandemic which saw the majority of activities conducted online.
- To address the major limitation of not yet highlighting defined and implemented measures of avoidance, reduction and compensation of impact, the UIAA CCTF has created a working group that is drafting a UIAA-wide Climate Action Plan, tailored to the needs and wishes of its member federations. For that purpose, a survey has been distributed to capture a baseline measurement of where members currently are on their climate action journeys as well as to record best practices, recommended tools, opportunities and challenges for the UIAA to share with the wider network.
- In line with expectations, feedback showed that: several member federations are more advanced in implementing their climate action plans, while a large majority of member federations are in the early stages of drafting and/or developing climate action plans. As the UIAA we see our role in providing (concrete) guidance to all member federations by recording best practices, recommend tools, and address opportunities and challenges.
- 2018 is considered the baseline year for the UIAA, but from having calculated the UIAA footprint annually over a period of five years, an important conclusion drawn is the fact that a ‘hard’ baseline is not representative of how the UIAA operates.

- Overall emissions over the years are not directly comparable given that the number of delegates per representative group varies and so do meeting/event locations, often having a significant impact on generated emissions. The overall UIAA carbon footprint depends on the format and location of its annual meetings and events, but also on the number and origin of delegates traveling.

2024: Priorities

In addition to the release of the UIAA Social & Environmental Sustainability Guidelines and support to the CCTF and Carbon Footprint Reports, the MPC has set the following goals for 2024:

- Hosting workshops to facilitate the use and implementation of the UIAA Social & Environmental Sustainability Guidelines at the UIAA General Assembly in Malta. Through contributions to the UIAA Climate Change Taskforce, release Climate Action Plans for the UIAA as an organisation and for its member federations and use the UIAA Climate Change Summit platform at the UIAA General Assembly in Malta to support member federations on their climate action journeys.
- Re-envisioning the UIAA Mountain Protection Award within the broader UIAA Award concept that is currently under consideration.
- Establish its onboarding process for new Commission delegates, especially given the online nature of many meetings and discussions.
- Support and contribution to the International Conference on the problems of biodiversity, the protection of landscapes, and the preservation of cultures in mountainous regions, to be held in Baku in September 2024 and in the lead-up to the Conference of Parties (COP29) also to be held in Azerbaijan later in the year.

The UN General Assembly declared the year 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation and the period 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions. The MPC invites expressions of interest for particular topics that members would like to discuss and develop through webinars and workshops as possible contributions from the UIAA to those observances.

In Memory

In May 2023, the UIAA reported the sad passing of former UIAA Mountain Protection Commission President Linda McMillan. A tribute to Linda can be found [here](#).

Report by

Carolina Adler (NZAC, New Zealand)

Mountain Protection Commission Presidentv1



Throughout its history, mountain safety has been at the forefront of the UIAA's activities. The UIAA Safety Label, and associated safety standards, have been in operation since the 1960s. The UIAA Safety Commission (SafeCom) is formed of experts with engineering backgrounds from different UIAA member federations, as well as international manufacturers with certified UIAA Safety Labels and accredited testing laboratories. SafeCom meets annually and is responsible for developing the UIAA Safety Standards and consequently working to help minimise accidents related to climbing and mountaineering gear.

Safety

Recommendation: Electromagnetic Interference With Avalanche Transceivers

In December 2023, the UIAA issued a comprehensive [position statement](#) regarding the critical issue of electromagnetic interference (EMI) with [avalanche transceivers](#).

This is based on overwhelming and compelling evidence which has been submitted to the UIAA. In alignment with its core objective of advancing the cause of safe mountaineering practices, the UIAA is diligently aggregating a repository of all previously published documents on this subject matter. Furthermore, the organisation remains fully abreast of the latest research endeavours in this field through diligent work by corresponding experts, member federations, and manufacturers.

The UIAA has undertaken a comprehensive consultation process, incorporating presentations from multiple reputable organisations, federations, and leading experts. In addition, the UIAA's approach has integrated valuable insights and feedback from all avalanche transceiver manufacturers participating in the UIAA's active working groups, including an investigation on electromagnetic interference (EMI) as part of a further evaluation on a proposal for baseline standardisation of avalanche transceivers.

In keeping with the UIAA's unwavering commitment to enhancing the safety of mountaineers, the federation is currently adopting a judiciously cautious yet efficacious approach. This approach is guided by a deliberate strategy that refrains from definitive conclusions until the ongoing research attains full fruition. A comprehensive and meticulous review of the current literature available and the current research notwithstanding will be conducted in due course.

The UIAA remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the welfare and safety of mountaineers worldwide. The UIAA is dedicated to keeping the mountaineering community informed and updated as this vital process evolves. This advice is also of seminal importance to ski mountaineers.

Please refer to the [UIAA website](#) for details of translations of the recommendation.

UIAA Rock Anchors: New Certified Products on the Market

The UIAA revised its Rock Anchor standard (UIAA 123) in [2020](#). A supporting guide in English, and further details on the revised Standard 123 can be found [here](#). It is also translated [into seven languages](#). The release of this standard followed years of research and development work which primarily took into account the impacts of corrosion and stress corrosion cracking failures.

Several manufacturers have since applied for the new standard and seen their products pass the test. There are three classes in the standard (low corrosion, general corrosion and stress cracking levels) and different tests are conducted for each of them. The UIAA encourages other manufactures to certify their rock anchors to the new standard. For climbers a list of certified products can be found on the UIAA [database](#).

Lionel Kiener, UIAA Safety Commission President, identifies where greater awareness is needed at a grassroots level:

"Bolters should really take this new standard into consideration while climbers need to be mindful that it may take a while for anchors on old routes to be upgraded. It is important that they are. The standard was developed because of known failures in the field. Failures can have significant and fatal consequences."

The UIAA continues to update its [map](#) of known anchor corrosions and is very grateful to climbers who have submitted case studies for the project. The general public can contribute to this research by completing the following online [form](#).

anchors: The Next Challenge, Welding in Top Anchors

A consequence of the rock anchor research was discovering numerous issues with the welded ring on top anchors.

The UIAA launched a new study into such welds, randomly selecting products from UIAA Safety Label Holders and submitting them for testing at an independent laboratory in Brest, France.

The initial report received confirms the issue with some products, notably the presence of voids or cracks within the middle of the welded ring itself. Some defects are pretty consistent across all products like evidence of voids inside the welded area. Issues with lower grade material was more limited to a few different manufacturers. In some instances where manufacturers purchased pre-welded chains and then self-welded the anchors and final ring, the analysis found more issues with the latter part of the process. The UIAA is continuing to work closely with manufacturers on ensuring production quality remains high and on raising awareness about the issues so bolters are encouraged to purchase the safest equipment on the market, ie. that which bears the UIAA Safety Label.

UIAA Alert on Canyoning Harnesses

In July, the Commission also released an important statement on canyoning harnesses.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiiaa-safety-alert-canyoning-harnesses/>

2024: What Standards are Coming Soon?

The Commission is planning the following in 2024:

- An update of the rock anchors standard with welded products quality management, and guidelines for bolters and climbers.
- Release of a new standard for avalanche beacons, in collaboration with rescue organisations, associations and the manufacturers.
- Release of a new standard for static ropes.
- Update of the helmet standard with a better protection in case of rim impact.
- Continuation of research about rope resistance on edges.
- Establishment of textile material recommendations for canyoning equipment based on recent research made by the Safety Commission.
- Research to propose standards and guidelines for the design, inspection and maintenance of via ferrata.

Further Reading

- [UIAA climber safety resources](#)
- [Certified equipment database](#)
- List of [UIAA Safety Standards](#), [Safety Label Holders](#) and [Accredited Laboratories](#)

What is the UIAA Safety Label?

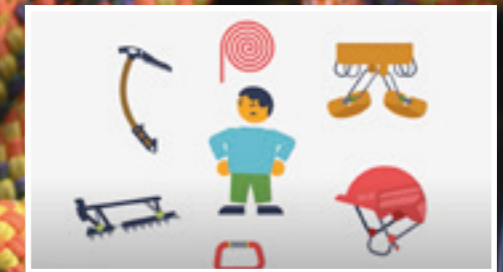
The acronym 'UIAA' can be found on climbing and mountaineering gear worldwide, but what does it mean? These four letters signify that this piece of climbing equipment has been accredited to meet the UIAA – International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation's global safety standards.

This animation made by the UIAA Safety Commission explains the importance of the UIAA Safety Label and how the process of accrediting a piece of equipment actually works.

The [video](#) has been translated into over 20 languages.

Discover more about
CLIMBER SAFETY:

<https://theuiaa.org/SAFETY>



Training, which officially became an independent Commission in 2022, is one of the core services offered by the UIAA. In particular, the UIAA Mountain Qualification Label (MQL) is an internationally recognised accreditation and certification scheme which examines and evaluates the training and assessment programmes of UIAA member federations.

Training

A year of consolidation

In terms of personnel, Matjaz Serkezi was elected as Vice President of the Training Commission. Representing Slovenia, he is also well known for his work in mountain rescue.

A rock climbing training course marked the completion of the three-year training project in Mongolia, supported by the Petzl Foundation. Previous modules included hiking and glacial mountaineering. It was noted that rock climbing on crags is still in its infancy in Mongolia, but offers opportunities for adventures on rocky outcrops with huge open vistas. It is clear that much development work is required before any climbing instructor qualifications can be developed here, so the first priority is the development of leader/guide qualifications for hiking and glacial mountaineering.

Requests for enrolments for skills training continued to grow, with Hong Kong joined by smaller training initiatives in Saudi Arabia, Morocco and various youth camps, following further work on recommended syllabi for courses.

Development work on the training database continued apace, allowing all records to be uploaded into the system towards the end of the year, and final tests completed. The system integrates alongside several other important data modules that will assist the UIAA in its development of popular services for the mountaineering and climbing communities. The online world map of registered and accredited qualifications should be ready to go live again in mid-2024.

Recovering from the hiatus caused by Covid, there were several accreditation inspections in 2023, including USA, Mexico, Portugal and Malta, as well as approval of the applications from Bosnia and Greece. There were also numerous successful revalidations. At the invitation of the Turkish Mountaineering Federation, a *short seminar* was delivered to climbing and mountaineering instructors gathered from all over Turkey. A webinar for the Swedish Climbing Association (SKF) climbing instructors is scheduled for early 2024.

Looking further ahead, the next English Language edition of the Alpine Handbook should soon be ready for publication. Federations working in other languages are welcome to update their publications, with assistance from the UIAA office and the Petzl Foundation.

Report by

Steve Long (BMC, United Kingdom)

Training Commission President



The Youth Commission (YC) provides safe and exciting opportunities for young people to experience climbing and 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.

Photo: UIAA Ice climbing camp in Guillestre, France. Credit: Lena Drapella

Youth

2023: Camp development continues

The UIAA Youth Commission coordinated seven camps in 2023, two run by FFCAM in their usual venues of Guillestre for Ice Climbing in the winter and the Ariege for single and multi-pitch sport climbing in summer. Mountaineering Ireland ran its second camp in the Alps, this time in Solden, Austria, and the Romanian Alpine Club hosted two youth adventure camps; one in the Făgăraş mountains, focused on hiking; and another in the Bucegi range the focus was more alpine terrain. The Cyprus Mountaineering Climbing & Orienteering Federation ran its now annual summer rock climbing and hiking camp in Troodos and a first camp was run by the Spanish federation (FEDME) in the Montserrat range just outside Barcelona. This is a great addition to the UIAA youth event calendar and will hopefully become an annual event.

Continued development was made to set up a syllabus system for each of the different activities and skills that organisers should adhere to in running their events. The camp organisers can use the off the shelf courses and syllabus to 'build' their camp programmes and at the end of it there will be a UIAA approved certification process and online testing. This project is now at the testing stage with five sets of syllabi now being ready to launch.

2024: A New Certification System

The Youth Innovation Panel has set a target of ten events for 2024 and is creating its calendar for the year, with regular camp run by federations from France, Romania, Ireland, and Cyprus already confirmed with new events planned by Malta and Spain. The new certification system will be put in place this year for camps and procedures will be clarified in terms of how camps can use the syllabus the UIAA provides, how the certificates will be issued, how the costs will be dealt with and what they are. Other areas to be addressed are how the information will be dealt with at a YC level and what will be done with the income from the certification and how that will be used to develop events and federations in the future.

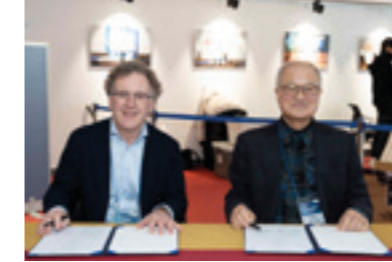
Report by

Pavlos Georgiades (CMCOF, Cyprus)

Youth Commission President



UIAA Ice Climbing



A review of the 2022-2023 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, partnered by Outdoor Research, and an overview of the significant steps being made by the Ice Climbing Governing Group in developing the future structure of the sport.

The Ice Climbing Working Group (ICWG) led the delivery of a very successful 2022-23 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour which saw 820 athlete event entries across seven events in as many countries and on two continents. After the season, the ICWG processed its own findings from the current season and integrated athlete feedback. Amongst the priorities was a revision of rules and regulations, an evaluation of future governance models, closer collaboration with athletes and a greater focus on youth development.

In May 2023, the UIAA Management Committee agreed to the renaming of the ICWG as the Ice Climbing Governing Group (ICGG). This Group was also given an extension until 2024 to continue its work and to propose definitive recommendations for the future of the sport, to be discussed at subsequent MC meetings and voted on at a future UIAA General Assembly. The ICGG will divide itself into groups of expertise: primarily – athletes, technical and development groups. The ICGG will also expand its membership with the addition of at least two new members including an additional athlete representative.

Partnership Extended

During the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup in Cheongsong, South Korea, in January 2023, the Youngone Corporation formally agreed to extend its partnership of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour until 2025. The South Korean-based company has been the longstanding partner of the World Tour since the early 2010s. Since 2018, Outdoor Research has been the brand under the Youngone Corporation umbrella to serve as official partner of the World Tour. This will continue until the close of the 2024-2025 season.

Photo (left): UIAA President Peter Muir and Kihak Sung, Chairman of Youngone Corporation

Ice Climbing Stakeholders Conference

A major milestone in the UIAA's comprehensive and in-depth review of the development of competition ice climbing took place in July. A UIAA Ice Climbing Stakeholders Conference was held in Champagny-en-Vanoise, France. Hosted by the UIAA's full member in France, FFCAM, it brought together all of the sport's key players to discuss the future direction of the sport. The conference was broken down into several different workshops.

Workshop #1: Future of the sport

A blue-sky thinking session where all ideas on how the UIAA should develop the sport of ice climbing in the future were welcomed. Questions posed included how to develop the World Cup series, how to better support member federations and how to improve the development of the sport at a youth level.

Ideas discussed were:

- Preference to host events during the (northern hemisphere) winter months
- Six World Cup events identified as the target number/at least one World Cup in Asia, Europe and North America
- World Championships continue to be held every two years
- Continental level events to be staged on each continent and in an open format
- Possibility of organising separate speed and lead events
- Introduce regular courses for routesetters and judges to maintain and ensure high standards



Workshop #2: Improving the athlete experience

How does the UIAA make events better for the athletes? How to improve athlete communication, interactions and motivation, which will in turn encourage other athletes to join the sport.

- Publish the season calendar as early as possible
- Improve the interaction between athletes and officials
- Work on consistency of all aspects of the competition between events
- Improve technical briefings

Workshop #3: Developing national ice climbing programmes

How to assist and improve the development of the UIAA member federations ice climbing programmes? How does the UIAA coordinate training camps, support facility and coaching development? How to increase the number of competing nations and quality of their teams?

- Focus on talent scouting
- Issues with a lack of access to training structures in many countries
- Promote case studies to inspire others
- Improve athletes support - coaching and performance analysis
- Provide equipment packages
- Launch an educational programme covering:
 - Safe use of axes/shoes
 - Building routes/structures
 - Education of the instructors to come from the UIAA

Workshop #4: UIAA Rules Review

A chance to discuss the proposals made by the Rules Review group, and test how these rule changes may work in real competition situations - the proposals for lead climbing were discussed and then tested with some competition scenarios.

- Set standard procedures for judges when dealing with athletes at the beginning and end of routes and also when dealing with technical incidents
- Remove the quickdraws from scoring system for next season
- A Sport Climbing style lead scoring system was tested on the wall
- Online refresher courses will be mandatory for all judges
- Consider using speed timing pads to control countdown timers in lead

Workshop #5: Event Organisers feedback session

A chance to discuss improvements to events, how athletes can work with event organisers and how communication can be improved in a bid to ensure UIAA events excel at all levels of the sport. Event organisers shared ideas and ways of improving their competitions and received feedback from athletes and other UIAA officials.

- Improved judging cameras
- Monitors in isolation with start orders
- Establish longer-term agreements with event organisers
- Publish provisional calendars as soon as possible
- Simplified checklist for Event Organisers Handbook, and creation of one for Continental level events
- Consider one team of routesetters and judges to work on all World Cups to ensure greater consistency
- Increased media coverage of Continental level events

Workshop #6: Ice Climbing Structure guidelines

A chance to contribute towards creating the perfect ice climbing competition structure that will offer future competition organisers the guidelines they need to design a tower that works perfectly for all stakeholders.

- All logistics to be covered by the project - power, cabling, cameras etc.
- Exposure to the sun - geography, climate, angles for judges/cameras and ice melting to be considered
- Assess carbon footprint of current cooling systems
- Define and introduce standard timing systems
- Plan for a transition zone right next to wall to allow tie-ing in behind wall
- Straight walls to be adapted with volumes rather than complicated structures
- Ice needed at very top of wall as this is the most photographed/filmed sector
- Engineering standards to be respected when building structures and adding heavy wood or ice features.

It is now the role of the Ice Climbing Governing Group to define which ideas are viable and from that process to decide which ideas to implement and a timeframe for doing so. Some of these findings were already set in motion for the 2023-24 season.



2022-2023 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour

THE EVENTS

- **7** countries (South Korea, France, Switzerland, Finland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Scotland)
- **3** World Cups (Cheongsong, Champagny-en-Vanoise, Saas-Fee)
- **1** World Youth Championships (Oulu)
- **1** European Championships
- **1** Asian Championships
- **4** European Cups

ATHLETES

- **820** total athlete entries
- **125** unique athletes
- **22** federations represented

CONTENT

- **228,000** unique views of content
- **1.5m** reach across all channels
- **18,000** minutes of UIAA Ice Climbing footage broadcast globally to **70** countries and territories
- **10** confirmed broadcasters and VOD platforms
- Number of non-unique potential households: **280,000,000**
Total Gross Media Value: **\$8,917,200**

Dedicated media distribution partners:

Extreme Media, EpicTV, Swisscom TV, Swiss-Sport TV, beIn Sport, PX TV Mexico & Latin America, Supersport Africa and other new broadcasters

The UIAA continued to work with UK-based media company Boulder Creek who brought in a lot of global broadcast networks who took the livestream of this season's events.

2022-23 Season: Executive Summary

- Following the Covid years, a return to at least three World Cup events.
- A successful European Cup Series this season. An extended North America and Asian series will be developed for the future.
- The objective is to return to a greater number of World Cups to then maximise athlete entries and national federation representation.
- A lack of geographical spread of the events was challenging for some athletes and federations and will be rectified in the coming seasons.
- Relationships were strengthened between the UIAA and the event organisers.
- The new officials guidelines including judges, route setting, video demos were well received and well implemented - a positive step forward.
- A full review of the competition and scoring rules is needed after some confusion at a few of the events caused some issues.
- The ice climbing community are very motivated to be directly involved with the development of the Ice Climbing World Tour and the development of its new governance structure.
- Continued development of the digital side of the sport with a doubling in the number of followers on the new Instagram account and the new website and results system were well used.
- More progress is required in the number of organisers implementing the UIAA's sustainability guidelines for competition sport.
- Work needs to be done on making sure that the sport conforms to the Olympic charter.

2024: Season Developments

It is key that the UIAA continues re-developing the Ice Climbing World Tour to restore it back to what it was prior to the pandemic, whilst at the same time really pushing the levels of each event to make them as professional and appealing to all stakeholders as possible.

A big focus will be on developing world and continental level events in North America and continental cups in Asia alongside the established continental cups in Europe, and further collaboration with ice festivals and urban events. One main achievement secured for the 2023-24 season is a return to North America with Edmonton, Canada hosting the biennial UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships. A return to a competition in a big city, urban environment will be exciting.

Ahead of the season there will be a complete review of the governance structure of ice climbing which will allow the sport to develop into the future on a much more stable platform, allowing for clear and transparent direction and goals to be set. This will include revised competition rules and regulations.

The UIAA will continue in its mission to support athlete development with a more balanced calendar and by pushing forward UIAA support for the federations who regularly send athletes but in small numbers. There will also be increased youth competitions.

Work is also taking place on developing the use of ice on lead structures in order to conform to the Winter Olympic Charter and increase the UIAA's eligibility. A return to the icier structures of World Cups in the past, while retaining the technical difficulty developed in recent modern route setting.

Report by

Martin Lascano

Chair, Ice Climbing Governing Group

Rob Adie

UIAA Sports Events Manager

Part 4: Continental Reports



Part 4: Continental Reports

Africa

The continent of Africa consists of a number of mountain clubs/national federations: The Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA), the Mountain Clubs of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Kilimanjaro (in Tanzania), Morocco and the Climbing Club of Zambia. The MCSA is a member of the UIAA, Morocco is represented through the Federation royale marocaine de ski et sports de montagne. The Mountain Club of Namibia is though a member of the MCSA.

Highlights in 2023

Torre Centrale del Paine

The MCSA recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of one of the most significant first ascents by a South African team and in the history of the MCSA. The South African Route on the East Face of Torre Centrale del Paine, Chile. The massive 1200m East Face of the Central Tower (graded A4/5.10) was first climbed in 1973-74 by a team led by Paul Fatti. Paul's team included Merv Prior, Art McGarr, Roger Fuggle, Mike Scott and Richard Smithers. They used siege tactics and fixed ropes over six weeks and endured several blizzards lasting many days. They climbed in double boots and thick PVC or Gore-Tex anoraks and some wore army WW2 battledress wool pants. Equipment included a deadweight of pitons and nuts plus two prototype single cams that Roger had brought from the USA. The party were terrified about trying them out, but they turned out to be useful in some of the wide cracks that the party climbed.

This East Face route was not repeated until it was aid climbed again in 2004 as a 30-year anniversary, by another South African team led by Alard Hufner with Marianne Pretorius, Mark Seuring, Dermat Brogan, Voytek Modrzewski, and Michael Mason. In February 2009 Nicolas Favresse, Sean Villanueva and Ben Ditto made the first free ascent of the South African Route on the East Face of the Central Tower graded A4/5.10. In 2023 Tyler Karow, Cedar Christensen and Imanol Amundarian made a second free ascent of the South African Route, which they graded 5.12c, in only eight days. Karow reported as follows: *"There are three distinct cruxes of the route. The first is a 5.11+ offwidth that almost didn't go down and the second is a 5.12+ enduro finger crack that I sincerely think is the best pitch of rock I've ever climbed in my life."*

International recognition

In 2023 the MCSA was awarded the prestigious Targa Argento "Silver Plaque - International Alpine Solidarity Award". Since 1972, a Committee set up in Pinzolo Italy, in the Alps, annually awards the prestigious International Award, now in its 52nd edition, to a person or entity. Thanks to a special Statute, the awarding of the prize for Alpine solidarity is regulated, with a vision that goes far beyond the scope of those who have dedicated so much of their lives to the Alpine Rescue, to extend to all those who have distinguished themselves in helping people in difficulty in the mountains, to civilians and soldiers who have worked in risky rescue operations, to mountain guides, doctors and service managers, firefighters, technicians, even journalists engaged in witnessing the culture and the correct way to approach the alpine environment. The handover ceremony of the 2023 Award took place on 23 September, in the presence of numerous political, military and religious personalities and various delegations from all over the world.

Confederation of African Mountain Clubs (CAMCs)

Active engagement, co-operation and joint events with Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kilimanjaro Mountain Clubs have been difficult, no formal structures are yet in place and the CAMC has evolved into an exchange of newsletters and ideas. This does still however provide a platform for joint meets and exchange expeditions in the near future.

The MCSA continues to grow, in membership and now has 15 Sections throughout the Republic of South Africa ensuring that most parts of the country are represented.

Climate Change Taskforce

The MCSA is represented through a number of its members on the UIAA Climate Change Working groups, but establishing a self-standing Task Force in South Africa has been a long drawn out process. The MCSA is still looking for someone to drive the Task Force and whilst there are many volunteers for membership of a working group leadership positions have been difficult to fill. Thus after an initial meeting of the MCSA CCTF was held on 2022 National Camp progress has been slow, and the MCSA (and mountain clubs of the continent) are relying on the resources which will be provided by the UIAA CCTF.

2024: The Year Ahead

Planning between members of the Johannesburg Section of the MCSA and other members of CAMC to hold expeditions in Africa during 2023-2024 suffered a setback when the chair of the MCSA Johannesburg portfolio resigned. However the MCSA plans to revitalise expeditions by younger mountaineers and provide development and training resources to that end. This will form the basis to revitalise the Expedition Ethos in the MCSA and the Continent.

There has been a marked increase in the training and qualification of mountain/adventure Guides in South Africa, and this has coincided with discussions between the UIAA Legal Affairs Commission and the UIAA Training Commission. This increased in the profession has also led to both the UIAA and the MCSA being approached by various entities for affiliation, in the hope that this will allow guides to operate both within South Africa and outside its borders. The reality is however that whilst both the MCSA and UIAA provide valuable resources neither are in a position to certify or register guides to operate either within or outside of South Africa as there are strict regulatory and statutory requirements to operate as a guide in South Africa and in many foreign countries. From a continental perspective the MCSA will improve communication and collaboration to ensure this message reached all interested stakeholders.

Report by

PAUL CARSTENSEN

UIAA Management Board, Continental Representative for Africa
Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA)

Africa in Numbers



Asia

The Union of Asian Alpine Associations (UAAA), founded in 1994, is the leading mountaineering and climbing organisation in Asia. It represents climbers and mountaineers on one of the largest continents in terms of population and density of high mountains.

Revitalising a mountain hut in South Korea

South Korea, more than two thirds of its territory being mountainous, is now seeing about half of its all adults going for a hike at least once a month. Across the country, there were once over a hundred mountain huts, most of which were either demolished or replaced by National Park-managed refugees in recent years. Seven huts existed on the mountain chains that surround Seoul, five of which faced the same destiny. While one in Mt. Dobongsan is currently battling with the Bukhansan National Park, the other survived thanks to the collective efforts of members of the Corea Alpine Club (CAC).

The Suraksan hut, one-story stone building first constructed in 1971, is perched near the modest summit of Suraksan (638m). The mountain forms the northeastern side of the larger mountainous walls that surround the megacity. Whilst for the past twenty years the hut was managed by Kwak Yu-jin, she had found it increasingly challenging as she grew older and so looked for anyone else taking her role. Hearing this opportunity, the CAC members, wary of the recent forced disappearances of many traditional mountain huts, collected enough money (around 37,000 USD) within a week and took over the hut.

During the sweltering summer months, dozens of the club members volunteered to renovate the hut, cleaning around and returning the hut to its original stoney shape. Eventually, on 12 November, the club members organised a signboard hanging ceremony to officiate the hut's public opening. Byun Gi-tae, the CAC President, explained: *"we wish to continue to remake this hut as a place for mountaineering and friendship and hope it to become a model place for a genuine mountain culture."* The hut will be capable of accommodating emergency situations, but also is expected to play the role of a basecamp for training schools as a crag and ice climbing venue are located nearby.

A plea from Nepal for actions to climate crisis

Climate crisis has been hitting hard around the world, but especially so to vulnerable populations, including many citizens of Nepal. The Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) initiated and managed a symbolic event to speak out this issue worldwide: in November, the country's prime minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, alias Prachanda, arrived at the slope of Kala Patthar (5,644m), near Everest Base Camp, and hoisted Nepal's National Flag on a pole to highlight the effects of global warming on Nepal's mountains and attract the attention of the international community. Back in 2009, the country's Council of Ministers visited the place and hoisted the flag for the same reason.

This year also marked the NMA's Golden Jubilee, and, as part of its celebration, the flag hoisting event is followed by carrying a peace torch from Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha and about 600km away from Kala Patthar. The flags were delivered by a group of famed Nepali mountaineers.

Furthermore, at the 28th Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai, the UAE on 2 December, Pushpa Kamal Dahal delivered a speech and pleaded for international attention to this issue by saying, "mountains are tortured by rising temperatures. Save them first!" Specifically, he chastised developed countries for their lack of actions to meet their own pledges, and asked for more serious commitments. He also demanded grants and the Loss and Damage Fund for marginalised countries like Nepal.

A successful inauguration of Asian Traditional Rock Climbing Festival, Kazakhstan

Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, is famous for its proximity to beautiful mountain regions especially to its south. There in Tuyuk Su Gorge of Alatau Range, at the elevation of 2,350m, the first Asian Traditional Rock Climbing Festival took place on 25-30 of August. The event was organised by the Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation of Republic of Kazakhstan (MSCFRK) with support of the UIAA and the UAAA.

Ten teams of climbers competed and represented the host nation, Iran, Korea and Japan. Climbers attacked up to nine different routes, most typically with around 15 multi-pitches and from heights ranging from 60-230m. Routes were assigned on a lottery basis. Scoring was based on the average performance (measured by difficulty, time, fall, protection, etc.) over completion of at least five of the eight routes. Ahead of the competition climbers could study the routes but were not permitted to climb them.

The festival, which concluded with great success and visually quite appealing experiences, was of keen interest from the UIAA with its potential for promotion of rock climbing worldwide. After the completion of the event, the organisers, the UIAA and the UIAA established a set of recommendations for future similar events, such as guidelines to address the home team advantage and weather impacts. Report [here](#).

Report by

Young Hoon Oh

UIAA Management Board, Continental Representative for Asia

Korean Alpine Federation, KAF

Asia in Numbers



Central and South America

The continent of Central and South America has maintained its upwards trend both in terms of number of UIAA member countries and in the number of activities which have taken place including continent-led expeditions to the Himalaya and Karakorum. These have inspired climbers and mountaineers throughout the continent.

Throughout 2023, the UIAA made progress in advancing discussions about new countries joining the UIAA community. At the close of 2023, formal presentations from Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras were expected ahead of the 2024 UIAA General Assembly. To date, none of these countries are represented in the UIAA. With the inclusion of these countries, the UIAA would be very close to achieving its goal of reaching 100% member countries in the Andean zone. Work is still to be done in the Caribbean and in Central America.

Part 1: Continental Overview

The picture in 2023

During the year 2023, there was an increase in sports activities in the region, which was possible thanks to the health normality following the Covid-19 pandemic and the relative tranquility at a socio/political level prevailing in Latin America.

The most important activities, during 2023, focused on consolidating projects pending from previous years and that require a long term vision and implementation.

Within these advances, it is worth mentioning the declaration of a Natural Park to the “Cochamó Valley” sector, located in the hydrographic basin of the Cochamó River, in the Los Lagos Region, Chile. This park has a protected area of approximately 11,400 hectares and includes about a third of the hydrographic basin of the river and is located within the limits of the biosphere reserve called “Temperate Rain Forests of the Southern Andes”.

More than 50 species of animals live there, including birds, mammals and amphibians. Furthermore, due to its centuries-old forests, it is an area that contains six of the 12 forest types that Chile has. This resolution is of great importance for the development of traditional climbing and large walls at a continental level, given that the Cochamó Valley has some of the most complex and demanding climbing routes in all of America, which makes it the “New Yosemite”, according to the opinion of expert athletes.

The Chilean Mountaineering Federation/Federación de Andinismo de Chile (FEACH) was invited to support this work, where it contributed with its knowledge regarding the opinions of the community of mountaineers and climbers, as well as with specialised work in defining maximum visitor numbers, respect for surrounding communities, protection of watersheds and access controls necessary for the preservation of this sector.

Also in Chile, the opening to mountaineers and hikers of the “Laguna Negra” sector, located in El Cajón del Maipo, near the El Yeso Reservoir, in the Metropolitan Region, should be highlighted. This opening responds to a long struggle by federated and amateur mountaineers, who saw their longing for access to one of the most emblematic mountain places in Santiago cut short.

The region maintained its interest in the training and review of processes, especially of rescuers and instructors. At a regional level, work continues on the review of these processes, in order to improve emergency care when required.

It can be confirmed that the interest shown in other mountain sports has remained on the rise and is an opportunity to support the training of new lovers of mountaineering in all its forms, which constitutes an administrative and organisational challenge and processes for the federations of the region, in order to attract these new athletes to the institutional federated sphere. Work must be done to channel this interest into formal clubs and associations, in order to avoid accidents and mortality due to inexperience and lack of access to proper training and information.

Part 2: Federation Stories

Federation of Mountaineering and Skiing of Argentina (FASA)

FASA has continued to develop its education programme, among which counts the following project:

Second Edition of FASA Recognitions: For the second time, the recognition of the best mountain activities was carried out, with the categories of rock bouldering, rock sport climbing, high mountaineering, literature, Alpine Climbing, etc.

Projected Activities for 2024:

- Holding the Spring Meeting of the UIAA Management Board, which will take place in the city of Bariloche.
- First International Course on Mountaineering, Medicine, Mountain Techniques and Safety, to be held in Bariloche in parallel. This will be jointly organised by FASA and the UIAA.

Peruvian Sports Federation of Climbing and Mountaineering/ Federación Deportiva Peruana de Escalada (FEDPE)

FEDPE continued with the development of its mountain training and expeditions programme to the Himalaya, among which the following can be highlighted:

Himalayan Women’s Expedition: This project aimed to take the first female expedition in Peru to the summit of K2, through a team of four women with great mountaineering capacity and proven experience, however, the financing has delayed the execution of said project and should be specified in the first half of 2024.

Mountaineer Training Programme: During 2023, collaboration between FEDPE and FEACH in relation to mountain training was intensified, an occasion in which partners of the Peruvian Federation participated in mountain seminars given by FEACH, with the aim of aligning technical criteria of mountain under the UIAA training standard.

Rock Commission: During 2023, FEDPE continued to strengthen its “Rock Commission” programme, which seeks to provide the most up-to-date knowledge to its participants, while seeking to disseminate information about the practice of rock climbing.

Projected activities for 2024:

These focus on maintaining and developing the federation’s sports training programmes and increasing the number of mountain and rescue specialists.

Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing of Ecuador/ Federación Ecuatoriana de Andinismo y Escalada (FEDANE)

FEDANE continued its “Strategic Development Plan”, promoting mutual cooperation agreements with Chile, Venezuela and Guatemala, which will allow the growth of mountaineering throughout the northern of South America.

In sports, expeditions were carried out to the most important summits in America, including Aconcagua and Ojos del Salado, the latter in cooperation with a delegation from the Chilean Mountaineering Federation. As in previous years, the presence of prominent Ecuadorian guides is maintained on the 8000m Himalayan circuit.

FEDANE has advanced in its mountain skills certification programme, with the support of the Chilean Mountaineering Federation, beginning in 2023 the “High Winter Mountain” certifications.

Chilean Mountaineering Federation/ Federación de Andinismo de Chile (FEACH)

FEACH focused its efforts on sports development and training of mountain instructors, for which it carried out the following projects;

Recertification of FEACH Instructors: During 2023, in conjunction with FEDME (UIAA full member) of Spain, the academic process of Recertification and Update of FEACH Instructors was generated, a program that aims to update and certify the knowledge and skills of all FEACH instructors, in order to take them from N1 to N2 and from N2 to N3. All of this has been carried out under the UIAA standard, with the support of the FEDME as an examining body. During the first half of 2024, this process will end with a ten-day Training Camp, where the field skills of each applicant will be evaluated.

Chile Ice Climbing Championship Project: Together with the Chilean Army Mountain School, and based on the background

provided by UIAA, the process was generated to develop the First Chilean Ice Climbing Championship, which would be held carried out in the second half of 2024, in the facilities of the Army Mountain School, located in the town of Portillo, Aconcagua Region, at 3500m of altitude. This championship would lay the foundations for a Latin American circuit in the Andean Region, covering countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Himalayan Summits: During 2023, two Chilean climbers, Janice Rot and Nicolás Horta, reached the summit of Manaslu without oxygen support and Sherpas, becoming the first Chilean and the youngest Chilean to achieve this feat. The federation mourned the passing of Juan Señoret, one of the most important climbers of the last 20 years in the country, who died while descending by ski from the summit of the Puntagudo Volcano.

Accreditation of University Mountain Professionals: Through an agreement with the DUOC University, the FEACH managed to accredit the mid-mountain sports competitions of 60 students of the Ecotourism Technician careers, which led to these students being able to count on the training most complete in terms of mountaineering taught in the country. This programme will continue in 2024 with a High Mountain diploma course and a winter High Mountain diploma course.

National Mountaineering Federation of Guatemala/ Federación Nacional de Andinismo de Guatemala (FNAG)

The FNAG has carried out an ambitious programme to promote climbing and mountaineering, which is based on the Mountain Challenges project, which has a series of awards for the best ascents and mountain projects of every year.

During 2023 the following award ceremony was held:

Mayan Award: Given to mountaineers who reach the summit of the 13 highest volcanoes in the country.

Walter Peter Award: Given to mountaineers who complete a circuit of the 25 highest volcanoes in Guatemala.

Quetzal Award: The highest mountaineering award in Guatemala, given to mountaineers who reach the summit of the 47 highest altitude volcanoes in the country.

A series of joint activities were carried out between Guatemala and other countries in the region, among which the following stand out:

Guatemala - Mexico Confraternity Expedition: Ascension of the Tacaná Volcano (4092m), carried out by a group of experts from both countries, as part of the mutual cooperation agreements currently in force.

Guatemala - El Salvador Confraternity Expedition: This project aimed to crown the Chingo volcano (1776m).

Part 3: 2024, The Year Ahead

The challenges of the region, for 2024, are numerous and complex, given that they face environmental, traffic and budgetary regulations that threaten the execution of each of them, however, the Latin American federations are determined to face the growth of the mountaineering from a perspective focused on education, prevention and respect for the environment, in order to ensure new instances of participation and development of mountain sports.

Added to the above is the organisation of the first Pan-American Union of Mountaineering and Climbing (UPAME) General Assembly after its reactivation in 2022, which will be held in the month of November in Santiago, Chile. In 2024, the aim is to consolidate cooperation work between the countries of the region, as well as advance the development of more technical and committed mountaineering, which explores new routes and summits in the vast setting of the Andes and Patagonia.

Central South America in Numbers



Number of UIAA member associations on the continent



Number of countries represented

Report by

Willy Montenegro Garcia

UIAA Management Board, Continental Representative for Central & South America

FEACH, Chile



Photo credit: Refugio Frey, Argentina Stephanie Stettbacher/UIAA

Europe

Europe is the largest continental body in terms of UIAA membership with 40 full UIAA member countries in this “geographical area”. It has some of the world’s most diverse and iconic mountains and long rock faces with around three million federation members represented. Approximately two and a half million come from alpine or mountainous countries in Western Europe with a long history in climbing and mountaineering: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

Europe in Numbers

57

Number of
**UIAA member
associations in Europe**

40

Number of
countries represented

EUMA

Overview

EUMA, European Mountaineering Association, now counts 33 mountaineering association members from 28 countries representing some 3.2 individual members.

Presidency: Roland Stierle stood down as EUMA President in 2023 at the Leeds General Assembly to become DAV President. Josef Klenner, former DAV President and longstanding member of the UIAA Management Board, took up the reigns after been elected as the new EUMA President at the same meeting.

General Assembly in Leeds

The EUMA GA in Leeds decided unanimously to transfer the seat of EUMA from Brussels to Munich. Shortly after the GA the Presidium initiated this process. For legal purposes, a confirmation was needed by another GA to be held in presence of a Belgian notary in Brussels. According to this request a further EUMA GA was held on 30 October using proxies from member associations. This was the starting date of the transformation of the seat. In the meantime, EUMA has applied for registration in Munich and is awaiting response from the relevant authorities.

ERASMUS+ Project

A major part of the work within the first half of the year was dedicated to the completion of the ERASMUS+ Project. The project concluded within the originally defined scope and the results are available on the EUMA website.

The project itself did not cover all aspects and scope of the three main topics: huts, trails and climbing areas. This was already visible and considered from the very beginning and therefore further work had been anticipated and planned. It was decided to delegate such further work to expert groups dealing on huts, trails and climbing areas. After receipt of nominations from the associations the expert groups have been set up. More detailed information about activities and people in charge will be given during the next General Assembly in Paklenica (May 2024).

As part of ERASMUS+ Project a database has been established to store all relevant data about huts, trails and climbing areas. This database must now be extended and amended to serve the requirements of further activities and for extended use. Actualisation of the data and maintenance of the database itself are integral to the new concept.

European Ramblers’ Association (ERA)

The cooperation with ERA which - established in 2019 - and which is concentrated on trails and related topics has been intensified. ERA and EUMA will jointly host a European Trails Conference in November 2024 in Paris.

Communication

During the GA in Leeds, EUMA decided to recruit a communication manager with the aim to of ensuring extended visibility and improved communication both externally and inside of the organisation. After receipt of many applications, the verification and analysis of the candidates is ongoing and will most probably be completed by mid-2024.

Relationship with the EU

Contacts with the EU have continued but need some development with regard to specific tasks and aims. For example, climate change as an increasing challenge should be integrated in the concepts and efforts for the relationship and advocacy towards the European Union and their institutions. A specific position paper will be submitted to the 2024 GA for adoption.

The contacts to members of the European Parliament mainly via the Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas (RUMRA) group continue and need to be reactivated after the elections for the new parliament in May 2024.

Select projects and achievements from UIAA European members and partners

Climate change commitment – The German Alpine Club (DAV) continues to lead the way with its commitment to tackling climate change. In November, it presented the results of its 2022 emissions accounting. The association reports causing around 51,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalents during the recorded year. The results of the balancing determine both the further climate protection measures and the amount of emissions to be saved - a 30 percent reduction by 2026 has been set as an interim target, i.e. over 15,000 tons. The federation has provided a number of interesting resources, both its [road map](#) to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and a presentation detailing its mountain protection plan will be available on the UIAA website from May 2024.

Support for female climbers – The British Mountaineering Council and Mountain Training have launched [OutdoorHer](#), a dedicated hub aimed at providing advice and guidance for everyone who is looking to learn more about managing periods and menopause in the outdoors, from participants to leaders and allies. It has been created with inclusion in mind and we hope that it helps to support and improve adventures for all, speaking to a range of issues that have often been overlooked.

Avalanche reporting – The Swiss Alpine Club has set up a vital services tracking recent cases of avalanches. A [general map](#) shows where avalanches have been observed in Switzerland for one to three days. This gives users an overview of regions with high avalanche activity. Filters are available for more details, for example for avalanche type or size. In addition, the map will be integrated into the SLF's White-Risk mobile app during the 2023-24 winter season.

Growing a smaller federation through sport development – The Malta Climbing Club highlighted a weekly programme of climbing meets and activities including coaching of kids, bolting of new sport routes and maintenance of the sport climbing infrastructure, UIAA Sport Climbing Single Pitch Instructor Award with its first assessment of local instructors was planned for June 2023. The Maltese national bouldering championships were held in September 2023 with route setting and inspiration from noted British climber Steve McClure. A Kids Zone group travelled to the UK for coaching from former Climb GB coach Ian Dunn in April.

Mont Blanc – At the UIAA Spring Meetings, Jean Miczka (UIAA Management Board and FFCAM) gave a [presentation](#) on access issues impacting climbers on Mont Blanc. Over the past decade, Mont Blanc has been subject to significant overcrowding and numerous reports of uncivil behaviour. In the summer of 2018, and not for the first time, French authorities decided to place temporary access restrictions on the mountain. This was in reaction to the increase in waste being left behind, a rise in the deployment of rescue services to come to the aid of ill-prepared visitors, overcrowding of the huts; and the fact that Vallot FFCAM hut – strictly reserved for emergency purposes – was being used as accommodation.

To compound matters, sometimes this service was sold by rogue travel operators. In 2019, stakeholders – including FFCAM, mountain guide associations and local authorities – came together to draft a solution, that was implemented in 2020. Measures included: a restriction on setting up bivouac camps except in a defined area near the Tête Rousse hut; if climbing the normal route making it mandatory to book staying in the Goûter Hut (the highest accommodation hut on Mont Blanc) or Tête Rousse hut ; or signing a sworn declaration to complete the climb in one day. Further regulations stated the need to bring proper equipment which would be monitored by a « White Brigade ».

Parallel to the overcrowding and increase in unprepared people visiting the mountain, was the increase in threats posed by climate change. This further intensified tensions among stakeholders. Significant media attention covered the risk of avalanches or a glacier collapse. Studies addressed the most dangerous times of the day to climb and specifically when to best traverse the [Goûter ridge](#) (Grand couloir du Goûter). This led to a different set of tensions, between those concerned about a threat to free access to mountaineering culture of risk and those wanting to see more stringent restrictions. A [statement](#) was released on the subject last summer. As a consequence some guides pulled out, huts closed and debates raged.

The situation remains delicate. A balancing act is needed to consider the environmental factors, the rise in accidents, safety aspects, role of rescue services and arguments about preserving the guiding

principles of free access and an individual's own risk management. What has been proved so far is that without collaboration between the different stakeholders, without constructive dialogue and maintaining strong relationships this will not be possible. The situation on Mont Blanc is to be followed carefully.

The Alpine Club, UK partnered with the Mount Everest Foundation, as well as Plas y Brenin and The Arctic Club, to host an expedition symposium from 10 – 12 November at Plas y Brenin and featured workshops on a variety of essential topics including expedition kit and wilderness first aid.

Quality of Life in the Alps – In June, the UIAA shared a [communication](#) on behalf of the Mountain Research Initiative, which promoted a survey about the quality of life in the Alps. Living in the Alps has always had its own perks and drawbacks. High mountains, dispersed settlements, the closure of services (e.g., medical practitioners, shops, and schools) and poor connections to public transport can be considered factors contributing to a perceived decrease in living conditions in the Alps. Recognising the importance of evaluating these conditions, the Slovene Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning – as a leader for the 2023-2024 Alpine Convention – dedicated the 10th report on the state of the Alps to the topic of quality of life.

Thank You

As noted in a dedicated section of this Annual Report, the climbing community including a number of UIAA member associations came together to support the Turkish Mountaineering Federation's work following the country's [devastating earthquakes](#) in February.

In Memory

The Austrian Alpine Club (OeAV) [announced](#) the death of its former Secretary General Robert Renzler, who died in an accident in the mountains on 20 May. As the OeAV wrote: "His sudden and unexpected death shocks us deeply and fills us with deep sadness. Robert Renzler lost his life in an activity that for him was not just a passion but the essence of life itself. With Robert Renzler, the Alpine Club family loses an extraordinary personality whose commitment left a deep and lasting impression on the Club."

Robert was a mountain and ski guide, an all-round alpinist who completed over 1,000 climbing tours on the great north faces of the Alps, in the Dolomites and in Yosemite and led successful expeditions to Gasherbrum II and Masherbrum, among others. His outstanding skills and passion for mountaineering were inspiring. He enjoyed a close relationship with the UIAA and served as Mountaineering Commission President in the early 2000s. Robert was passionate about ethics in mountaineering and during his time with the UIAA spearheaded the publication of the seminal [To Bolt or not to Bolt paper](#).

Report by

Anne Arran

UIAA Management Board, Continental Representative for Europe
British Mountaineering Council, BMC

North America

The continent of North America includes two full UIAA members: the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) and the American Alpine Club (AAC).

Alpine Club of Canada

The 2023 fiscal year of The Alpine Club of Canada was the first of its three-year strategic plan. A clear priority of better serving its sections and members was the driving force behind the numerous initiatives launched during the year. In a bid to increase awareness, relevancy, and a sense of community within the club, the ACC started working on a new brand strategy. This is a transformative project that should come to fruition by the spring of 2024. The new brand will enable the ACC to communicate consistently across geographies while maintaining a local presence. It should help increase diversity within its membership and engage more actively with its members.

The ACC offered a comprehensive, club-wide Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training course during the fall of 2023, thus meeting a key strategic goal. Offered to all members, it aimed to provide tools to create safe and inclusive spaces and common language to facilitate ongoing conversations about diversity in the club. Despite a difficult snowpack and complex permitting issues, the ACC ran most of its camps and courses and a successful General Mountaineering Camp in the Chess Group. The GMC remains popular, and the ACC looks forward to the 2024 edition in the Remillard Group.

2024: The Year Ahead

Many of the initiatives launched last year continue into 2024. The ACC remain intent on better serving its members and sections by modernising its brand, reconnecting to its mandate of environmental stewardship, and enhancing its member offering. The ACC has been modernising its operations with a comprehensive overhaul of its information systems. This is the first step of its digital transition, which the ACC continues to invest in. The ACC is very excited about the launch of its new verbal and visual identity at the federation's Annual General Meeting on 25 May. The ACC wants its brand to convey the essence of who the federation is and what it does, that the Alpine Club of Canada is changing people's lives through mountaineering experiences that enable them to connect to themselves, others and the natural world. Finally, with the support of a generous donation, the ACC is building a new hut at Castle Mountain in place of the existing 1967 structure. This is the first of several large projects that the federation is working on, including a new hut in Robson Provincial Park and a replacement hut at [Abbot Pass](#).

Finally, with the support of a generous donation, the ACC is building a new hut at Castle Mountain in place of the existing 1967 structure. This is the first of several large projects that the federation is working on, including a new hut in Robson Provincial Park and a replacement hut at Abbot Pass. It's been a huge team effort to make progress the ACC's strategic goals and is thanks to the hard work of the board, the team in Canmore, and the dedicated members and volunteers who have made it possible.

American Alpine Club

During 2023, the AAC distributed \$193,600 in grants to 92 individuals for all manner of climbing expeditions. The AAC again produced its flagship publication, The American Alpine Journal, which included 245 stories about the world's most significant climbs. Through its rescue benefit and provider, Redpoint, fifteen medical evacuations met the needs of the AAC members in the mountains. The federation's annual accident report, Accidents in North American Climbing, analysed over one hundred incidents.

The Climbing Grief Fund supports those facing trauma in the aftermath of tragedy, and the federation continues to integrate the AAC's education programmes into the UIAA training scheme. The nationwide climbing event series-Craggin' Classics-continues to thrive. In 2024, Arkansas will be added to the list of destinations. Climate change remains a central concern for the AAC. Resources were devoted to studying our changing climate in the guiding industry. Former Vice President Al Gore reminded us of the urgency here in his keynote speech at the Annual Dinner in New York City.

The AAC produced comments on 57 key policy concerns in the US. The most pressing issue is the legitimacy of climbing and the fixed anchors the AAC needs for safety in US Wilderness Areas. Wilderness, as described in the federation's Wilderness Act of 1964, is highly valued and remains untrammelled in the US. The AAC is advocating for fixed anchor guidance that balances the preservation of wilderness character with climbers' historic and spare use of fixed anchors. The AAC advocates that the occasional use of fixed anchors in designated Wilderness areas is appropriate. Examples of US Wilderness Areas include The Wind River Range, many of the ranges in Alaska, and even most of the climbing in Yosemite. In order to deepen the relationship with the national parks, the AAC signed a general agreement with Yosemite National Park to ensure climbers have a voice in park planning.

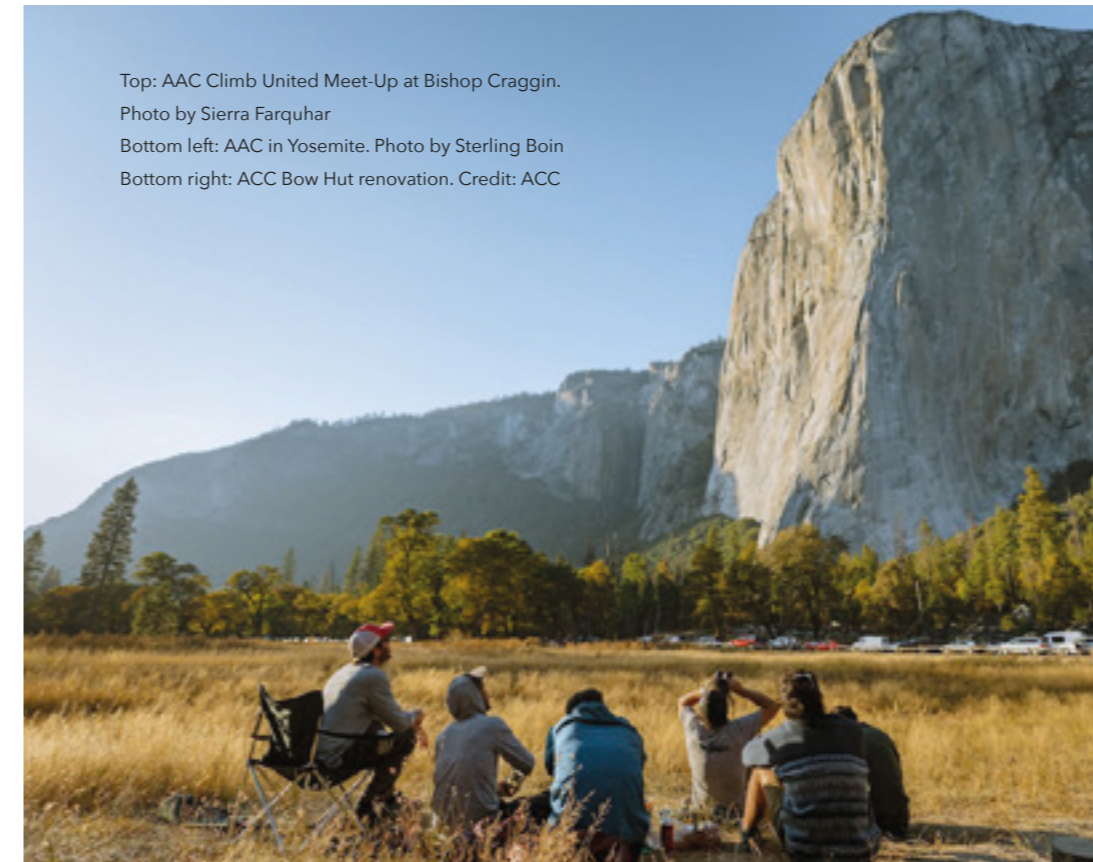
North America in Numbers



Number of UIAA member associations in North America



Number of countries represented



Top: AAC Climb United Meet-Up at Bishop Craggin. Photo by Sierra Farquhar
 Bottom left: AAC in Yosemite. Photo by Sterling Boim
 Bottom right: ACC Bow Hut renovation. Credit: ACC

Report by

PHIL POWERS

UIAA Management Board,
 Continental Representative for North America
 American Alpine Club (AAC)

Oceania

2023: Cultural awareness, climbing’s increased popularity and the continued impact of climate change

Oceania covers a very large area, much of it ocean, and includes Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. The region offers climbers outstanding opportunities in both alpine and rock climbing as well as many extensive areas of remote wilderness. The region includes only one UIAA member, the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC), which includes an active Australian Section. The NZAC was one of the founding members of the UIAA.

2023 has seen the continuation of the major themes reported in 2022.

Firstly, growing pressure on both the environment and facilities (huts, tracks) from the rapid growth since the covid pandemic in the numbers of people, both locals and tourists, visiting the back country for a range of activities, including climbing and trekking (“tramping” in New Zealand).

Second, warming temperatures and the increasing frequency of severe storms are severely impacting on the physical environment. In New Zealand this is visible in the depletion of glacier snowmass and increasing landscape instability across the country. This includes rapidly changing moraine fields and river channel patterns as well as the creation of glacial lakes where previously there was ice. In Australia very large wildfires have threatened a number of well-known climbing areas. The impacts on climbing are many, including access and a change in the preferred months for safe alpine climbing.

Third, growing cultural awareness by the climbing community of the traditional and deep-felt connection of indigenous peoples to the places that climbers visit. This is a journey of learning and understanding that many climbers are starting to engage with. It has not been without hurt, pain and controversy. It is a story that is being replicated across other “settler colonial” countries, for instance in the Americas and Africa, as well as here in Oceania. It is worth looking a little more at how this is progressing.

In both Australia and New Zealand access to various climbing areas has been restricted, negotiated and tentatively agreed and trialled on the basis of a new understanding and respect.

In Australia, the case of the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) in the southern state of Victoria where large areas of established top class climbing have been closed is well known and has made national news on occasion. After some years of tension, the Parks authority is now progressively reviewing a number of areas where climbing is banned for cultural reasons – ancient rock art and sacred ground. There is a long way to go, and many areas and some iconic climbing walls will no doubt remain closed as the understanding of their cultural significance is better appreciated.

The lack of a peak national federation or even one at state level has no doubt made the communication and process of negotiation more difficult than it would have been otherwise, particularly with the Parks authority. Having said that, some excellent empathetic initiatives have emerged from within the climbing community, seeking to understand and engage with traditional owners. These have helped to build respect and better understanding for the climbers perspective and have provided balance to some of the more self-centred approaches seen previously.

Meanwhile, 3,000kms east, across the Tasman Sea, the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) was honoured that one of New Zealand’s most respected Māori elders, Tā Tipene O’Regan accepted Honorary NZAC membership. This was in recognition of his role in gifting the sacred mountain Aoraki Mount Cook back to the people of New Zealand as part of a 1998 Treaty Settlement. Mountaineers have been climbing Aoraki, New Zealand’s highest peak, for 130 years with limited appreciation until recently of its deep cultural significance to Māori. O’Regan has also been a leader in establishing a major digital “cultural Atlas”, contesting the colonial naming of places including mountain ranges and demonstrating that places assumed to be “unexplored” were in fact well known and used historically.

The NZAC is also commencing a programme, working with a local University and local Māori, entitled “Aoraki Human Waste Project”. The project is approaching the issue of human waste on Aoraki Mount Cook from a Māori knowledge perspective, spending time to reveal and take on board traditional customs and protocols for human waste disposal. Mountaineers will be surveyed for their views and understanding. The ambition is a new protocol for human waste disposal that incorporates Māori perspectives aligned with the realities of climbing on a mountain with a harsh and unforgiving environment. The hope is this becomes a model that is scalable to other mountain areas in New Zealand and potentially beyond.

Conclusion

In summary, climbing in Oceania has continued to grow strongly since the Covid pandemic, with participation in a wide range of outdoor activity at all time highs. At the top levels, Australian and New Zealand climbers are active in many of the world’s top alpine and rock regions. The physical environment, like elsewhere, is changing under climate change and forcing climbers to find new approaches and new areas. For instance, there have been a number of impressive first ascents of big faces in very remote parts of the New Zealand wilderness. Sitting alongside these impressive achievements is a growing awareness in Oceania of the spiritual and cultural importance of the places that climbers visit when they “re-create”.

Report by

Stuart Gray

UIAA Management Board, Continental Representative for Oceania
New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC)

Oceania in Numbers



Part 5: Annex Inside the UIAA

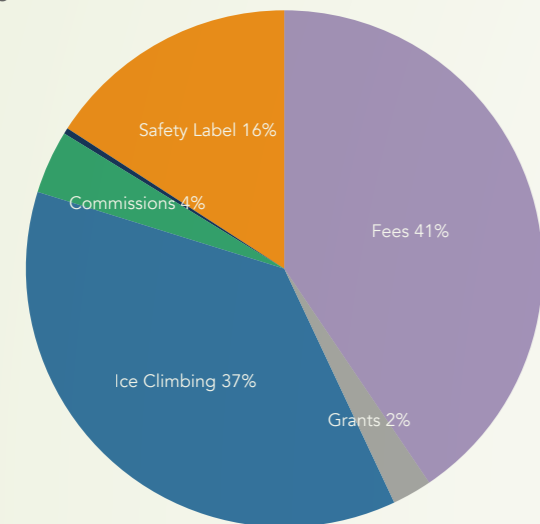
This new section of the UIAA Annual Report consolidates information on membership, representation on the UIAA Management Board, Executive Committee and Commissions, offers details on the UIAA Office staff, partners and sponsors as well as presenting the Financial report for 2023.

Page Numbers

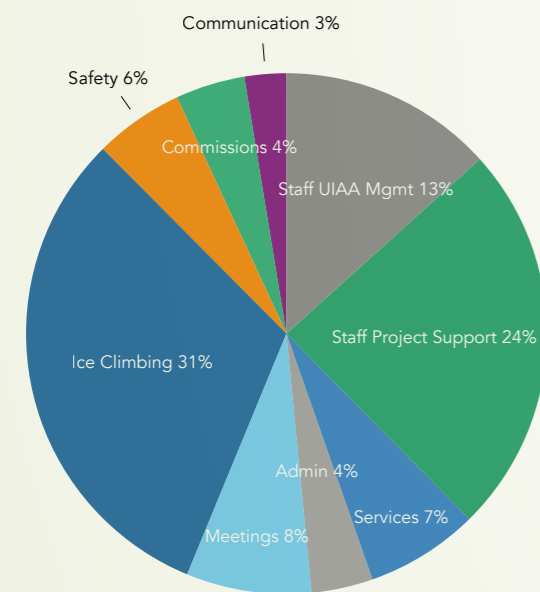
74 Finance report	78 List of Member Associations	81 Executive Committee	82 Management Board	84 Office
85 Commissions	88 Court report	89 List of General Assemblies	90 Honorary Members	91 Partners & Sponsors

Financial report

Income



Expenses



Profit and Loss Statement 2023

CHF	BUDGET 2023	RESULTS 2023	NOTES	BUDGET 2024
INCOME				
Fees	308'000	319'000	1	325'000
Grants	20'000	20'000	4	20'000
Commissions	491'500	460'200	8-14	502'000
Donations, others		2'700	16	10'000
TOTAL INCOME	819'500	801'900		857'000
EXPENSES				
Staff for Federation Management	110'000	108'000	19	135'000
Staff for Projects and Commissions	195'000	196'500	20	255'000
Services	52'500	57'400	22	48'500
Administration, Office	30'400	30'900	30	31'700
Meetings - GA, MC, EB, Office	45'500	62'900	34 - 39	56'000
Projects and Commissions	335'800	334'900	40 - 47	379'500
Communication	32'000	21'200	52	27'000
TOTAL EXPENSES	801'200	811'800		932'700
RESULT OF THE YEAR	18'300	-9'900	55	-75'700
Allocation to General Provision		-		
NET RESULT	18'300	-9'900		-75'700

Profit and Loss Statement 2023 - Notes

NOTES	INCOME 2023	CHF	COMMENTS
1	Membership fees	319'000	11'500 higher than budget due to the return of CAI and additional new members
4	SAC contribution	20'000	As per contract
8,9	IOC ARISF	29'000	17'500 Ice Climbing, 2'500 Youth, 9'000 Anti-Doping
9	Ice Climbing	297'400	13'100 under budget due to currency discrepancy USD/CHF and reduced license fee income (suspension of RMF athletes); 111'000 cash sponsorship income and 75'000 in-kind received
11	Safety	127'900	Safety Label fees and lab certification fees, 4'900 higher than budget
12	Medical	0	No sponsorship income budgeted and received
13	Training	20'200	800 lower than budget; contributions from the Petzl Foundation, and for skills certification
14	Mountain Protection	12'100	Sponsorship income 14'900 lower than budget due to reduced amount received from BPOF, currency discrepancy not in UIAA favour
16	Donations	2'500	2'500 better than budget; no income was budgeted; donations were received for Turkey earthquake relief

NOTES	EXPENSES 2023	CHF	COMMENTS
19	Staff - Federation	108'000	2'000 lower than budget, modest salary increase to compensate for inflation
20	Staff - Projects, Commissions	196'500	1'500 higher than budget, reduced employment % due to reduced Ice Climbing calendar
22	Freelance Experts	52'300	2'300 higher than budget, additional time was allocated for website update and social media
27	Postal charges, phone	3'600	600 higher than budget due to sending of the Annual Report 2022 and 50% mobile phone portion for staff
29	Membership fee GAISF	-4'308	Annual fee for 2022 was refunded following GAISF dissolution
30	Administrative expenses	15'300	7'300 higher than budget, includes VAT (value added tax) for 2023, half-fare/GA public transportation passes for staff, IT and office furniture upgrades
34	General Assembly	4'500	2'000 lower than budget due to more economic meeting facilities; includes costs for GA infrastructure, meeting technology, official functions, external moderators, guests
35	Management Board	4'800	600 lower than budget; includes costs for GA infrastructure, meeting technology, official functions, external moderators, guests
36	Executive Committee	28'900	16'100 higher than budget due to a high level of EC activities (presence at UAAA GA, Sport Climbing World Championships) and several expensive long-distance flights; includes travel and accommodation for EC members when attending GA, MB Spring in Leeds, in-person meetings in Bern; all EC meetings are held online, except if combined with MB meetings or GA

NOTES	EXPENSES 2023	CHF	COMMENTS
37	Commission Presidents	11'200	800 lower than budget; includes travel and accommodation for CP when attending GA, MB Spring
38	Office	13'500	4'700 higher than budget due to more staff presence at spring meetings (for Commission meetings) and GA; includes travel and accommodation for Office staff when attending GA, MB Spring
39	Total meetings	62'900	17'300 higher than budget; see comments lines 36, 38
40	Mountaineering, Access	2'400	3'000 lower than budget
41	Youth, Rock	0	4'500 lower than budget, no expenses for Youth Commission projects and Rock Climbing Festival award
42	Ice Climbing, Anti-Doping	254'700	23'800 higher than budget due to ICGG presence at events, result system updates, international summer conference on the future of IC, development of a new ice tower and trailer for new documentary series; does not include staff budget; includes in-kind support for local organizers
44	Safety	45'000	5'000 higher than budget due to extensive anchor welding/corrosion testing series; in addition, 12'500 for unfinished projects 2021 were spent
45	Medical	2'200	10'300 lower than budget due to postponed projects
46	Training	17'700	4'200 higher than budget due to increased training activity and database development work
47	Mountain Protection, Climate Change	12'900	14'100 lower than budget due to lower Mountain Protection Award prize money and delayed projects
52	Communication	21'200	10'800 lower than budget due to lower costs for website rework

NOTES	RESULT 2023	CHF	COMMENTS
55	Loss	9'900	Result of the year 28'100 lower than budget (a surplus of 18'200 was budgeted), however significantly better than all forecasts 2023

Remarks concerning accrual accounting:

The following amounts for unfinished projects, total CHF 59'100, based on the concept of accrual accounting, should appear on the balance sheet of 31 December 2021. Instead, because of the solid financial situation in 2021, on recommendation of the Finance and Audit Working Group, these amounts were included in the 2021 profit and loss statement. In 2022 and 2023, a total of CHF 54'100 was spent (12'500 in 2023). A total of CHF 5'000 remains to be spent on unfinished projects.

Balance Sheet

ASSETS - CHF	31 DECEMBER 2022	31 DECEMBER 2023	NOTES
Cash and cash equivalents	489'441	592'973	A
Receivables	1'669	13	
Prepayments and accrued income	74'078	52'542	B
Inventory	5'000	5'000	
TOTAL ASSETS	570'188	650'528	
LIABILITIES - CHF	31 DECEMBER 2022	31 DECEMBER 2023	NOTES
Third party liabilities			
Accounts payable	10'978	14'192	C
Other short term liabilities	0	0	
Accrued expenses and deferred income	90'174	190'137	D
Total third party liabilities	101'152	204'329	
Equity accounts			
Capital of the association as per 1 January	298'125	345'136	E
General provision	87'516	119'087	F
Designated equity accounts: Solidarity; Access and Conservation	36'384	31'847	G
Increase of reserves and provision	0	-40'000	
Result of the year	47'010	-9'871	
Total equity	469'036	446'199	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	570'188	650'528	

Notes

ASSETS	CHF (*)	COMMENT
A Cash and cash equivalents*	+103'500	Ice Climbing sponsoring amount for 2024 was pre-paid in September 2023 - for the 2023 season, the amount was paid early in 2023
B Prepayments and accrued income*	-21'500	Decrease of prepaid IC service fees, Safety Label fees for 2024 and unpaid membership fees for 2023
LIABILITIES, FUNDS	CHF (*)	COMMENT
C Accounts payable*	+3'000	Social charges (BVG)
D Accrued expenses and deferred income*	+100'000	See note A
E Capital of the association	302'720	As per 31 December 2023
F General provision*	+31'500	Resulting from 2022 allocation to general provision +40'000, and unfavourable exchange rates -8'500
G Solidarity and Access and Conservation funds	31'850	As per 31 December 2023; in 2023, membership fee relief to Ukraine, Guatemala, and earthquake relief to Turkey was granted

(*) Amounts compared to the Balance Sheet of 31 December 2022



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Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination to the general meeting of

UIAA - International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation, Bern

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, operating statement and notes) of UIAA - International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Executive Committee. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of entity personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of entity documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the articles of association.

Bern, 21 March 2024

BDO Ltd

Laurence Gilliéron

Leitende Revisorin
Zugelassene Revisionsexpertin

i.V. Dimitri Bretting

Membership

The UIAA closed **2023** with **97** Member Associations, comprising **71** full members, **1** unit member, **19** associate members and **6** observer members from **72** different countries, making a total of approximately **3.2** million individual members.

Please note these figures reflect the four membership changes at the **2023 UIAA General Assembly**. These memberships are active as of **1 January 2024**.

New full members:

- Mountaineering Association of Montenegro
- Singapore Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation

New associate member:

- Fujairah Adventures Centre, UAE

Change of membership

- Norwegian Climbing Federation now an Active Member
- Norwegian Alpine Club – Norsk Tindeklub now an Associate Member

Full (Active) Members

	Name	Acronym	Country	Joined
1	Afghanistan Climbing & Mountaineering Federation (*)	ACMF	Afghanistan	2017
2	Albanian Mountaineering Federation	FSHALTM	Albania	2017
3	Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo	FASA	Argentina	1951
4	Verband Alpiner Vereine Österreichs	VAVOE	Austria	1951
5	Bangladesh Mountaineering Federation	BMF	Bangladesh	2013
6	Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium	CMBEL	Belgium	1932
7	Mountaineering Association of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	PS FBIH	Bosnia - Herzegovina	1997
8	Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada	CBME	Brazil	2005
9	Bulgarian Climbing and Mountaineering Federation	BCMF	Bulgaria	1935
10	Alpine Club of Canada	ACC	Canada	1947
11	Federación de Andinismo de Chile	FEACH	Chile	1956
12	Chinese Mountaineering Association	CMA	China	1985
13	Costa Rican Federation of Mountain Sports	FECODEM	Costa Rica	2019
14	Croatian Mountaineering Association - Hrvatski Planinarski Savez	HPS	Croatia	1991
15	Cyprus Mountaineering Climbing & Orienteering Federation	CMCOF	Cyprus	2007
16	Czech Mountaineering Federation - Cesky Horolezecky Svaz	CMF	Czech Republic	1932
17	Danish Alpine Club - Dansk Bjergklub	DBKK	Denmark	1977
18	Federacion Ecuatoriana de Andinismo y Escalada	FEDANE	Ecuador	2022
19	Finnish Climbing Association	FCA	Finland	1995
20	Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne	FFCAM	France	1932
21	Mountaineering and Climbing Association of Georgia	MCAG	Georgia	1933
22	German Alpine Club - Deutscher Alpenverein	DAV	Germany	1932
23	Hellenic Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing	EEOA	Greece	1936

	Name	Acronym	Country	Joined
24	Federacion Nacional de Andinismo de Guatemala	FNAG	Guatemala	2017
25	China Hong Kong Mountaineering and Climbing Union	CHKMCU	Hong Kong	1988
26	Hungarian Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation	MHSSz	Hungary	2001
27	Indian Mountaineering Foundation	IMF	India	1981
28	Indonesia Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation	FPTI	Indonesia	2016
29	I.R. Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation	IMSCF	Iran	1972
30	Mountaineering Ireland	MI	Ireland	2004
31	Israel Climbers' Club	ILCC	Israel	2009
32	Club Alpino Italiano	CAI	Italy	1932
33	Japan Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Association	JMSCA	Japan	1980
34	Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation of the Republic of Kazakhstan	MSCRFK	Kazakhstan	2017
35	Korean Alpine Club	CAC	Korea	1969
36	Kosovo Mountaineering and Alpinist Federation	KMAF	Kosovo	2011
37	Liechtensteiner Alpenverein	LAV	Liechtenstein	1959
38	Lithuanian Mountaineering Association	LMA	Lithuania	1991
39	Luxembourg Federations (F.L.E.R.A.)	FLERA	Luxembourg	1938
40	National Adventure Association of Malaysia	NAA	Malaysia	2015
41	Malta Climbing Club	MCC	Malta	2018
42	Federación Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada A.C	FMDMyE	Mexico	2020
43	Club Alpin Monégasque	CAM	Monaco	1994
44	Mongolian National Sport Climbing Federation	MNSCF	Mongolia	2010
45	Mountaineering Association of Montenegro (**)	MAM	Montenegro	2024
46	Federation Royale Marocaine de Ski et Montagnes	FRMSM	Morocco	2017
47	Nepal Mountaineering Association	NMA	Nepal	1975

	Name	Acronym	Country	Joined
48	Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Club	NKBV	Netherlands	1932
49	New Zealand Alpine Club	NZAC	New Zealand	1932
50	<i>The Norwegian Climbing Federation - Norges Klatreforbund (**)</i>	NKF	Norway	1993
51	Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia	FPSM	North Macedonia	1999
52	Alpine Club of Pakistan	ACP	Pakistan	1974
53	Federación Deportiva Peruana de Escalada	FEDPE	Peru	2022
54	Polish Mountaineering Association	PZA	Poland	1932
55	Clube Nacional de Montanhismo	CNM	Portugal	1955
56	Romanian Alpine Club - Clubul Alpin Român	CAR	Romania	1938
57	Russian Mountaineering Federation (*)	RMF	Russia	1994
58	Saudi Climbing & Hiking Federation	SCHF	Saudi Arabia	2020
59	Mountaineering Association of Serbia - Planinarski Savez Srbije	MAS	Serbia	2002
60	<i>Singapore Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (**)</i>	SSCMF	Singapore	2024
61	Slovak Mountaineering Union - Slovensky Horolezecky Spolok	JAMES	Slovakia	1932
62	Alpine Association of Slovenia	PZS	Slovenia	1991
63	The Mountain Club of South Africa	MCSA	South Africa	1992
64	Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada	FEDME	Spain	1932
65	Swedish Climbing Federation - Svenska Klätterförbundet	SKF	Sweden	1973
66	Swiss Alpine Club	SAC	Switzerland	1932
67	Chinese Taipei Alpine Association	CTAA	Chinese Taipei	1989
68	Turkish Mountaineering Federation - Türkiye Dacılık Federasyonu	TDF	Turkey	1967
69	Ukrainian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation	UMCF	Ukraine	1991
70	British Mountaineering Council	BMC	United Kingdom	1947
71	American Alpine Club	AAC	United States	1932

(*) Federation currently suspended. Delegates from the Russian Mountaineering Federation (RMF), Russian officials and athletes continue to be excluded from all UIAA-sanctioned activities and events. See UIAA [statement](#).

(**) Membership change will be active as of 1 January 2024. See list above of approved decisions made at the 2023 GA.

Associate Members

Name	Acronym	Country	Joined
1 Mountain Club of Western Caspian University, Azerbaijan	MCWCU	Azerbaijan	2020
2 Ecole Nationale d'Escalade du Québec	ENEQ	Canada	
3 Fédération Québécoise de la Montagne et de l'Escalade	FQME	Canada	1975
4 Danish Climbing Federation	DCF	Denmark	1998
5 Nehru Institute for Mountaineering	NIM	India	2011
6 Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports	ABVIMAS	India	2022
7 Alpenverein Südtirol	AVS	Italy	1974
8 Korean Alpine Federation	KAF	Korea	1970
9 Norwegian Alpine Club - Norsk Tindeklub (*)	NTK	Norway	1965
10 Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal	FCMP	Portugal	1992
11 Federação Portuguesa de Montanhismo e Escalada	FPME	Portugal	2004
12 Centre Excursionista de Catalunya	CEC	Spain	1932
13 Basque Mountaineering Federation - Euskal Mendizale Federazioa	EMF	Spain	2002
14 Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes de Catalunya	FEEC	Spain	2000
15 Vereinigung der Akademischen Alpen-Clubs der Schweiz	VAAC	Switzerland	1985
16 Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association	CTMA	Chinese Taipei	1993
17 Fujairah Adventures Centre (**)	FAC	United Arab Emirates	2024
18 The Alpine Club	AC	United Kingdom	1934
19 Alaskan Alpine Club	ALAC	United States	1985

Observer Members

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

Unit Member

Name	Acronym	Country	Joined
1 International Skyrunning Federation	ISF	Switzerland/ International	2016

Executive Committee



Peter MUIR
(President)
Canada
Alpine Club of Canada



Amit CHOWDHURY
(Vice President)
India
Indian Mountaineering Foundation



Lode BECKERS
(General Secretary)
Belgium
Climbing & Mountaineering Belgium



Françoise JAQUET
(Treasurer)
Switzerland
Swiss Alpine Club



Simon ALDEN
(Board Member)
Malta
Malta Climbing Club



Martin LASCANO
(Board Member)
Argentina
Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo



Yongfeng WANG
(Board Member)
China
Chinese Mountaineering Association

UIAA Presidents

1932-1964	Count Charles Egmond d'Arcis
1965-1968	Edouard Wyss-Dunant
1968-1972	Albert Eggler
1973-1976	Jean Juge
1976-1984	Pierre Bossus
1985-1989	Carlo Sganzi
1990-1995	Pietro Segantini
1995-2004	Ian McNaught-Davis
2004-2005	Alan Blackshaw
2005-2006	Pierre Humblet (acting)
2007-2011	Mike Mortimer
2011-2012	Jordi Colomer (acting)
2012-2020	Frits Vrijlandt
2020-	Peter Muir

Management Board

Continental Representatives



Africa
Paul CARSTENSEN

South Africa
Mountain Club of South Africa



Asia
Young HOON OH

Korea
Korean Alpine Federation



Central & S. America
Willy MONTENEGRO

Chile
Federación de Andinismo de Chile



Europe
Anne ARRAN

United Kingdom
British Mountaineering Council



North America
Phil POWERS

United States
American Alpine Club



Oceania
Stuart GRAY

New Zealand
New Zealand Alpine Club



Davide AVAGNINA

Italy
Italian Alpine Club



Josef KLENNER

Germany
German Alpine Club



Juan JESÚS IBÁÑEZ MARTÍN

Spain
Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada



Silvio CALVI

Italy
International Skyrunning Federation

Representative Members



Joachim DRIESSEN

Netherlands
Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Club



Kul Bahadur GURUNG

Nepal
Nepal Mountaineering Association



Steve LONG

United Kingdom
British Mountaineering Council



Jean MICZKA

France
Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne



Stein TRONSTAD

Norway
The Norwegian Climbing Federation



Office

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 Swiss Alpine Club (SAC). Detailed profiles of the Office staff are available on the updated [UIAA website](#).

At the end of 2023, and after 13 years with the UIAA, Agnès Semelet left her position as the UIAA Accountant. The UIAA thanks Agnès for her hard work and dedication throughout her time at the UIAA.



Nils Glatthard

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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Started at the UIAA in **2017**



Stephanie Stettbacher

OFFICE COORDINATOR &
SAFETY LABEL ADMINISTRATOR

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Started at the UIAA in **2013**



Robert Adie

SPORT EVENTS COORDINATOR

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Started at the UIAA in **2017**



Carol Kahoun-Kauer

PROJECT MANAGER

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Started at the UIAA in **2016**



Peter Bourne

COMMUNICATION MANAGER

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Started at the UIAA in **2015**



Philippe QUINTART

MOUNTAIN SAFETY PROJECT MANAGER

philippe.quintart@theuiaa.org

Starting at the UIAA in **2024**



Tom Tushaw

SOCIAL MEDIA

tomtushaw@theuiaa.org

Started at the UIAA in **2021**

Commission representation



Anti-Doping

Full Members

Marija ANDJELKOVIC (President), Serbia (MAS)

Nenad DIKIC, International (ISF)

Borja OSÉS GARCÍA, Spain (EMF-BMF)

Corresponding Members

-

[Commission Profile](#)



Legal Affairs

Full Members

Klara DVORAKOVA (President), Czech Republic (CMLA)

Jim MOSS (Vice President), United States (AAC)

Mohammadali ABDOLLAHI, Iran (IMSCF)

Paul CARSTENSEN, South Africa (MCSA)

Bénédicte CAZANAVE, France (FFCAM)

Rupert DAVIES, United Kingdom (BMC)

Anna GILLOOLY, New Zealand (NZAC)

Juliana STOJANOVSKA,
Republic of North Macedonia (FPSM)

Corresponding Members

Xabier EZEIZABARRENA, Spain (EMF-BMF)

Stéphanie KUONEN, Switzerland (SAC)

Edward Everett VAILL, United States (AAC)

[Commission Profile](#)



Medical

Full Members

Urs HEFTI (President) Switzerland (SAC)

Lenka HORAKOVA (Vice President),
Czech Republic (CMF)

Benoit CHAMPIGNEULLE, France (FFCAM)

Luigi FESTI, Italy (CAI)

Anil GURTOO, India (IMF)

David HILLEBRANDT, United Kingdom (BMC)

Matthias HILTY, Switzerland (SAC)

Norihiro KAMIKOMAKI, Japan (JMCSA)

Mijel LOTFI, Argentina (FASA)

Iñigo MARTINEZ SOTERAS, Spain (FEDME)

Eduardo NOGUEIRA GARRIGOS VINHAES,
Brazil (CBME)

George RODWAY, United States (AAC)

Sonam Zangbu SHERPA, Nepal (NMA)

Marieke VAN VESSEM, Netherlands (NKBV)

Corresponding Members

Giancelso AGAZZI, Italy (ISF)

Erhan ALEMDAR, Turkey (TDF)

Marija ANDJELKOVIC, UIAA Anti-Doping

Corrado ANGELINI, Italy (CAI)

Fereydoun BAYATANI, Iran (IMSCF)

AliReza BEHPOUR, Iran (IMSCF)

Monika BRODMANN, Switzerland (ISMM)

Wen-Shiang CHEN, Chinese Taipei (CTMA)

Juan Manuel FUNK, Argentina (FASA)

Tomaz GOSLAR, Slovenia (PZS)

Tomonori HARADA, Japan (JSMM)

Dominique JEAN, France

Shigeru MASUYAMA, Japan (JMCSA)

Kaste MATEIKAITE-PIPIRIENE, Lithuania (LMA)

Carlos Antonio NICOLAU, Mexico

Peter PAAL, Austria (ÖGAHM)

Alison ROSIER, Australia/Switzerland

Ivan ROTMAN, Czech Republic (CMF)

Steve ROY, Canada (FQME)

Jalaladdin SHAHBAZI, Iran

Daniel TREVENA, New Zealand (NZAC)

Eckart VON DELFT, South Africa (MCSA)

[Commission Profile](#)

Commission lists correct as November 2023

UIAA Court

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

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

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

No case of any kind was filed in 2023. The main role of the Court over the past twelve months has been to offer advice about AoAs and UIAA regulations.

The UIAA Court continues to look to recruit the expertise of a female arbitrator. Any federations who have experienced female arbitrators, lawyers or managers, are invited to propose a candidate to the UIAA Court.

Report by

Pierre Humblet

(CMBEL, Belgium)

President, UIAA Court

List of Past General Assemblies

Year	Venue	Country
1934	Pontresina	Switzerland
1935	Barcelona	Spain
1936	Geneva	Switzerland
1937	Paris	France
1938	Prague	Czechoslovakia
1939	Zermatt	Switzerland
1947	Geneva	Switzerland
1948	Geneva	Switzerland
1949	Chamonix	France
1950	Milano	Italy
1951	Bled	Yugoslavia
1952	Zell am See	Austria
1953	Delphi	Greece
1954	Grenoble	France
1955	Munich	Germany
1956	Madrid	Spain
1957	Trento	Italy
1958	Lugano	Switzerland
1959	Amsterdam	Netherlands
1960	Jahorina	Yugoslavia
1961	Vienna	Austria

Year	Venue	Country
1962	Corfu	Greece
1963	Interlaken	Switzerland
1964	Munich	Germany
1965	Utrecht	Netherlands
1966	Courmayeur	Italy
1967	Madrid	Spain
1968	London	UK
1969	Prague	Czechoslovakia
1970	Crete	Greece
1971	Zakopane	Poland
1972	Montreux	Switzerland
1973	Tbilisi	USSR
1974	Delnice	Yugoslavia
1975	Obertauern	Austria
1976	Barcelona	Spain
1977	Mexico City	Mexico
1978	Lagonissi	Greece
1979	Pinkham Notch	USA
1980	Geneva	Switzerland
1981	Lugano	Switzerland
1982	Kathmandu	Nepal

Year	Venue	Country
1983	Brussels	Belgium
1984	Seoul	Korea
1985	Venice	Italy
1986	Munich	Germany
1987	Marrakech	Morocco
1988	Banff	Canada
1989	New Delhi	India
1990	Kerkrade	Netherlands
1991	Budapest	Hungary
1992	Matsumoto	Japan
1993	Santiago	Chile
1994	Istanbul	Turkey
1995	Cape Town	South Africa
1996	Thun	Switzerland
1997	Kranjska Gora	Slovenia
1998	Malacca	Malaysia
1999	Olympia	Greece
2000	Paris	France
2001	St. Johann	Austria
2002	Flagstaff	USA
2003	Berchtesgaden	Germany

Year	Venue	Country
2004	New Delhi	India
2005	Singapore	Singapore
2006	Banff	Canada
2007	Matsumoto	Japan
2008	Teheran	Iran
2009	Porto	Portugal
2010	Bormio	Italy
2011	Kathmandu	Nepal
2012	Amsterdam	Netherlands
2013	Pontresina	Switzerland
2014	Flagstaff	USA
2015	Seoul	South Korea
2016	Brixen	Italy
2017	Shiraz	Iran
2018	Ulaanbaatar	Mongolia
2019	Larnaca	Cyprus
2020	-	Online
2021	-	Online
2022	Banff	Canada
2023	Trabzon	Türkiye

Honorary Members



- 1964 Charles-Egmond d'ARCIS (SAC)
- 1968 Edouard WYSS-DUNANT (SAC)
- 1969 Hans von BOMHARD (DAV)
- 1975 Ugo di VALLEPIANA (CAI)
- 1980 Guido TONELLA (CAI)
- 1983 Franz HIESS (VAVOE)
- 1987 Fritz WIESSNER (AAC)
- 1990 Jaromir WOLF (CHS)
- 1992 Sir Edmund HILLARY (NZAC)
- 1995 Walter BONATTI (CAI)
- Dr. Pietro SEGANTINI (SAC)
- 2000 Robbert LEOPOLD (NKBV)
- 2001 Dr. Carlo SGANZINI (SAC)
- 2002 Georges MOISSIDIS (EEOA)
- William Lowell PUTNAM (AAC)
- 2003 Dr. Fritz MÄRZ (DAV)
- 2003 Nassos TZARTZANOS (EEOA)
- 2007 Jordi PONS SANJINES (FEDME)
- 2008 Pit SCHUBERT (DAV)
- 2010 Kazuo SAITO (JMA)
- 2012 Ang Tshering SHERPA (NMA)
- 2013 Claude ECKHARDT (FFCAM)
- 2014 Tamotsu NAKAMURA (JAC)
- 2016 Reinhold MESSNER (AVS)
- 2019 Injeong LEE (KAF)
- 2020 Doug SCOTT (BMC)
- 2023 Frits VRIJLANDT, photo (NKBV) (photo)

Sponsors



International Observer Members



Memberships And Affiliations



Recognised since 1995 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Organisation recognised by the



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



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

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