



A GUIDE TO THE
2020 UIAA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



UIAA

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

GLOBAL MOUNTAIN NETWORK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	4	2019 Edition published	21
President's Message	5	2019 Carbon Footprint Report	22
GA PRACTICAL INFORMATION	8	UIAA STRATEGY PROCESS	23
GA 2020: A Guide	8	An Update	23
Voting Procedures	8	UIAA IN 2020	24
Programme Overview	10	UIAA during Covid-19	24
Agenda	12	UIAA Statement	28
ELECTIONS	16	Impact on UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour	30
President	16	Safety	32
Executive Board	17	Alpine Summer Skills Handbook	34
Management Committee	18	UIAA Annual Awards	36
MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS	20	UIAA Commissions	38
Membership updates	20	UIAA Office & Communication	42
ANNUAL REPORT	21		



Address from UIAA President Frits Vrijlandt

As I embark on my final weeks as UIAA President, I wanted to share my appreciation for the eight years we have spent together. We, like true mountaineers, have conquered many challenges and have always done so as a team. When I leave the UIAA in October it is the people I will miss the most. I'm very sad not to be able to see you all in person to say farewell, but circumstances dictate that holding the GA online is the most sensible and responsible option. My hope is that during one of the first in-person meetings next year that I will have a chance to see as many of you as possible.

This digital guide to the General Assembly (and related supporting documents) are designed to help you best prepare for the various sessions and meetings. The online format will herald a different kind of meeting so absorbing as much information as possible before the GA will help you prepare any questions and make informed decisions.

One of the biggest tasks this year will be electing my successor. I wish this person all the best in a challenging and deeply rewarding role. With the full support of an international and passionate Executive Board, they will achieve great things.

In the meantime and until the GA, here are some reflections on my time with the UIAA.

On Covid-19

This has been one of the biggest challenges we have faced over the past eight years. I feel very blessed to be healthy. Covid-19 has had a severe impact on the world, on our communities and federations, and on our climbing and mountaineering activities. We need to focus on supporting each other.

These are challenging times and circumstances. Many of our activities have paused until better times. Climbers and mountaineers are flexible and creative people and able to handle challenges. This is shown in the work and response of our Commissions and federations.

The main impact is that currently it is not an option to organise international gatherings. In a recent [statement](#), we advised our members to enjoy climbing and mountaineering locally as travel restrictions due to Covid-19 apply for many countries in the world. We stay regularly updated on the global situation and continue to share knowledge and information with our federations through our communication platforms and [Covid-19 portal](#). Despite the slowdown on some of our activities I am confident we will pick things up again with great energy as soon as it is possible. Indeed, a lot of good and productive work has not halted. The UIAA has been agile in finding new ways of working and moving forward. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers and staff who make up the Covid-19 Crisis Consultation (CCC) Taskforce. They have done some excellent work in steering the UIAA through these troubled times.

On Becoming President

In 2012 at the GA in Amsterdam, the choice for President was between myself and another extremely prepared candidate. When it was confirmed that I had received the most votes I was very happy but also aware of the scale of the task to serve our member federations. My first responsibility, the morning after the elections, was to organise the roles in the Executive Board and to be briefed by our Executive Director on ongoing matters. There have been many changes over the past eight years, both in the EB and the Office, and I think we now have a team which has worked better than ever.

Achievements and Memories

There have been many fine memories and successes. The return of the DAV and OAV to the UIAA was a significant moment. I also fondly remember the General Assembly in Flagstaff, Arizona (2014) organised by our honorary member Bill Putnam who passed away a few months later. Other moments which stand out are the UAAA (Union of Asian Alpine Associations) gatherings, recognising Reinhold Messner and Injeong-Lee as Honorary Members, the realisation of the Respect the Mountains projects, the UIAA Mountain Protection Award ceremonies, the adding of new translations of our technical climbing handbook with The Petzl Foundation, the great support for the development of ice climbing from the late Han DongSoo, Governor of Cheongsong County and of Mr Sung KiHak, Chairman of Youngone Corporation, the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup events in China, Europe and America together with the showcase at the Olympic Games in Sochi and the celebrations - through the Nepal Mountaineering Association - of the first ascents of the highest Himalaya peaks in Nepal. But mostly I treasure the warmth and great moments shared with the climbers and mountaineers of the world.

Challenges

The role has been demanding and not always easy. The UIAA is an organisation with a lot of different responsibilities, projects and visions. As a mountaineer from a 'flat country' I am used to travelling to go climbing and absorbing different opinions and viewpoints and above all respecting them. There are areas where we could have done better. However with the relatively limited funding available I believe we deliver great value. One of my biggest regrets is the departure of the Italian Alpine Club (CAI) from the UIAA after 85 years as a partner and one of our founding federations. I hope they return.

Strategic Plan

The UIAA should remain the global voice of climbers and mountaineers for sustainability, mountain protection, access, safety and general climbing and mountaineering activities. The UIAA Safety Label remains the highest, global standard and one we should continue to promote and evolve. More than ever, in age of information overload, promoting safe and responsible climbing is key. I believe we should continue to offer leadership in mountain protection on a global stage, support ice climbing athletes in their Olympic dream, and provide a platform for our Commissions to deliver their excellent work. The UIAA is as valid and important today as it was when founded nearly 90 years ago. Discussions about the next Strategic Plan of the UIAA will form an integral part of this year's GA. Please be prepared to contribute - your input in the future of the UIAA is essential to its continued success.

Future

I hope to be able to continue my relationship with the UIAA in some capacity. For now it is time for a new leader and for me to take a break. Should they seek my advice or support, I am always available.

Thank you to all of our member associations, EB, MC, Commission Presidents and members, Office staff, partners, sponsors, athletes and all delegates for your support over the past eight years.



See you
in the mountains,

Frits Vrijlandt
UIAA President

GA Practical Information

GA 2020: A GUIDE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the GA 2020, originally scheduled to take place on 24 October in Antalya, Turkey, organised by the Turkish Mountaineering Federation, will now be held virtually. This decision was based on the recommendation of the UIAA Management Committee Meeting on 5 June 2020 and was communicated to member federations on 9 June 2020.

As identified in the accompanying agenda and programme, the online format of the GA will see the traditional format split into sessions on both Friday 23 and Saturday 24 October. Furthermore, the Commission Presidents and Management Committee meetings will be held the weekend prior. This is to enable the meetings to be spread out, to accommodate different time zones and to make the online format less intense.

Registration

GA registration must be completed using the online questionnaire form which is open in the [Members Area on the UIAA website](#) (the same area where supporting documents are uploaded).

Federations may select ONE voting member and two additional delegates to attend the online GA. You will be asked to indicate this when you register. Only the voting member will receive a ballot that will be sent directly to the delegate shortly before the General Assembly. For security reasons only delegates who register for the GA will be sent the link to the GA meetings. Additional guests may watch a stream of the GA live on YouTube.

VOTING PROCEDURES

The General Assembly will have a chance to VOTE for the approval of the online meeting at the start of the GA 2020. At this time, two votes will be held:

- A vote to APPROVE that the **UIAA General Assembly will be held online**
- A vote to APPROVE the proposed **Voting Protocol**

25/09
DEADLINE
for GA registration

Voting Protocol

Each UIAA member association must designate a voting delegate by indicating the name and email address through the GA registration form sent by the UIAA Office.

The designated voting delegate will receive a voting code prior to the GA, which will need to be kept handy. In order to submit a vote, the designated voting delegate will need to enter the voting code, along with his/her first and last name.

On the day of the GA, the designated voting delegate will receive the meeting agenda containing all voting links, based on the voting rights of the respective UIAA member association (e.g. full versus associate members).

The voting links will only be open during the time slot of the GA e-meeting and exact start and end times will be communicated during the meeting by the meeting chair.

Proxy votes will not be accepted.

For each agenda item, the designated voting delegate must submit his/her vote only once. Should more than one submission be received only the last submission within the allotted time frame will count as valid.

E-Meeting Training

Training for delegates will be provided before the meeting. The training dates and times are listed on the programme with corresponding links (see page 10). Links to the sessions are provided in the version of the Agenda available on the Members' portal. UIAA staff will be available to run you through the voting and meeting procedures. We recommend that your attending delegates attend one of these sessions. Please contact the UIAA Office if you any specific questions.

Elections: For multiple choice ballots, the number of votes must correspond to the number of open seats (as indicated), if more votes than seats are indicated the ballot will be invalid.

Voting results will be handled by designated UIAA Office staff members, who will sign a declaration of secrecy prior to the GA e-meeting.

Once voting results are validated by the designated UIAA Office staff members, the voter's information will be erased. The resulting anonymous data will be kept for 30 days after the GA, as per Swiss Law.

At any point, should technical problems arise, please contact the UIAA Office at office@theuiaa.org immediately. Further instructions will be given via email.

The UIAA Office will hold training sessions on set days prior to the GA, during which the voting procedure can be tested. All delegates are encouraged to join one of the training sessions to allow a smooth running of the GA e-meeting including voting.

E-Meeting Platform & Security

The platform chosen for the GA is Zoom, one of the easiest tools to set up and use. The UIAA Office has been keeping on top of protocol and best practices to ensure a safe and secure meeting. * For added security only registered members will receive links to meetings.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

UIAA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER

E-Meeting, 13.00 – 17.00 CET

Presentations, Q&A and Town Hall with candidates for UIAA President

SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER

E-Meeting, 13.00 – 17.30 CET

Registration: 12.00 – 13.00 CET



Live on YouTube

For member federation guests (not voting delegates or active meeting participants), **the UIAA GA will be streamed live on YouTube**. Access details will be provided in due course by the UIAA Office.

MEMBER FEEDBACK & CONTRIBUTIONS

Agenda Item Questions

Please send any questions concerning agenda items, supporting documents and e-meeting protocol that you would like to be addressed at the General Assembly by 14 October. These questions should be sent to office@theuiaa.org.

Questions for Presidential Candidates & Commissions

A moderated Town Hall will be held during the 23 October session where members will have the opportunity to hear introductions from candidates running for UIAA President and participate in live question and answers.

Would your federation like to ask a question to the candidates nominated for the seat of President, Executive Board or Management Committee? You may also may send questions to UIAA Commissions. Please send any [questions for consideration here](#).

Best Practices & Climate Change

The UIAA Office has sent out information for members to share details about their best practices and successful projects which could benefit other UIAA members and vice versa. Please use the [Best Practices Questionnaire](#) to tell the UIAA about one project your association is particularly proud of.

The UIAA will use the information to present some case studies at the 2020 UIAA General Assembly and assure your work is duly recognised. In the same spirit, all UIAA member associations pledged their support of the Climate Change Initiative presented at the 2019 General Assembly by the German Alpine Club (DAV). Please use the [Climate Change Initiative Questionnaire](#) to update the UIAA about your association's efforts to combat climate change.

Mon, 12 Oct	Tue, 13 Oct	Wed, 14 Oct	Thu, 15 Oct	Fri, 16 Oct	Sat, 17 Oct	Sun, 18 Oct
Online Training 13.00 – 17:00		Online Training 09.00 – 13:00		Executive Board Meeting 13.00 – 16.00	Management Committee Meeting 13.00 – 17:00	Meeting Commission Presidents/EB/MC 13.00 – 15.00

Mon, 19 Oct	Tue, 20 Oct	Wed, 21 Oct	Thu, 22 Oct	Fri, 23 Oct	Sat, 24 Oct	Sun, 25 Oct
	Online Training 13.00 – 17:00	Online Training 09.00 – 13:00	Online Training 13.00 – 17:00	GENERAL ASSEMBLY Presentations, Q&A and Town Hall with candidates for UIAA President 13:00 – 17:00	GENERAL ASSEMBLY Registration 12.00 – 13.00 Meeting 13.00 – 17:30	Executive Board Meeting 13.00 – 15.00

Sat, 26 Sep

Management Committee and Commission Presidents

13:00 - 17:00 CET
(Zurich Time)

AGENDA

Friday, 23 October 2020

Item	Type	Who	Documents
A 1. Welcome and opening remarks by the UIAA President	Information	Frits Vrijlandt	
A 2. Introduction to e-meeting procedures	Information	Carol Kahoun	Protocol
A 3. Annual Report 2019	Presentation	Peter Bourne	Annual Report
A 4. Commission projects and activities, 1st sequence: Mountaineering Commission Training Standards Access Working Group Youth Commission Rock Climbing Petzl Foundation	Presentations	Peter Farkas Steve Long JJ Ibáñez Martín Pavlos Georgiades Anne Arran Stéphane Lozac'hmeur Arben Lila	Reports
A 5. Finance Result 2019, auditor's report and discharge to the Executive Board Result 2020 forecast Budget 2021	Presentation Q & A	Peter Muir	Results Forecast Budget
A 6. UIAA Strategy Update Decisions ahead	Presentation	Lode Beckers	Proposal
A 7. UIAA Court and Code of Ethics report	Information	Pierre Humblet	Annual Report

Item	Type	Who	Documents
A 8. Commission and WG projects and activities, 2nd sequence: Mountain Protection Commission UIAA Initiative on Climate Change Everest and Kilimanjaro Working Group - sustainable and responsible mountaineering New initiatives and ideas from member federations	Moderated Panel	Tarquin Cooper Carolina Adler TBC Greg Moseley Eduard Cayon Stein Tronstad	Reports
A 9. Unit Member report: International Skyrunning Federation (ISF)	Presentation	Silvio Calvi	Report
A 10. Commission and CCC Taskforce projects and activities, 3rd sequence: Safety Commission Ice Climbing Commission Anti-Doping Commission Medical Commission COVID-19 Crisis Consultation Taskforce - update and member feedback	Moderated Panel	Tarquin Cooper Amit Chowdhury Carlos Teixeira Marija Andjekovic Urs Hefti Françoise Jaquet	Reports
A 11. Continental Reports	Presentations	Continental Representatives	Annual Report
A 12. Nominations Candidates for UIAA President Candidates for Executive Board Candidates for Management Committee Moderated Town Hall - Questions and Answers Candidates for UIAA President	Presentations Presentations Q&A	Frits Vrijlandt Tarquin Cooper	Nominees and re-nominees Candidate files
A13. Other Business		All	

Saturday, 24 October 2020

Item	Type	Who	Documents
1.			
1.1.			
1.2.			
1.3.			
2.			
3			
4.			
5.			
5.1.			
5.2.			
5.3.			
6.			
6.1.			
6.2.			
6.3.			

Item	Type	Who	Documents
7.			
8.			
8.1.			
8.2.			
8.3.			
9.			
10.			
10.1.			
10.2.			
10.3.			
11.			

Elections

PRESIDENT

CANDIDATES (1 seat)



Amit Chowdhury

India

Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)



Peter Farkas

Hungary

Hungarian Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation (MHSSZ)



Peter Muir

Canada

Alpine Club of Canada (ACC)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CANDIDATES (2-3 open seats)

(**) Re-election



Françoise Jaquet

Switzerland

Swiss Alpine Club (SAC)



Amit Chowdhury

India

Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)



Martin Lascano

Argentina

Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo (FASA)



Hélène Denis

France

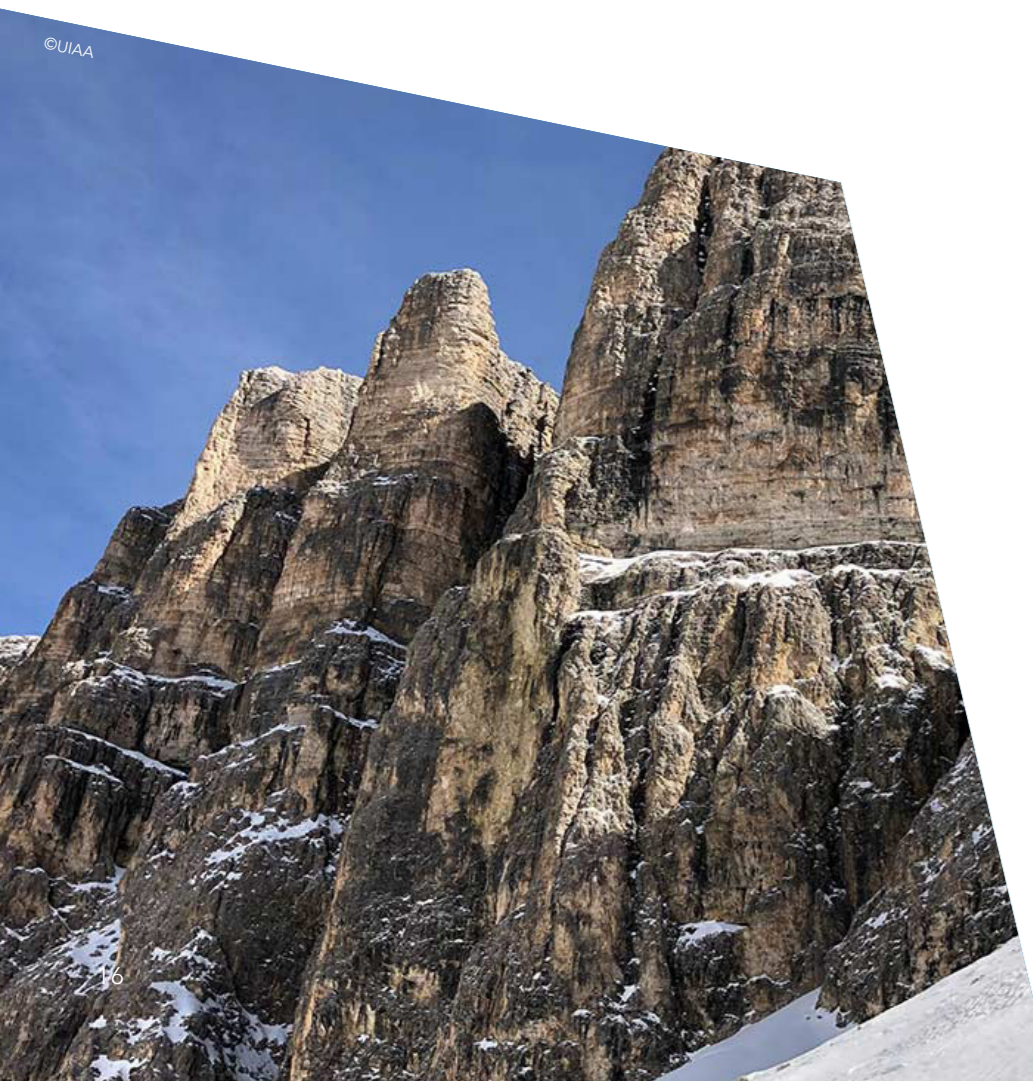
Fédération Française des Clubs Alpins et de Montagne (FFCAM) (**)



Wang Yongfeng

China

Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) - Re-election (**)



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES (8 open seats)

(*) also nominated for EB position / (**) Re-election



Anne Arran

UK

British Mountaineering Council (BMC) (**)



Martin Lascano *

Argentina

Federación Argentina de Ski y Andinismo (FASA) (**)



Jean Miczka

France

Fédération Française des Clubs Alpains et de Montagne (FFCAM)



Stein Tronstad

Norway

Norwegian Climbing Federation (NTK)



Kul Bahadur Gurung

Nepal

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)



Steve Long

UK

British Mountaineering Council (BMC)



Greg Moseley

South Africa

Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) (**)



Reza Zarei

Iran

Iran Mountaineering & Sports Climbing Federation (MSFI) (**)



Françoise Jaquet *

Switzerland

Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) (**)



Seiichiro Simon Maru

Japan

Japan Mountaineering & Sports Climbing Association (JMCSA)



Phil Powers

United States

American Alpine Club (AAC)



Georges Elziere

France

Fédération Française des Clubs Alpains et de Montagne (FFCAM)



Juan Garrigos i Toro

Spain

Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada (FEDME)

End of term:

Member Associations

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Application for membership to the UIAA



Costarican Federation of Mountain Sports (FECODEM)

has applied to change its Observer Membership (as of 2019) to Full Membership

<http://www.fecodem.org/>



Federación Mexicana de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada A.C.

has applied for Full Membership



Mountain Club of Western Caspian University, Azerbaijan

has applied for Associate Membership

<https://www.wcu.edu.az/>



National Adventure Association of Malaysia

has applied to change its Observer Membership (as of 2015) to Full Membership

<https://www.facebook.com/KEMBARANEGARA/>



Saudi Climbing & Hiking Federation

has applied for Full Membership

<https://climbing.sa/>



International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR)

has applied for Observer Membership

<http://www.alpine-rescue.org/>

The **online directory** of UIAA member associations can be found [here](#). Members are encouraged to use the platform to share details of climbing in their respective countries and regions.

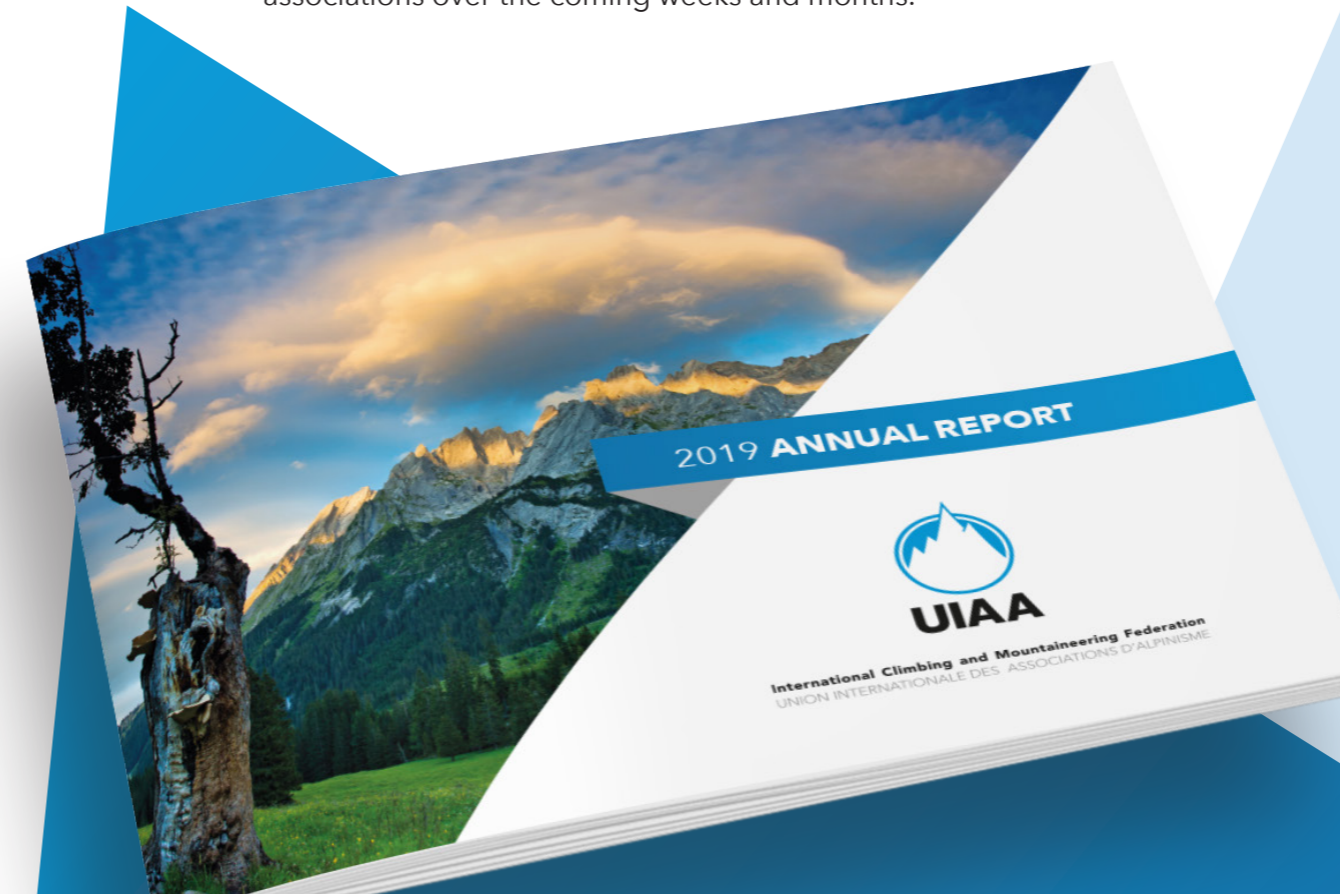
Annual Report

2019 EDITION PUBLISHED

The UIAA published its [2019 Annual Report](#) in May 2020.

The digital report provides easier access to key resources – such as UIAA news articles, video content and online resources.

A printed version of the report will be distributed to UIAA member associations over the coming weeks and months.



The **DIGITAL**
VERSION of this
Annual Report is
available at:



Contents include:

- President's Annual Message
- A Review of 2019
- UIAA General Assembly 2019
- UIAA Strategy Process
- UIAA Financial Report
- Details on UIAA member associations
- UIAA Office, Communication & Sponsorship reports
- Reports from every UIAA Commission (Access, Anti-Doping, Ice Climbing, MedCom, Mountaineering + Training, Mountain Protection, Safety, Youth) as well as the UIAA Rock Climbing Working Group and Unit Member, International Skyrunning Federation.
- Reports from the UIAA Continental bodies

2019 CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT

At the close of 2019, and as part of its commitment to tackling climate change and reducing its own CO2 emissions, the UIAA published its first annual [Carbon Footprint Calculation](#).

This report, covering 2018, outlines the ongoing results of monitoring and reporting of the UIAA's carbon footprint, which is in response to its signed commitment in early 2019 and participation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [Sports for Climate Action](#). As a participant in this initiative, the UIAA is required and expected to adhere to five principles these being:

- **Principle 1:** Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
- **Principle 2:** Reduce overall climate impact;
- **Principle 3:** Educate for climate action;
- **Principle 4:** Promote sustainable and responsible consumption; and
- **Principle 5:** Advocate for climate action through communication.

The Carbon Footprint report for 2019, which is based on a more sophisticated and extensive methodology than the 2018 report and takes onboard feedback from UIAA members and the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission, will be published before this year's General Assembly.

UIAA Strategy Process

AN UPDATE

The first Strategic Plan of the UIAA for the 21st Century covered the period between 2012 - 2016. The plan was revised in 2014 in order to clarify some goals and to ensure that the objectives were in accordance with the so-called SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, Time-bound).

The next Strategic Plan was drawn up for the years 2017 - 2020. It defined the goals the UIAA sought to achieve by 2020, based on member surveys and a SWOT analysis. For the years 2017 – 2020, it has served as a basis for UIAA Commissions to prepare their own plans and for the UIAA to work towards those goals.

To prepare the UIAA strategy for the years after 2020, a number of documents were drawn up, developing a new strategy for the UIAA, assessing every aspect of the international federation, its activities and the support provided to its members. Ahead of the 2019 UIAA Management Committee meeting and the General Assembly in Cyprus, a Strategic Working Group (SWG) published their findings and recommendations in a report called 'The UIAA of the 21st Century'.

In the months following the meetings in Cyprus, the UIAA Executive Board presented to the Management Committee and to the Commission Presidents an updated formulation of the UIAA's vision, objectives and role. Carried by the expertise which went into the preparation of the 'UIAA of the 21st Century' report, the resulting document is a compilation of the input received up to now from the various bodies of the UIAA. The new formulation is condensed in the short-form document currently being discussed.

The proposed reworded objectives were approved at meetings of the Executive Board, but they will be presented for further discussion to Management Committee members, to the UIAA Commissions, to former SWG members, and to the GA-voting federations.

Next Steps

- The **UIAA Management Committee (MC) and Commission Presidents** are reviewing the proposal and providing feedback.
- An **additional MC online meeting** will take place on 26 September to further discuss and recommend the proposal to the GA. At the same meeting, the MC will review Commission projects and activities and discuss amended Commission Regulations.
- After the 26 September MC meeting, the **Strategy Proposal** will be added to the GA supporting documents.
- **Members are invited to contribute** before and – of course – during the GA
- Please refer to **page 37-38** of the [2019 UIAA Annual Report](#).

Stock library

UIAA in 2020

UIAA DURING COVID-19



© Stock Library

The current pandemic has had a profound impact on everybody's lives. For international organisations like the UIAA – International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation – significant changes to the way the federation has communicated and operated have been implemented in the context of an ever-evolving situation.

The UIAA's response to [Covid-19](#) was proactive and has taken on many different aspects. Below is a breakdown of some of the key initiatives and changes:

Office

From mid-March, staff at the UIAA Office in Bern, Switzerland worked remotely, returning

only when conditions allowed towards the end of June. The UIAA is accustomed to agile working so there was no great cultural change in terms of the working environment. The Office held weekly catch up meetings with all members of the team to ensure regular communication and the delivery of key projects.

Management Committee & Executive Board

The UIAA Management Committee was due to host its in-person meeting in North Macedonia in May. This was cancelled and replaced, for the first time, by an online meeting. The format proved successful with more delegates attending than otherwise would have made the in-person meeting, particularly those from outside of Europe. There was also a follow up Management Committee meeting and an online meeting of all Commission Presidents. During the virtual MC meetings, it was decided that the 2020 UIAA General Assembly would be held online. A first for the federation in its near 90-year history. In an effort to ensure the UIAA remains efficient and meets its targets, the UIAA EB has held virtual meetings on an even more regular basis than pre-pandemic.

Covid-19 Portal

One of the UIAA's first tasks was to direct all Covid-19 related updates to a dedicated [website Portal](#). Like similar bodies, whether in the sports world or NGOs, the UIAA's exclusive focus was on the impact of Covid-19 on its operations, projects and on its membership.

The Portal has proved to be one of the most successful initiatives launched by the UIAA in recent times, bringing significant traffic to the federation's website and acting as a precious guide and reference point through these troubled times.

Initially the focus of the Portal was on supplying updates from individual UIAA members. The pandemic has impacted different parts of the world at different times. Learnings from initial outbreaks in Asia and then in Europe proved crucial for countries yet to be impacted.

The UIAA has published over 70 articles from members in 45 countries. Over half its membership has contributed to the platform. Members were able to use the platform to share learning, general rules and regulations and approaches to dealing with issues such as huts, climbing gyms, access and implementing social distancing.

As the pandemic evolved, the UIAA focused more on common themes and answering more global questions. Dedicated articles were produced regarding the opening of huts in Europe, worldwide travel restrictions and where people could climb. There was also specific information on climbing during Covid-19, regulations to follow particularly in relation to equipment and climbing with other people.

The platform also offered an insight into the impact on UIAA Commissions and the progress of work. For example, both the UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award and UIAA Mountain Protection Award were postponed until 2021. Other Commissions, like the Training Panel, used the lockdown period when outdoor activity was not possible to work on new literature and material.



The Portal also acted as a forum to share core information from wider climbing media – including mental and physical health articles and general opinion pieces on the economic impact of Covid-19 the climbing world.

CCC Taskforce

At their 7 April e-meeting, members of the UIAA Executive Board unanimously decided to create a [Covid-19 Crisis Consultation \(CCC\) Taskforce](#). Its mission was to provide fast responses to queries and Covid-19-related issues which may arise in the coming months. The CCC enabled the UIAA to have a dedicated structure in place. When approached, the UIAA would be able to provide swift answers and guidance, mainly by promptly referring the question for consultation to a government authority, to a crisis management body, to a competent national federation or to a relevant UIAA Commission.

By late August, the CCC Taskforce had held four online meetings. With the support of experts from different UIAA areas (EB, MC, Commissions and well as medical

professionals), this group has been able to provide leadership on a number of subjects as the nature of the pandemic evolves. Each meeting addresses the situation across a number of different countries with reports and findings shared on the UIAA website.

Initiatives to come out of the meetings include a dedicated UIAA position statement on responsible climbing, an online form for UIAA members to address concerns and share news, a donation/fundraising resource as well as articles on core subjects of interest – access to huts, general rules for returning to sport and the mountains.

Future

Mass in-person international meetings are unlikely to take place in the near future meaning, as a global organisation, the UIAA anticipates conducting its affairs online for the foreseeable future.

The impact on UIAA projects such as the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour, with competitions

on three continents and athletes from nearly 30 countries, the Mountain Protection Award and Commission projects which require physical meetings and workshops, are key considerations for the coming months.

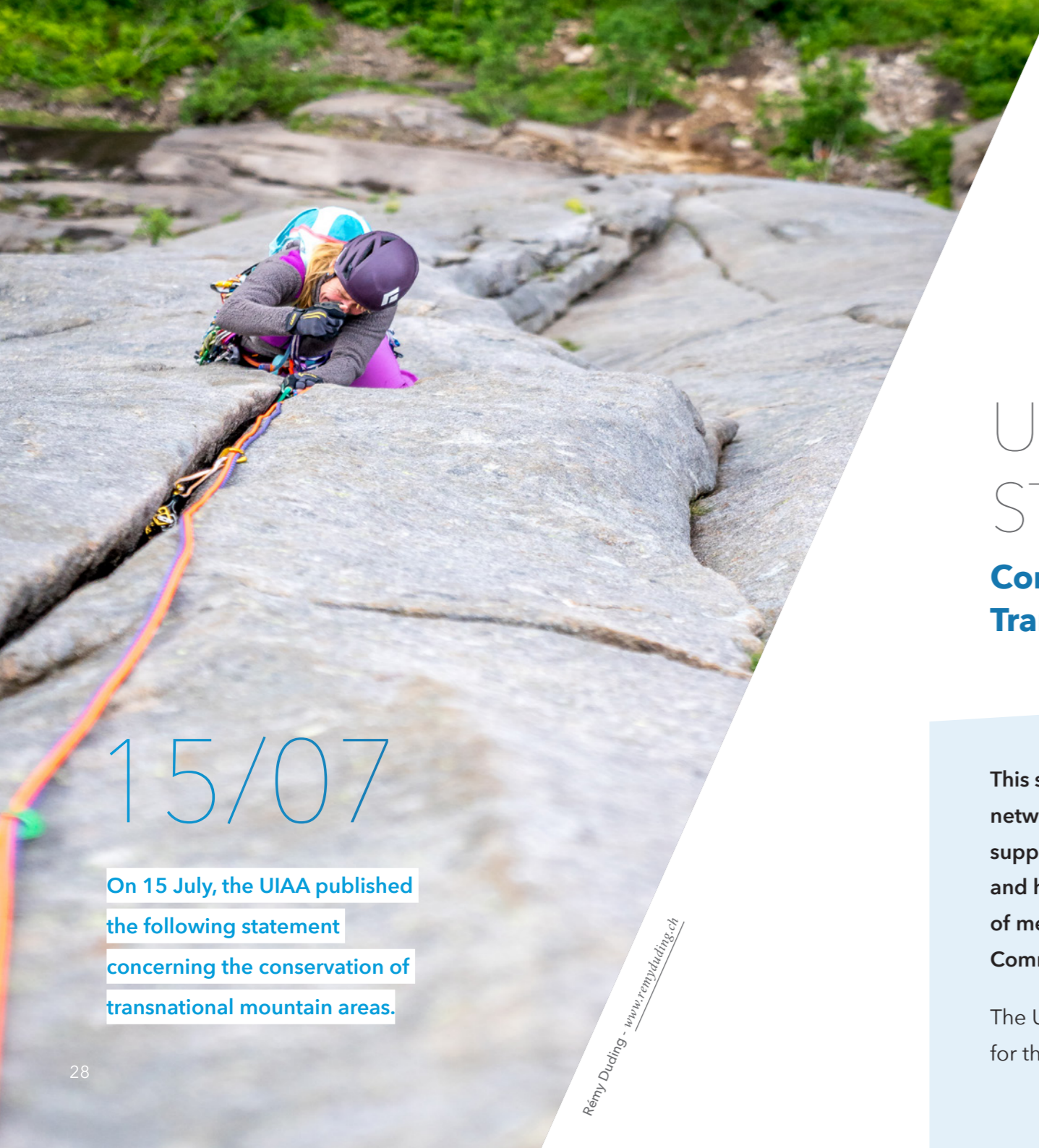
The UIAA has welcomed initiatives such as the one recently put in place by the Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) to run online seminars and workshops, through the UIAA, to foster a greater sense of community. The UIAA will continue to encourage this kind of concept to help bring the climbing world closer together.

The UIAA understands that the current pandemic will have a significant impact on its members whether in retaining and attracting their own members, on sport competitions, safety and training programmes, sustainability initiatives, sponsorship and donations, huts and tourism. The UIAA itself will have to absorb the consequences of the current pandemic while continuing to fully represent and support its members at a global level.

For everything related to the UIAA and Covid-19 please click [here](#).

Your resource for all communication related to Climbing and Covid-19:

<https://www.theuiaa.org/covid-19/>



UIAA STATEMENT

Conservation of Transnational Mountain Areas

This statement was initiated by the international network of organisations and climbers who form and support the UIAA High Mountains Working Group and has benefitted from the comments and expertise of members of the UIAA Management Committee, Commission Presidents and Commission delegates.

The UIAA Executive Board wish to confirm its support for the initiative and the content of this statement.

Mountain ranges are often the natural borders between countries. The demarcation of borders in such remote and difficult geography can be contentious. This has led on occasion to diplomatic disputes with these border issues often dating back to colonial times. The United Nations Security Council recently issued a call for countries to “redouble their efforts for peace” during this period of combating the coronavirus pandemic that has already claimed more than half a million lives.

In these sometimes tense border situations, there are inevitably social and economic impacts on local communities for whom these areas are their traditional homes and provide their livelihood. In addition, access restrictions result in these areas being “locked up” and not accessible for critical conservation and climate change research or for access by mountaineers and mountain travellers.

The UIAA – International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation – appreciates that border areas often have a problematic and disputed historical context. The demarcation may be complicated by the complexity

of the topography and the difficulties in recognising, for example, the watersheds that can be the most logical border. In some instances, tectonic forces have led to streams and rivers apparently ignoring the laws of geomorphology by cutting through great mountain ranges. In others, the source of these drainages is complicated by the source being great masses of ice with no definite, natural watershed being evident – as was the case in Patagonia.

The UIAA appreciates that often mountain areas are of great geostrategic importance but as climbers and mountain travellers, we consider all mountain areas to be a great resource for the uplifting of the human spirit. They are fundamental to the very being and existence of local communities, but are also deeply valued by people around the globe. The UIAA in large part, exists to promote the sustainable use of mountain areas for recreation in the true sense of that word – re-creation. It is sad therefore that some mountain ranges have been, and are, the scenes of dispute.

Reflecting this deeper value to humankind a number of transnational parks have been

created around the world in border regions and these are having a positive impact on environmental conservation, human activity and allowing the free transit of people across international borders in wild areas of the world. Examples spring to mind in Southern Africa and in Europe. Therefore, it seems logical that transnational parks could be created in many of the mountain ranges of the world.

The UIAA is a global body of mountain organisations dedicated to promoting safe, responsible access to mountains and to the protection and conservation of the world’s mountain ranges. We believe that the creation of trans-border protected areas could provide a space for cross border peaceful engagement as well as support for local communities through the economic opportunities provided by mountain tourism. People should not be excluded from such natural areas – there are examples from all over the world. Transnational parks in mountain border areas are an opportunity on a number of fronts, not least to embrace and support the elevation of the wider human spirit.

15/07

On 15 July, the UIAA published the following statement concerning the conservation of transnational mountain areas.

IMPACT ON UIAA ICE CLIMBING WORLD TOUR

RELEASE OF PROVISIONAL 2020-2021 UIAA ICE CLIMBING CALENDAR

Sixteen events in thirteen countries currently form the provisional calendar for the 2020-2021 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour partnered by Outdoor Research. However the developing Covid-19 situation may force significant changes

Ranging from the pinnacle of the competition arm of ice climbing – the biennial UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships – through to Continental Cups, the calendar offers a more extensive World Cup programme than last season and increased opportunities for young climbers to establish a pathway in the sport.

The World Cup component of the season currently features five events. Starting with two competitions in Asia, repeating 2020's visit to Changchun City (China, to be confirmed) and Cheongsong (South Korea). The first European stop sees a

return to Champagny-en-Vanoise in the French Alps. The World Championships will be held in Saas-Fee, Switzerland the weekend after and for the first time with the inclusion of the World Championships in the Combined discipline in addition to the regular lead and speed events. The World Cup season resumes in North America with a potential date in Montreal and closes in Kirov, Russia home of the 2019 UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships.

The other major event – the annual UIAA Ice Climbing World Youth Championships – is scheduled to take place in Tyumen, the first Russian settlement in Siberia.



Rob Adie
UIAA Sports Events
Coordinator

The Covid-19 situation in many of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup host countries remains a concern, as do international travel restrictions.

The UIAA Office and Ice Climbing Commission are currently working on contingency plans for an alternative 2021 Ice Climbing World Tour – which will be published just after the GA in October. The provisional calendar is likely to be subject to massive changes with it seemingly very difficult to run any sort of World Tour in 2021.

Continental competitions will be held in Asia, Europe and North America with new meets to be held in Canada, the Netherlands, the USA – these events are an ideal platform for young climbers and competition newcomers.

The release of the calendar provides athletes with the opportunity to start tentatively planning their own seasons and offers a timely incentive for their training preparations. Like many other athletes, they have had to adapt both their professional careers and training schedules during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dates in the calendar are provisional and the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic will also have a direct impact on the feasibility of hosting, and travelling to, international competitions. The UIAA is putting in place criteria for events to take place and is in regular contact with all stakeholders and following the advice of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The UIAA criteria can be downloaded [here](#). Please note that this document is subject to change.

For the very latest on the **UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour and Covid-19** please click [here](#).



Promo: 2020-21 UIAA Ice Climbing Calendar
<https://youtu.be/Z-IX8jLotow>



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2020 UIAA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SAFETY

Safety Resources For Climbing Community

The UIAA provides a number of safety services for members, and by extension the wider climbing community. Below is a reminder of some of the key assets.

UIAA SAFETY LABEL

A brief history of the UIAA Safety Label and details regarding its relevance to the climbing world can be found on the dedicated page.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-safety-label/>

CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT

Climbers can check for gear which has been fully certified according to stringent UIAA Safety Standards. This database is updated in real-time.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety-standards/certified-equipment/>

MISUSE

This resource was launched in the summer of 2020. Its purpose is to report unauthorised use and breaches of the UIAA Safety Label.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-safety-label/misuse/>

UIAA SAFETY PORTAL

The landing page for all UIAA Safety topics has recently been revised.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/>

This portal provides direct access to all of the areas detailed below.

RECALLS AND WARNINGS

Reports of recalls, equipment failures and warnings – published by manufacturers – are charted on the Recalls database.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/safety-standards/recalls/>

SAFETY LABEL HOLDERS

Climbers can quickly view which climbing gear and equipment manufacturers are UIAA Safety Label accredited. Currently there are 76 companies from 21 countries.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-safety-label/safety-label-holders/>

SAFETY STANDARDS

The full list of all 24 UIAA Safety Standards can be found on the dedicated page.

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

ACCREDITED LABORATORIES

Companies interested in sending equipment for testing to UIAA Safety Standards can view the list of UIAA accredited laboratories, currently 19 companies from eight countries.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-safety-label/accredited-laboratories/>

Climber Skills, Advice & Videos

The UIAA has put together a number of resources related to [climber safety](#). These include *belay skills videos*, in partnership with the German Alpine Club (DAV), *guides to purchasing climbing equipment online*, *wider advice on climbing gear* as well as the [Skills series](#) run by the UIAA Training Panel.

Contact UIAA SafeCom

Details on the UIAA Safety Commission can be found here:

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

To apply for the UIAA Safety Label please fill in the following [form](#).

For all questions related to Safety please contact the UIAA Safety Label [team](#).

ALPINE SUMMER SKILLS HANDBOOK

Update on Progress of UIAA Alpine Handbooks

The annual update on the progress of the UIAA Summer Skills Alpine Handbook, produced in collaboration with The Petzl Foundation, will be provided during the GA. Below is a summary of the progress made in recent years and a reminder of how members can get involved and best use the resource.

The original book 'Memento' was produced in French before being translated into English and then in several other languages following agreements with UIAA member associations. Print versions are available exclusively through UIAA members.

Reminder: Purchase Digital Handbook

The digital version of the English translation can be purchased online [here](#). Prices are subject to exchange rate changes. The book can currently be downloaded for less than five euros (a little over five USD). The guide was developed specifically as a reference document for trip leaders and instructors of club and federations within the UIAA - an aide memoire for climbers and mountaineers who attend training courses delivered by instructors and guides who have gained qualifications accredited by the UIAA.

Alpine Summer Skills Handbook: New Content

A new English language edition of the Alpine Skills Handbook is almost ready for print publication. This contains significant additions, including new sections on GPS navigation and summer avalanche. The weather

section has been completely rewritten by expert meteorologists. The chapter on leader-placed protection has been expanded, following feedback from UIAA honorary member Reinhold Messner. Advanced bulk orders are invited from member organisations, to minimise delivery costs.

A Canyoning chapter is also being produced for - currently it is only in French. It will be translated by the Canadian Alpine Club (ACC).

Creation of Winter Skills Handbook

A Winter Skills Handbook could soon be launched, in collaboration with the ACC and the Petzl Foundation.

Languages already published

- **Japanese:** Japan Mountaineering and Climbing Federation. Printed this year. [See article](#).
- **Serbian:** Nenad Dikic, former President of the UIAA Anti-Doping Commission, worked with students on a translation into Serbian. Published in 2019.

- **Czech:** translation with the Czech Mountain Leader Association, in accordance with Jan Bloudek, from the Czech Mountaineering Association. Published in 2019
- **Korean:** Korean Alpine Club. Published in 2017.
- **Turkish:** the first translation after the English one. Printed in 2017.
- **English:** Translation by the Canadian Alpine Club (ACC) in 2015.
- **French:** First version of the Handbook, the "Memento" was created by the Petzl Foundation in 2013.

Almost published

- **Romanian:** Alexandru Paun, President of the Romanian Alpin Club (CAR) and UIAA Ice Climbing Commission member, has worked on the Romanian edition. The book will be printed this autumn.
- **Albanian:** Translation by Arben Lila and Teuta Bicaj / Kosovo Mountaineering and Alpinist Federation. Almost finished, should be printed soon.

Translations in progress

Almost done:

- **Mongolian:** Mongolian National Climbing Federation
- **Chinese** (Taiwan): Chinese Taipei Mountaineering Association
- **Iranian** (Farsi): Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation

In progress:

- **Macedonian:** Mountaineering Federation of North Macedonia
- **Indonesian:** Indonesia Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- **Catalan and Spanish:** Federació d'Entitats Excursionistes De Catalunya (FEEC)
- **Greek:** Pavlos Georgiades, UIAA Youth Commission President, proposed translating the document with the Mountaineering, Climbing and Orienteering Federation of Cyprus (KOMOAAP)
- **Arabic:** Jordan Tourism Board started work but this is currently on "hold".

For further details on the **UIAA's training programmes** and **materials** please click [here](#).

Purchase:
Alpine Handbook



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

Photo: Gröjales Expeditions



UIAA ANNUAL AWARDS

The UIAA General Assembly is normally the occasion where the Mountain Protection Award and Rock Climbing Festival Award are both presented. Owing to Covid-19, the 2020 editions of both UIAA platforms have been extended into 2021.

UIAA Rock Climbing Festival Award

The 2020 Award was scheduled to open in March 2020 and welcome applications from festivals in Oceania and South-East Asia. The Award has been postponed until 2021. Application opens in the spring.

For further information please contact rockclimbing@theuiaa.org or visit the dedicated [pages](#) on the UIAA website.

UIAA Mountain Protection Award

Following consultation between various parties – Mountain Protection Commission (MPC) delegates, the Award Assessment Team, the UIAA Executive Board, UIAA Office and main sponsor [Bally](#) – the UIAA MPC took the decision in May to postpone the evaluation and prize designation for the 2020 UIAA Mountain Protection Award to 2021.

The application portal – live since 1 March – remains open for proponents to submit projects and initiatives for the 2020-2021 Award. Assessment will commence in mid-2021 and the Award winner announced at the 2021 UIAA General Assembly, currently scheduled for the autumn of that year. The deadline to submit applications will be confirmed at a later date.

“After several online meetings and exchanges, the decision to postpone the Award to 2021 has been taken to demonstrate our solidarity to UIAA members, partners and those organising mountain-based sustainability projects during this unprecedented global pandemic. All of

whom have many other priorities and concerns at present,” explains Dr Carolina Adler, MP Commission President.

“Equally we need to respect limitations on travel to the mountains for non-essential purposes as many of the projects showcased as part of the MPA require ongoing physical presence in mountain regions. Furthermore, the 2020-2021 Award will provide a platform to help aid the recovery and regeneration of many projects significantly impacted by the current crisis.”

The UIAA will continue to showcase the Mountain Protection Award throughout 2020 and early 2021. An upcoming communication series will share information on the progress made by past winners of the Award in fulfilling their goals and ambitions. Part of the platform’s very core is to support and follow the progress of nominees and provide inspiration for tangible actions and initiatives that can be taken to see better outcomes for mountain regions worldwide, not least given the need to prioritise new development models in light of this pandemic.

PAST MPA WINNERS

- **2019**
[Swiss Alpine Club](#)
Switzerland
- **2018**
[Community Action Nepal](#)
UK
- **2017**
[Mount Everest Biogas Project](#)
USA
- **2016**
[Mountain Wilderness](#)
France
- **2015**
[KTK-BELT Studio](#)
Nepal
- **2014**
[Pamir Horse Adventure](#)
Tajikistan
- **2013**
[Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area](#)
Ethiopia



UIAA COMMISSIONS

Progress in 2020

UIAA Commission Presidents will present progress made in 2020, and in the context of Covid-19, during the General Assembly. To aide delegate preparations for the Plenary Session, brief details of Commission work from the publication of the 2019 Annual Report to August 2020 are provided below.

Anti-Doping

Maria Andjelkovic

Given the current freezing of competition sport, any in-competition testing has been put on hold. Out of competition testing may continue. The Commission is primarily focusing on compliance with the upcoming changes to WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) regulations.

Ice Climbing

Carlos Teixeira

The 2019-2020 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour concluded before lockdown. However, the impact on next season's calendar, which was published in July (see pages 30-31), is being

closely monitored. The UIAA has published specific criteria in relation to the hosting of events. An online [Commission meeting](#) was held on 9-10 May. Amongst other subjects, the Commission discussed the negative impact that the cancellation of events has had in the past and will seek to rectify this issue in the future.

The Commission also discussed its future and is currently in the process of resetting its strategic goals and developing a structure which will ensure adequate human resourcing across all of its projects. Furthermore, this will guarantee that strategic goals can be developed and pushed forward by members of the Commission who are motivated and have the skill sets required to achieve these objectives towards the continued future development of ice climbing.

Medical

Urs Hefti

Since his election as President at the spring MC in 2019, Urs Hefti has focused on the restructuring of the Commission and its activities and has called for UIAA member federations to provide greater clarity regarding the work they would like MedCom to focus on (notably recommendation papers).

The Commission, with the support of some new members, published a paper in 2020 'Preacclimatisation for expeditions to extreme altitude'. It tackles the subjects of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) prevention and intermittent normobaric hypoxia preacclimatisation and can be viewed [here](#).

MedCom planned to hold a short meeting in June 2020 alongside the International Society for Mountain Medicine (ISMM) Congress in Interlaken, Switzerland. Whilst the congress and the adjacent meeting were cancelled, the Commission invested time and resources in joining the CCC Taskforce. The remainder of the year will be used to lay out future work and projects of the Commission. Alongside the regular updating of MedCom recommendations, the Commission aims to publish an advice papers on water and one on women in the mountains in the coming years. Furthermore, a combination of meeting and medical training are planned for 2022 in Africa.

Mountain Protection

Carolina Adler

The 2020 [UIAA Mountain Protection Award](#), and [Respect the Mountains \(RTM\)](#) The 2020 UIAA Mountain Protection Award, and Respect the Mountains (RTM) Movement were launched in the beginning of the year. Both were put on hold due to Covid-19. During its virtual meeting

in May 2020, the Commission with its main partner Bally agreed to extend the 2020 MPA to 2021 and accept applications throughout. The adapted timeline will be published by the end of August 2020. A remarkable effort has gone into drafting and finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Environment. As a first output, the MPC together with UN Environment and IFMGA will hold a workshop to update the standing Environmental Guidelines.

Based on the signed commitment to adhere to a set of five principles under the UNFCCC Sport For Climate Action Framework, the Mountain Protection Commission works on systematically displaying climate leaderships on the UIAA's path to carbon neutrality. A first step has been achieved in calculating the UIAA's carbon footprint. The Commission now aims at providing guidelines for events and activities of the UIAA in the form of a climate mitigation policy, which encourages to avoid, reduce, substitute, and compensate for emissions created by the UIAA as an institution and report on these results as part of the UIAA's commitment on taking climate action.

Mountaineering

Peter Farkas

A full review of projects is ongoing including the accident report project (closed down, data to be analysed); ISO certificate project and a Style and Ethics initiative, which will focus on a review, and potential face lift, of some existing UIAA [declarations](#).

The Mountaineering Commission also has two sub-groups, Access and Training.

Access

Juan Jesus Ibanez Martin

The main priority is the Access WG's integration into the Mountaineering Commission. Access will also be an increasingly important and contentious issue when lockdown rules are relaxed or adapted in different countries. The UIAA continues to monitor issues related to Everest (Covid-19 has stopped progress) and Kilimanjaro (currently no updates).

Training Panel

Steve Long

Piloting skills programmes continue to flourish although the current lockdown means many are on hold. Significant progress has been made regarding the [Alpine Summer Skills handbook with new chapters and course material being prepared](#) (see page 34-35 for further details). The database for training courses/certificates is undergoing final testing and nearly operational.

Safety

Amit Chowdhury

The annual SafeCom meeting was held for the first time “online” in June - a full report including the significant amount of research being conducted by Working Groups can be found [here](#). Two new accredited laboratories for equipment testing have been accepted, in France, CRITT, and in Scotland, Sports lab. A request has also been made by the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) to establish a testing lab in mainland China. Ongoing projects including: corrosion studies (the UIAA invites members and climbers to submit examples of Climbing Anchor Corrosion. [Information can be supplied through a dedicated form](#)); Slacklining (impact of UV radiation and weather on textiles) and a WG related to new Standards are continuing their work virtually. Research on probes has continued in collaboration with WG leader from the Italian Alpine Club (CAI). A recent safety advice [article was published on canyoning harnesses](#). The Safety Commission has also

commenced a [new series](#) answering common questions relating to the technical aspects of climbing and mountaineering equipment received from curious climbers and making them available to the wider public. In response to the concern about unauthorised use of the UIAA safety label trade names and logos, the Commission has setup a [misuse database](#).

Youth

Pavlos Georgiades

Newly-elected YC President Pavlos Georgiades provided a snapshot of the future focus of the Commission during May’s online Management Committee meeting - notably collaboration with the Training Panel to produce certificates and standards for youth camps and a stronger management from the Commission in running UIAA Youth camps (together with member federations). Further details will be presented during the GA.

Durchstiege Kletterrouten und Gipfelerfolge treiben uns an - sie sind die Sahnehäubchen auf unseren Erlebnissen. Wir leben für die Momente, die unsere Reisen besonders machen; gemeinsam mit Freunden gelebte Herausforderungen, Abenteuer und High-Fives. Wir sind hier für diese besonderen Momente, die uns das Leben spüren lassen, und für die Vorfreude auf alle zukünftigen Trips.

JOHN PRICE
CHINA



for the journey ahead



UIAA OFFICE & COMMUNICATION

Office & Online Meetings

Online meetings have been the reality for everyone in 2020 including the UIAA Office. Between March and June, Bern-based staff worked remotely. Since early July, there is now a regular presence in the Office with social distancing measures in place.

However, despite the lack of physical contact, work and communication has continued to evolve in an impressive manner. With the make-up of the UIAA - Board members,

Management Committee, Commissions - accustomed to remote working, the transition has been relatively seamless. In fact, connection between the Office and the various organs of the UIAA has been even more regular.

The past few months have seen the following events take place online - EB & Management Committee meetings, dedicated seminars and talks by UIAA members, Commission President meetings, annual Commission meetings, Covid-19 Crisis Consultation Taskforce sessions

as well as weekly UIAA Office calls, supported on occasions by EB members.

Attendance at meetings has been much higher owing to the fact delegates do not need to travel and the timeframe of meetings is more efficient in view of people's commitments. There are many aspects of the working routine which will become the 'normal' going forward. The UIAA's environmental footprint and the regularity of contact between delegates has certainly improved.

Communication

As detailed on pages 24-27, significant communication resources have been deployed in the creation and updating of the Covid-19 portal. Other key deliverables have included the publication of the Annual Report and throughout 2020, some incremental improvements have been made to the UIAA website. To date this includes the areas dedicated to safety, ice climbing, sustainability, members pages as well as the home page. In the coming months, pages associated with mountaineering, access, rock climbing and youth will be refreshed. A dedicated UIAA document library will be created to facilitate the search of key files and information.

The UIAA newsletter is distributed once a month and provides a detailed overview of the UIAA news articles, messages as well as stories from members. To subscribe please click [here](#).

UIAA communication continues to shine a spotlight on the work and projects of the UIAA Commissions. A recently-launched series has also kicked off focusing on the backgrounds of some of the many volunteers who dedicate hundreds of hours to the federation each year.



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Outdoor Research is dedicated to inspiring the journey ahead with innovative technical apparel and accessories designed for outdoor adventures. Outdoor Research is the Title Sponsor of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour 2019-2023.



Organisation recognised by the



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)



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

UIAA - International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
Monbijoustrasse 61 · Postfach · 3000 Bern 14
office@theuiaa.org www.theuiaa.org

