UIAA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

THE UIAA-INTERNAL STRATEGY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

FULL VERSION 1.5 (Approved by UIAA Management Board on 7 September 2024)

PART 1: GET INSPIRED – TAKE CLIMATE ACTION!

1. Why take Climate Action and why a Climate Action Plan?

As those who respect the mountain environments of the world have noted, climate change is presenting us with challenges, many of which are existential in nature. Moreover, mountains show some of the starkest indications of change. For example:

- Swiftly melting glaciers can lead to profound stream/river/lake changes;
- Loss of ice transforms long-cherished alpine routes into areas so full of risk as to be, in some cases, un-climbable;
- Climbable ice in the mountains will become less available – both in number of ice climbing days and in quality of ice;
- Although more study is needed, rockfall in high mountain regions appears to be increasing, potentially raising risk levels for rock climbers, mountaineers, skyrunners, mountain hikers and more;
- Change in precipitation and storm patterns play key roles in increasing natural hazards (e.g. flooding, increased forest fire intensity, wind events, etc.) for mountain communities and mountaineers, hikers, rock climbers, backcountry skiers, etc.;
- Complex climate change driven ecosystem/human interactions are a contributing factor to biodiversity loss.

And these are just a few of the climate-driven issues that confront those of us who live, work, and recreate in mountains.

We who love, enjoy and respect mountains with all their complex, intertwined ecological and social systems must take up the challenge. It is not enough, as is often said, to “talk the talk”, we must “walk the walk”. Or, in our case it might be more appropriate to say, “climb the climb”. Which, like any other, is accomplished one step at a time.

In order to strategically address climate change issues, the UIAA is launching a Climate Action Plan, captured in this document, to define measures to avoid, reduce and compensate Green House Gas emissions and to help track our organization’s impact. This Climate Action Plan is to be used by the UIAA internally and must be cross-referenced with the UIAA Sustainability Charter. (A) separate plan(s) has been created for the use of UIAA member associations in an effort to support the wider climbing community to take climate action.

Under the commitment of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Sports for Climate Action Framework, the UIAA is expected to "measure and understand" its ecological footprint in order to design and issue plans to reduce its emission and overall climate impact. The first task was to establish and

report against a baseline and continue to gather data to monitor how our emissions trend over time. The UIAA has done so since 2018 on an annual basis, and is now using the available data to determine what can be practically avoided or reduced without substantial loss of activity effectiveness.

The UIAA is committed to reduce its own emissions by 50% by 2030 and to reach (net)-zero by 2040.

2. Two approaches

The UIAA has identified two possible and relevant approaches to begin its official climate action journey and to align our organization's climate action strategy:

- timeline approach – which focuses on defining chronological milestones, measures and tracking;
- spheres of responsibility – which focus on defining milestones, measures and tracking based on an organizational layout.

Both of these approaches follow the mindset: educate, avoid, reduce, compensate and are mainly focused on mitigation efforts. Adaptation of climbing and mountaineering to climate change is equally relevant and a must-do approach to keep our sport alive, safe and sustainable. Adaptation strategies and case studies will be highlighted throughout the Climate Action Plan(s) for UIAA Member Federations.

The UIAA, through this Climate Action Plan and specifically in PART 2, will use a combination of the two approaches to make our plan and reporting as intuitive as possible.

2.1. Timeline approach

Within the timeline approach, the UIAA follows the guidance of the UNFCCC S4CA Framework and as a signatory is committed to reducing our carbon footprint by 50% by 2030 and to reach goal of net-zero emissions by 2040.

The UIAA takes further into account the fact that it is transitioning to a new strategy for the years 2025-2028. And in 2032 the UIAA will be celebrating its 100th anniversary, a milestone in and of itself.

Using a timeline makes many of the proposed measures more tangible as well as visualize the exponentially demanding efforts to be undertaken by the organization.

Implementation Phase	Time Span	Description
Phase 1	2024-2026	The idea behind the UIAA-internal CAP is to allow for an adjustment phase focusing on the low-hanging fruit and priorities without requiring a complete rehaul of the organization. This *Phase 1* is to last from the launch of the CAP

		until end of 2026 with a key focus on engagement.
Phase 2	2027-2028	In a *second phase*, from 2027-2028, the UIAA will start identifying and implementing more rigorous measures in order to reach the set out goals of cutting our emissions in half by 2030.
Phase 3	2029-2032	At this stage and from 2029-2032, which is *phase 3* of the plan, the UIAA will revisit the CAP. As the UIAA will be transitioning into yet another strategic plan and celebrating its 100th anniversary, this will be the time to set clear priorities and calculate in financial needs to sustain the organization through necessary compensation to reach net-zero by 2040.
Phase 4	2033-2040	*Phase 4* of the plan, seeing us through until 2040, will be dedicated to running an organization, activities and leading the worldwide climbing and mountaineering community so that we move beyond net zero – virtually no negative impact on the climate change footprint.

2.2. UIAA spheres of responsibility

The UIAA follows the concept of leading organizations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and thus considers three spheres of responsibility:

a. the UIAA as an organization,
b. the UIAA as the owner of its activities and
c. the UIAA as the leader of the worldwide climbing and mountaineering community.

Each level will be briefly explained hereafter. It is within these three spheres of responsibility that the UIAA will act on climate change.

2.2.1. The UIAA as an organization

The UIAA, with its headquarter office in Bern, Switzerland, counts 6 staff members in 2024 and largely depends on its volunteers. The volunteers actively engaged within the UIAA are committed to at least one of the following bodies: Management Board, Executive Committee, Commissions, Working Groups, and Taskforces. Each of these bodies holds regular meetings. Many meetings are held online these days, with most bodies scheduling at least one in-person meeting per calendar year. Once a year, the General Assembly meets, when representatives from each member federation of the UIAA come together to discuss and vote on UIAA-wide matters.

Key words: office infrastructure; travel and meeting organization of staff, the Management Board, Executive Committee, Commissions; General Assembly; sourcing of goods; strategic partnerships

Over this sphere of responsibility, the UIAA has much control and can introduce measures to reduce emissions quite deliberately. It is within this sphere that much of the low-hanging fruit (i.e. easy to implement measures) can be tackled and at the same time steps to address more challenging carbon footprint reduction measures can be taken.

2.2.2. The UIAA as the owner of its activities

The work and output of UIAA Commissions are the UIAA's "owned" activities. In 2024 that includes:

- Publications
- International ice climbing competitions
- Certification of training courses
- Running of training courses
- International youth camps
- Equipment testing & certification
- Workshops, conferences, courses
- Scientific recommendations
- Awards
- Representation and attendance of continental, regional, national meetings and assemblies

Key words: UIAA-owned, Commission work

The UIAA exercises a lot of power over this second sphere of responsibility, however, engages with many stakeholders within the given areas. Thus, measures will need to be considered collaboratively in order to have buy-in and set tangible, yet ambitious goals for avoiding and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

2.2.3. The UIAA as the leader of the worldwide climbing and mountaineering community

In the first place, the UIAA exists to lead and support its member federations. Not least through them, but also through the activities mentioned above, the UIAA reaches individual climbers, mountaineers, hikers, skyrunners, backcountry skiers, ice climbers and more. Heading up the global mountain network of climbing and mountaineering associations, the UIAA has a recognized leadership role and must set an example, assisting where needed and representing the climbing community on international platforms and with given stakeholders.

Key words: UIAA member federations, climbers, mountaineers, hikers, sky-runners, back-country skiers, ice-climbers, advocacy

Through this sphere of responsibility, the UIAA reaches many individuals across the world, mainly through its member federations. The engagement in climate action of member federations, and through them, of individual climbers is a key role of the UIAA.

Part 2: MEASURES & TRACKING

This part of the Climate Action Plan sets concrete measures for the UIAA on its way to net zero emissions by 2040. An annual report on taken measures will be issued complementary to the UIAA Carbon Footprint Report.

The concrete measures within this plan will be updated considering the timeline and defined phases 1-4. Therefore, this is to be considered the living part of the UIAA Climate Action Plan.

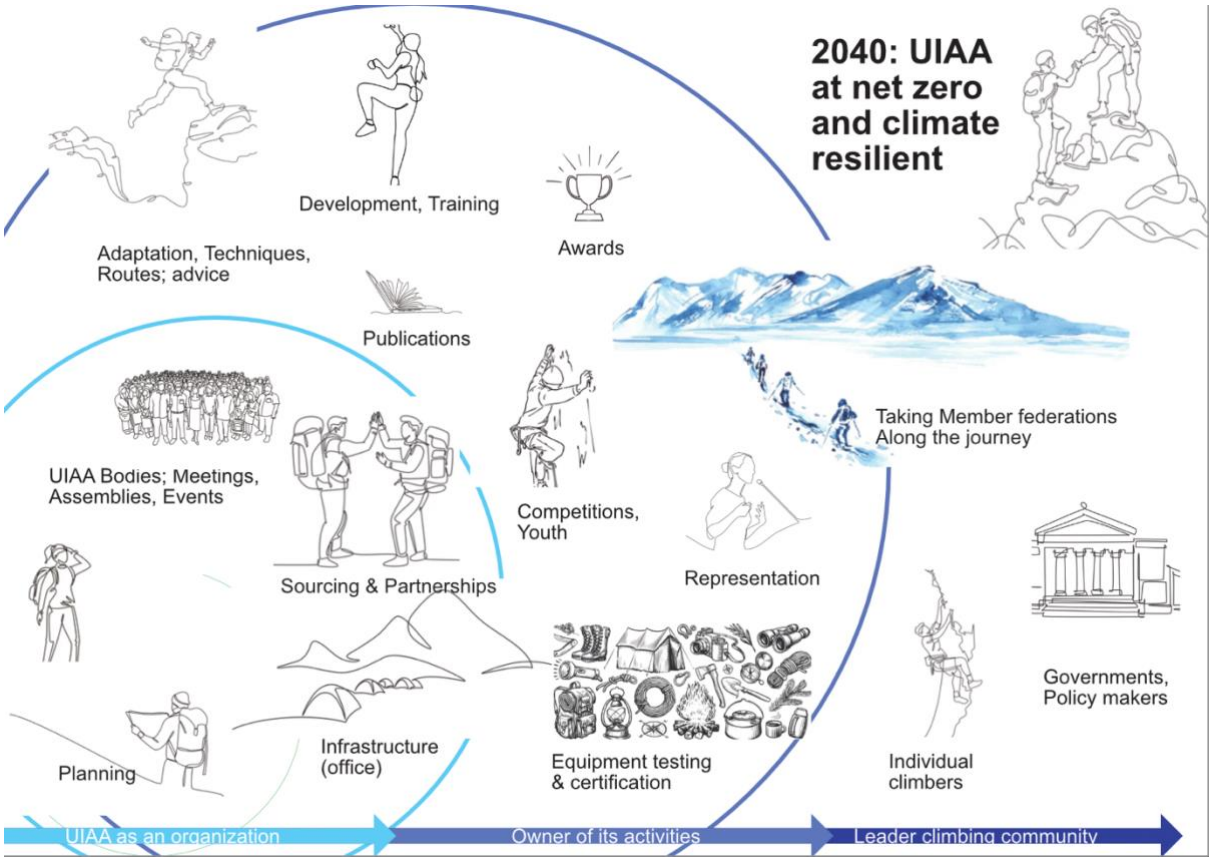

Image 01: UIAA Climate Action Journey V04

1. As an organization

Based on the visual UIAA Climate Action Journey, the below are tangible targets and measures for the UIAA as an organization, highlighting in which phase they ought to be implemented.

1.1. Planning: *incorporate climate-related criteria in everything the UIAA does*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**

a. Train all UIAA representatives (staff, EC, MB, Commission members) to keep climate action in front of mind, through regularly addressing the topic via workshops, online training, etc.	Phase 1-2
b. Prepare an initial "carbon budget" for the UIAA to visualize our climate journey and to keep us in line with set targets.	Phase 1
c. Develop a plan for dealing with residual emissions via compensation, carbon sink technology projects, reforestation, mountain ecosystem restoration projects etc.	Phase 3-4
d. Prepare a financial budget to support the climate action plans.	Phase 1-4
e. Develop a simple reporting structure to support UIAA's journey to net zero.	Phase 1-2
f. Consider the life-cycle of the Climate Change Taskforce and ongoing responsibilities to oversee the climate action plans and their implementation.	Phase 1

1.2. Infrastructure (office): *reduce the office climate impact to net zero*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Host a climate sensibilization workshop with office staff and determine collaborative measures to further reduce climate impact.	Phase 1
b. Host a discussion with other building renters and/or owner about carbon footprint reduction possibilities.	Phase 1
c. Switch to a green energy provider.	Phase 1, done

d. Avoid waste and single-use items within the office. Reduce if not avoidable.	Phase 1-4
e. Put in place recycling containers.	Phase 1
f. Switch to LED light bulbs.	Phase 1, done
g. Evaluate all suppliers for the office as to where they are on their journey to net zero (e.g. sourcing publication services and products that are reflecting net zero practices).	Phase 1
h. Choose suppliers that reflect our net zero values.	Phase 1-4

1.3. UIAA Bodies, Meetings, Events, Assemblies: *reflect climate change targets in planning, preparing for and hosting events, meetings and assemblies*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Candidacies for elected office, membership applications, event applications: incorporate a mandatory disclosure on their position on climate change issues and sustainable practices, define a minimum required standard (policy, commitment, action plan etc.) and report to the electing body.	Phase 1-4
b. Incorporate climate-related criteria in hosting guidelines of UIAA events. • Example 1: Candidate and host cities to develop sustainable transport solutions. • Example 2: Event organisers to maximise use of public transport and active travel modes at event. • Example 3: Avoid waste and single-use items.(e.g. reusable cups and plates)	Phase 1

• Example 4: organise separate waste collection at events • Example 5: encourage users to not litter, and potentially incentivize (e.g. credit for returning empty cups)	
c. Use the simple UIAA reporting structure (developed in 1.1.e.) to monitor and report on UIAA events.	Phase 1-4
d. Consider emissions when/before planning attendance of meetings, events, conferences.	Phases 1-4
e. Offer hybrid solutions for all UIAA-hosted meetings/events.	Phases 1-4
f. Host a climate sensibilization workshop with Commissions and determine collaborative measures to further reduce climate impact.	Phase 1-4
g. Strongly encourage UIAA Bodies to meet in same locations, in order to minimize travel of those who would otherwise attend two or more of these meetings.	Phase 1-4
h. Consider changes in the Articles of Association (AoAs) and the Regulations for the Commissions to allow for hybrid/online formats of meetings, events and assemblies.	Phase 1: introduction Phase 2: implementation
i. Explore options to greatly reduce the carbon footprint of face-to-face annual General Assemblies (e.g. only every other year, hybrid, online, different ways of handling proxy votes, voting technologies, etc.)	Phase 1: introduction Phase 2: implementation
j. Assure each UIAA event/meeting/assembly leaves a sustainable legacy (e.g. a meeting should be complemented with an event/service that gives value to the hosting community).	Phase 1-4 See example Bariloche 2024 (Management Board meeting + International Mountain Sports Training Course)

k. Consider changes in the AoAs to restrict number of members of the EC and MB in order to minimize travel impact by these bodies.	Phase 1: introduction Phase 2: implementation
l. Consider a synchronization (not an overlap) of UIAA GA's and continental GA's.	Phase 1-4
m. Consider emissions caused through online meetings, exchange platforms, emails, etc. and include in the reduction and compensation strategy.	Phase 3-4

1.4. Partnerships: *assure we align with current and potential partners on net zero commitments*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Include climate-related selection criteria for ongoing and potential partnerships of the UIAA.	Phase 1-4

2. As the owner of our activities

Based on the visual UIAA Climate Action Journey, the below are tangible targets and measures for the UIAA as the owner of its activities, highlighting in which phase they ought to be implemented.

2.1. Publications: *limiting the number and volume of printed publications*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Publish easy-to-read guidance on climate actions for mountain organizations and mountaineers.	Phase 1
b. Consider the climate before producing, printing any projects and UIAA publications.	Phase 1-4
c. Give preference to short print formats of UIAA publications and reference full online content.	Phase 1-4

d. Offering print on demand for targeted publications (e.g. Annual Report).	Phase 1-4
e. Offering targeted publications (e.g. Alpine Summer Skills Handbook) in e-book format.	Phase 3
f. Consider full digitalization of content, e.g. in interactive app format.	Phase 3
g. Consider the packaging for any dispatching of publication by post.	Phase 1-4

2.2. International Ice Climbing Competitions & (Youth) Camps: *Climate-neutral camps, events and competitive sports*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Coordination of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour calendar so that intercontinental travel is minimized for athletes, coaches and officials. For example, ensuring the Tour follows a logical progression from Europe, to Asia, to North America, etc. (or vice versa).	Phase 1-4
b. Maximize use of existing facilities and temporary structures and only develop new permanent facilities that offer long-term benefits for local communities.	Phase 1-4, ongoing
c. For any new structures, temporary or permanent, encourage and support low carbon footprint / carbon neutral building practices. • Best practices Edmonton • Best practices Oulu • Best practices Denver	Phase 1-4
d. Together with local organising committees (LOCs and/or	Phase 2-4

camps), explore carbon neutral methods of ice making.	
e. Develop a simple online targeted carbon footprint calculator to engage local organising committees in calculating their emissions. Provide an online workshop to assist LOCs with their impact measurement.	Phase 1-4, ongoing
f. Support local organising committees (LOCs) in avoiding, reducing and compensating their emissions effectively, through showcasing a pioneer LOC.	Phase 2-4
g. Awareness raising campaign targeting athletes, coaches and other officials.	Phase 2-4

2.3. Equipment Safety Testing & Certification: *engage effectively with manufacturers and laboratories on net zero targets*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Engage manufacturers and accredited laboratories in calculating their emissions. In order to meet other goals of this Climate Action Plan, the UIAA needs to know where suppliers are on their own climate action journeys.	Phase 1
b. Support manufacturers and laboratories in avoiding, reducing and compensating their emissions effectively.	Phase 2-4
c. Introduce climate/sustainability criteria into the certification process of the UIAA Safety Label.	Phase 3
d. Incentivize best practices in climate action among manufacturers and laboratories.	Phase 1-4

2.4. Adaptation, Techniques, Routes, Advice and Certification of Training Courses: *keeping mountain sports safe and attractive*

Concretely (not in priority order)	Implementation Phase (1-4) Phase 1: 2024-2026 Phase 2: 2027-2028 Phase 3: 2029-2032 Phase 4: 2033-2040
a. Support Commissions to stay on top of adaptation techniques, routes and health concerns, to continue to give the most up-to-date advice.	Phase 1-4, ongoing
b. In order to keep mountain sports safe and attractive, the UIAA portal should provide timely information about arising issues due to climate change.	Phase 4
c. Introduce climate/sustainability criteria into the certification process of the UIAA Mountain Training Qualification Label.	Phase 3

2.5. Workshops, Conferences, Courses: *Climate-neutral UIAA hosted events*

Concretely (not in priority order)	Implementation Phase (1-4) Phase 1: 2024-2026 Phase 2: 2027-2028 Phase 3: 2029-2032 Phase 4: 2033-2040
a. Consider emissions when/before planning hosting and attendance of meetings, events, conferences.	Phases 1-4, ongoing
b. Assure each UIAA workshop, conference and course leaves a sustainable legacy.	Phase 1-4, ongoing
c. Assure each UIAA workshop, conference, and course, is catered sustainably, produces a minimum of waste, and offers tap water (where possible) and vegetarian/vegan options.	Phase 1-4
d. Develop a simple online targeted carbon footprint calculator to engage local organising committees (LOCs) in calculating their emissions. The UIAA Office to provide online assistance.	Phase 4

2.6. UIAA Awards: *recognize, support and encourage a broad range of climate change actions throughout all aspects of the mountaineering world*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Consider climate related criteria in any award given by the UIAA.	Phases 1-4, ongoing
b. All award ceremonies to be climate neutral.	Phase 1-4

2.7. Representation and attendance of continental, regional, national meetings and assemblies: *reflect climate change targets in attending external events*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Climate considerate planning of attendance and representation at external events (i.e. sending someone from the same country or continent).	Phases 1-4, ongoing
b. Raise the topic of climate change (action) at all continental, regional, and national meetings and assemblies attended by UIAA representatives.	Phase 1-4

3. As the leader of the worldwide climbing and mountaineering community

Based on the visual UIAA Climate Action Journey, the below are tangible targets and measures for the UIAA as the leader of the worldwide climbing and mountaineering community, highlighting in which phase they ought to be implemented.

These will be more educational targets, than tangible measures.

A separate Climate Action Plan has been dedicated to providing guidance to UIAA members and the wider climbing community on defining their approach and measures.

3.1. Taking UIAA member federations along the journey: *buy-in of all UIAA members and staying on the climate action journey together*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Prepare a targeted climate action plan for UIAA member federations.	Phase 1-2, ongoing
b. Support UIAA member federations on their climate action journeys.	Phase 1-4, ongoing
c. Foster an exchange platform on climate actions for UIAA member federations.	Phase 1-4
d. Incentivize best practices and UIAA member federations taking concrete and sustainable climate action.	Phase 2
e. Internationalize effective mitigation and adaptation tools and techniques successfully run by UIAA member federations.	Phase 3-4

3.2. Individual climbers: *empowering climbers to make a personal climate change difference*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Through UIAA member federations, launch an advocacy campaign targeting individual climbers and mountaineers to raise their awareness about climate change and provide tools for personal climate action.	Phase 1
b. Provide a UIAA platform to allow mountaineers to tell their personal climate change stories.	Phase 2-3

3.3. Governments, policy makers, stakeholders: *strengthening of international climate policies and actions*

Concretely (not in priority order)	**Implementation Phase (1-4)** **Phase 1: 2024-2026** **Phase 2: 2027-2028** **Phase 3: 2029-2032** **Phase 4: 2033-2040**
a. Prepare an external advocacy plan highlighting key targets, audiences and the UIAA climate change message.	Phase 1, ongoing
b. Represent UIAA member federations and the wider climbing community via international platforms to advocate for climate action.	Phase 1-4
c. Take a leadership role in engaging stakeholders and partners to take collaborative climate action.	Phase 1-4

PART 3: ANNEXES

Annex I: Glossary of most important terms and abbreviations

Adaptation: In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects (IPCC, 2024).

Adaptation Gap: The difference between actually implemented adaptation and a societally set goal, determined largely by preferences related to tolerated climate change impacts and reflecting resource limitations and competing priorities (IPCC, 2024)

Biodiversity: Biodiversity or biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, among other things, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (IPCC, 2024).

Carbon Footprint: Measure of the exclusive total amount of emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) that is directly and indirectly caused by an activity or is accumulated over the lifecycle stages of a product (Wiedmann & Minx, 2008)

Carbon Footprint Calculation: Is the estimation of greenhouse gas intensiveness of activities, products, bodies, and processes, used as a tool for greenhouse gas management (Pandey, Agrawal, & Pandey, 2011) and normally expressed by carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) (Ridhosari & Rahman, 2020).

Carbon Neutrality: Condition in which anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions associated with a subject are balanced by anthropogenic CO2 removals. The subject can be an entity such as a country, an organization, a district or a commodity, or an activity such as a service and an event. Carbon neutrality is often assessed over the lifecycle including indirect ('scope 3') emissions, but can also be limited to the emissions and removals, over a specified period, for which the subject has direct control, as determined by the relevant scheme (IPCC, 2024)

Climate Action Plan (CAP): A detailed strategy designed to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact within a specific area. A CAP evaluates the area's carbon budget and outlines measures to cut the use of non-renewable resources, minimise waste production, and enhance overall sustainability. This may include from retrofitting buildings for better energy efficiency, providing guidelines for eco-friendly practices, promoting public transport, and advancing the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, among others. Additionally, a CAP may address sustainable consumption, waste reduction, and improvements in access to clean water, green spaces, and economic opportunities.

Climate Change: A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change

may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. Note that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as: 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods'. The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes (IPCC, 2024).

Climate (Change) Action: Efforts to address and mitigate the effects of climate change, as outlined in Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Climate action involves implementing strategies to limit global temperature rise, as stipulated by the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep the increase well below 2 degrees Celsius, with efforts to restrict it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This includes adopting renewable energy, enhancing resilience, and coordinating international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support vulnerable communities (UN, 2024)

Climate Change Mitigation: A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases (IPCC, 2024)

Decarbonization: Human actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from human activities (IPCC, 2024)

Ecosystem: A functional unit consisting of living organisms, their non-living environment and the interactions within and between them. The components included in a given ecosystem and its spatial boundaries depend on the purpose for which the ecosystem is defined: in some cases, they are relatively sharp, while in others they are diffuse. Ecosystem boundaries can change over time. Ecosystems are nested within other ecosystems, and their scale can range from very small to the entire biosphere. In the current era, most ecosystems either contain people as key organisms or are influenced by the effects of human activities in their environment (IPCC, 2024)

Environmental Impact: Environmental impacts are changes in the natural or built environment, resulting directly from an activity, that can have adverse effects on the air, land, water, fish, and wildlife or the inhabitants of the ecosystem (Abdallah, 2017).

Executive Committee (EC): The governing body of the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme (UIAA), consisting of seven members elected for a four-year term. The committee includes the President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and three additional members, representing four continents. It is responsible for implementing decisions made by the General Assembly, overseeing finances, and providing support to UIAA commissions and staff (UIAA, 2024).

General Assembly (GA): The annual meeting of the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme (UIAA), attended by member federations, commissions,

representatives, and partners. Hosted by a national federation, the General Assembly is the primary forum for making critical decisions about UIAA's role, activities, and budget, as well as conducting elections (UIAA, 2024).

Global warming. The progressive gradual rise of the earth's surface temperature thought to be caused by the greenhouse effect and responsible for changes in global climate patterns. See enhanced greenhouse effect, greenhouse effect, climate change (UNFCCC, 2024).

Greenhouse Effect: Trapping and build-up of heat in the atmosphere (troposphere) near the earth's surface. Some of the heat flowing back toward space from the earth's surface is absorbed by water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, and several other gases in the atmosphere and then reradiated back toward the earth's surface. If the atmospheric concentrations of these greenhouse gases rise, the average temperature of the lower atmosphere will gradually increase. See enhanced greenhouse effect, climate change, global warming (UNFCCC, 2024)

Green House Gases (GHG): Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4) and ozone (O_3) are the primary GHGs in the Earth's atmosphere. Human-made GHGs include sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs); several of these are also O_3-depleting (and are regulated under the Montreal Protocol). (IPCC, 2024)

Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to, water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O_3), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). (UNFCCC, 2024)

International Olympic Committee (IOC): The International Olympic Committee (IOC) serves as the global, non-governmental organization that oversees the modern Olympic Games. It holds the primary responsibility for coordinating the Summer, Winter, and Youth Olympics. Additionally, the IOC governs the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and leads the global Olympic Movement, a term the IOC uses to describe all participants and organizations connected with the Olympic Games. (IOC, 2024)

Management Board (MB): The UIAA Management Board (formerly Committee) is responsible for implementing policies and decisions from the General Assembly. Its duties include preparing the General Assembly's agenda, managing annual accounts, and making recommendations on long-term strategies, rules, and regulations. The board also handles the admission of new members, oversees commissions, and negotiates contracts with third parties. Comprising the Executive Committee, representatives from the five largest member associations, one representative from each continent, and three to five members elected by the

General Assembly, the board serves a four-year term and plays a key role in shaping the UIAA's operations and governance (UIAA, 2024).

Mitigation: A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases (IPCC, 2024).

Mountain Protection Commission (MPC): Established in 1969, the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission advocates for the conservation of mountainous environments and cultures. Its mission is to preserve these unique natural spaces for future generations of mountaineers and the wider public. The MPC also supports and promotes sustainable development efforts by UIAA members and the broader mountaineering community (UIAA, 2024).

Net zero: Condition in which anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions associated with a subject are balanced by anthropogenic CO2 removals. The subject can be an entity such as a country, an organization, a district or a commodity, or an activity such as a service and an event. Carbon neutrality is often assessed over the lifecycle including indirect ('scope 3') emissions but can also be limited to the emissions and removals, over a specified period, for which the subject has direct control, as determined by the relevant scheme. *Note: Carbon neutrality and net zero CO2 emissions are overlapping concepts. The concepts can be applied at global or sub-global scales* (IPCC, 2024)

Renewable energy: Energy obtained from sources that are essentially inexhaustible, unlike, for example, the fossil fuels, of which there is a finite supply. Renewable sources of energy include waste, geothermal, wind, photovoltaic, and solar thermal energy (UNFCCC, 2024).

Sports for Climate Action Framework (S4CA): A UN Climate Change initiative encouraging sports organizations to lead in climate action. The framework promotes collaboration to achieve climate neutrality, aligns with the Paris Agreement goals, and uses sports to foster global solidarity. It involves adherence to five principles, including measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supports the sports sector's transition to a low-carbon economy. Signatories commit to transparency, concrete actions, and advocacy for a 1.5°C global temperature increase limit (UNFCCC, 2024)

Sustainability: A dynamic process that guarantees the persistence of natural and human systems in an equitable manner (IPCC, 2024)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), often referred to as the Global Goals, were established by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal appeal to eliminate poverty, safeguard the environment, and ensure that everyone can experience peace and prosperity by 2030 (UNDP, 2024).

These 17 goals are interconnected, acknowledging that progress in one area influences outcomes in others, and emphasizing the need for development that harmonizes social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change came into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it boasts near-universal membership, with 197 countries having ratified the Convention, known as Parties to the Convention.

The UNFCCC is a "Rio Convention," one of two opened for signature at the "Rio Earth Summit" in 1992. The other two conventions that emerged from Rio are the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. These three conventions are intrinsically linked. Within this context, the Joint Liaison Group was established to enhance cooperation among the three Conventions, with the ultimate aim of fostering synergies in their activities on issues of mutual interest. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has now also been incorporated.

The prevention of "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC (UNFCCC, 2024).

Annex II: References & Useful Resources

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