

18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
SPELEOLOGY



18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

FRANCE SAVOIE MONT-BLANC - 24-31 July 2022

DON'T MISS IT!

**Scientific conferences, videos, bookshops,
stands, equipped caves, the beaches of the Lac du
Bourget as well, everything is there waiting for you!**



The International Year of Caves and Karst at UNESCO

A historic moment for the UIS and the world's speleology

and much more...





Official publication of the UIS for publicizing the activities of the UIS and the state of the art of international speleology - ©2021

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Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Founded in Postojna, Slovenia, 1965

The UIS is a non-profit, non-governmental worldwide speleological organization that promotes the development of interaction between academic and technical speleologists of a wide range of nationalities to develop and coordinate international speleology in all of its scientific, technical, cultural and economic aspects.

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Before submitting articles for the UIS Bulletin, please

CLICK HERE!

Deadline for submissions for the next issue (N° 64-1): June 20, 2022

COVER PHOTO:

Delegation of the UIS with guests at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on September 13th, 2021, after the historic ceremony celebrated at that iconic building. Photo: © Satoshi Goto

Inset photos are Bureau members who could not be in the group photo.

From left to right: ©George Veni, ©Baerbel Vogel, and ©Tim Moulds

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITOR FOR THIS ISSUE:

George VENI (USA, UIS President)

The UIS Bulletin as a complete issue can be distributed freely.



**REMEMBER
SAVE A TREE; DO NOT
PRINT IF UNNECESSARY**



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Editorial

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST: BECOME A PART OF SPELEOLOGICAL HISTORY

By Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil)
UIS Adjunct Secretary / UIS Bulletin Editor
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Dear speleologists and cavers around the world. We are pleased to bring you another issue of the UIS Bulletin, which pages, as usual, bring important, historic, and good news about the activities of the UIS itself and global speleology.

As everybody knows, 2021 was yet a hard year due to the unexpected extent of the coronavirus pandemic. Thus, virtual activities continued dominating the speleological scenario worldwide. Even so, the overall balance of this year is highly positive, especially in the context of events held in support of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK).

Since its launch in January, we could see a significant increase in participation in this UIS project. It's up to us, therefore, to continue our work of encouragement so that this engagement continues to rise until the end of 2022, when the UIS will gather in a single document all the activities carried out on behalf of the IYCK throughout the planet.

One of the highlights of this list will undoubtedly be the commemorative event at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, which was a historic moment not only for the UIS itself but for the entire world's speleology. As commented by the UIS President George Veni in his column on the next page, it "*marks not only a great achievement for speleology, but a new beginning.*" The entire saga covered by the UIS until reaching the UNESCO Headquarters begins on [page 12](#) and includes the details of the ceremony itself and future perspectives. Remembering that the event at UNESCO was number 300 on behalf of the IYCK and that we will still had 3 months left in 2021 and the whole year of 2022, many good results are expected to come.

In the field of protection of cave fauna, for the second year in a row, the biospeleological community of the countries participating in the project "Cave Animal of the Year" has elected a single animal as the representative. Whereas in 2021 the honor fell to the beetles, the article on [page 25](#) shows that for 2022 bats were selected. The purpose of the choice is to raise global awareness of their importance for the ecosystem in which they inhabit—caves mostly—and their need for protection.

On [page 26](#) the UIS Commission on Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves present the "Palaeolus Scientific Project,"

with a link for the interesting movie produced during a caving expedition in the White Mountains of Crete, Greece.

Regarding the UIS congresses, it is time to plan our trip to France. Not by chance the 18th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) receives special attention on this issue. After having been forced to postpone the event due to the pandemic, the French people are excited to welcome the international speleological community in Le Bourget Du Lac from 24-31 July 2022.

Besides being the major event of the IYCK, a lot of attractions are waiting for you at the International Congress, such as the scientific conference, videos, bookshops, stands from vendors and caving organizations, equipped caves, and beaches of the Lake Bourget too. So, don't miss it! The new poster and the 3th Circular are on [pages 5 to 11](#). For more information, visit <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

When you have your bags ready and your schedule defined for the 18th ICS, you are invited to start thinking about the next one, in 2025, when the UIS Congress will land again in the southern hemisphere, for the second time in Brazil. In the previous issue of this Bulletin we talked about the selection of Brazil by the UIS Delegates and provided some information about Belo Horizonte—the host city—as well as some options for the excursions.

This time, on [page 27](#), you will learn of the main advances of the congress' organization over these past six months, including the description of the venue.

Many other speleological events and activities are scheduled for 2022, and further—see the Calendar on [page 45](#). All of them represent special occasions to promote the IYCK, and grow cave and karst conservation awareness beyond the speleological audience.

You can participate or create your own event or activity for the IYCK. The important thing is to make your contribution, to help each event to become a historic moment for speleology. The UIS is ready to publish your results. The UIS Bulletin, of course, is among the several UIS media and will be proud to have your event on its pages.



The President's Column

A NEW BEGINNING FOR SPELEOLOGY AND THE SECOND YEAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

By Dr. George Veni (USA)

UIS President

gveni@nckri.org

Speleology has enjoyed many excellent and important events around the world. Certainly, the International Congresses of Speleology are among the most important for research, and for international fellowship to spur new exploration and projects. But on 13 September 2021, the most important event occurred in Paris, France, at the headquarters of UNESCO—the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

The UIS was invited by the UNESCO Director-General to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst at UNESCO Headquarters. Until then, speleology has never had a chance to meet directly with a globally international governmental organization, to teach its leaders face-to-face about the importance of caves and karst. For decades, cavers struggled to get their local, regional, and national leaders to protect caves and karst. For decades, cave scientists struggled for respect in the scientific community. The worst of those times are now behind us. Together, we have made great progress, which led us to UNESCO. The celebration there marks not only a great achievement for speleology, but a new beginning.

Further in this issue you will read about the celebration and its presentations, and meetings. We should be proud of that incredible event and use it to inspire our work, especially for the International Year. More importantly, we must see this celebration as an opportunity to advance speleology in ways not possible until now. The UIS is continuing to meet with UNESCO staff and representatives to build on the celebration and the goals of the International Year. Like with the International Year, the UIS Bureau cannot succeed alone. We need everyone to participate.

By supporting each other, we can continue doing great things. More importantly, we need to aspire and reach for greater things. Cave and karst science is now

respected globally. We must use that respect, and the credibility that UNESCO gave us through their invitation, to seek meetings at higher government levels for better protection and management. We can use that respect and credibility to request more funding for research and exploration of caves. By showing this international respect to the news media, we can get more publicity and use them to help us teach the public about the value of caves and karst.

As we start the second year of the International Year of Caves and Karst, I call on every speleologist to double their efforts in reaching and teaching the world about these fabulous places we hold dear because we understand how truly special they are. I ask all of you to plan more events and activities and reach out to bigger audiences and higher people in your societies and governments. Proudly tell them that UNESCO invited us to celebrate caves and karst with them because caves and karst are important, sensitive to damage, and need protection. Make it clear that you are not alone and that the international community supports the theme of the International Year: Explore, Understand, Protect.

I am not promising that you will see instant results and support. I am promising that if we continue working together, around the world, that the increase in knowledge and appreciation for caves and karst will grow until we see clear and positive results everywhere. Remember that

a rising tide lifts all boats. In some places, such success may only come after many years, but it will come and be made easier as the truth of our work surrounds and lifts all nations.

[Click [here](#) to watch the 3 hour and 20 minute celebration at UNESCO.]



September 13, 2021: Zdenek Motyčka, UIS Vice President of Administration, closes the celebration at UNESCO with an invitation for everyone to join UIS in the goals of the International Year of Caves and Karst and for the years beyond.

18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS SPELEOLOGY

SAVOIE
MONT BLANC
FRANCE
2022



General view of the Université Savoie Technolac/Lac du Bourget, France, place of the 18th ICS.

HTTPS://WWW.USINENOVELLE.COM

**Hello to all,
Cavers, scientists and all Karst lovers!**

As you know, the International Congress of Speleology was planned for 2021 but postponed because of the pandemic. It will finally be held from July 24 to 31, 2022!

It will be the major event of the International Year of Caves and Karst, not to be missed next year!

The scientific conference, the videos, the bookshops, the stands, the equipped caves, the beaches of the Lac du Bourget, everything is there!

And you, will you be there?

We have the pleasure to share with you, on the next pages, the new poster and the Newsletter No. 4 of the congress.

They are also at https://depots.ffspeleo.fr/uploads/Newsletter_UIS_4En.pdf

Find all the other information on the website: <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

We are looking forward to welcoming you and sharing this moment with you.

18th ICS Organizing Committee



18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS SPELEOLOGY

**SAVOIE
MONT BLANC
FRANCE
2022**



24 AU 31 JUILLET 2022

JULY 24 TO 31, 2022

**CAMPUS
SAVOIE TECHNOLAC**

Informations : uis2021.speleos.fr



Illustration: Matthieu Fochon / JAMS



NEW POSTER



Contents



NEWSLETTER N°4

New dates for the ICS Congress in France!

Following last year's postponement, book your trip in France for the international congress of speleology that will be held in the Alps, in Savoie, from July 24 to 31, 2022!

UNTIL MARCH 27, 2022, tickets are discounted.

You also have the possibility of taking day tickets, for shorter stays!



UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE CONGRESS Early booking • 27/03/2022

Discounted ticket until 27/03/2022 instead of 175 €. Ticket to submit papers. Includes conference kit, gala dinner, conference program, digital proceedings, wi-fi access.

~~175€~~
129,00 €



UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE CONGRESS (2 PEOPLE) Early booking • 27/03/2022

Discounted ticket until 27/03/2022 instead of 300 €, available for 2 people: 1 participant with full access (includes conference kit, possibility to submit papers, digital proceedings, gala dinner, wi-fi access) + 1 accompanying adult (includes gala dinner, conference program and wi-fi access)

~~300€~~
224,00 €



UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE CONGRESS(-26 y.o) Early booking • 27/03/2022

Full access ticket for participants under 26 years old (at the opening of the congress) at a reduced price until 27/03/2022. Ticket for paper submission. Includes: conference bag, gala dinner, conference program, digital proceedings, wi-fi access.

~~148€~~
111,00 €



UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE CONGRESS (8 - 17 y.o) Early booking • 27/03/2022

Preferential rate for one accompanying child (8 to 17 years old at the opening of the congress), including: the congress program, the gala dinner.

40,00 €



DAY TICKET

Access to the conferences and animations of the day. Excluding gala dinner and congress kit.

35 €

Benefit from the 25% discounted



THE CONGRESS SITE, AN EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

We are fortunate and proud to be able to offer participants an exceptional setting!



On the side of the Lac du Bourget, the largest natural lake in France, which has inspired many poets and writers such as Lamartine, the congress is ideally located for water sports and swimming.

The lake is bordered by two karstic massifs: the Chartreuse, containing the historical underground system of the Dent de Crolles and the Massif des Bauges, with its famous underground rivers... Speleologists will have a first choice playground !

But the site is not only suitable for sports, the Technolac campus is just a few minutes away from Chambéry, the former capital of the Dukes of Savoy, A few minutes also from Aix les Bains, a famous thermal town, where it is good to walk in the footsteps of the crowned heads of the 19th century!



You can also take the time to visit Hautecombe Abbey, an impressive royal necropolis perched above the Lac du Bourget, or Annecy, the little Venice of the Alps with its canals and its historic center.

You have understood it, it is an ideal place for vacations with friends or family, but with the congress

in addition, its events, its concerts, its stands, its animations and its conferences, it will be the place

impossible to avoid of the caving world, it will be a unique moment, and it awaits you only...

Don't wait any longer to book, or to offer it as a Christmas gift...

DISCOVER THE CAVES OF SAVOIE

Cavers from all over the world, set up your club's camp at the UIS Congress and come discover the great caves equipped for the congress!



**Discover the most beautiful cave in Savoie: the Fitoja cave!
Either by a round trip, affordable enough for any autonomous caver, or by a mythical crossing, for the most experienced!**

A minimum of 3 sporting crossings to discover the most beautiful underground rivers of the Bauges massif will also be equipped for the occasion.

Whether you are a club, a group of friends or a family, there will be plenty to keep you busy all week around the congress.

Additional information will be sent regularly to let you discover the caves that will be equipped for the congress, to be discovered on the website or the Facebook page of the congress.

You can now consult the list of caves with their degree of difficulty:

[See caves](#)



THE CONGRESS CAMPSITE

Perfect to be accommodated on the congress at a lower cost, the campsite will allow you to reach the beaches of the Lac du Bourget with its clear and warm waters in a few minutes on foot, but also of all the festive zones of the congress, and at less than one hour by car of the caves proposed at the congress.



Please note: registration for the conference is required to make a definitive booking.

Booking and information

STANDS

Come and discover the new caving and canyoning equipment, take advantage of the special discounts granted during the congress by the professionals to change or improve your equipment!

The stands are also numerous bookshops, stands of clubs from all over the world. Coming to the congress, it's going to meet the world caving.



Professionals, clubs, to book your stand, it's here!

Stands

Info : uis2021.speleos.fr

Follow us on Facebook !



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18^{ème} CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE UIS 2022

FRANCE SAVOIE MONT-BLANC - 24-31 juillet 2022



4 DÉCEMBRE 2021

*Journée de travail pour l'organisation du congrès UIS 2022!
Plus de 50 bénévoles mobilisés sur le site de Technolac!
En route pour le congrès international en Savoie
le 24 juillet 2022!*

DECEMBER 4, 2021

Organizing Committee workshop for the 18th ICS 2022.
More than 50 volunteers on the Technolac campus site.
Let's go to the ICS in Savoie on the 24th of July 2022!

<https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

CHRONOLOGY

The road to the UIS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021 and UNESCO event

By Nadja Zupan Hajna (Slovenia)

UIS Treasurer

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We just finished 2021, which was declared the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) by the UIS, and which was extended through 2022 because of the Covid 19 pandemic. There are hundreds of cave and karst events being organized by various IYCK partners around the world, and many of these events have been completed or are scheduled to be held in the near future. All of us, cavers, karst scientists and managers of karst and caves, can be proud of the response to the IYCK.

The UIS, at the level of the UIS Bureau and the IYCK 2021 Organizing Committee (George Veni, Fadi Nader, Zdeněk Motyčka, Nadja Zupan Hajna, Bärbel Vogel and Gyula Hegedűs) has not only organized the whole International Year, but we also organized the virtual opening of the IYCK 2021 in January 2021, and the event at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris, France, in September. We also prepared the text for the IYCK website, leaflets, and posters. The entire UIS IYCK 2021 and events follow the program framework:

- I - Opening of the IYCK;
- II - Sharing Cave and Karst Knowledge Exchange: International Scientific Conferences and Public Exhibitions;
- III - Promoting the Value of Caves and Karst World Heritage;
- IV - Sharing Cave and Karst Knowledge: Show Caves - Karst Tourism; and
- V - Closing Ceremony of the IYCK.

We can say that the event celebrating the UIS International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 at UNESCO in Paris entitled **UIS IYCK 2021: UNESCO Protected Areas and UN Agenda 2030** has been successfully completed.

The event was organized under the patronage of the UNESCO Director General by the UIS in partnership with the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Slovenia to UNESCO. About 190 invited participants were present at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris or followed the event live via Zoom and YouTube. Over a thousand watched the recording of the event shortly after. The event was a great honor and a unique opportunity for the entire speleological community to present the beauties and issues related to caves and karst at a high political level. It was truly unique for UIS to be a part of UNESCO and we hope that caves, karst resources, cavers, and researchers will benefit from this celebration, and also from all the activities of IYCK 2021.

Here I provide an overview of the main steps and obstacles we encountered in organizing IYCK 2021 and the UNESCO event in Paris. This does not take into account the countless meetings, arrangements and preparations of the UIS Bureau (members of 2013-2017 and 2017-2021) and the IYCK 2021 Organizing Committee.

IMPORTANT STEPS IN ORGANIZING THE IYCK 2021 AND UNESCO EVENT

• **2015, June:** at the UIS 50th Anniversary Celebration in Postojna, Slovenia, on the initiative of Kyung Sik Woo (*Rep. Korea, UIS President 2013-2017*) we released the Declaration of the UIS to organize a UNESCO International Year of Caves and Karst in 2021.

• **2016, April:** Kyung Sik Woo and Fadi Nader send a letter to all national commissions for UNESCO with the proposal to consider taking an active role in proclaiming 2021 as the International Year of Caves and Karst to UNESCO.

• **2016, June:** Nadja Zupan Hajna receives instructions on the process to reach UN for 2021 as International Year after a meeting with the Director of the UNESCO Office in Slovenia, M. Hafner.

• **2016, June-October:** UIS receives letters of support for UNESCO IYCK 2021 from the National Commission for UNESCO: Slovenia (*mediation Nadja Zupan Hajna*), Croatia (*mediation Mladen Garašić*), Belgium (*mediation Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns*), and Hungary (*mediation Gyula Hegedűs*).

• **2016, November:** Nadja Zupan Hajna receives instructions on the procedures for proclaiming IYCK as a UN/UNESCO year after meeting with the Director of the UNESCO Office in Slovenia, M. Hafner, and prepares a first proposal for the IYCK 2021 program.

• **2016, November:** Kyung Sik Woo receives various instructions on procedures from the South Korean UNESCO Delegation.

• **2016, December:** Nadja Zupan Hajna meets with the President of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, Ms. Pejovnik, and Director of the UNESCO office, M. Hafner; she discusses the procedures, program and applies for UIS approval of Slovenia to start the procedures.

• **2017, January:** Nadja Zupan Hajna is informed by the Director of the UNESCO office, M. Hafner, that they do not understand what the UIS actually wants, and after the UIS did not clarify that Slovenia is leading the project, the Commission stopped working on the proclamation—the UIS missed their deadline.

They will continue to support any UIS motion on the IYCK or Caves and Karst Day if it comes to that, but will not take the lead.

• **2017, January:** Nadja Zupan Hajna with approval of the UIS Bureau has prepared a plan for IYCK 2021 activities with a projected budget. UIS is also looking for a new country to propose the IYCK at UNESCO.

• **2017, January:** Fadi Nader meets with the Lebanese Ambassador at UNESCO, who supported the IYCK and suggested Slovenia to cooperate with Lebanon on the proposal to UNESCO. Fadi also works with French cavers to get France to join the proposal.

• **2017, February:** Fadi Nader, Nadja Zupan Hajna, and the French Federation of Speleology-FFS (Gael Kaneko and Vincent Biot) meet at the *Maison de l'UNESCO* in Paris with the ambassadors of France, Lebanon and Slovenia. The ambassadors inform them that it is very late to pursue the 2021 UNESCO proposal, but that they will support it if it comes to pass. They also give the idea of a week or day-long celebration of caves and karst at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to reach out to the public.

• **2017, February:** Kyung Sik Woo contacts Patrick McKeever, UNESCO Earth Science Programs and UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and asks to make a proposal for the UN 2021 International Year of Caves and Karst. Kyung Sik also sends a letter to Yuan Dioxian regarding China's participation in the IYCK proposal at UNESCO and makes contact with the South Korean Commission at UNESCO. There are no positive responses.



19 June 2015: During the 50th Anniversary of the International Union of Speleology at Postojna Cave in Slovenia, UIS President Kyung Sik Woo reads the Declaration: UIS Proposes to Organize a UNESCO International Year of Caves and Karst, supported by UIS Bureau members and past presidents.

• **2017, June:** Gyula Hegedűs receives a letter from the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, that Hungary is willing to support our proposal if there is a country that makes the proposal.

• **2017, July:** the UIS office is mandated by the UIS Assembly and delegates for the new UIS Bureau to achieve IYCK 2021.

• **2017, September:** negotiations with China to support IYCK; they propose to lead it instead of UIS, which UIS doesn't support (the IYCK is a UIS idea).

• **2017, October:** Fadi Nader and Gael Kaneko (FFS) meet with French Ambassador in Paris at UNESCO. Mr. Stefanini informs them that he will not forward the proposal to the Council of UNESCO at this stage, as the idea of International Year is currently not promoted much by UNESCO and the UN. He proposes to UIS (& all member countries) and partner organizations to organize a UIS-led IYCK for 2021.

• **2017, December - 2021:** George Veni, Kyung Sik Woo and Fadi Nader send a request for support for IYCK to international, regional, national, local and professional organizations, institutions and societies.

• **2018, March:** UIS gets final answer that the

French government will not make a proposal for an International Year of Caves and Karst at this stage.

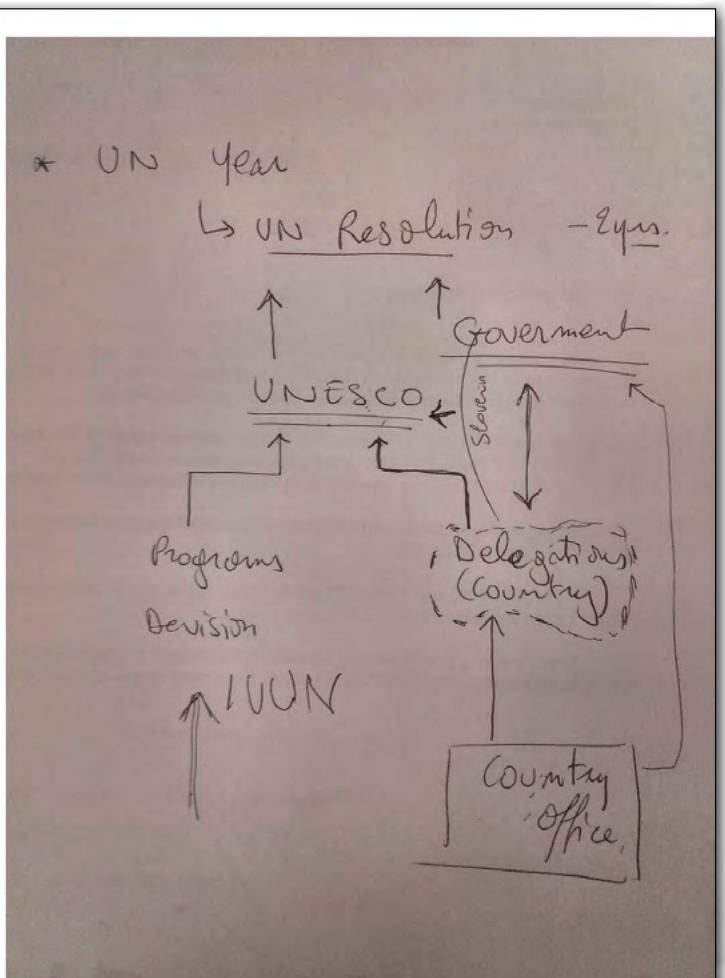
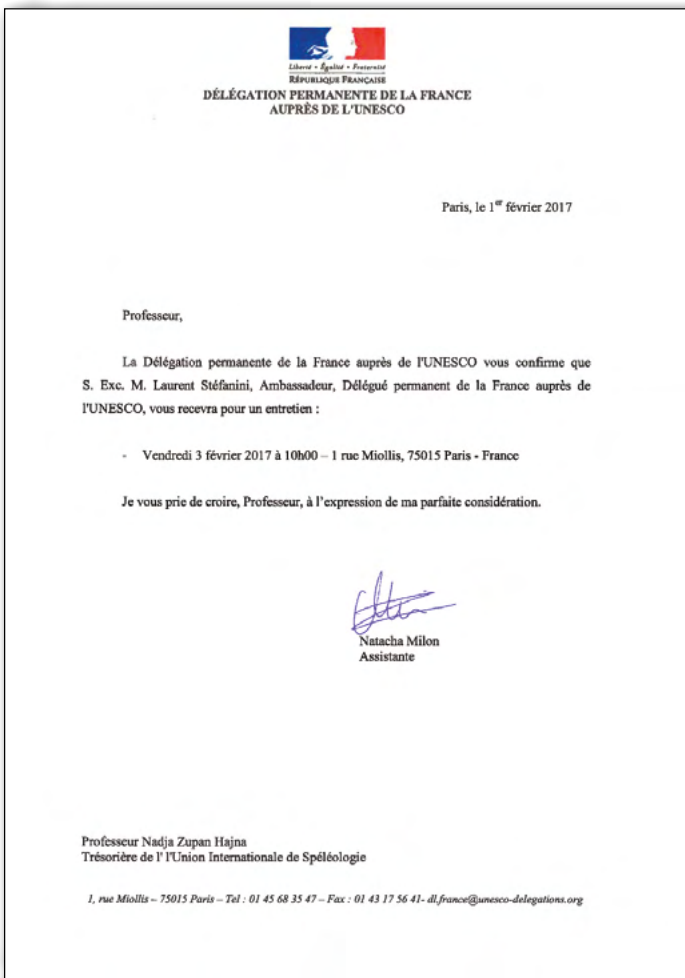
• **2018, August:** IYCK 2021 Organizing Committee (working group out of UIS Bureau members) is established.

• **2019, January:** Nadja Zupan Hajna meets regarding UIS IYCK 2021 with the Slovenian UNESCO Commission and representatives of the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology-Tourism to discuss the participation and level of cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia in the UIS initiative(s).

They propose to ask the UNESCO General Assembly for patronage for an event at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. They also support the idea of proposing an International Caves and Karst Day!

• **2019, February:** Alexander Klimchouk informs that the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO has agreed that Ukraine officially submits the IYCK proposal to UNESCO-UN as UN IYCK 2025.

• **2019, February:** UIS Bureau votes YES to hold an event for IYCK 2021 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.



February 2017: Invitation to Nadja Zupan Hajna to meet with the Ambassador of France to UNESCO (left), and Fadi Nader's notes from the meeting on the procedure to obtain a UNESCO International Year (right). At the meeting were also representatives of the French Federation of Speleology (FFS) Gael Kaneko and Vincent Biot, and Ambassadors of Lebanon and Slovenia to UNESCO.

• **2019, March:** Nadja Zupan Hajna meets with the Director of the UNESCO Office, M. Hafner, regarding the procedure for obtaining the patronage of the UNESCO Director General over the UNESCO event. The procedure has to go through the Slovenian Delegation as the UIS is registered in Slovenia.

• **2019, March:** Fadi Nader and Nadja Zupan Hajna meet with the Slovenian, Lebanese and French Ambassadors to UNESCO at UNESCO in Paris. The Ambassadors state emphatically that we need to focus on UIS IYCK 2021. The reason was that the International Years and Days are still not popular with many in UNESCO and the UN. However, if we run a successful UIS IYCK in 2021, including our opening ceremony at UNESCO, we can educate delegates about the importance of caves and karst, and then we would have a good chance of getting the UNESCO year and/or day approved for 2025 as well.

• **2019, March:** The UIS IYCK Committee looks for letters of support from the UNESCO national commissions for a UNESCO IYCK event in Paris; UIS receives the support of Lebanon (*mediation Fadi Nader*).

• **2019, May:** Nadja Zupan Hajna receives confirmation from the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia UNESCO that they will cooperate at the organization of the UNESCO Paris IYCK 2021 event.

• **2019, May:** Nadja Zupan Hajna meets with the Director of the UNESCO Office, M. Hafner, regarding the preparation of the UNESCO General Assembly patronage application, its submission and the program of the event at UNESCO Headquarters. This is followed by preparations for UIS IYCK 2021 and the UNESCO event.

• **2019, November:** On the advice of the Slovenian National Commission UNESCO, Nadja prepares a proposal for the program of the opening ceremony in Paris.

• **2020, January:** Fadi Nader and Nadja Zupan Hajna meet with the Lebanese Ambassador to UNESCO at UNESCO, with the Slovenian Ambassador at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, and with representatives of the French National Commission for UNESCO in Paris.

• **2020, March:** UIS receives Serbia's support (*mediation Jelena Čalić*) for UNESCO Paris IYCK 2021 event.

• **2020, April:** Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO submits application for patronage.

• **2020, August:** Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO receives a letter from the UNESCO General Assembly granting the IYCK 2021 event in Paris.

• **2020, June - 2021, September:** Nadja Zupan works on the procedures and agreements ([see page 18](#)) between the UIS and the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for covering the costs of the UNESCO IYCK 2021 event. If the event is co-organized with the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia to UNESCO in Paris, all costs will be much lower (internal prices).

• **2020, June - 2021, September:** Nadja Zupan works on the program and technical organization of the IYCK 2021 UNESCO event with the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia at UNESCO in Paris.

• **2021, May - September:** Nadja Zupan works on the invitations for the Permanent Delegations of the UNESCO countries with karst and caves and on the technical organization of the UNESCO IYCK 2021 event with the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia at UNESCO in Paris.

• **2021, September 13:** preparation and implementation of the event at UNESCO House, 7 Place de Fontenoy in Paris, elimination of technical deficiencies, establishment of a streaming on the YouTube UIS channel, presentations, posters, UIS Bureau lunch with UNESCO delegations and officials.

The challenges we have faced in relation to the International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 as UNESCO International Year are perhaps best illustrated by the following example. It clearly shows the implications for the UIS Bureau if we have wanted to make the UNESCO Year of Caves and Karst 2021 a reality.



March 25, 2019 (From left to right): Vincent Biot (French Federation of Speleology-FFS), Fadi Nader, H. E. Mr. Laurent Stéfanini (Ambassador of France to UNESCO), and Nadja Zupan Hajna at the meeting at the Maison de l'UNESCO, 1 Rue de Miollis in Paris.

Letter to the UIS Bureau regarding UNESCO IYCK 2021 by Nadja Zupan Hajna, 30 November 2016

Dear all,

In this mail I include also past presidents, Paul Williams as IUCN and Gyula Hegedűs as we have support from Hungary.

I have got a call from Slovenian UNESCO General secretary (Director of UNESCO office) Mrs. Marjutka Hafner. She invited me on the meeting with her and Slovenia UNESCO President Prof. Dr. Pejovnik what to do regarding Intl. Year of Caves and Karst, if UIS wants that Slovenia (or other country) starts the procedure. The meeting will be on December 11 or 12; for that meeting I have to have UIS statements!

STATE OF THE ART:

a. Written support from: Slovenia, Croatia, Belgium, Hungary; mutual promises: France, China, Lebanon.

b. Nothing was done regarding IYCK 2021 at the Paris meeting of UNESCO Executive Committee, October 2016, because there was some incomprehension between the information we gave M. Hafner regarding Belgium and what Belgium offered regarding organization of procedure. J.P. Bartholeyns wanted that I gave M. Hafner contacts that Belgium delegation will come in contact with Slovene and start the work, but they didn't. M. Hafner was waiting before and at the meeting that somebody will come to talk with here or will start the procedure; but too late she has realized that Belgium is not Executive Committee member.

Mrs. Hafner during phone call stated what I have to know before meeting (below). After they can arrange also meeting in Paris with Fadi and Slovene UNESCO permanent delegation and of other countries which we invite.

THERE ARE CRUCIAL QUESTIONS:

1. which country will lead the work (and at least 1 more involved);

2. who of UIS Bureau will lead and really work on the organization (perhaps to establish working group), reality: it will be nonpaid hard work with not paid travel costs (not forget we are volunteers!)

3. what we have prepared to offer to UNESCO/member countries - implementing this project in the widest context (caves, the karst, groundwater, nature protection, tourism etc.)? Kyung Sik, will you prepare the frame before my meeting, perhaps with Paul Williams help, or I have to do it? Voting on this questions for Bureau members?

PROCEDURE (LETTER OF MRS HAFNER IS TRANSLATED FROM SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE) WHERE I EMPHASIZE IMPORTANT PARTS:

1. UN proclaims the IY, UNESCO may only proclaim international days (proclaimed by the UNESCO General Committee). With the aim of raising global awareness, countries may decide to adopt a decision in their materials that the UNESCO GC take a decision for the final proclamation to be made by the UN General Assembly. However, the UNESCO GC has no authority to proclaim international years, which lies within the jurisdiction

of the UN General Assembly (which on the other hand may also proclaim international days, such as, for instance, the world bee day, for which we are preparing). A year/day at the UN General Assembly requires the involvement of the entire diplomatic network at the UN in New York and around the world.

2. The decision to submit a proposal for the proclamation of an international year, where for instance Slovenia would be the lead country, signifies a huge project on which the country must embark on a governmental level. By way of example we can cite the proposal for proclamation of a bee day at the UN General Assembly, where the activities of the capital ministry and other stakeholders were very intensive, while the proclamation of a year would require even more activity. (Before deliberating over the initiative at the UN General Assembly, Slovenia had to obtain the support of the FAO? the organization at the UN specialized in issues of food security and sustainable development of agriculture, similar to UNESCO).

3. In our case the initiative would be launched by the International Union of Speleology (UIS), which, however, requires a member country of the international organization in order to launch and manage the procedure (support, media awareness, seeking funds). For this reason, the Government/other departments would need to take a position; in Slovenia for instance: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, perhaps the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. In the preliminary phase at least one country that is a member of the Executive Board would need to be involved. Slovenia is at the moment.

4. On a possible agreement to the proposal and assuming that the proposal would succeed, a clear picture would need to be formulated as soon as possible regarding what, if anything, Slovenia might expect from implementing this project in the widest context (caves, the karst, groundwater, nature protection, tourism etc.).

5. As for a timeframe, we would highlight the following, for the moment this information is available:

- A proposal would need to be submitted for deliberation at the 2017st spring session of EXB (i.e. by April 2017, possibly also at the autumn 202nd session), with a resolution that the decision is to be adopted by the UNESCO GC in November 2017. This is a little problematic because at the 201st session we already have the addressed material on freely accessible educational resources, where Slovenia is the lead country.

- Decision of the UNESCO GC of November 2017 to support activities for adoption at the UN General Assembly in 2018-2019,

- Decision of UN General Assembly 2018-2019 (as already set out).

- Example: procedure for 2015 International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, website: <http://www.light2015.org/Home.html>

Best regards, Nadja



It was impossible to get the signed approval from the UIS Bureau in time for Slovenia to initiate the procedure as the lead country due to different instructions on the procedures from Korea, other interests and slow reactions from the UIS. For this reason, the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO resigned from further actions in early 2017, with a promise to support any UIS action regarding IYCK 2021.

UIS was looking for a new country to start the process on the UNESCO level (e.g. Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, People's Republic of China, France), but was unsuccessful until Alexander Klimchouk received confirmation from the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO in 2019 that it had agreed that Ukraine officially submitting the IYCK proposal to UNESCO-UN as UN IYCK 2025.

After the UIS received plans for a karst/cave event at UNESCO Headquarters in 2021, and the UIS wanted to hold IYCK-2021 at its own level as a preparatory campaign for a IYCK-2025, communication with Ukraine ended. It was too much work for the Organizing Committee of IYCK 2021 to follow all the preparations with IYCK 2021 and the procedures requested at UNESCO.

Keeping the procedure with Ukraine would mean that the proposal for IYCK-2025 would have to be included in the agenda of GC-41 in 2021 and pass the Executive Committee in 2020 (spring or fall), which was not realized. Since the UIS was not able to communicate instructions to Ukraine after 2019, the Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO was very disappointed.

In reality, during our meetings with Ambassadors (2017, 2019, 2020) as UIS representatives, I and Fadi also realized that we are amateurs at such a high international political level and we (UIS) cannot easily



January 16, 2020: Fadi Nader (left) with the secretary of the Ambassador of Lebanon to UNESCO checking rooms and facilities at the UNESCO house at Place de Fontenoy in Paris.

lobby at the UNESCO level (first in the Executive Committee UNESCO member countries to put proposal to their meeting agenda for discussion, and after vote for it at the UNESCO General Congress), not even to mention lobbying at UN level. And to remind ourselves: we are unpaid volunteers!

The UNESCO Headquarters event in Paris also encountered many obstacles. First, we had to prepare an application for the patronage of the UNESCO Director General for the Opening Ceremony of the IYCK 2021 in Paris, and then submit it to UNESCO through Slovenia, where the UIS is registered, with the support of other countries (we received the support of Lebanon, Hungary and Serbia). When we received the positive answer about the UNESCO General Assembly's patronage, we chose January 26, 2021 as the date for the Opening Ceremony. But already in the summer of 2020 it was clear that due to the Covid 19 pandemic it would not be possible to have the event live in Paris. So we decided to broadcast it via the UIS YouTube channel.

The Opening Ceremony of the IYCK 2021 started with welcomes from the UIS Bureau members, a talk about caves, karst, their values and challenges, news about the first International Cave Animal of the Year, information about the International Year and an IYCK video at the end. In April 2021 we started looking for a suitable date for the IYCK celebration in Paris. As June was still not possible, we decided to hold it in September.

The UIS International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 celebration at UNESCO in Paris on 13 September between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. was attended by over 50 participants, with 136 connected via Zoom (averaging 60-70 at any single time) and around 70 via the YouTube channel during the event, with over 1,200 views to date. Four years of work on this task is now complete.



13 September 2021: The core team organizing the IYCK 2021 event at UNESCO House, Paris, during the event break. Left to Right: H.E. Mrs. Metka Ipavic (Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to France), Nadja Zupan Hajna, Mrs. Meta Bole and Mrs. Liza Japelj Carone from the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia to UNESCO.



Under the patronage of



Dr. George Veni
President
International Union of Speleology



H.E.Ms Metka IPAVIC,
Ambassador Permanent Delegate of
Slovenia to UNESCO

Have the honor to requests your presence at a celebration of the:

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021
"Explore, Understand and Protect"

Monday September 13th
9:30 – 13:00

Room XI at the UNESCO House

or on **ZOOM** – link to be sent

Live streaming on **YouTube** <https://youtube.com/channel/UCzSiErLj5x6viNbvAdehDvA>

7 place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris

Limited seats
RSVP before September 7
dl.slovenia@delegations-unesco.org



IYCK 2021 is a global initiative to educate people all over the world about karst and caves, why they are valuable, and how to protect them. Although awareness of the sensitivity of karst is increasing, it continues to be threatened by human activities in many parts of our planet. In fact, many of the world's unique hydrological, ecological, and culturally important cave and karst landscapes are being damaged or threatened daily. Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the IYCK initiative has been extended into 2022. The slogan of IYCK 2021 is *Explore, Understand, and Protect*.

**The program, September 13, Celebration of the UIS International Year of Caves and Karst 2021:
UNESCO Protected Areas and UN Agenda 2030**

09:30-10:00. Coffee for participants.

10:00-10:15. IYCK 2021 video.

10:15-10:45. Welcome address by the Director General Mme Audrey Azoulay tbc.

10:45-11:15. Keynote presentation: A World of Karst, Caves and People

11:15-11:30: Break

11:30-13:00. Discussion panel. Panellists will give short presentations on karst and caves in the context of UN Sustainable Development Goals and UNESCO Protected Areas (World Heritage, Global Geoparks, Ramsar and MAB/Biosphere Reserves), followed by discussion and questions from the audience.



August 2021: Official invitation to Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, who have karst and caves in their countries. Photos for the invitation and IYCK leaflets, posters, website, the book *"Karst, Caves and People,"* by N. Zupan Hajna and many other materials were donated by over 60 authors from around the world for IYCK 2021 promotion.



All meetings with embassies, national UNESCO commissions, Zoom meetings of the organizing committee, countless emails between the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia on UNESCO, UNESCO technical officials were coordinated with me. The extremely important event for the promotion of caves and karst was prepared in detail by the UIS Organizing Committee of IYCK 2021 with the support of the UIS Bureau, and the help of the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia to UNESCO.

I must apologize to all participants in the audience who attended by Zoom and the UIS YouTube channel for some technical shortcomings. Perhaps we are spoiled by the excellent organization of scientific conferences and meetings on caves and karst? The technical realization was not in the hands of UIS or the Slovenian Delegation. We organized everything in advance, prepared the IYCK video, the program, the texts, the presentations, the books and the delivery of the posters, held a technical meeting with UNESCO three weeks in advance, but some things did not go smoothly. The technical staff was not prepared fully, and the computers and Internet connection were working poorly.

For example, YouTube streaming was not connected until the last few minutes—thanks to Anja Hajna who made the connection. I also played presentations and videos before the start and they worked. But when the ceremony started it was a disappointment: lights, mouse/spacebar on the presentation computer, reaction time and resolution of the presentations were slow due to the computer and the Zoom connection.

Because of all these, I was so tired that I could barely present my PowerPoint. In hindsight, I was very disappointed because even though I prepared for a long time, I did not have the energy to give a good presentation.

But as I said, it was great to give a presentation about caves, karst and their threats on UNESCO. And in the end most of the audience, the ambassadors and delegates of the permanent delegations present at UNESCO were very satisfied and congratulated UIS for the well prepared and organized event.

My thanks go to everyone who were involved in the organization of the UNESCO IYCK 2021 Paris event, to all participants who supported us on the internet and especially to the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia to UNESCO, which was our co-organizer.

Not to be forgotten are also the financial contributions (donations to the UIS account, costs of layout and printing of leaflets, posters and book) and the volunteer hours for the organization and publications of IYCK 2021 by members of the UIS Bureau and the ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute.

The UIS would like to thank Jasmina Rijavec for setting up the IYCK 2021 website and taking care of the publication of the events and reports, all the UIS social media managers: for UIS Facebook Jasmina Rijavec and Anja Hajna, for the UIS YouTube channel Anja Hajna, and for UIS Instagram and Twitter Ayumi Okouchi for publishing the IYCK 2021 materials, and all the photographers who donated their photos for the IYCK publicity.

I must emphasize that I have spent many hours preparing the IYCK (when I could be doing other things, including caving), but I am glad to be doing it, especially if people become more aware of the importance of karst and caves to their lives. I look forward to new events promoting caves and karst and to their recognition at all levels of our lives.




LAST CALL FOR NOMINATION

Dear cavers, speleologists, and cave lovers around the world, once more we invite you to submit nominations for the UIS PRIZES 2021.

The deadline is APRIL 30, 2022.

Categories:

- 1- The Most Significant Cave Discovery/Exploration
- 2- The Most Significant Publication About Caves or Karst
- 3- The Best Special Book
- 4- Poster Prize
- 5- Greatest Scientific Achievement

The prize committee members and their addresses are as follows:

- **Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil)** – *UIS Adjunct Secretary*
nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br
- **José Ayrton Labegalini (Brazil)** – *UIS Past President*
ja.labegalini@uol.com.br
- **Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium)** – *President of the UIS Commission on Karst and Cave Protection*
jp.bartholeyns@gmail.com
- **General address:** uisprizes2021@uis-speleo.org.

Before nominating, check the regulations at:
<http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UIS-Prizes-2021-Call-for-Nominations.pdf>.

For all questions concerning the UIS PRIZES 2021, email the committee members.

UIS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021

The most important event in history for Speleology Special ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

By
Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil)
UIS Adjunct Secretary
nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br

Nadja Zupan Hajna (Slovenia)
UIS Treasurer
zupan@zrc-sazu.si

On the morning of September 13th, the International Union of Speleology (UIS), represented by twelve members of its current and past bureaus, experienced a highly significant moment in the history of speleology. Accompanied by governmental ambassadors and national delegates, as well as several karst scientists, the group was welcomed to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris for a ceremony celebrating the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK).

This celebration was scheduled for January 2021 as the official launch of the IYCK, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic the opening of the International Year

was conducted virtually without the presence of UNESCO. Since January, activities related to IYCK have multiplied around the planet and the UIS has stayed in continuous close contact with UNESCO so that, after four years of negotiations and adjustments, the long-awaited face-to-face ceremony could finally be held.

During this long period, this extremely important event for the promotion of caves and karst was prepared in detail by the UIS IYCK Organizing Committee, with the support of the UIS Bureau and co-organization of the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia of UNESCO, without which the event would not have been possible. Numerous were the meetings with embassies, national



The iconic building, inaugurated in 1958 in the heart of Paris as the UNESCO House on the right.

commissions and UNESCO technicians, hundreds of emails and many Zoom meetings to discuss details, invite authorities, arrange a lunch and a buffet for the coffee break, elaborate posters and promotional materials.

The six posters prepared by the UIS hall providing information about the:

- **IYCK itself,**
- **worldwide extent and fragility of the karst areas,**
- **risks of karst degradation,**
- **the delicate fauna in caves,**
- **cave and karst education, and**
- **sustainable management**

All were illustrated perfectly and explained with succinct and understandable text for an audience not directly involved with the speleological world. They were arranged strategically to get the attention of the participants upon their arrival. In the same space, IYCK brochures and copies of the book ***Karst, Caves and People***—produced exclusively for IYCK—were made available to all present so that later, they could relax at home and reinforce their understanding of the dynamics of these landscapes and the importance of protecting them. Completing the assembly, a morning buffet contributed to welcoming those who arrived for the ceremony.

THE UIS-UNESCO RELATIONSHIP

Before discussing the IYCK celebration further, it is important to take a brief journey back in time to record the history of UIS and UNESCO’s relationship.

UIS began formally approaching UNESCO in the early 1970s. On June 5, 1975, UIS had its request for

recognition confirmed and was admitted as an international non-governmental organization (NGO) in Category C, that is, with the right only to exchange information with UNESCO. Recognition as Category B (Advisory Organization) took place on August 23, 1983, after the then UIS President Adolfo Eraso Romero’s efforts.

UIS participation in UNESCO ended after the major reorganization of the UNESCO structure in 1997 (i.e. changed system of affiliation of NGOs). At that time, UIS did not meet the requirements of UNESCO for an “affiliated” organization, as UIS had no stable address, was not officially registered in any country and had no possibility to have a permanent secretariat—registered at UNESCO—in Paris with employees. Most importantly, UIS never participated in the annual November General Assemblies (time consuming, about 3-6 weeks, and costly).

Time passed, and UIS continued to seek important recognitions to elevate its status as a worldwide organization. As a result, in 2010, UIS was accepted as an Affiliate member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), an organization dedicated to international cooperation for the advancement of science. In 2017, as a result of the merger with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), it became the International Science Council (ISC, <https://council.science/pt/>), the only international non-governmental organization that brings together the natural and social sciences and also the largest global scientific organization of its kind.

UNESCO itself, however, has never left the UIS radar. In 2015, during the UIS 50th Anniversary celebration where the goal of organizing the International Year of Caves and Karst in 2021 was declared, the focus



Brochures on the International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 and copies of the book “Karst, Caves and People” were made available to the participants of the ceremony.



Buffet with the delicious treats to welcome the participants before the official ceremony.



UIS Adjunct Secretary and UIS Bulletin Editor Nivaldo Colzato among some of the posters prepared exclusively for the occasion.

was to fit it into the scope of UNESCO, which would bring much more visibility. As time went on, talks with UNESCO ambassadors and delegates revealed that UNESCO now rarely recognizes International Years as official UNESCO events. But seeing the formal support of delegations from various countries and more than a hundred international organizations, the UNESCO Director-General gave the patronage for the UIS to celebrate the IYCK at the UNESCO Headquarter in Paris (see pages 12-19 for the detailed report on the planning for the IYCK and the celebration).

HISTORIC CEREMONY

The IYCK ceremony itself began with a big screen showing virtual participants from around the world. In all, 136 people connected via Zoom and about 70 via the UIS's YouTube channel (which has since been watched more than 1,200 times). Remembering that at 9:30 a.m. in France was 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. in the Americas, and other inconvenient times elsewhere, we are grateful to those who could attend and show their support.

In Room XI of the iconic UNESCO Headquarters, located in the heart of Paris, 1.5 km from the famous Eiffel Tower, around 50 people settled into the seats.

Many more people would have been present if not for the limitations imposed by UNESCO due to the pandemic.

Starting the celebration, moderator Prof. Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Azerbaijan, Secretary General of the International Council of Science), made a brief presentation on the IYCK and its goals, followed by the IYCK video, available at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw1YOSNXSvs&t=34s> (currently seen more than 10,600 times!).

After the video, welcome addresses were given by:

- **Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramirez** (Chile, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture on behalf of Mrs. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General);
- **H. E. Mrs. Meta Ipavic** (Slovenia, Ambassador of Republic of Slovenia in France, and Permanent Delegate of Slovenia to UNESCO);
- **Dr. George Veni** (USA, UIS President, Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute-NCKRI), and
- **Prof. Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh** (Azerbaijan, Secretary of the ISC Governing Board).

In his speech, Dr. Veni highlighted three wishes of the UIS with the event:

- 1- Encourage UNESCO to develop inventories of all caves, karstic features, and their contents in UNESCO protected areas.



Overview of UNESCO Room XI during the IYCK celebration. About 50 people attended in person. The limitations imposed by UNESCO due to the pandemic prevented the presence of a much larger audience.



Business lunch meeting with invited UNESCO officers and ambassadors in the UNESCO restaurant: good opportunity to further strengthen relations with UNESCO and ambassadors, delegates, and staff from various countries.

2- Suggest that UNESCO evaluate protected areas for the adequacy of cave and karst protection and expand protection if necessary.

3- Invite UNESCO to join the UIS in the development of actions aimed at an international ban on the trade in products from caves (speleothems, animals, sediments, rocks, etc.).

Then came the keynote presentation:

• **“A World of Karst, Caves and People,”** by Prof. Dr. Nadjia Zupan Hajna (Slovenia, UIS Treasurer, ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute, and UNESCO Chair on Karst Education).

The talk was about varieties of caves, karst, and their relationship to the people. With a growing population, people are increasingly causing problems for the karst and its subsurface. She presented the basis for all cave and karst protection and sustainable management activities is knowledge and understanding.

The presentation was followed by a short break with a loop of photos, synthesized and shown by Anja Hajna, from the world’s caves and karst areas. The photos were donated by 64 photographer in 18 countries.

After the break, the Discussion Panel was organized with introductory presentations:

• **“Safe and Sustainable Use of Karst Resources,”** by Prof. Dr. Fadi Nader (Lebanon, UIS Secretary General, Earth Sciences & Environment Technologies at IFP Energies nouvelles, and Department of Earth Sciences at Utrecht University).

Beyond groundwater and quarrying for building materials, and tunnels for transportation, carbonate and evaporite rocks that are often karstified and termed as karst host significant amount of resources, that have been essential for societal developments since centuries.

For a safe and sustainable exploitation, we need (1) to better understand the processes associated to karstification, (2) to improve worldwide mapping of the subsurface karst, and (3) to be able to quantify and predict the impacts of societal use of the subsurface on karst.



Members of the UIS kindly received at the headquarters of the Brazilian Delegation at UNESCO.

Left to the right: Mayra Saito (host), Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil), George Veni (USA) and Efraín Mercado (Puerto Rico).

• **“Caves and Karst in UNESCO Protected Areas,”** by Emeritus Prof. Dr. John Gunn (UK, School of Geography, and Earth & Environmental Sciences University of Birmingham, and IUCN/WCPA Caves and Karst Working Group).

The talk provided a first estimate of UNESCO protected areas (Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Global Geoparks and World Heritage Properties) related to karst landforms or caves. In those protected areas there is a need to develop inventories of all karst features, caves and their contents.

• **“Conserving Caves and Karst in Biosphere Reserves: Man and Biosphere Program (MaB - Man and the Biosphere),”** presented virtually by Clayton Lino (Brazil, President of the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve and one of the coordinators of the CaveMAB program).

The talk focused on the importance of synergy between the studies and actions of speleological entities and the MAB program, highlighting the actions of the CAVE MAB Network, created in 2018 and integrated by Brazil that have caves and karst in their territories.

• **“Karst and UN Agenda 2030,”** by Dr. Paul A. Griffiths (Canada, Honorary Research Associate, Vancouver Island University, and Member of the Standards Council of Canada Mirror Committee for ISO/TC 319 Karst).

Not unlike karst itself, the UN’s Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been called an “integrated package”—complex and interwoven.

This talk considered a few of the SDGs bearing on karst. Achieving SDGs in all karst regions will require a concerted global effort that cannot rely upon UNESCO protected areas alone.

At the end of the lectures, the speakers answered questions sent by Zoom and the ceremony was closed. The celebration was recorded and is available through the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-yIDYpPfiQ&t=5803s>.



Left. to the right: Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil), George Veni (USA), Tales Resende (UNESCO World Heritage Center), Efraín Mercado (Puerto Rico) and Gyula Hegedűs (Hungary).



Following the public celebration, UIS organized a business lunch meeting with invited UNESCO officers and ambassadors in the UNESCO restaurant located on the 7th floor of the complex. In this informal environment, the UIS took the opportunity to further strengthen relations with UNESCO and delegates from various countries.

BUILDING ON THE CELEBRATION

As noted in the UIS President's Column on [page 4](#), the celebration at UNESCO was a new beginning for speleology, and the work toward that better future began the next day. We were kindly welcomed at the offices of the Brazilian Delegation at UNESCO by Mayra Yonashiro Saito, of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mayra was very receptive to the purpose of the IYCK and the efforts of the UIS in favor of the caves and the karst. She also promptly arranged a new meeting for us the next day.

We met outside the formal UNESCO environment with Tales Carvalho Resende who works in the UNESCO World Heritage Center on topics related to the protection and conservation of natural heritage. Previously, Tales worked on UNESCO projects focused on groundwater and offered to seek synergies between the UIS and UNESCO for the realization of cave and karst studies in world heritage sites, as well as awareness-raising actions on the importance of caves and karst during activities related to World Water Day, whose central theme for 2022 will be **"Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible."**

Among the many activities scheduled to gain the needed attention for the role of global underground water resources, the Summit is scheduled for December 2022 in Paris. For more information, go to <https://www.un-igrac.org/agenda/groundwater-summit>.

Given the relationship between the theme and karst, we hope that the UIS and the international speleological community can participate actively.

POSITIVE BALANCE

In general, the presence of the UIS in UNESCO, besides being historical, is a success. The messages transmitted during the event and at subsequent meetings are continuing, and in addition to UNESCO are expected to reach governments and national and local organizations.

Our thanks go to everyone involved in the organization of the UNESCO IYCK 2021 Paris event, to all participants who supported us on the Internet and especially to the Permanent Delegation of Slovenia to UNESCO, which was our co-organizer.

Coincidentally, the ceremony was 300th event dedicated to the International Year of Caves and the Karst. Many more events are continuing and one thing seems certain, the IYCK is changing the way people around the world see caves and karst. May this new mentality be perpetuated beyond 2021 and that the speleological heritage, in short, obtain the attention, respect, and global support that it richly deserves.



13 September 2021: Delegation of the UIS with guests at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris: historic moment. Inset photos are Bureau members who could not be in the group photo.

PROTECTION OF CAVE FAUNA

INTERNATIONAL CAVE ANIMAL OF THE YEAR 2022: BATS

By Bärbel Vogel (Germany)
UIS Adjunct Secretary
b.w.vogel@gmx.de

The International Cave Animal of the Year campaign brings attention to the threats to the world's unique cave fauna, with special attention each year to a particular group of species. The 2022 International Cave Animal of the Year is the bat. The Covid 19 pandemic caused many new misunderstandings and misinformation about bats. They did not cause this terrible disease. With the international focus of our campaign, we will raise global awareness of the truth about bats and their need for protection.

The campaign is part of the International Year of Caves and Karst and an initiative of the International Union of Speleology (UIS). The UIS is comprised of 57 member nations and partners like Bat Conservation International and EUROBATS which support the International Year of Caves and Karst.

There are some 1,400 bat species living in the wild around the world without posing the slightest threat to their human neighbours. Bats have been on Earth for more than 50 million years, they are the second largest order of mammals, and are widely dispersed across six continents. Many have adapted to urban environments, living in backyard gardens, parks and even roosting under bridges.

Bats provide enormous benefits to vital ecosystem services in the form of insect pest consumption, plant pollination, and seed dispersal. Insect-eating bats, on average, can eat up to half their body weight in insects, while pregnant or nursing mothers will consume up to 100% of their body weight each night. Bat pollination is critical for a wide variety of plants, such as giant cacti and agave, and to a host of commercial plant products including durian fruit, cloves, carob, and balsa wood. Without bats, these plants would not thrive.



STEFAN MEYER, BARNTEN

Greater horseshoe bat
Rhinolophus ferrumequinum



STEFAN MEYER, BARNTEN

Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Globally, 40% of all bat species are currently listed as either threatened with imminent extinction, near threatened or data deficient by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Much more needs to be done to ensure the survival of bats around the world. While the killing of bats will not have any effects on the spread of COVID-19, it would adversely affect the conservation status of bat populations.

Bats do not spread COVID-19. It is being transmitted from humans to other humans. There is no evidence that bats directly infected humans with COVID-19 in the first place. Scientific investigations are pointing to a chain of events that may have involved bats but most likely only through an intermediate animal. While the exact chain of transmission that resulted in COVID-19 may never be known, humans live healthier and safer when we conserve wildlife and natural habitats. Bats may hold the key to the next breakthrough vaccine or treatment as they have a unique ability to tolerate viruses.

The first International Cave Animal of the Year in 2021 was the cave beetle. Ten UIS member countries presented national campaigns on it. UIS invites all organizations to join us to protect bats in 2022 and beyond. For more information, please, access <http://iyc2021.org/index.php/cave-animal-of-the-year/>.

International Year of Caves and Karst partners specialized in bats:

<https://www.eurobats.org/>
<https://www.batcon.org/>



EXPEDITION NEWS

ICE CAVERS: THE MOVIE

By Aurel Perşoiu

Vice President of the UIS Commission on Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves

aurel.persoiu@gmail.com

In October 2021, under the Palaeolus scientific project, a caving expedition was organized in the White Mountains of Crete with the help of Proteas caving club (*Thessaloniki, Greece*), targeting Europe’s southernmost glaciers, “hidden” in caves. During the expedition, the team (**Christos Pennos, Aurel Perşoiu, Yorgos Sotiriadis, and Stavros Zachariadis**) explored and mapped the underground glacier in Laggonia Cave.

Ice, dust and organic matter were sampled for analyses aiming to decipher the accumulation history of the ice body and the dynamics of climate in Southern Europe. Those results are not yet available but will be published in the coming months in scientific journals, with a summary published in a future issue of the UIS Bulletin

A short film detailing the expedition was filmed and edited by Yorgos Sotiriadis and is available [clicking here](#). Financial support for this project was provided by the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) Romania and the International Union of Speleology (UIS). Additional trips to ice caves in Greece, Romania, and Slovenia are planned for 2022.



YORGOS SOTIRIADIS

Laggonia Cave at Lefka Ori in Crete (right), and Chionotrypa Ice Cave at Falakro Mt. (below), both in Greece, are some of the caves that will be studied in 2022 as part of this project.



STAVROS ZACHARIADIS



19th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

20-27 July 2025 - BELO HORIZONTE - MG - BRAZIL

By Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil)
Adjunct Secretary of the UIS/UIS Bulletin Editor
19th ICS Representative at the UIS
nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br



THE VENUE AND THE LOGO

Dear cavers and speleologists around the world, following the UIS's tradition of publishing news about its upcoming congresses in all issues of the UIS Bulletin, we are here once more to present you the main advances in the organization of the 19th International Congress of Speleology (ICS).

As you know, the event in 2025 will combine the 19th ICS with the 38th Brazilian Congress of Speleology (CBE) in a single event, promoted by the UIS and the Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE), with the responsibility for the organization residing in the SBE and the Brazilian National Center for Research and Conservation of Caves (ICMBio/CECAV).

In the last issue of this Bulletin we mainly presented the process involving the Extraordinary UIS General Assembly (EGA) in which the Delegates voted unanimously for Brazil, giving us the honor and the responsibility to host for the second time in history the most important speleological event in the world.

In addition, you could learn about the long road covered by the Brazilian candidacy since the first initiative in 2015 up to the video produced in May 2021 specially for the EGA (see again at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwjhHEKEDUQ>).

We also provided you important information about Belo Horizonte—the city selected to host the event—its main characteristics, forecast, traditional food, as well as the preliminary list of attractions for one day and pre- and post-congress excursions. Over these past six months, the work of organization has continued, whose main advances we are pleased to present to you as follows.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The preliminary team formed to take care of the

candidacy itself and first arrangements have gathered more members and now we can announce that the main core of the Organizing Committee is complete, as follows:

Honorary President	José Ayrton LABEGALINI
President	Allan Silas CALUX
Vice-President	Jocy BRANDÃO CRUZ
Secretary General	Camilla CASELLA
Treasurer	Paulo Henrique ROSADO ARENAS
Scientific Coordinator	Rodrigo LOPES FERREIRA
Excursions Coordinator	José Ayrton LABEGALINI
Representative at the UIS	Nivaldo COLZATO

VENUE

After analyzing some of the best options in Belo Horizonte to properly hold the UIS congress, three of them were placed on the table so we were able to carefully compare pros and cons of each one.



The main entrance of the Minascentro Convention Center, the venue of the 19th ICS.





General view of the Minascentro Convention Center, which occupies entire city center block in the heart of Belo Horizonte. Completely rebuilt and renovated, it offers the most modern infrastructure and technology for big events, like the UIS Congress.

A second round of local visits, then, led us to decide in favor of the **Minascentro Convention Center**.

Occupying an entire city center block, Minascentro has in front the most visited tourist spot in Belo Horizonte—the *Mercado Central* (Central Market)—and is close to a complete commercial center, with a wide range of restaurants, flats, hotels and tourist attractions.

Located just five minutes from the main bus station, Minascentro is 40 minutes from Tancredo Neves International Airport and 20 minutes from Pampulha Domestic Airport. With a total area of 30,164 m²—13,000 m² available for events—it is divided as follows:

- 3 Floors
- 6 Auditoriums
- 18 Meeting Rooms
- 2 Theaters (the biggest with 1,715 seats)
- Parking (80 spaces)
- Business Center
- VIP Room
- Ticket Offices

Built in 1926 to house the Health Department of Minas Gerais, Minascentro has Neoclassical style architecture and is listed by the Historic Heritage of the Municipality of Belo Horizonte. In 1982 work began on the adaptation and construction of theatres, auditoriums and exhibition areas. At the end of 2019, yet another renovation was completed by the government of Minas Gerais, this time to adapt and modernize the building with a view to its privatization.

Among the interventions carried out, the following stand out: replacement of the entire electrical wiring and piping; improvement of the drainage system; installation of the automatic fire detection system; modernization of the air conditioning system; execution of new coverings and waterproofing to correct infiltration problems; restoration of plasters and paintings; restoration of wooden frames; adequacy of sanitary facilities (accessibility); replacement of lighting by a LED system; fiber optic installation, among other improvements.

The administration is now in private hands and the next step will be the implementation of a series of facilities previously unavailable, such as fiber optic internet, computer network, projectors, fire brigade, and food court as well in order to meet all demands of any event. The date of 20-27 July 2025, of course, is reserved to welcome the international speleological community. We are sure that the participants of the 19th ICS will find at Minascentro all the facilities to fully enjoy the event.

Speleologists and cave lovers around the world are now focused on the trip to France in July 2022 to attend the 18th ICS. Brazilians too, of course, but meantime we will keep working toward 2025.

The photos of Minascentro shown in this article are just for you to have a first contact with the place itself and some of its facilities.

More information will come in upcoming issues of the UIS Bulletin. See you!



Above and on the right: The two main theaters of the Minascentro Convention Center.



Two of the six auditoriums and two of the 18 meeting rooms available at the event complex.



Different sizes and formats of the areas provide flexible options for each activity of the congress.

THE LOGO OF THE 19th ICS



The logo of the 19th ICS consists of a bluish-dark gray circle containing a map of Brazil as an entrance of a cave, where a river is coming in through some stalagmites, while some stalactites hang from the ceiling.

Outside of the “cave,” the tropical sun is rising from behind the small church of São Francisco—the symbol of Belo Horizonte—illuminating the entire country with its bright rays. At the same time, some bats are coming back to the cave at dawn.

The bluish-dark gray circle is surrounded by a black ring bearing the name and number of the congress, as well as the venue and the year.

As the last element, the 60th Anniversary of the UIS—which will be celebrated in 2025—completes the logo of the 19th ICS.



Three different views of the São Francisco Church, the symbol of Belo Horizonte and one of the 19th ICS logo elements.



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www.uis-speleo.org

MINUTES UIS ANNUAL BUREAU MEETING

September 12-14, 2021 - Andilly (Paris Region) - France

By Fadi H. NADER (Secretary General) - secretary@uis-speleo.org

SESSION 1

Wednesday September 12th, 2021

09:00 am to 4:30 pm (local time)

ATTENDANCE

President: George VENI

Vice-President of Administration: Zdeněk MOTYČKA

Vice-President of Operations: Efrain MERCADO

Secretary General: Fadi H. NADER

Treasurer: Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA

Adjunct Secretaries:

Nivaldo COLZATO

Mladen GARAŠIĆ

Satoshi GOTO

Gyula HEGEDŰS

[Bärbel VOGEL \(online\)](#)

[Bernard CHIROL \(online\)](#)

Honorary Member & Past-Presidents:

Andy EAVIS

[José Ayrton LABEGALINI \(online\)](#)

Guests:

Johannes MATTES (Austria)

John GUNN (UK/IUCN)

Absent(s):

Tim MOULDS

1) Opening Session of the UIS President / Approval of Agenda

George VENI thanked all participants for the 2021 UIS Bureau meeting (in person and by video-conferencing on Zoom). The meeting consists of two sessions. The first on Sunday 12th of September, and the second on Tuesday, 14th of September. The attending UIS Bureau members as well as Andy Eavis and Pavel Bosak would be part in the IYCK 2021 event at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on Monday 13th of September.

George VENI started the 2021 yearly Bureau meeting on September 12th with the following statement that expresses well the prevailing historic context: *"Tomorrow is our first opportunity ever to meet an organization of global political leaders and tell them how important it is to protect karst. To demonstrate that caves are important. We need to focus today on tomorrow's meeting."*

The proposed Agenda of the meeting was then approved unanimously. Several matters were been shared ahead of the meeting in order to have time-framed, efficient discussions.

DECISION 1: The Agenda items of the Meeting were approved by the present Bureau members.

- **Points in black (bold):** discussed in the meeting
- **Points in blue:** information shared ahead of the meeting

2) Approval of Minutes of Regular Bureau Meeting of 2020 (via VC on ZOOM)

Published minutes in Bulletin 62-2 (<http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/uisb622.pdf>).

Fadi NADER reported that the numbering of actions in the minutes was not correct as some repetitions of the same number occur for different actions (cf. Actions 1 to 5).

After review, George VENI proposed to approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting.

Fadi NADER seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

DECISION 2: The revised minutes of the 2020 annual meeting were approved by the UIS Bureau.

3) Review Action Items and Decisions of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (2020) – Decisions to be made on follow-up of unaccomplished actions

Members of the Bureau having listed actions, reported their activities.

All Actions were DONE – except Actions associated with the 18th International Congress of Speleology (ICS), since it was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4) ICS 2021 (ICS Organizing Committee FFS)

Bernard CHIROL shared with the UIS Bureau updates with respect to the 18th ICS organization progress; the congress has been already postponed to July 24 thru 31, 2022 (<https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>).

During the summer 2021, no contacts, meetings or further actions was made by the organizing committee. The first meeting of the steering committee (COPIL) is scheduled for the beginning of October. The UIS Bureau will be invited to participate at this meeting.

ACTION 1: Bernard CHIROL will keep the UIS Bureau informed about the next meeting for the steering committee of the 18th ICS.

• UIS Prizes at ICS (Nivaldo COLZATO)

Nivaldo is in charge of the UIS Prizes 2021 and published information in the Bulletin (categories, how to submit, etc.).

- The giving of prizes at the ICS should last less than 60 minutes.
- Applications for prizes should communicate with Nivaldo and book prizes should be sent to ICS organizers and Bernard CHIROL.

Prize status as of September 2021:

- 9 nominations (publications); +2 are coming. New call will be in the upcoming UIS Bulletin
- Judging Committee: composed of five scientists
- Judging process: will occur after all materials are received
- UIS AWARDS: possible award of a Fellowship at the 18th ICS

ACTION 2: Bernard CHIROL and Nivaldo COLZATO will amplify communications between UIS and ICS organizers concerning the UIS Prizes.

5) UIS Media

a. Website (E. Mercado)

- Jasmina RIJAVEC is doing a great job for UIS by taking care of the website(s) and Facebook
- Since the payment for hosting the website (through HostGator) is made by Efrain MERCADO so far, a decision was taken to proceed with future payments directly by UIS Treasurer (Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)
- **During the meeting:**
 1. A decision was made and achieved for adding links from the website to: YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.
 2. Guidelines for UIS Prizes 2021 will be added directly on UIS website menu.

ACTION 3: The UIS Bureau approved to offer the fees of 18th ICS registration and travel expenses to Jasmina RIJAVEC to thank her sincerely for all her efforts for the UIS. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will transfer 300 € (Euros) to Jasmina RIJAVEC.

ACTION 4: Efrain MERCADO will transmit HostGator details about payments for listing the UIS Website to Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Treasurer of UIS) who will proceed for direct payment from the UIS treasury.

b. Facebook Group has >3400 members, as reported by Fadi.

- Facebook UIS Page is also very active and dynamic.

c. Twitter and Instagram accounts are also operational as reported by Satoshi GOTO.

d. UIS Bulletin (Nivaldo COLZATO)

- While the work on the Bulletin proceeds perfectly with Nivaldo COLZATO (see below), a discussion was made

regarding the modest contribution between congresses by UIS commissions, who have their own media (e.g. bulletins, websites). This led to the decision of having a page in the Bulletin with the list of commissions and links to their media.



Publication: January 2020 - Pages: 69 - Photos: 103 - Images: 30
Link: <http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/uisb622.pdf>



Publication: January 2020 - Pages: 69 - Photos: 103 - Images: 30
Link: <http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/uisb622.pdf>



DISTRIBUTION: As usual, the distribution has followed the same routine, that is, by sending private messages to each Member Country and to the UIS mailing list, divided into the groups below:

- UIS BULLETIN – LIST OF RECIPIENTS
- UIS BUREAU MEMBERS
- AUTHORS OF THE ARTICLES
- DELEGATES AND SUBSTITUTE DELEGATES
- CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMISSIONS
- LEADERS OF WORKING GROUPS
- SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
- PAST PRESIDENTS
- ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- PAST BUREAU MEMBERS
- BBS/SA - Bulletin Bibliographique Spéléologique / Speleological Abstracts
- DOCUMENTATION CENTRE IN LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS
- INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SPELEOLOGY (UIS Representative)

- KARST INFORMATION PORTAL
- Asian Speleological Union (AUS)
- European Speleological Federation (FSE)
- Latin American and the Caribbean Speleological Federation (FEALC)
- Balkan Speleological Union (BSU)
- ISCA – BUREAU MEMBERS
- 56 MEMBER COUNTRIES

- 12 NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES
- Total: 86 messages
- No messages have been sent to the UIS Bureau Honorary Members and Honorary Presidents because all names are in other groups.
- The table below shows the participation* of the Commissions and Working Groups in the UIS Bulletin from July 2013 to June 2021 (15 issues):

NAMES / ISSUES	56-1	56-2	57-1	57-2	58-1	58-2	59-1	59-2	60-1	60-2	61-1	61-2	62-1	62-2	63-1
Commission on Archaeology and Palaeontology in Caves															
Commission on Artificial Cavities															
Commission on Arts and Letters															
Commission on Bibliography															
Commission on Cave Diving															
Commission on Cave Mineralogy															
Commission on Cave Rescue															
Commission on Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves															
Commission on Education															
Commission on History of Speleology															
Commission on Informatics															
Commission on Informatics - Publications Exchange Working Group															
Commission on Informatics - WikiCaves Working Group															
Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis															
Commission on Long, Deep and Large Caves															
Commission on Materials and Techniques															
Commission on Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst															
Commission on Protection of Caves and Karst															
Commission on Pseudokarst															
Commission on Speleochronology and Paleokarst															
Commission on Speleotherapy															
Commission on Volcanic Caves															
Atlas of Karst Phenomena															
International Journal of Speleology (IJS)															

* Reports or general contribution

ACTION 5: Nivaldo COLZATO will add a page to the UIS Bulletin with the list of commissions and links to their websites, publications and contact person(s).

- e. UIS History video** (Mladen Garašić, George Veni)
- Already on YouTube UIS Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzSiErlj5x6viNbvAdehDvA>

6) UIS Relationships with Regional Organization and Countries (George Veni)

a. FEALC/FSE/AUS

All contributing to IYCK, communication going well.

- **Efrain MERCADO: FEALC:** most activities by Zoom (next congress: Cuba, Costa-Rica, or Ecuador).
- **Mladen GARASIC: FSE** (also Covid issues); not sure if the European congress will be combined next year with ICS 18th.

- **Satoshi GOTO: AUS** (Covid/ no meetings); next year resume meetings (Transkarst 2023).

b. ISCA

George VENI reported about continuous communication with ISCA and the upcoming ISCA Congress in October 2022 (see below list of events).

c. Member countries

New membership request from Morocco (60 people). They are active in the IYCK and organizing their second national congress this year.

- Agreed on the Morocco request: by all

DECISION 3: UIS Bureau approved the request of Morocco to be part of the UIS, pending the vote of the UIS General Assembly for confirmation.

7) UIS Bureau internal functioning (Fadi Nader / George Veni)

a. Information policy inside the Bureau (email, deadlines, Zoom)

IYCK made us have a lot of meetings and communications by Zoom.

Regular Bureau meetings after IYCK on Zoom, proposed by George.

DECISION 4: Organize more meetings by Zoom or other online platforms for the Bureau members to share the discussions and progress of committees.

b. Reporting of UIS Bureau members

Fadi Nader reported that since the IYCK project started and the set up of the Bureau IYCK Committee's work has been more efficient and tens of hours of meetings were achieved.

Nadja Zupan Hajna felt that too much work indeed is loaded on the members of the IYCK Committee.

Unanimous decision was made to send committee meetings reports/minutes to whole Bureau in order to improve communication in the UIS Bureau and share the work load.

DECISION 5: After each UIS Bureau IYCK Committee meeting, the minutes of that meeting will be sent to all Bureau members.

c. UIS archive in Postojna: information about the actual situation with UIS archive plus suggestion for next steps (Zdenek Motycka, Pavel Bosak) – see report attached

Pavel Bosak shared some comments and suggestions concerning the hardcopy archives at UIS office in Postojna; detailed reports have been also prepared and are in the appendix:

- Original materials of Bureau members missing – Gaps! Before 1993
- Pavel Bosak asked all UIS Bureau members to deliver important paper and electronic documents.
- The son of Hubert Trimmel invited Johannes Mattes to visit the office of Hubert and check the papers; to be planned by Johannes and Pavel.
- Pavel Bosak will contact past presidents for items for the archives.
- Prepare proposal for the ICS 18, for giving the UIS archives one copy of all printed material.

ACTION 6: Pavel BOSAK and Johannes MATTES will coordinate to visit the office of the late Hubert TRIMMEL and see what can be stored in the UIS archives.

DECISION 6: In order to increase printed, original documents and leave concrete traces of UIS Bureau activities, the UIS Bureau decided to re-install the printed and signed attendance list of Bureau meetings.

Zdenek Motycka reported on the electronic archives of the UIS office in Postojna:

- Needed a package of all information from Fadi, regarding Secretary General correspondence.
- We should install a computer at the UIS booth at ICS 18th to get all electronic information.
- Scan material (scanner donated by Zdenek); student job.
- 1000 € for archives (scanning): all voted.
- Action: Nadja will ask about how to pay the student to do the job.
- Fadi will prepare material to be printed at the Bureau meetings (such as a presence list).

ACTION 7: Fadi NADER will prepare a package of all correspondence done during his mandate as Secretary General of UIS and give them to the Archives in Summer 2022.

ACTION 8: Attending UIS Bureau members agreed unanimously to spend up to 1000 € for scanning documents for the Archives. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will ask how to pay a student to do the scanning job.

8) UIS Commissions and Expeditions (Zdenek Motycka)

a. News and Updates

b. Financial Requests

Report from Zdenek: Already in 2018 the Bureau approved money for the Karst and Cave Protection Commission, Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, and the Glacier, Firn and Ice Cave Commission on a yearly basis. Treasurer should inform the Bureau, when their money is received. No other requests from other commissions for financial support since the last meeting.

c. International Expeditions support

Regarding International Expeditions support, because of the COVID situation, we did not open the Call for Proposals, but Zdenek plans to open it now, with a deadline of November 30.

There is a budget of 1000 EUR from 2019 and theoretically 3000 EUR from 2020, and 3000 EUR from 2021. We need to discuss how much money we will use.

ACTION 9: Zdenek MOTYCKA will prepare the November 30th call for new proposals for international expeditions funding for 2022.

9) Finance Update (N. Zupan Hajna)

a. Summary – Status

b. Upcoming payments (Internet, Commissions, ...)

c. Commissions

d. Sponsorship support

e. Other expenses:

UIS treasurer report for 2021 Bureau meeting

Bank account balance	31. 08. 2021	2021	EUR	Description
	42 893.33 EUR	income	6600,13	from fees
	48 527.69 USD			
Jan. 1 - Sep. 1/2021:		payments	1773.91	- UIS commissions 500 eur - ISC membership 530 eur - account. for taxing 312.32 eur - IYCK 431.59 eur
		balance	+4826.22	

Comments

31. 08. 2020	Last September balance.
35 257.41 EUR	
48 525.01 USD	

31. 12. 2020	New Year balance.
38 099.02 EUR	
48 527.45 USD	

Details:

- UIS have changed **Banking package**, now Bank costs for account/month are 7 euros (before 2.26 with less benefits; was obligation to change)
- There is **no deposit** on the Bank, regarding the organization of IYCK 2021 because the high costs were estimated. On Thursday I have got info on Bank there is no plus to have deposit.
- ISC membership 530 eur, has increase from 520 eur
- Payment to commissions: UIS Habe Prize for 2019/250 eur, UIS Habe Prize for 2020/250 eur
- IYCK 2021 opening: 341,60 eur press STA; 66.99 eur Anja Hajna – refund for VideoEditor payment
- IYCK 2021 UNESCO Paris costs:
 - Room & IT rent 1943 eur, paid
 - Morning coffee 1697 eur, paid
 - Invoice of LUNCH ±2316 eur – not payed yet, it will be after event with added costs for morning coffee
- The Invoices for UIS membership fees were sent mostly on July 21; some countries have problems with payment due to their financial situation (Venezuela, Lebanon, Cuba)
- Due to illness, I abolished Andrej Mihevc as one of the authorized persons to the UIS account (P. Bosák remains)
- Anonymous donation of 1495 USD to be used for IYCK 2021 UNESCO event: 1495 USD

Plan:

- Payment IYCK 2021 UNESCO event costs:
 - partly travel costs to 2 panelists (P. Griffiths, J. Gunn) and cameraman (U. Krueger)
 - payment of lunch at UNESCO + addition of coffee time
- Payment to the commissions, what I still have to pay this year?
- Put the Deposit until 18. ICS – NO, was not advised
- Payment of server for hosting (refund to Efrain Mercado)

September 12, 2021

Nadja Zupan Hajna

Agreed by the Bureau that the lunch and other expenses of IYCK day at UNESCO be paid by UIS.

Because IYCK expenses were less than expected, the Bureau agreed to reimburse some expenses of those who traveled to Paris to provide important services for the IYCK celebration at UNESCO: John Gunn, 250 EUR; Uwe Krueger, 400 EUR; Paul Griffiths, 600 EUR.

Agreed to pay commissions: 500 EUR to Glacier Firn and Ice Caves, 250 EUR Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, and 250 EUR to Karst and Cave Protection.

Reimburse Efrain for the website hosting fees.

Decision: For exceptional, accepted reasons, Cuba, Lebanon, and Venezuela are exempted from paying their yearly dues until 2023.

ACTION 10: Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA is asked by the UIS Bureau to cover the expenses of the IYCK at UNESCO as reported, including transport support for John Gunn (250 €), Uwe Krueger (400 €), and Paul Griffiths (600 €).

ACTION 11: Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA is asked by the UIS Bureau to pay the budget proposed by the UIS commissions: Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves (500 €), Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis (250 €), and Karst and Cave Protection (250 €), as well as to reimburse Efrain MERCADO for the expenses paid for hosting the UIS website at HostGator, before organizing direct payment from UIS account in Slovenia.

DECISION 7: The UIS Bureau agreed that for exceptional, accepted reasons, Cuba, Venezuela, and Lebanon are exempted from paying their yearly dues until 2023.

10) IYCK 2021 – Before UNESCO Event (George VENI / Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)

The event was organized under the patronage of the UNESCO Director-General by the UIS in partnership with the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Slovenia to UNESCO.

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA made a last summary of the IYCK 2021 ceremony at UNESCO (Paris) that was planned for the next day (13th September) and explained all important details and actions expected by UIS Bureau members and panelists. All UIS Bureau members as well as invited panelists have been briefed on the program and procedures.

- a. Opening Ceremony 13th September 2021 – UNESCO, Paris
 - i. Review of the program

- ii. Last issues
- b. IYCK Program
- c. Leaflet, posters, movie, book and website
- d. Budget
- e. Strategy for coffee breaks and lunch
- f. Way forward
 - i. Action: Thank you letters to all invited people (Nadja)
 - ii. Action: Follow up with the people who came and were with us.

ACTION 12: George VENI will prepare a thank you letter to the invited people, and Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will do the list of invited people present in Paris.

ACTION 13: All attending Bureau members are asked to follow up with the people they meet during the IYCK event at UNESCO and share the follow-ups with the UIS Bureau.

First session of the annual 2021 UIS Bureau meeting ended at around 4:30 pm.

**UIS Annual Bureau Meeting - First Session
September 12, 2021 - Andilly (Paris Region) - France**



Fadi Nader, UIS Secretary General, who kindly offered his house for the meetings and treated the Bureau members to a delicious barbecue as well.





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de Spéléologie
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MINUTES UIS ANNUAL BUREAU MEETING

September 12-14, 2021 - Andilly (Paris Region) - France

By Fadi H. NADER (Secretary General) - secretary@uis-speleo.org

SESSION 2

Friday September 14th, 2021
9:00 am to 1:00 pm (local time)

ATTENDANCE

President: *George VENI*

Vice-President of Administration: *Zdeněk MOTYČKA*

Vice-President of Operations: *Efrain MERCADO*

Secretary General: *Fadi H. NADER*

Treasurer: *Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA*

Adjunct Secretaries:

Nivaldo COLZATO

Mladen GARAŠIĆ

Satoshi GOTO

Gyula HEGEDŰS

Bärbel VOGEL (online)

Bernard CHIROL (online)

Honorary Member & Past-Presidents:

Andy EAVIS

José Ayrton LABEGALINI (online)

Absent(s):

Tim MOULDS

11) IYCK 2021 – After UNESCO event (George VENI / Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)

A roundtable discussion was made to gather the impressions and feedback of the UIS Bureau members concerning the IYCK 2021 UNESCO Event.

All Bureau members agreed that the event was a historical moment for UIS. In terms of the program itself, a general conclusion was made that the presentations were too long and did not allow time for more discussions and interaction with the attendees.

George VENI said that the fact that the UIS was recognized by UNESCO is very important for the international community of cavers (> 500 people watched on YouTube) and that it is important to follow-up and to show how we can benefit the UNESCO network.

Baerbel VOGEL, who attended by Zoom, said that it was very good and that IUCN's resolutions are important for the UIS' future. She also proposed to prepare karst reports.

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA reflected on the difficult communication with UNESCO technical staff and technical

problems faced during the event, but it was a unique opportunity for UIS to be at UNESCO.

Bernard CHIROL reported from the 18th ICS organizers that they felt that not enough visibility was given to the 18th ICS and their efforts.

Fadi NADER said that what counts most is that we managed after several years and a lot of efforts to address the world from UNESCO asking for the protection of karst and caves, by this alone we must have made all cavers of the world proud.

12) News from major past speleological events

- **Geological Society of America Convention/GSA 2020 Connects Online**, 25-28 October 2020 (Montréal, Québec, Canada), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home>. *George Veni did not attend but sent NCKRI staff. The convention was well attended. There were several good karst papers but the usual karst meetings in-person were missed.*

- **British Cave Research Association Science Symposium**, 14 November 2020, (virtual meeting), <http://bcra.org.uk/forum>.

- **ALCADI 2020: International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology (ALps, CARpathians and Dinarides)**, 5-8 December 2020 (Gorizia, Italy), contact: seppenhofer@libero.it. *The workshop was postponed to October 2021.*

- **1st Karst Science Forum**, postponed to 2021 (Bucharest, Romania), <https://www.eris100.ro>. *The conference was canceled.*

- **International Course and Field Seminar: Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers**, postponed to 2021 (Žabljak-Durmitor Mt., Virpazar-Skadar Lake in Montenegro, and in Trebinje in Bosnia & Herzegovina), <http://www.karst.edu.rs>

- **7th International Course Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers (CEKA)**, postponed to 2021 (Montenegro: Žabljak-Durmitor Mt., Virpazar-Skadar Lake, and Bosnia and Herzegovina: Trebinje), <http://www.karst.edu.rs>

- **16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst**, 12-16 April 2021 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), www.sinkholeconference.com. *The conference was canceled one month before its scheduled date, but the proceedings were published and are available for free download from the NCKRI website.*

- **14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst**, 22-25 April 2021 (Świętokrzyskie [Holy Cross] Mountains, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>. *The conference was postponed to 2022.*

- **US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting**, May 2021 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/karst-interest-group-kig-2020-workshop?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects. *George Veni will probably attend. The workshop was postponed to October 2021.*

- **Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Conference**, 3-7 May 2021 (Wellington Caves, New South Wales, Australia), for more information: enquiries@wellingtoncaves.com.au. *The conference was postponed to October 2021.*

- **Karst Waters Institute Frontiers in Karst: Sulfuric Acid Weathering**, postponed to mid-summer 2021 (San Vittore, Italy), <https://karstwaters.org/conferences/sulfuric-acid-weathering/>

- **36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology**, April 20-23, 2022 (Brasilia, Brazil) <http://36cbe.org.br/>

- **28th International Karstological School "Classical Karst": Regional Karstology - Local and General Aspects**, 14-18 June 2021 (Postojna, Slovenia), <https://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/>

- **EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs**, 22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>. *The conference was postponed to 2022.*

- **Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference**, 11-14 July 2021 (Innsbruck, Austria), <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/news/2017/kr9-postponed-to-2021.html.en>. *The conference was postponed to 2022.*

- **18th International Congress of Speleology**, 25 July – 1 August 2021 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>. *The conference was postponed to 2022.*

- **Central Asian Speleological Forum, postponed to August 2021** (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), <https://speleo.kg/en/news/first-circular-speleo-ca-forum-2020/>. *George Veni planned to attend but the conference was canceled.*

- **34th International Geographical Congress karst sessions: Global Karst Critical Zone and Land Use Planning in Karst**, 16-20 August 2021 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://www.igc2020.org/en/KARST%20COMMISSION.html>.

- **International Association of Hydrogeologists 47th Congress**, 22-27 August 2021 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://iah-2021brazil.org/en/>.

- **19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology**, 28 August - 4 September 2021 (Catania, Italy), <http://www.19isvetna.com/>.

- **International Association of Hydrogeologists 48th Congress**, 6-10 September 2021 (Brussels, Belgium), <https://iah2021belgium.org/>.

- **Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference**, September 2021 (Socorro, New Mexico, USA), <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/FtStanton/home.cfm>. *This conference was postponed to 2022.*

13) Attendance on future speleology events (listing events and attendees)

- **26th International Cave Bear Symposium**, 30 September - 3 October 2021 (Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen, Mannheim, Germany). Contact: doris.doeppes@mannheim.de.

- **Geological Society of America Convention**, 10-13 October 2021 (Portland, Oregon, USA), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2021/home>. *George will attend and an International Year of Caves and Karst session is planned.*

- **National Caves Association Convention**, 10-14 October 2021 (Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, USA), <http://members.cavern.com/Content/Convention/Convention%20Registration%20Form%202021.pdf>.

- **US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting**, 19-21 October 2021 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/karst-interest-group-kig-2020-workshop?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects. *George Veni will attend virtually.*

- **Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Conference**, 18-22 October 2021 (Wellington Caves, New South Wales, Australia), for more information: enquiries@wellingtoncaves.com.au.

- **Visual KARSYS Online Course**, 20-21 October 2021, <https://www.visualkarsys.com/>.

- **6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium**, 26-30 October 2021 (Isle of Vilm, Germany). Contact: symposium@eurospeleo.org.

- **Speleo Kamaraton**, 29 October – 1 November 2021 (Marina di Camerota, Salerno, Italy), <http://www.speleokamaraton.eu/>.

- **23rd National Cave and Karst Management Symposium**, 1-5 November 2021 (San Marcos, Texas, USA), <https://symposium2021.nckms.org/>. *George will attend and give the keynote address on the International Year of Caves and Karst.*

- **XV Mexican National Congress of Speleology**, 29 October to 2 November 2021 (Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico), <https://umae.org/congreso2021/>. *Zdenek Motycka will attend.*

- **European Cave Rescue Association Meeting**, postponed to late spring or November 2021 (Cantabria, Spain), <https://caverescue.eu/ecra-meeting-2020-cantabria-spain/>.

- **Conference of the Arabian Journal of Geosciences, Cave and Karst Session**, 25-28 November 2021 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://www.cajg.org/>.

- **Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference**, postponed to 2022 (Innsbruck, Austria), <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>.

- **14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst**, postponed to Spring 2022, <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>.

- **9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX)**, 9-13 May 2022 (Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia)
- **36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology**, 20-23 April 2022 (Brasilia, Brazil), <http://36cbe.org.br/>. Efrain Mercado, José Ayrton Labegalini and Nivaldo Colzato will attend.
- **EuroKarst 2022: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs**, 22-25 June 2022 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>.
- **18th ICS**, 24 -31 July, 2022 – Savoie, France, <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

14) Venue and date of the 2022 UIS Bureau Meeting: France, ICS

- The meeting will be at the 18th ICS in Savoie (France) before the first session of the UIS General Assembly (July 24, 2022).

ACTION 14: Fadi NADER will coordinate with the 18th ICS organizers for the UIS Bureau meetings and General Assembly sessions at the Congress.

15) Any other business

- a. Preparation of 19th ICS – Brazil**
(reported by Nivaldo COLZATO).



Status in September 2021:

- Last meeting (virtual): August 12, 2021.
- Meetings will be monthly (third Thursdays) from now on.
- Organization will follow the UIS Guidelines for the ICS.
- Venue in Belo Horizonte will be decided by November this year (three options are being examined).
- Organizing Committee: heads are confirmed, except General Secretary.
- Scientific Committee will be presented to the UIS Bureau by November this year.
- Visual Identity is in course.

- Preliminary budget is guaranteed by the CECAV (government body for caves and karst).
- Articles for all issues of the UIS Bulletin are planned up to 2025.

b. Proposal of José-Ayrton LABEGALINI: adding two plates on the Proteus Sculpture in front of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, one for 1965 and the other for 2002. The first marks the creation of the UIS and the second for the establishment of the UIS in Slovenia. They could be installed before the end of 2021 as more one activity of the Slovenian Government to celebrate the IYCK-2021.

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA told the Bureau that at the moment there is no decision on keeping the monument, so no need to discuss this point any further.

c. UIS Cave Rescue Commission: organize a commission meeting at the congress to reorganize the commission since the death of its last President, Christian DODELIN.

ACTION 15: Gyula HEGEDUS and Efrain MERCADO will organize a meeting of the Cave Rescue Commission at the upcoming ICS18 to help in setting up the commission and elect a Commission President.

- d. Efrain will prepare a proposal for memorial plates**

ACTION 16: Efrain MERCADO will prepare a proposal for the UIS memorial plates.

e. UIS participation within UN groups (Baerbel VOGEL) – focused through commissions and persons

f. IUCN Resolutions: Baerbel suggests that UIS sends a letter of support by UIS President to IUCN president of IUCN (Action George)

ACTION 17: George VENI will send a letter of support of the UIS to the President of IUCN.

16) Closing Statements (G. Veni)

George VENI thanked all participants for their contributions to the 2021 annual UIS Bureau meeting and for contributing to the IYCK 2021 event at UNESCO.

The meeting ended at 1.00 p.m.

APPENDIX

UIS Archive – Postojna, Slovenia - Short Report to the UIS Bureau meeting – September 2021, Paris

UIS Archive is located in the 3rd floor of the historical building (Castle), the seat of the IZRK SAZU and the UIS (Titov trg 2, Postojna Slovenia). Place and furniture granted by the IZRK ZRC SAZU.

PRESENT CONTENT OF SHELVES IS AS FOLLOWS (GENERAL ITEMS):

Archive materials from H. Trimmel, J.A. Labegalini, A. Eraso Romero, A.A. Cigna, F. Habe, A. Anavy, P. Forti, C. Ek, P. Bosák, V. Panoš, A. Mihevc, N. Zupan Hajna: correspondence, documents, accounting etc., highly not complete, in

some places only rudimental (missing especially materials from the very beginning, e.g. prof. Géze and others)—accounting plus minus complete from General Secretary: Trimmel, Ek, Bosák and Treasurers: Mihevc and Zupan Hajna.

International Congresses of Speleology, from 6th 1965 Postojna/Ljubljana up to 17th 2017 Sydney: official materials issued by Congress organizers are highly incomplete, incl. prints (Proceedings, abstract books, excursion guides, Circulars, leaflets, posters, etc.) as well as other things (badges, T-shirts, bags, flags, stickers, pins, etc.).

What is completely missing are public relation items (news in newspapers, journals, magazines, CD/DVD or similar media with TV/broadcasting, related activities, etc.)—not only related to the UIS Congresses and karst/cave events, but also to UIS activity itself.

UIS Commissions: quite rudimental, most of Commission/Working Groups or Commission-related prints are not available. Missing documents related to activity of most Commission and WG.

Leaflets concerning speleo/karst-activities, events, education, caves etc.

Relations with UNESCO before 1997: UNESCO prints are nearly complete, missing the early history of relations with the UNESCO (before acceptance as former C category of affiliated institutions).

Principal documents of the UIS: versions of Statutes, Reglements, Recommendations for Congress Organizers are also partly incomplete, only rare documents concerning the UIS foundation are in Trimmel's boxes.

Relations with ICS, ISCA, IUCN, IGU, FEALC, SFEU are also highly incomplete.

UIS Bureau Meeting (regular/annual, not regular): highly incomplete documentation before 1993 and after 2009.

UIS Bulletin: prints of Trimmel and Bosák (Editors-in-Chief) complete + 20 pcs of each 1991, 1994-2005 and related items (addresses for distribution, originals for prints).

Archive contains also all documentation related to book *Paleokarst* (Academia-Elsevier 1989)—the first book printed by international publishing house where the UIS is mentioned (includes also correspondence, print foils etc.; donated by Bosák).

The archive includes also journals and some monographs and other prints obtained as exchange copies for UIS Bulletin obtained by past Secretary General (Pavel Bosák). It is completed by some duplicates (monographs) from different sources. Both journals and monographs are organized according to size (smaller or larger than A4). Journals are organized according to journal name; monographs according to registration number.

The archive collects also some speleo/karst-related calendars and posters; those will be delivered to the Notrjanski muzej (Postojna) with good collection of such prints, except items related to Congresses and other UIS activities/event.

The archive collects also some pins and stickers (all karst/speleo-related).

The archive is equipped by PC donated by the Institute of Geology, Czech Academy of Science, new one 2021 will be delivered to Archive on autumn 2020 and is already prepared in the box.

There is also cloud deposit (donation of Z. Motyčka) with some content, but very limited.

The archive materials are not scanned and arranged according to archive demands. The evidence is only basic – what is on which shelf, list of boxes and their rough content etc. The materials (documents, prints, etc.) are mostly collected in hard-paper Archive Boxes, some (e.g., correspondence of J.A. Labegalini) is simply bounded without cover.

There is still quite good place in the UIS room in the IZRK ZRC SAZU for future documents, prints and all items related to the UIS activity sensu lato (i.e. Commissions, etc.); nevertheless, in the Institute, there is pressure for space for young scientists...

THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR FUTURE (RECOMMENDATIONS):

- More intensive interest of present and past UIS officers (UIS Bureau Members and Honorary Members, Commission/WG officers, UIS-related event organizers, especially of the UIS Congresses, etc.) to deliver all UIS-related materials (printed, not-printed, public relation, others) to the UIS Archive CONTINUOUSLY, not only after termination in function. If not delivered continuously, materials are lost (thrown out after the respective person dies)!;
- To look for any UIS-related materials, especially from 1950 to 1965 but also younger, in archives of past-UIS officers and/or in their inheritances! to try to fill blind time-sections (hint sunt leones);
- Complete documentation of not printed documents, paper by paper, document by document, thing by thing according or close to archive customs – to find personnel to do that and finances;
- Complete scanning and/or photos of not printed documents/things and deposition of electronic versions in the cloud.

In Praha on September 3, 2021

Responsible for the UIS Archive in Postojna: P. Bosák, v. r.

UIS Annual Bureau Meeting - Second Session - September 14, 2021 - Andilly (Paris Region) - France



IN MEMORIAM

PETER ERNEST SPARGO

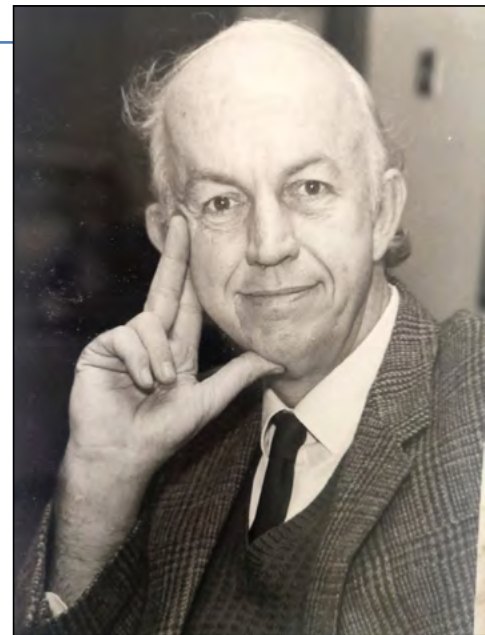
South Africa, 1937-2021

by Stephen A. Craven (South Africa)
Department of Family Medicine, University of Cape Town
sacraven@mweb.co.za

Peter Ernest Spargo was born on 07 June 1937 and educated and worked in the (then) Transvaal until 1976 when he was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Science Education Unit of the School of Education at the University of Cape Town. By 1980 he had been promoted Director of its Science Education Unit where he stayed until retirement in 1997.

One of his many research interests, which he followed on his arrival in Cape Town, was the history of the many abandoned mines in the Western Cape. This came to the attention of the South African Spelæological Association (Cape Town Section), whose members helped him to explore and survey these subterranean artefacts. Over the years he frequently wrote, and spoke about the mines:

- **'Early Mines in the Western Cape'**. At a meeting of the Historical Society of Cape Town, the Athenæum, Newlands, Cape Town; 11 May 1981.
- **'Old Mines of the Western Cape'**: Address to the Mineralogical society of Southern Africa, The Athenæum, Newlands, Cape Town; 14 November 1986.
- **'Investigating a Local Mine - A Student Activity'**, in the series, **'Science and Technology and Future Human Needs'**, Volume 4, Land, Water and Mineral Resources in Science Education, Pergamon Press for the ICSU Press, Oxford and New York, 1987, 279-281.
- P E Spargo and R C Laugksch, **'The History, Preservation and Restoration of the Vredehoek Tin Mine, Devil's Peak, Cape Town'**. A Report prepared by the Science Education Unit, University of Cape Town, at the request of the City Planner's Department, City of Cape Town. (Cape Town, 1990).
- **'Old Mines of the Western Cape'**, Friday Evening Lecture, Mountain Club of South Africa, Cape Town, 12 October 1990.
- **'Early Mines in the Western Cape'** - at the 10th. Annual Minerals Processing Symposium (South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy) August 1991.
- **'The Vredehoek Tin Mine, Cape Town'**, CABO (Historical Society of Cape Town), 5 (2), 1991, 3-8.
- **'The Early Mines of the Western Cape'**; Lecture to the Western Cape Branch of the South African Archæological Society, South African Museum, Cape



Dr. CATHY SPARGO

Town, 22 November 1994. (Followed on Sunday 27 November 1994 by leading a party of about 30 members of the Society on a visit to the Vredehoek tin mine.)

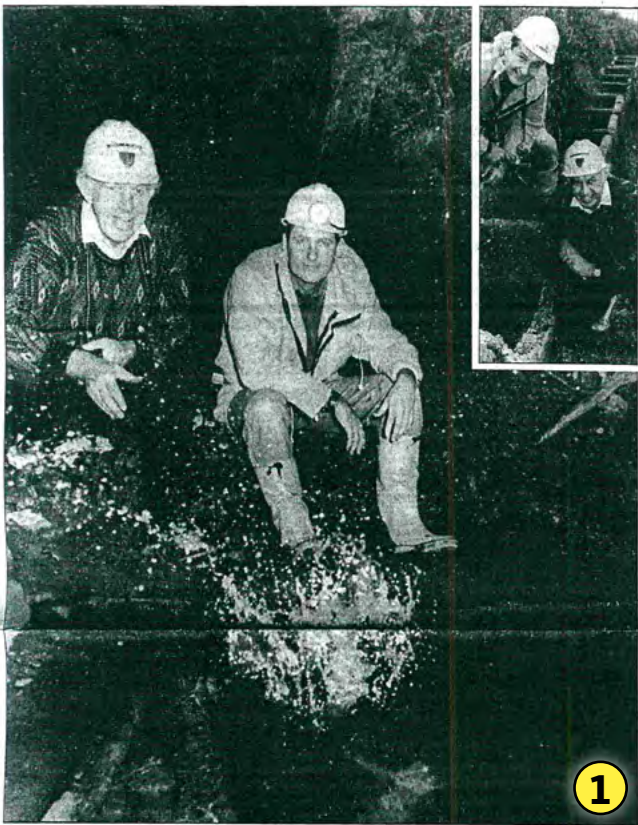
- **'The Vredehoek Tin Mine, Cape Town'**, Quarterly Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa, 54(1), September 1999, 19-26.
- **'Mines of the Western Cape'**, Plumstead Study Circle, 9 May 2000.
- **'The Mines of the Western Cape'**; Presentation to the Mountain Club of South Africa (Cape Town Section); 21 July 2000.
- **'Early Mining in the Western Cape'**; Address to the Cape History Club, SACS School, Newlands; 27 February 2003.
- **'The Early Mines of the Cape Peninsula'**, Bulletin of the Kalk Bay [Cape Town] Historical Association, No. 14, March 2010, 1-37.
- **'The Lion's Head Gold Mine'**, Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa, 69(1), June 2015, 28-40.

His long standing and active membership of the South African Spelæological Association (Cape Town Section) led to his being elected National President in 1997, and to his serving on the Cango Caves Scientific Advisory Committee (July 1998-2009). He was a remarkable Gentleman who will be remembered in innumerable local and international speleological and other circles for many decades to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. Cathy Spargo is thanked for her father's CVs and photograph.

Die Burger, 10 July 1992 (pg. 9)



1

Prof. P.E. Spargo (links) en mnr. Rudi Laugsch by 'n waterge vulde vertikale skag van die Vredehoek-tinmyn. Inlas: in dié ry bakke van die tinmyn is fyngestampte erts gespoel sodat die tin kon afsak.

Bewaar Kaapse tinmyn – kenners

Stadsverslaggewer

DIE ou Vredehoek-tinmyn is van die enigste oorblyfsels van 'n mynonderneming in Kaapstad. Dit behoort soos ander bekende voorbeelde van nywerheidsargeologie, soos die Mostertheim en die Josephine-meul, gerestoureer en bewaar te word.

Só se prof. P.E. Spargo, direkteur van die Universiteit van Kaapstad se wetenskap-opvoedingseenheid, wat hom al sowat

prof. Spargo en sy kollega, mnr. Rudi Laugsch, oor die geskiedenis, bewaring en restaurasie van Vredehoek-tinmyn as 'n verwysingsdokument aanvaar. Die stadsbeplanner, mnr. Neville Riley, sal gevra word om 'n "mynhuis" te nader om die restaurasie en instandhouding van die ou tinmyn te borg. Prof. Spargo is ontvrede dat die stadsraad sloer.

Die ou tinmyn is langs die stroom wat verwoesting in Duiwelspiek se woonbuurt gesaai het nadat die here afskeurand het

Prof. Spargo meen 'n aantreklike ingangshek kan vir die hoof-tunnel gemaak word. Replikas van sommige van die geboue wat daar was, kan opgerig word. Die ou planne het behoue gebly.

Myn is gou uitgewerk

Die bekende prospekteerder A.C. Ross, het in 1909 tin teen die laer hange van Duiwelspiek ontdek. 'n Maatskappy, die Vredehoek Tin Developing Syndicate Ltd., is met £30 000 gestig en die myn is in 1913 begin. Alhoewel die

The History, Preservation and Restoration of the Vredehoek Tin Mine, Devil's Peak, Cape Town



2

© [HTTPS://SAHRIS.SAHRA.ORG.ZA/SITES/GEO02](https://sahris.sahra.org.za/sites/gEO02)

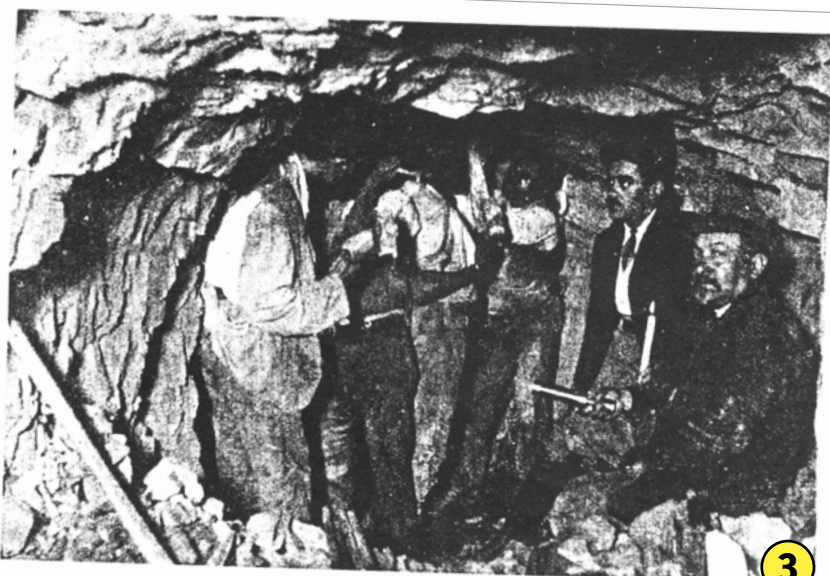
1 NEWSPAPER FROM JULY 10, 1992

"Preserve Cape tin mine - experts" is the title of the news.

Main photo: Prof. Peter Spargo (left) and Mr. Rudi Laugsch at a water-filled vertical shaft of the Vredehoek Tin Mine.

Insert photo: In this row of bowls from the tin mine, crushed ore was rinsed so that the tin could settle.

Scan courtesy of Dr. Cathy Spargo



3

2 Vredehoek Tin Mine: Cocopans filled with ore at adit entrance in 1911. Mining here started in 1911 but had ceased by 1916 (Spargo 1991).

3 Vredehoek Tin Mine: Inspection by underground staff at a working face in 1911. The short history of this mine has been documented in detail by Spargo.

© CAPE TIMES WEEKLY EDITIONS

Prof. PETER SPARGO

His role in the Gcwihaba Caves Project

by Roger Ellis (South Africa)
ellisrj1944@gmail.com

I first met Peter Spargo when I was introduced to him at a South African Speleological Association (SASA) conference held in Prieska during the mid-nineties. The purpose of the conference was for the two sections of SASA, the Cape Section and the Transvaal Section, to decide on a new constitution which would allow other caving organisations in South Africa to join the Association.

To serve as an invigilator for the conference, Stephen Craven from the Cape Section recommended Peter Spargo, who was not a member of either section at the time, to fulfil the role. Stephen's proposal was duly accepted and members from both sections along with Peter met on a farm outside Prieska where the conference was held. The conference was a success and in time the Cave Exploration, Rescue and Adventure Club (CERAC) and the Potchefstroom Potholing Club (PPC) both joined SASA.

In later years at a time that SASA needed to appoint a new National President, Peter's name was put forward and in 1997 he was duly appointed as the National President, a position in which he served until he stepped down in 2017 due to ill health. Over the years I regularly communicated with Peter and enjoyed the occasions we could get-together on his visits to Johannesburg and discuss SASA matters and life in general.

During the course of Peter's presidency, the Gcwihaba Caves Project came into existence in 2001 when the then Vice President of Botswana, Ian Khama, first invited CERAC and then later the PPC, to participate in the project. The project, which is probably one of the most unique and exciting in the world, is to discover and

explore new caves in the remote north of Botswana and to establish a new National Park in which the caves play a major role. The Park has been cited for World Heritage status and is intended to add to Botswana's diverse tourist attractions and to bring revenue into the area to benefit the local populace.

Peter, excited by the prospect of a member group of SASA being involved in an international project, immediately set about establishing communications with myself as the Caving Expedition Leader on the Gcwihaba Caves Project, and from thereon requested that I keep him fully up-to-date on all developments and to send him copies of the reports and presentations given to Ian Khama, who later became the President of Botswana.

Peter's response to my emails and correspondence was inspirational, he never failed to take great interest in our activities and to follow every development with enthusiasm and encouragement. A selection of his comments below certainly reflects on his passion for the project:

- Anyway, may I say how delighted I am to read that the recent Koanaka Expedition was obviously a major success, reflecting extremely well on South African cavers and their skills. May the next one in the series be equally, or even more, successful.



South African
Speleological Association



General view of Gcwihaba Caves's entrance, and a bat population in its interior.

© [HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/BWGGOVERNMENT/](https://twitter.com/BWGGOVERNMENT/)

© [HTTPS://AFROCULTURE.NET/](https://afroculture.net/)

- Thank you for forwarding the letter of appreciation from President Ian Khama, which I have read with great pleasure. What a warm and gracious note! You and your team have obviously done a great job in the Koanaka Hills, the heat and humidity in the caves notwithstanding! The whole venture reflects really well on South African caving.

- I am delighted to read that all went well and that further exploration on this particular site seems more than likely. You continue to bring glory to SASA and all it stands for as an exploration-driven organisation. Long may it continue!

- I have read your report with care and interest and, as with the previous ones, I have nothing but praise for what you have accomplished. Once again, your work has brought credit to SASA and of course on South African caving as a whole.

- I am of course delighted to see that your caving exploration work in Botswana is not only continuing but is clearly prospering - in spite of not-quite-vertical boreholes! This is without question a quite outstanding project and I wish you and all your team members well as you continue with your work.

- Many thanks for this material, which I have read with the greatest interest. Your ongoing commitment to the Gcwihaba Caves project is most impressive and I just hope that all your Batswanan co-workers appreciate the extent and professionalism of your efforts! With best wishes for your forthcoming expedition.

- Many thanks for this email, which I've read with great interest and pleasure. All best wishes for the continued success of this really outstanding project - cave exploration at its best!

- Many thanks for your email of yesterday, together with the really excellent attachments. The latter are most impressive, especially the picture of that beautiful capsule, which I found quite breathtaking!

- I'm delighted that all continues to go well with this project. Under your leadership I'm sure that this will continue!

- The growth in scope and complexity of the project is most impressive and reflects extremely well both on your leadership and vision and the quality of the team as a whole. With best wishes for the ongoing success of the project.

- Many thanks for your email of yesterday. Once again, may I commend you - and your team - most warmly on the extraordinary progress that you have made with respect to the Gcwihaba Caves Project. I look forward to hearing that the caves have "gone public".

"Peter, as the project continues to move forward, we will miss your words of wisdom, support and encouragement but assure you that we will continue to keep you updated in spirit and look forward to the day we can announce that the doors to the Gcwihaba Caves Park are officially open".

Roger Ellis
14 September 2021

Emeritus Associate Professor Peter E. Spargo: 1937–2021

by Rudiger Laugksch (South Africa)
University of Cape Town
rudiger.laugksch@uct.ac.za

We are deeply saddened by the death of Emeritus Associate Professor Peter Spargo on 2 August 2021 in Rondebosch.

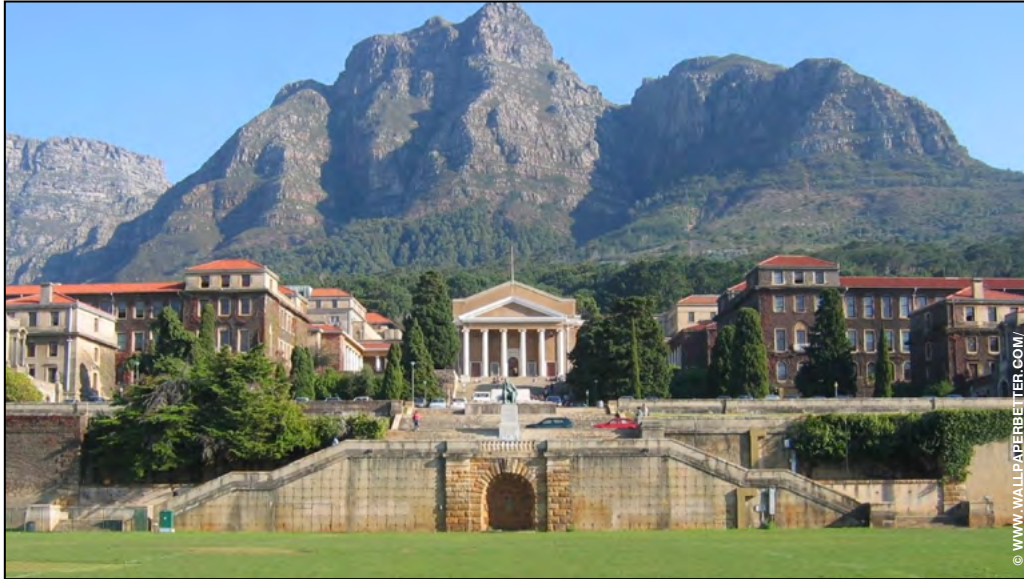
Peter joined the Faculty of Education at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 1976 as a senior lecturer in Science Education and became the director of the Science Education Unit in 1980. He retired from the School of Education in December 1997.

Peter completed a BSc(Eng)(Metallurgy) at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and obtained a Postgraduate Certificate of Education from the University of Cambridge. He worked as a Physical Science high-school teacher before joining the Johannesburg College of Education and later the Transvaal Education Department in various lecturing and curriculum planning capacities for more than 10 years. His arrival at

UCT coincided with the general establishment of science education as an academic discipline, and he, together with his contemporaries at Wits, put science education on the map in South Africa.

Peter had a great number of interests and passions, encompassing chiefly the history of science in its broadest sense, science teacher education, and the natural environment. He developed a strong interest in Sir Isaac Newton's alchemy experiments, which he carefully catalogued and analyzed in light of modern chemistry. Peter's work here led to another, rather unique, hypothesis: Could Newton's





University of Cape Town, Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa.

clearly documented “derangement of the intellect” possibly be attributed to exposure to heavy metals—known to produce nervous symptoms—as a result of his chemical experiments?

In a fascinating account, Peter was able to show that Newton’s hair indeed contained traces of several heavy metals in much higher concentrations than in modern hair, providing circumstantial evidence for the hypothesis as to the cause of “Newton’s so-called ‘nervous breakdown’ of 1692/93”. Perhaps not surprisingly given his interests, Peter was the General Secretary of the Royal Society of South Africa from 1986 to 1990, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa himself in 1987.

Peter enjoyed a ‘helicopter perspective’ of issues and was passionate about the role of science and science education in South Africa’s development and prosperity. He established the SA Association of Teachers of Physical Science (SAATPS) and the Federation of Science and Mathematics Teachers’ Associations of South Africa, and was the organizations’ first chairman and first president, respectively. Being very well connected, Peter was able to bring together participants from industry, provincial education departments, the Chamber of Mines, statutory research organizations, universities, and professional science organizations in a three-day workshop to consider and to recommend how school science might be strengthened. The resulting document —A science education policy for South Africa—was very influential in the 1980s.

As a teacher, Peter was engaging, provocative and interesting. His lectures were an exciting combination of science, history of science, and pedagogy, always stressing the relevance of science in everyday life and its possible role in South Africa’s development. He trained hundreds of science teachers, and their passion, skill and insights are very much due to Peter’s charismatic

and absorbing approach to pre-service science teacher education. He was regarded as somewhat eccentric and known for speaking his mind and for not suffering fools gladly; many a student (and staff member!) was sent packing with a withering comment. However, despite the appearance of a somewhat stern demeanour, Peter was mischievous and funny, and was a social being right to the very end. His dinner parties for postgraduate students were legendary, invariably ending with port and serious debate of one or another issue (“So, do you think we’ll ever find a cure for AIDS?”).

In his spare time, Peter loved to walk in Kirstenbosch and up Skeleton Gorge / Nursery Ravine, often weeding parts of the forest floor to remove young alien vegetation but—much to the bewilderment of his family—leaving the weeds in his own garden untouched! His curiosity of the natural and man-made world, and his beautiful craft of writing, made it possible for him to publish all manner of interesting pieces for wide-ranging lay audiences, the topics ranging from mining coal in the Kruger Park to changes in the water temperature of Colonel Bird’s bath in the Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden and his family’s adventures in Mordecai—a 1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster.

Peter’s connection to and interest in mining also yielded an historical account of early mining activity at the Cape. He additionally provided a careful description of the only true mining venture within the city of Cape Town – the Vredehoek tin mine.

Peter is survived by his wife, Celia; four daughters (Cathy, Margot, Marion, and Trish), and his eight grandchildren.

Rudiger Laugksch

02 August 2021



Calendar of Events

2021
2022

If you are interested in any of the following events, contact them directly to learn if they are still planned as announced below

14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst

Postponed to Spring 2022

<https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>

Karst sessions at European Geophysical Union General Assembly 2022

3-8 April 2022 (Vienna, Austria)

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/event/karst-sessions-at-egu-2022/>

Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference

7-9 April 2022 (Socorro, New Mexico, USA)

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/event/fort-stanton-cave-science-conference/>

36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology

20-23 April 2022 (Brasília, Brazil)

<http://36cbe.org.br/>

9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves

9-13 May 2022 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia)

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/event/9th-international-workshop-on-ice-caves>

EuroKarst 2022: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs

22-25 June 2022 (Málaga, Spain)

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

Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference

17-20 July 2022 (Innsbruck, Austria)

<https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>

25th International Conference on Subterranean Biology

18-22 July 2022 (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/event/25th-international-conference-on-subterranean-biology/>

18th International Congress of Speleology

24-31 July 2022 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, Chambéry, France)

<http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

14th EuroSpeleo Forum 2020

July 31 - August 2, 2022 (Burgos, Spain)

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/event/14th-eurospeleo-forum-2020/>

17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst

27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA)

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/event/17th-multidisciplinary-conference-on-sinkholes-and-the-engineering>

19th International Congress of Speleology

20-27 July 2025 (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil)

[Preliminary information on pages 27-30 on this issue](#)

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Kyung Sik WOO (*Republic of Korea*) - 2013-2017



© BÄRBEL VOGEL



© FADI NADER



© NIVALDO COLZATO

UIS BUREAU 2017/2021 in Bohol, Philippines, September 12, 2019.

Left to right: George VENI (*President/USA*); Satoshi GOTO (*Adjunct Secretary/Japan*); Efraín MERCADO (*Vice-President of Operations/Puerto Rico*); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Treasurer/Slovenia*); Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Adjunct Secretary/Croatia*); Gyula HEGEDUS (*Adjunct Secretary/Hungary*); Tim MOULDS (*Adjunct Secretary/Australia*); Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Vice-President of Administration/Czech Republic*); Bernard CHIROL (*Adjunct Secretary/France*), and Nivaldo COLZATO (*Adjunct Secretary/Brazil*).
Inset photos above: Bärbel VOGEL (*Adjunct Secretary/Germany*); and Fadi NADER (*Secretary General/Lebanon*).



UIS COMMISSIONS and WORKING GROUPS



Commissions and Working Groups are where UIS actual speleological work is done. Anyone who wants to contribute is encouraged to collaborate in the work of a commission under the coordination of its president. Please contact the respective officers through the UIS website.

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Web: <http://tinyurl.com/UIS-CAP/>

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Web: <http://www.artificialcavities.wordpress.com>

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Web: <http://rescue.uis-speleo.org/>

President: Vacant

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President: Marcel MEYSSONNIER (*France*)

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Web: <http://geomatic.disat.unimib.it/home/valter/icecave/index.html>

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PROJECT T-LIDAR CAVE SCANNING

Web: <http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wgsurmap-lidar.html>
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Web: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1b7i340PNk5d-QnAs-FLZalYUvAGlsrmD6YnNDkX1YI10/viewform>
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UIS FEES - DECEMBER 2021

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Cuba (2017), **Lebanon** (2017), and **Venezuela** (2017)
(UIS Bureau decision: not paying until 2021 due to economic crisis)

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Algeria and Honduras

Please indicate WHO is paying for your country - especially if there are two or more speleological associations in your country. The UIS Bureau can't select the payer for your country and we don't return money!!!

If you have a new treasurer or responsible person for payments, please send the new name and e-mail address to zupan@zrc-sazu.si.

We do not know who to contact in some countries or we do not have their proper address.

UPDATE your status now!

CONTACT UIS

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE

www.uis-speleo.org

Titov trg 2, 6230 Postona, Slovenia

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By Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia), *UIS Treasurer* - zupan@zrc-sazu.si



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Headquarters of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia, where the offices of the UIS are located. In the detail, the bronze plaque with the emblem of the UIS affixed below the name of the institute.

The UIS General Assembly at the 17th International Congress of Speleology (*Sydney, Australia, 2017*), approved the amended fee categories of member countries, which are based on the number of speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS.

The new annual contributions are as follows, starting after the 17th ICS, Sydney, Australia:

Category A: 2,000 speleologists or more	480 Euros
Category B: at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000	360 Euros
Category C: at least 100 but fewer than 1,000	240 Euros
Category D: less than 100	60 Euros

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	SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X
Bank (name and address)	Accepted Currencies:
Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d. Traška 2 - 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	EUR (Euros)

STATE OF UIS BANK ACCOUNT ON DECEMBER 2021

EUR - Account balance = 37,483.97

USD - Account balance = 50,882.08

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UIS Bulletin, nor its editors are responsible for:

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- wrongly written names
- incorrect articles
- typographical mistakes

Every effort possible has been made to keep all articles as close to the original version.

In some cases, the editors review the structure in order to present the article in a clear and consistent manner and obvious errors are corrected if found.

We appreciate your understanding.

Should you have any question or comments, please send them to:

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UIS BULLETIN



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