

Welcome to the
**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF CAVES AND KARST 2021**

- 
- The success of the Opening Ceremony
 - Special book is edited
 - Planning Guide for virtual activities
 - Some Countries present their programs

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- International expedition in China supported by the UIS
- Cave Animal of the Year - National Campaigns
- Criminal practice of extracting and selling speleothems
- France Habe Prize: 2019 and 2020 winners
- Minutes of the Annual UIS Bureau Meeting
and more...



Official publication of the UIS for publicizing the activities of the UIS and the state of the art of international speleology - ©2020

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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° 63-1): June 10, 2021

COVER:

Terraced fields in a polje surrounded by tower karst, Guangxi Province, China. Photo by Jean-François Fabriol, during the CHINEXPLOS 2019, international expedition supported by the UIS.

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

Editorial

NEW DECADE, BRILLIANT FUTURE AHEAD

By Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil)

UIS Adjunct Secretary / UIS Bulletin Editor

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Dear readers of the UIS Bulletin, as you know, this official publication of the UIS goes to you twice a year, and the December issues usually come out in early January, just after the holiday period. Despite this, we don't usually refer to the New Year itself, nor pass on wishes for health, peace and prosperity to everybody, as is common around the world at this time. But this issue is an exception.

This issue 62-2 has two special reasons for mentioning the New Year. First, we are starting a new decade. Second, for the speleological world, this is not a normal year like so many others, because 2021 has seen the beginning of the largest and most important speleological project ever organized, the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK).

Given these two reasons and the expectations (and uncertainties) of what is to come in the coming months due to the prolongation of the coronavirus pandemic, certain questions arise. How long will cavers be prevented from having hands-on contact with caves and karst? How long will events and meetings around the world be held virtually? What should we do to ensure the success of the IYCK?

Concerned with these issues and aware that the success of the IYCK depends on confidence, union, and commitment in order to overcome the adverse circumstances, the UIS has been working hard for international speleology, as well as to make the most of the IYCK itself.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we see the first UIS Bulletin of the decade, once more presenting you with an important and diversified content which reflects the great efforts of the UIS to ensure the expected success of the IYCK and help build a brilliant future for speleology worldwide.

For those who have not yet defined their schedule of activities due to the prolonged pandemic, on [page 5](#) we bring the "**Planning Guide for a Virtual IYCK**," prepared by the UIS President George Veni. This guide joins the previous one, entitled just "**IYCK Planning Guide**," to shed light on and provide directions for those who wish to contribute with actions, even if the pandemic continues for a few more months. For both guides, as well as for all IYCK promotional material, please refer to the website <http://iyck2021.org/>.

Despite the prolonged pandemic, many countries

have been working in support of the IYCK and have already prepared a program for the year of 2021. On [page 12](#) we present some of these in order to help others in their decisions regarding the type of actions to be implemented.

One special achievement, worthy of applause, was made by the UIS Treasurer Nadja Zupan Hajna (Slovenia). Her book "**Caves, Karst and People**," edited exclusively for the IYCK, has just been released ([page 10](#)). More good news comes from the "**Cave Animal of the Year**" campaign. It has grown into part of the IYCK to become the "**International Cave Animal of the Year**." Cave beetles have been declared the first international cave animal ([page 20](#)).

Also in line with the main proposal of the IYCK, which is the promotion and protection of caves and karst environments, you find on [pages 38 to 43](#) the winners of 2019 and 2020 for the France Habe prize, an important annual award organized by the UIS Commission on Karst and Cave Protection. They represent relevant work in support of karst heritage and serve as examples to be followed by all.

On the other hand, a classical example of what should "**not**" be done is the article on [page 34](#), which explores/discusses/presents the criminal practice of extracting and selling speleothems. Despite the fact that we must understand and respect the traditional cultures of some countries, negative examples such as these confirm the need for the speleological community to join efforts in the struggle to preserve the karst environment.

Dear reader, a new decade is just beginning and the IYCK is officially under way! Great challenges await us, but the future can be brilliant if we want it to be. So, let us hold hands and join the UIS in teaching the whole world that the influence of caves and karst on everyone's life is far more significant than one might believe. Let us also make the IYCK the basis for further strengthening of our friendships and institutional ties. The UIS Bulletin is open to you and will be glad to publish accounts of your achievements.

Enjoy the reading and please contact the UIS if you have any questions.



The President's Column

WELCOME TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021



By Dr. George Veni (USA)

UIS President

gveni@nckri.org

For the first time in history, the global speleological community is united in 2021 in a one grand project, the **International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK)**. The main goal of the IYCK is to teach the world about the many benefits of caves and karst. As I write these words, the UIS is joined by 84 international and national organizations as partners, and more organizations have told me they are planning to join. Several of these partners are not cave organizations, which is a success in itself. Their alliance with the UIS proves that the IYCK is seen as broadly important, and not limited to speleologists.

The greatest alliance came in September, when the UIS was invited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to hold the Opening Ceremony of the IYCK at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Speleology has never had such a high international stage to reach large numbers of influential national ambassadors and their governments and show them how very important caves and karst are to their countries.

Yet despite this success in partners, we are challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after we received the UNESCO invitation, Paris was declared a COVID "red zone" and now, as 2020 closes, the situation in Paris and everywhere is worse. The Opening Ceremony will be held virtually on 26 January 2021. Watch the [IYCK website](#) and [UIS Facebook](#) page for announcements with the details. The UIS is now working with UNESCO to schedule an IYCK celebration sometime later in 2021 as allowed by the virus.

Over the past few months, I have received many messages from people who want to organize activities of the IYCK, but don't know how because of the pandemic. Following this column, I've written an article to show you the many things you can do to support the IYCK. If you have your health, a computer or phone, and some free time, you can make important contributions to the advancement of speleology while staying safe at home. Even if you are working alone, you can greatly improve the future of cave and karst exploration, research, and protection. Read the next article and see!

I have been asked "How do I join the IYCK?" and "Can I have permission to use the logo and other materials on the website?" The UIS wants to make your participation as easy as possible. Simply organize whatever you can do and freely use the materials to help you. We thank you for joining us!

Why should you help? I have been exploring and studying caves for 45 years. Every caver and cave scientist I have met has complained about damage to caves, pollution to karst aquifers, and/or loss of rare cave ecosystems and irreplaceable cultural heritage. They all want better protection, cooperation to support exploration, and funding for much needed research. Everyone wishes the public and governments understood the importance of caves and would stop damaging and destroying them. But wishes will not change anything. Action will. The International Year of Caves and Karst will.

Change will not happen quickly or in one year. But the IYCK will accelerate the rate of change so in 10-20 years we will see huge changes compared to today. The UIS Bureau has laid the foundation, but the Bureau is only 12 people. The UIS represents about 30,000 cave explorers, managers, scientists, and educators around the world. We need you to build on our foundation.

If each of us taught only 10 people each about caves and karst, we would reach 300,000. Many of them will be children who will one day become leaders in caves, and also in science and governments to better study and protect caves. But with the help of our partners and good use of virtual tools and the news media, we can reach tens of millions of people.

The benefits of the International Year of Caves and Karst can be enormous, but only if you get involved and invite others to help too. The theme of the Year is "Explore, Understand, Protect." Explore your communities. Help them understand the incredible value of caves and karst. With that understanding, they will join us to protect these natural treasures on and below the Earth's surface.



PLANNING GUIDE FOR A VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST



By Dr. George Veni (USA)
UIS President
gveni@nckri.org

One year ago, the UIS published a Planning Guide to help our members and partners develop events for 2021, the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK). Two months later, the world's activities closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many found it difficult to use the ideas of the Planning Guide. As 2021 begins, this new guide gives directions on how you and clubs can create virtual IYCK events and conduct other valuable activities safely during the pandemic.

Visit the [IYCK website](#)

The website has a lot of general information about caves and karst. Share it with the people so they can learn more. Go to the Download page for the logo, leaflet, posters, and other materials to help you. You do not need special permission. The information is free and open to everyone. Also, remember to share the [UIS Facebook](#) page.

Understand the IYCK goals

The purpose of the IYCK is to teach the world about caves and karst. Think about the best ways to reach people who need to know what speleologists understand. If you organize meetings for cave explorers and scientists, that is good, but it is important that they include the public too, or at least some influential people who need to learn about caves and karst. I'll give some examples below but remember to stay focused on the public.

“International” does not always mean “big”

Some people think that because this is the International Year, they need to plan big and complicated activities. If you can do that, excellent! But many times, several small activities can be better at reaching the public than one big event. The UIS has said from the start that you should “do what you can.” No activity is too small!

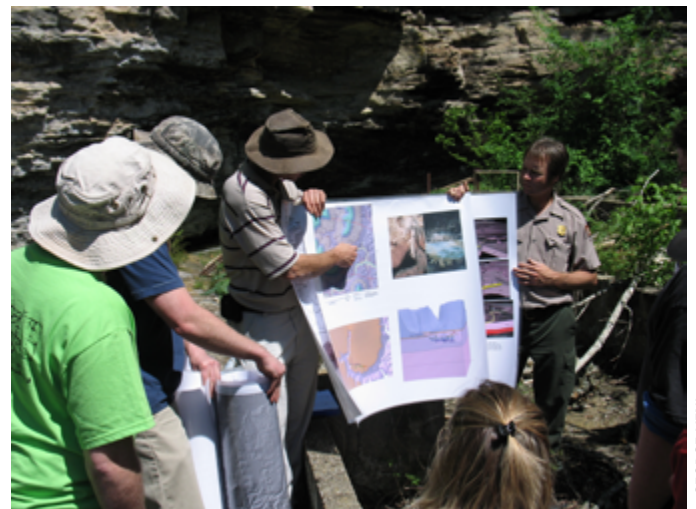
Use virtual tools

There are now many ways to connect with people. Use teleconference tools like Zoom to give lectures about caves and karst. Do you know teachers? Offer free

lectures for their students about caves. You can do the same for meetings of non-speleological organizations. You can also record your voice in PowerPoint as you give your lecture, then load it on YouTube or social media for download. Go out into the karst with your camera or camera phone and record a field trip that you can share. For a small amount of time and effort, you can reach hundreds or thousands of people this way over the year. You can also use your virtual presentations in the ideas below.

Call the news media

Television, newspapers, magazines, radio, and Internet news media are always looking for something different and exciting to report. They like stories of scientific curiosity. Call and tell them about interesting discoveries and caves in your area. Show them your virtual presentation. What may not seem interesting to you could be very interesting to the media. Always connect your story to the International Year to show that caves and karst are internationally important, and that your words stand with a worldwide community that knows caves are important. Through the media, you will reach thousands of people!



Everyone enjoys field trips. You can create virtual trips easily with a video camera or camera phone, visiting cave entrances and karst features, and adding digital maps later.

GEORGE VENI

Ask for proclamations

Many elected officials make proclamations that say they recognize an important event. Ask the mayor of your town, governor of your region, or other officials to proclaim that your town or region recognizes 2021 as the International Year of Caves and Karst! Be prepared to give a virtual presentation, as above, to explain the importance of the Year. These proclamations will get even more attention from the news media and will help with other outreach ideas below.

Contact policymakers

Who makes the laws in your area that protect your environment, water, ecosystems, and cultural heritage? Are their laws good at protecting caves and karst? If not, call them. Show them what they need to understand and help them develop better and more effective laws.

Contact land managers

Sometimes you have good protection laws, but the managers don't understand caves and karst well enough to use them properly. Some managers don't understand caves and karst are important. Teach the managers. Make them excited about caves and karst. They will become better at protecting caves and, when the pandemic is over, they may become good partners in helping you find new caves to explore!

Call your show caves and karst parks

The [International Show Caves Association \(ISCA\)](#) supports the IYCK but not all show caves are ISCA members. Tell show caves in your area about the IYCK and ISCA. Also, contact parks in karst areas. Show caves and parks are always looking for new ways to attract tourists. By connecting them to the IYCK, they can prove their importance to the regional economy and bring in more tourists when the pandemic is over by showing they are not just local curiosities but parts of a globally recognized valuable natural resource. Also, encourage them to connect with caves and parks in other countries to develop sister-cave or sister-park relationships.



GEORGE VENI

The managers of show caves and karst parks are great partners for the IYCK.

If they work on that during the pandemic, it will result in more tourism, media attention, and public education later. In 2019, more than 144 million people visited show caves. Show caves are our best partners at reaching and teaching millions of people about caves and karst. Work with them!

Work with partners

Several of the steps above involve developing partnerships for the IYCK. Think about other partners who can join you. Of course, you will first think about speleological organizations, but then contact groups that are not involved with caves. Remember that we need to teach others about caves, so tell your local hiking, climbing, water protection, nature, archaeological, or other groups that their area has caves or is karst. Join their virtual meetings and give presentations. Help change them from groups that only use the karst to groups that understand and protect it.

Create virtual conferences

Conferences are usually for specialists, not the general public. If you organize a virtual conference, invite some of the people mentioned above, such as lawmakers, land managers, and others whose work affects caves and karst, but who do not understand it. Give them free registrations to the conference so they can learn and create partnerships. They probably would not join the conference if they had to pay, but their attendance at a virtual conference will cost you nothing but may gain you a lot.

Be creative

You are not limited to the ideas in this guide. Think of other ideas that can engage the public during the pandemic, such as art, video, and music contests for caves and karst. Create fun programs for young people on Tik Tok, Instagram, and other social media. If you are at a university, company, or organization with its own magazine and social media, send articles for posting about your cave and karst work. It will benefit the



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Meetings with small classes, or influential groups like this, are now possible virtually, and presentations can be recorded and posted where they can be viewed hundreds of times.



GEORGE VENI

Meet with journalists by phone, video conference, or protected in person about your explorations and research.

IYCK and will be good for your career. There are many other creative possibilities.

Post your activities to the IYCK website

It is important that you announce your events, no matter how small, on the Events page of the website. Use the address near the top of the page to send your information in the format shown on the Events page. After your event, send a website or social media link, PowerPoint, PDF, or other report that describes your event's attendance, activities, and results. If you create a video, online story, or are part of a news report, send



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Dance contests are one of many fun and creative ways to make young people interested in caves.

those links for posting on the Events page too. At the end of the year, we will compile all IYCK activities into one report that can be used by anyone in the years ahead to demonstrate the importance of caves and karst. This report will help future speleologists find funding and support for exploration, research, and better management of caves and karst.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to become part of the IYCK. We are trying to reach the world and need your help. Please join us and contact me if you have any questions (gveni@nckri.org). Remember, Explore, Understand, Protect.

UIS PRIZES 2021

REMINDER FOR NOMINATION

Dear cavers, speleologists, and cave lovers around the world, as announced in the previous issue of the UIS Bulletin, the UIS is waiting for you to submit nominations for the 2021 UIS PRIZES.

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.

Do not forget, please: THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MAY 21, 2021.

Virtual Opening Ceremony

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021



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

The Virtual Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) took place on Tuesday, January 26th 2021 on the [UIS Youtube channel](#). The event was watched live by about 600 people, with a maximum of 425 people at one time. We had a live chat during the Opening, where numerous attendees posted their thoughts and best wishes. After the ceremony, we met by Zoom, where about 50 people toasted the start of the IYCK.

In just two days, from the Opening to January 28th, YouTube statistics show there were about 2,000 viewers from over 40 countries with the greatest participation from the USA (11%), Slovenia (8.3%), Mexico (5.1%), Poland (4.9%), and Spain (4.4%). By February 1st, only three days later, there were over 5,000 views of the Opening!

The Virtual Opening was organized by the IYCK Organizing Committee which consists of UIS Bureau members: Gyula Hegedüs, Zdenek Motyčka, Dr. Fadi Nader, Dr. George Veni, Bärbel Vogel, and Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna.

The Virtual Opening was conducted with the following:

1) Welcome and introduction of the UIS Bureau:

- **Dr. Tim Moulds** (Australia, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Bernard Chirol** (France, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Dr. Mladen Garašić** (Croatia, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Satoshi Goto** (Japan, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Gyula Hegedüs** (Hungary, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Bärbel Vogel** (Germany, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Nivaldo Colzato** (Brazil, UIS Adjunct Secretary)
- **Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna** (Slovenia, UIS Treasurer)
- **Dr. Fadi Nader** (Lebanon, UIS Secretary General)
- **Zdenek Motyčka** (Czech Republic, UIS Vice President of Administration)
- **Efraín Mercado** (Puerto Rico, UIS Vice President of Operations);

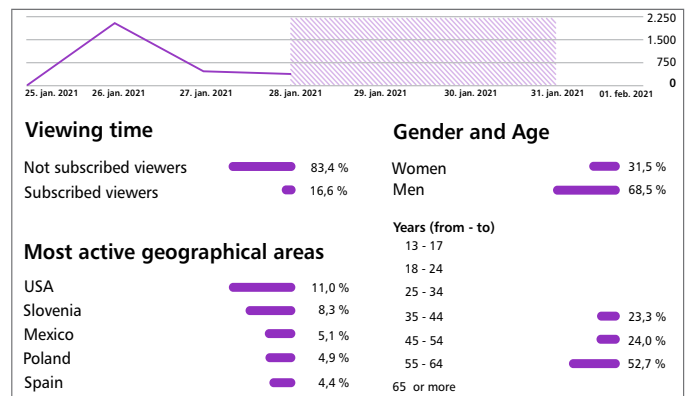
2) Welcome and opening speech by Dr. George Veni (USA), UIS President;

3) Presentation on the International Union of Speleology by Dr. Fadi Nader, UIS Secretary General;

4) Keynote lecture on Karst, Caves and People by Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna, UIS Treasurer;

Statistics – YouTube Channel

January 31, 2021 (26.-28.1)



Viewers/ Country

USA	502	11,0 %	13:35	113:8	14,4 %
Slovenia	378	8,3 %	10:18	65,0	8,2 %
Mexico	230	5,1 %	9:51	37,8	4,8 %
Poland	225	4,9 %	11:05	41,6	5,3 %
Spain	198	4,4 %	7:19	24,2	3,1 %
Brazil	182	4,0 %	15:45	47,8	6,1 %
Germany	154	3,4 %	11:52	30,5	3,9 %
Greece	143	3,1 %	12:54	30,8	3,9 %
Italy	141	3,1 %	7:19	17,2	2,2 %
Czech	97	2,1 %	11:45	19,0	2,4 %
Australia	92	2,0 %	9:53	15,2	1,9 %
UK	89	2,0 %	14:51	22,0	2,8 %
Russia	72	1,6 %	6:01	7,2	0,9 %
Austria	64	1,4 %	10:34	11,3	1,4 %
Hungary	54	1,2 %	12:25	11,2	1,4 %
Romania	51	1,1 %	14:47	12,6	1,6 %
Croatia	50	1,1 %	8:55	7,4	0,9 %
Argentina	45	1,0 %	9:24	7,1	0,9 %
Japan	37	0,8 %	10:43	6,6	0,8 %
France	36	0,8 %	6:39	4,0	0,5 %
Portugal	36	0,8 %	11:09	6,7	0,9 %
Serbia	36	0,8 %	12:45	7,7	1,0 %
Bulgaria	35	0,8 %	5:06	3,0	0,4 %
Colombia	33	0,7 %	19:47	10,9	1,4 %
Norway	32	0,7 %	4:51	2,6	0,3 %
Switzerland	30	0,7 %	4:59	2,5	0,3 %
Ukraine	29	0,6 %	1:10	0,6	0,1 %
Canada	28	0,6 %	9:19	4,4	0,6 %
Malaysia	26	0,6 %	1:29	0,6	0,1 %
Thailand	22	0,5 %	11:08	4,1	0,5 %
Slovakia	21	0,5 %	5:45	2,0	0,3 %
Sweden	18	0,4 %	5:05	1,5	0,2 %
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17	0,4 %	6:48	1,9	0,2 %
Philippines	14	0,3 %	6:05	1,4	0,2 %
Puerto Rico	14	0,3 %	7:02	1,6	0,2 %
Cuba	12	0,3 %	2:35	0,5	0,1 %
Indonesia	11	0,2 %	10:50	2,0	0,3 %
New Zealand	11	0,2 %	1:29	0,3	0,0 %
Lebanon	10	0,2 %	7:59	1,3	0,2 %
Netherlands	10	0,2 %	1:45	0,3	0,0 %



Screen shots of the twelve UIS Bureau Members welcoming everybody to the International Year of Caves and Karst during the virtual opening ceremony.

5) Introduction of the International Cave Animal of the Year by **Bärbel Vogel**, UIS Adjunct Secretary;

6) Presentation of the International Year goals and planning materials by **Zdenek Motyčka**, UIS Vice President of Administration;

7) Presentations by representatives of some international partner organizations and their plans for the IYCK:

- **Wesley Hill** (*Secretary, International Union for the Conservation of Nature's World Commission on Protected Areas, Geoheritage Specialist Group*)
- **Dr. Cao Jianhua** (*Executive Deputy Director, International Research Center on Karst*)
- **Jason Corbett** (*Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration at Bat Conservation International*)
- **Dr. Augusto Auler** (*International Association of Hydrogeologists*)
- **Lee Anne Bledsoe** (*Cave Man and the Biosphere Network*)
- **Ged Campion** (*President, European Speleological Federation*)
- **Frank Momberg** (*Fauna and Flora International*)
- **Dr. Rosana Cerkvenik** (*Škocjan Caves Park*)
- **Brad Wuest** (*President, International Show Caves Association*)

8) Closing of the Virtual Opening by **Dr. George Veni**; and

9) Presentation of the IYCK movie produced by **Uwe Krüger**, which is also available for separate viewing (6.5 minutes) on the [UIS YouTube channel](#), and available for download from the [IYCK website](#).

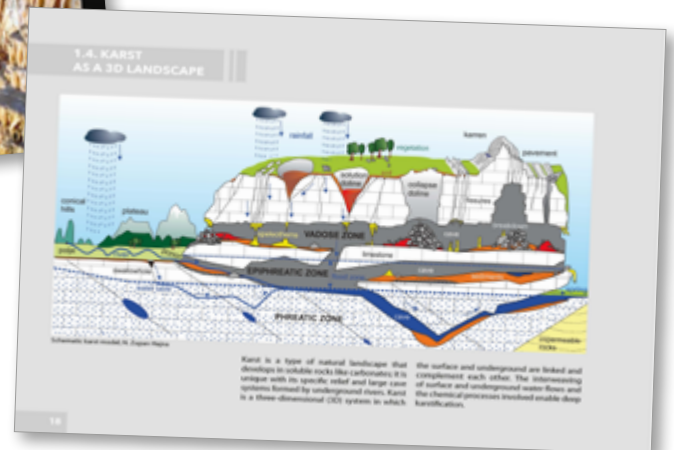
The introductory and concluding short shots of karst were produced by **Uroš Stepišnik**. The Virtual Opening was edited by **Anja Hajna**, who also set up the YouTube channel and [UIS Facebook](#) page together with **Jasmina Rijavec**. Jasmina is also the [UIS](#) and [IYCK](#) website manager. UIS Adjunct Secretary **Satoshi Goto** set up [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) sites. All UIS social media are currently focused on the IYCK.

We are still planning the Grand Opening Ceremony and Celebration of the IYCK at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, which will be scheduled when the pandemic is over. After three years of negotiations with the help and support of the Slovenian, Hungarian, Lebanese, and Serbian National Commissions for UNESCO, in September 2020 the UIS received the Patronage of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay for the Grand Opening event in Paris.

Although postponed, the event at UNESCO Headquarters is under preparation by the UIS IYCK Organizing Committee in close collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Paris and the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the months ahead, watch the IYCK website and UIS social media for news about this Grand Opening.



Books



KARST, CAVES AND PEOPLE

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Date: January 2021

Publishing House: Založba ZRC

Publisher: Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU

Language: English

Specifications: Hardback • 28 × 21 cm • 172 pages

Printed by: PRESENT, d.o.o., Dolenjska c 43, 1000 Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Copies: 1000

Cover photos:

- Flooded Planinsko polje (Slovenia) with settlements on dolomite, forests on limestone, and carbonate Julian Alps in the background: **J. Hajna**
- Križna jama, Slovenia: **P. Gedei**

First edition, first print run. Postojna / Ljubljana, 2021

CIP – Kataložni zapis publikacij
Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana - 551.44
ZUPAN Hajna, Nadja
Karst, caves and people / Nadja Zupan Hajna; [authors of the photos Viacheslav Andreychouk et al.]. - 1st ed., 1st print. - Ljubljana: ZRC SAZU, Založba ZRC, 2020
ISBN 978-961-05-0491-7
COBISS.SI-ID 37313539

Description: The book is dedicated to the International Year of Caves and Karst 2021.

The purpose of the book is to present karst phenomena as natural sights in a popular way, and at the same time, emphasize their importance to people and their extreme vulnerability. Through numerous photographs and schematic models, the book tries to explain scientific findings about karst processes, formation of different surface forms and cave types, and also the problems people can create in karst environment from their ways of life.

The photographs of sixty-four authors from 18 different countries represent different types of karst and caves from almost all over the world. Karst functions the same way all over the world. People have negatively affected the environment for thousands of years, but the sheer size of today's human population leads to more conspicuous and inevitable negative environmental consequences.

Pollution affects not only water quality but also caves and their fragile ecosystems. The basis for all karst protection activities is knowledge and understanding. Karst and caves are part of our environment. Even if we do not live in the karst or ever visit a cave, all people on Earth benefit from the water they provide, from their ecosystems, and from their economic values linked to tourism.

Book preparation and printing were funded by the

Slovenian Research Agency [research core funding No. P6-0119], Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, and MEDIFORM spol. sr. o.

Main Book Chapters:

1. KARST
2. KARST ROCKS
3. KARST WATERS
4. KARST PROCESSES
5. SURFACE KARST FORMS
6. CAVES
7. PEOPLE AND KARST
8. EXPLORE
9. UNDERSTAND
10. PROTECT
11. UNESCO CAVES AND KARST
12. REFERENCES
13. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The book can be ordered at:

<https://izr.k.zrc-sazu.si/en/publikacije/karst-caves-and-people#v>

Price: 29,00 EUR (Regular); 25,00 EUR (Club)



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021



Activities in some UIS Member Nations

BRAZIL



Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE)

www.cavernas.org.br/

JUNE 2019

Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul

First activity to promote the IYCK in Brazil: presentation “*The UIS and the IYCK 2021*” during the 35th Brazilian Congress of Speleology.

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2019

Campinas/SP

Presentation “*The UIS and the IYCK 2021*” during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Brazilian Society of Speleology. About 70 cavers from 17 speleo teams from different regions of Brazil attended the event and all of them were given IYCK stickers and leaflets—a batch of 10.000 stickers as well as 2.500 units of the IYCK leaflet, both in the Portuguese language, were produced to be distributed during the official events or activities related to the IYCK (images below).



More details of this event (in Portuguese) at: http://www.cavernas.org.br/sbenoticias/SBENoticias_401.pdf

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Visitor Center of Peruaçu Caves National Park Janaúria, Minas Gerais

Exclusive event to promote the UIS and the IYCK. Presentation “*The UIS and the IYCK 2021*”. Around 40 participants (composed by natural resource managers, park chief and administrative staff, park guides, environmentalists, representatives of local municipalities, stakeholders, and friends)

attended the event and all of them were given IYCK stickers and leaflets. Besides that, an IYCK Poster was displayed during the event and remained on site for permanent exhibition to the visitors.

More details (in Portuguese) at: http://www.cavernas.org.br/sbenoticias/SBENoticias_405.pdf

Event announcement released through social medias (right) and the IYCK poster among a group of participants (below).



© ICMBio PARNA CAVERNAS DO PERUAÇU

FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER, 2020

The following activities were planned for this period but canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this unforeseen tragedy, such activities are still planned for throughout 2021 (and 2022 if the IYCK continues for an extra year), by the Monte Sião Speleo Team, on behalf of the Brazilian Speleological Society:

- Series of lectures on the UIS and the IYCK: for each presentation, a personalized poster will be displayed at the site for permanent exhibition.
- Caving Introduction Course lasting 8 to 40 hours—adaptable to the interest of the audience—to be offered to caving clubs in Brazil and in the FEALC region, with preference to university students. Such activity is planned to be integrated with the activities of the Brazilian School of Speleology (eBRe), as a way to strengthen it.
- Involvement of the Pascoal Andreta Cultural Foundation, based in Monte Sião/MG, maintainer of the Historical and Geographical Museum of Monte Sião. As this Museum houses an artificial cave, the idea is to organize speleological exhibits (photos, paintings) and lectures on site.
- Permanent exhibition on the topic of caving, with promotion of the IYCK, UIS, SBE and EGMS, at the premises of Colégio Monte-Sionense and open to the general public.
- Itinerant exhibition of paintings on the Peruaçu Valley as a strategy to promote caves and karst as well as the IYCK and its goals.

DECEMBER, 2020

• Article for the SBE News, monthly digital bulletin of the SBE. The purpose of the article was to provide the Brazilian speleological community with updated information about the IYCK, confirmation of its launch on a virtual platform on January 26, 2021, and a general explanation of this UIS initiative with an emphasis on Brazilian participation.

See at (in Portuguese): http://cavernas.org.br/sbenoticias/SBE_Noticias_414.pdf

• Translation into Portuguese the document “*International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK)–Planning guide for virtual activities*” and publishing in the digital bulletin SBE News, January 2021 issue.

ALL YEAR 2021

Location: online, with distribution in social media.

Event name: Creation of instructional materials for teachers on speleological education.

Organization: EGRIC Speleo Team, on behalf of the SBE.

Event description: Production, application, and distribution of audiovisual educational tools, such as didactic booklets and video lessons, aiming at environmental awareness about the importance of conservation of cave environments and dissemination of speleological knowledge for public elementary school teachers. The project has been developed together with the Geopark Corumbataí and will be applied to the community of Serra do Itaqueri.

For more information: egric.espeleogrupo@gmail.com

JANUARY 14, 2021

• Webinar organized exclusively to discuss the Brazilian participation on the IYCK in 2021.

After a presentation about the UIS and the IYCK, some of the around 40 participants posted their opinion on how to contribute to this UIS project.

As one of the good results of this Webinar, the SBE created a special commission to carry out everything related to the IYCK in Brazil. Representatives of several speleo teams from all regions of Brazil joined this commission. The Brazilian speleological community has shown great enthusiasm for the IYCK and a massive participation is expected. The SBE, as the national association, will lead this movement with the goal of making Brazil one of the leaders in promoting the IYCK among UIS countries. A special room on the SBE website is about to be created in order to hold everything related to the IYCK in Brazil, including calendar of activities, and their results.

The complete video of the Webinar is at: <https://youtu.be/tIV7Mi8uxXA>

Immediately after the Webinar, the two guides written by George Veni that were translated into Portuguese were distributed through WhatsApp groups as well as other social medias in order to reinforce their importance on getting ideas to organize activities.



Webinar advertising released through social media (top image), and the print screen with some participantes of the virtual event (above). A large Brazilian participation in the IYCK is expected.

JUNE 2-5, 2021

Location: Convention Center of Brasilia DC, Brazil

Event name: 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology



Event description: The Brazilian Society of Speleology hosts the Brazilian Nacional Congress of Speleology every two years, which is the biggest and the most significant speleological event in Brazil. This 36th issue will be dedicated mostly to the International Year of Caves and Karst.

For more information: <http://36cbe.org.br/>

2nd SEMESTER OF 2021

Location: Ipeúna, State of São Paulo – Brazil.

Event name: Learn for conserving and caving!

Organization: EGRIC Speleo Team, on behalf of the SBE.

Event description: Educational soiree and open round-table discussion for the community of Ipeúna, a municipality in São Paulo, with the goal of disseminating caving through simple language, demonstrating the importance of knowing and conserving the caving heritage of the region.

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CROATIA



For more information:

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Croatia in celebration of IYCK 2021

Since last year and the beginning of 2021, over 1,500 earthquakes have been registered in Croatia. Two of them were catastrophic and twenty were very strong. All of these earthquakes occurred during the period of isolation of COVID-19, and this caused extra difficulties.

However, the plan of Croatian cavers and speleologists from the inception of the IYCK 2021 several years ago was to promote the IYCK in order to celebrate this important international activity organized by UIS. Croatia was one of the first countries, where our national UNESCO office and government provided written support to the UIS for this celebration.

We indirectly started to celebrate the IYCK with our successful expeditions in Croatia and abroad in previous years.

Last year in Croatia, cavers connected several caves into the one big Crnopac Cave System, which now has a length of about 54 km and a depth of 797 meters. This is the longest cave system in this part of Europe and the longest in the Dinaric Karst System.

Moreover, international expeditions were organized on Velebit and Biokovo mountains. On Velebit Mountain, the Nedam pit was explored, with a depth of 1226 meters, and on Biokovo Mountain, the Njemica pit, with a depth of 934 meters. In addition, several international cave diving expeditions were organized in deep karst spring caves.

Unfortunately, due to the presence of Corona virus, the annual convention of Croatian cavers was not organized. We hope that in 2021, in the year of the IYCK 2021, it will be possible to hold the annual convention, and that numerous interesting expeditions will be possible.

Our plan is to attend the International Congress of Speleology 2021 in France, and show results of our activities in the past few years. We hope the earthquakes will stop soon in the country and that the Covid-19 pandemic will finish with the vaccination.



The longest cave in tunnel (Velebit Mountain, Croatia).

JAPAN



Speleological Society of Japan

www.speleology.jp/

NOVEMBER 20-28, 2021

Gyokusendo, Nanjo City, Okinawa Prefecture

The week-long conference of the Speleological Society of Japan will include lectures and hands-on sessions and cave photo exhibitions for the general public.

HUNGARY

Hungarian Speleological Society
www.barlang.hu/

The Hungarian Speleological Society and Hungarian cavers joined to the idea of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) in 2021 from the first glance when it was proposed in 2015. Now, as the Year is coming, we are planning the following programs and activities, some of which depends on the pandemic situation with the COVID virus.

We have arranged for the book by UIS Treasurer Nadja Zupan Hajna, "Karst, Caves and People," to also be published in the Hungarian language. We shall organize a book presentation event with the Agricultural Ministry (which is responsible for nature preservation in our country) where the news media will be invited. We have a plan to present the IYCK Video as a part of that event. The book will be sold at show cave and national park visitor centers. IYCK leaflets will also be presented at all those places. The IYCK video will be presented in all those visitor centers where video monitors are available.

We have a plan to create four open-air stands with three sides each and we shall place giant posters on each side showing caves and karst as it is discussed by IYCK. We shall take them to most frequented places as follows: two highly frequented traffic centers knots in Budapest where are the most bus and tram terminals, and bus, tram and metro stations. We will also take and display them in five other county seats which are rich in caves and karst areas. During the months of April through October, our poster presentations will stand in different locations for 3-4 weeks and then moved new locations. Those months are the best period for pedestrians to see the messages of the posters because of weather. We shall hold opening events at each of these places where we will invite local and national media.

We are organizing a temporary exhibition dealing with caves and karst, as it is discussed by IYCK, in the Hungarian Geographical Museum. That exhibition will be open in September-October and media will be invited for the opening. During the exhibition we plan to permanently present the IYCK Video, UIS history video, and others caving videos.

We are organizing thematic excursions for high

school students on the Bükk Plateau, which is one of the most beautiful karst areas in our country. Those excursions will be held in late spring and early summer.

In addition to those special events, we shall dedicate all our regular yearly events to the IYCK which include:

- Cavers National Convention: usually the third weekend of June
- Meetings of Cave Professionals: usually early November and other events where we are involved as such...
- World Day of Water: 22 March
- Earth Day: 22 April
- Globe Festival/Explorers Day: middle of June
- Valley of Arts Festival: middle of July
- Green Globe Festival: middle of November

We shall publish caving articles in different magazines, such as for tourists, mountain sports, touring, etc. We will also use the IYCK leaflets and other IYCK materials (video, roll-ups, etc.) on all occasions and places where we can.

Throughout these and other events, we shall take every opportunity during the year to draw the attention of people, politicians, and economic actors to the scientific, economic and social importance of caves and karst.



Istállóskő Cave in Bükk National Park: *The jewelry made of bones that were found there are among the oldest in the world.*

USA

National Speleological Society
<https://caves.org/>
JUNE 28 - JULY 2, 2021
Weed, California, USA

USA National Speleological Society Convention.

<http://nss2021.caves.org/>

WORLD HERITAGE SITES, GLOBAL GEOPARKS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021



By Dr. George Veni (USA)

UIS President

gveni@nckri.org

The UIS has developed a few themes for the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK). Some have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but one you can work on now by phone, e-mail, and video meetings.

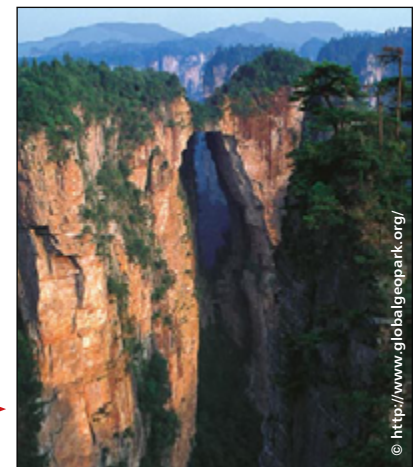
Develop partnerships and programs with cave and karst World Heritage Sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks. This short report provides a list of these internationally important sites recognized by UNESCO. Some sites are already involved with the IYCK.

The UIS encourages you to contact them and other World Heritage Sites and Global Geoparks in your area. Tell them about the IYCK. Show them the benefits of being involved, which meet their goals for

public education and opens new opportunities for research at their sites. Join them to organize events and programs, which could open new caves for you to explore and study.

Below are two lists, one for Global Geoparks and one of World Heritage Sites. Both are current as of 1 January 2021. All were established at least in part for caves and/or karst. This means that some of their cave and karst values may not be obvious or promoted, so do not be discouraged if you don't see the connection immediately. Also, not all sites are in karst areas but have pseudokarst caves of interest. For more information about the sites, click [World Heritage](#) and [UNESCO Global Geoparks](#).

COUNTRY	CAVE/KARST RELATED UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK
Austria	Nature Park Eisenwurzen Geopark
Belgium	Famenne-Ardenne Geopark
Canada	Discovery Geopark
China	Danxiashan Geopark
	Dunhuang Geopark
	Fangshan Geopark
	Funiushan Geopark
	Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe Geopark
	Jingpohu Geopark
	Leiqiong Geopark
	Leye-Fengshan Geopark
	Shennongjia Geopark
	Shilin Geopark
	Xiangxi Geopark
	Xingwen Geopark
	Yandangshan Geopark
	Yanqing Geopark
	Zhangjiajie Sandstone Peak Forest Geopark
Zhijindong Cave Geopark	
Croatia	Papuk Geopark
Czech Republic	Bohemian Paradise Geopark
Finland	Lauhanvuori-Hämeen kangas Geopark



The Wulingyuan peak in Zhangjiajie Sandstone Peak Forest Geopark, China.

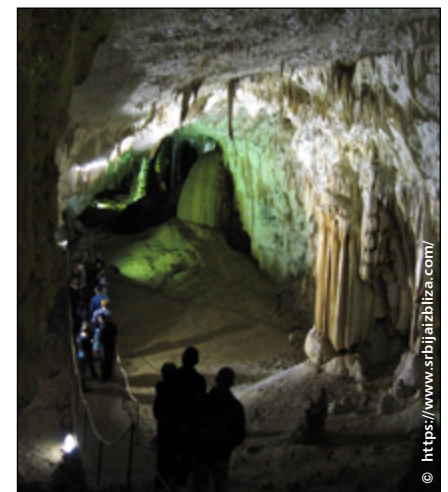
COUNTRY	CAVE/KARST RELATED UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK
France	Causses du Quercy Geopark
	Massif des Bauges Geopark
Germany	Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen
	Geopark Swabian Albs
Greece	Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark
	Lesvos Island
	Psiloritis Natural Park
	Sitia
	Vikos – Aaos Geopark →
Hungary	Bakony-Balaton Geopark
Hungary & Slovakia	Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark
Indonesia	Gunung Sewu
Iran	Qeshm Island
Ireland	Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark
Ireland & UK	Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh Mountain Park
Italy	Adamello Brenta Geopark
	Alpi Apuani Geopark
	Beigua Geopark
	Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni Geopark
	Madonie Natural Park
Japan	Muroto Geopark
	San'in Kaigan Geopark →
Malaysia	Langkawi Island Geopark
Nicaragua	Rio Coco Geopark
Norway	Magma Geopark
Portugal	Açores UNESCO Global Geopark
Republic of Korea	Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark
	Hantangang Geopark
	Mudeungsan Geopark
Russia	Yangan-Tau Geopark
Serbia	Djerdap Geopark →
Slovenia	Idrija Geopark
Slovenia & Austria	Karavanke/Karawanken
Spain	Basque Coast Geopark
	Central Catalonia Geopark
	El Hierro Geopark
	Granada Geopark
	La Loras Geopark
	Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
	Maestrazgo Geopark
	Molina and Alto Tajo Global Geopark
	Sierra Norte de Sevilla Geopark
	Sierras Subeticas Geopark
Sobrarbe-Pirineos Geopark	
Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark	
Thailand	Satun Geopark
United Kingdom	English Riviera Geopark
	Forest Fawr Geopark – Wales
Uruguay	Grutas del Palacio Geopark
Vietnam	Dak Nong Geopark →
	Dong Van Karst Plateau Geopark
	Non Nuoc Cao Bang Geopark



Vikos Gorge in Vikos-Aaos Geopark in Zagoria, Greece.



Genbudo Cave in San'in Kaigan Geopark, Japan



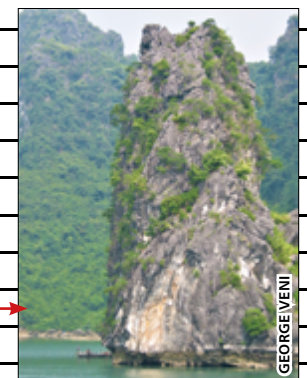
Rajkova Cave in Djerdap Geopark, Serbia.



C1 volcanic cave at the Dak Nong Geopark, Vietnam.

COUNTRY	CAVE/KARST RELATED WORLD HERITAGE SITE
Argentina	Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas → 
Australia	Australian Fossil Mammal Sites
	Greater Blue Mountains
	Ningaloo Coast
	Purnululu
	Shark Bay
Tasmanian Wilderness	
Austria	HallstattDachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape
Belize	Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System
Bulgaria	Pirin National Park → 
Canada	Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks
	Nahanni National Park
	Wood Buffalo National Park
Chile	Rapa Nui National Park
China	Fanjingshan
	Huanglong
	Jiuzhaigou Valley → 
	Longmen Grottoes
	Mogao Caves
	Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian
	South China Karst
	Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan
	Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area
	Yungang Grottoes
Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape	
Colombia	Chiribiquete National Park
Croatia	Plitvice Lakes National Park → 
Cuba	Alejandro de Humboldt National Park
	Desembarco del Granma National Park
Viñales Valley	
Ecuador	Galápagos Islands
France	Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape
	Decorated Cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc, Ardèche
	Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley
France/ Spain	Pyrénées-Mount Perdu
Germany	Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura
Greece	Acropolis, Athens
	Archaeological Site of Delphi
	Meteora → 
	Mount Athos
Guatemala	Tikal National Park
Hungary/ Slovakia	Caves of Aggtelek and Slovak Karst
Iceland	Vatnajökull National Park
India	Ajanta Caves
	Elephanta Caves
	Ellora Caves
	Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka
Indonesia	Lorentz National Park

COUNTRY	CAVE/KARST RELATED WORLD HERITAGE SITE
Israel	Caves of Maresha and Bet-Guvrin in the Judean Lowlands as a Microcosm of the Land of the Caves
	Sites of Human Evolution at Mount Carmel: The Nahal Me'arot / Wadi el-Mughara Caves
Italy	The Dolomites
Jordan	Wadi Rum Protected Area
Korea	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes
Lebanon	Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab)
Libya	Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus
Madagascar	Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve
Malaysia	Gunung Mulu
Mali	Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)
Mexico	Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul
	Pre-Hispanic City and National Park of Palenque →
	Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza
	Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan
	Pre-Hispanic Town of Uxmal
	Prehistoric Caves of Yagul and Mitla in the Central Valley of Oaxaca
Sian Ka'an	
Montenegro	Durmitor National Park
Palau	Rock Islands Southern Lagoon
Philippines	Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park →
Russian Federation	Lake Baikal
	Lena Pillars Nature Park
	Western Caucasus
Seychelles	Aldabra Atoll
Slovenia	Škocjan Caves
Solomon Islands	East Rennell
South Africa	Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, and Environs
Spain	Cave of Altamira and Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain
	Prehistoric Rock Art Sites in the Côa Valley and Siega Verde
	Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape
	Rock Art of the Mediterranean Basin on the Iberian Peninsula
Syrian Arab Republic	Ancient Villages of Northern Syria
Thailand	Dong Phrayayen - Khao Yai Forest Complex
	Thungyai-Hua Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries
Turkey	Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia
	Hierapolis Pamukkale →
UK: Gibraltar	Gorham's Cave Complex
UK: Pitcairn Islands	Henderson Island
USA	Carlsbad Caverns National Park
	Everglades National Park
	Grand Canyon National Park
	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
	Mammoth Cave National Park
Mesa Verde National Park	
USA: Marshall Islands	Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site
Venezuela	Canaima National Park
Vietnam	Ha Long Bay →
	Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park
	Trang An Landscape Complex



PROTECTION OF CAVE FAUNA

CAVE ANIMAL OF THE YEAR: National Campaigns

By Bärbel Vogel (Germany)
UIS Adjunct Secretary
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As part of the International Year of Caves and Karst, UIS declared cave beetles as first International Cave Animal of the Year. National cave animal campaigns support this action. The first Cave Animal of the Year was declared by the German Speleological Federation in 2009 with cave amphipods, *Niphargus*. For 2021, the German Cave Animal of the year is the cave rove beetle *Quedius mesomelinus*. They are found all year round in natural caves, mine tunnels, and rock cellars.

This short-winged beetle stands for a large number of animal species that depend on protected and frost-free retreats underground. This rove beetle is widespread in Europe, Asia and North Africa. It has been distributed by humans in Greenland, North and South America and the Australian region. Switzerland has shared the same Cave Animal of the Year Campaign with Germany since 2019 with translations to Italian and French.

The Group for Speleology of Villacarrillo, from Central-South Spain, has declared a Cave Invertebrate of the Year sporadically since 2014. Starting with the cave beetle *Aglenus brunneus*. The Group chose the ground beetle *Laemostenus (Antisphodrus) cazorlensis* for the 2021 International Year. This



KLAUS BOGON

German CAY 2021: Cave rove beetle *Quedius mesomelinus*. They grow up to 11 mm long and live predatory from different invertebrate species.

beetle was discovered as a result of the entomological campaign carried out in the Sierra de Cazorla in 1953.

The first Australian Cave Animal of the Year was announced in 2019 with the Tasmanian Cave Spider, *Hickmania troglodytes*. Now, 2021 is celebrated as the dark side of beetle-mania.



ADIRÁ MIRALLES

Spain CAY 2021: Ground beetle *Laemostenus (Antisphodrus) cazorlensis*.



GIOVANNI RAGONE

Italy CAY 2021: Cave beetle *Italodytes stammeri*. Their average size, measured from the tip of its jaw to the end of its elytra, is between 4.5 and 4.7 mm.



STEFAN EBERHARD

In Australia, the CAY 2021 is celebrated as the dark side of beetle-mania. About 25 species are troglobitic, meaning that they only live in the dark world of caves.



KALOUST PARAGAMIAN

The cavernicolous ground beetle *Laemostenus (Actenipus) vignai*—a single cave endemic—is nominated as the first Cave Animal of the Year for Greece.



© 2014 MATTHEW L. NIEMILLER

USA CAY 2021: Cave beetles belonging to the *Pseudanopthalmus* group are found in the eastern United States. Although some species are common, other species are found only in a single cave



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There are many species of beetles that can be found in Australian caves. About 25 are troglobitic, meaning that they only live in the dark world of caves. Most troglobitic beetles in Australia are short-range endemics, typically restricted to a single cave or karst system. Tasmania has the richest cave beetle fauna in Australia, with around 17 described species, and several more known but not yet described.

The Italian Speleological Federation joined the Cave Animal of the Year celebrations with the crane fly, *Limonide comune*, in 2019. In 2021, they are highlighting the cave beetle *Italodytes stammeri*. This cave beetle is found in Apulia, South Italy. It is one of 45 troglobite species in the region of which 53% are endemic. The average size of the beetle, measured from the tip of its jaw to the end of its elytra, is between 4.5 and 4.7 mm.

The USA joined the campaign in 2020 starting with the Great Basin Cave Pseudoscorpion *Microcreagraris grandis*. The Cave Animal of the Year for 2021 is the cave ground beetle, specifically cave beetles in the genus *Pseudanopthalmus* found throughout much of the Appalachians and Interior Low Plateau

karst regions of the eastern United States.

Although cave ground beetles are known from karst regions throughout the country, most species have very small ranges and are known from just a few cave systems, including several that have been documented from just a single cave (i.e., single-site endemics). However, it is not uncommon to find more than one species in a cave system in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The cavernicolous ground beetle *Laemostenus (Actenipus) vignai*—a single cave endemic—is nominated as the first Cave Animal of the Year for Greece. The aim of this project is to collect data on the distribution of all cavernicolous *Laemostenus* species as well as the epigean ones. All cave records in the scientific literature can be found at the Cave Fauna of Greece Database.

Several other organizations have announced that they are preparing their own projects. Links to every Cave Animal of the Year campaign can be found at the International Year of Caves and Karst website at cave fauna <http://iyck2021.org/>.



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2020

COMMISSION ON HISTORY OF SPELEOLOGY

By Bernard Chirol (France)

President of the UIS Commission on History of Speleology

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The year 2020 had started well with a conference on 21 January, for the Office de la Culture in Ambérieu-en-Bugey (Espace 1500), about women in caves. About a hundred people attended from the general public, some quite old, who were really interested in this gender issue in sports, science, society, and speleology, of course!

February 2020 was also pleasant with participation in the Anniversary of the Cuba Speleological Society for their 80th anniversary. I invite you to read the special report on this conference in this UIS Bulletin. I gave a presentation in honor of Jean Corbel's centenary and a new presentation in front of more than 120 people on the world history of karstology, and not only on speleology. I improved it on my return home and it is ready for another occasion.

And the rest of the year was chaotic. As soon as I got home on February 26th, my mother asked me if I was aware of the health situation! Various planned activities were postponed one after the other and the accounting of the victims of the disease has been terrible ever since. This is how we were able to discover for our associations the necessity of video-conferences, although tiring in the end and without real complete human relations.

The summer was a respite, a salutary break. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the French Federation of Speleology, as well as re-elected as its UIS Delegate. I am also Vice-President of my Departmental Committee of the Ain, near Savoie. The virtual meetings are continuing for the organization of the International Congress of Speleology in Technolac near Le Bourget-du-Lac (Savoie, France). We've been working on this project since 2013 and especially for the past 5 years. The location changed in the fall of 2019, with Savoie replacing Lyon. As I write these lines, the ramp-up continues, and the redesigned Copil ICS 2021 team is working hard to welcome you as well as possible. If you can, by all means, join us in July 2021.

Do not hesitate to promote international caving through your local actions, We are waiting for you at the second International Congress of Speleology to occur in France. The first was the first International Congress and held in Paris in 1953. For more information on the 2021 Congress, visit <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

Returning to the History Commission, side, I received the latest publications from Johannes Mattes and Vlado Bozic, showing their scientific and associated dynamism. In this report, I would like to thank all the colleagues from all over the world who sent me information, photos, and articles to finish my book: ***Heroines of the Caves (The Little Known History of Women in the Caves of the World)***.

Follow the link below to buy the book at a reduced price. It contains about 230 pages which took about 5 years of work to complete. The book will be in French and English and will be available at the International Congress of Speleology. It is scheduled for release on March 8, 2021 for International Women's Rights Day. Afterwards, it will be sold for €20. Wholesale orders are also available in lots of 10 at €100, so €10 per book! <https://framaforms.org/souscription-ces-heroines-des-cavernes-1600681691>.

Let us recall that 2020 was the occasion to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Jean Corbel, karstologist of Lyon and that in 2021, it will be the centenary of the release of Edouard Alfred Martel's "New Treatise on Groundwater."

Among the planned 2020 activities I intended to participate in, but postponed by the pandemic, were ALCADI in Gorizia (Italy) on history and KAMARATON on caving in the Mediterranean periphery. This brings me to Cyprus.

We had a videoconference meeting on September 23rd to take stock of the project in Northern Cyprus (Kyrenia chain) between 2015 and 2019. This team's work was supported by the UIS, the European Union, the USA, the local club, and the University of Nicosia. Their work resulted in a new publication on speleology in this northern chain and a reworked edition in a booklet of the historical part that I had published in 2015. Both came out in 2020.

The political aspect of Cyprus is obviously to be taken into account and the recent local northern election as well as the tense international relations in the Mediterranean could, with the health crisis, affect the continuation of the work. Here again, speleology has a federating role which can only be beneficial. We will see.

I will finish with two things. First is a note of the publication of a small summary article in the Acts of the 29th Meeting of October in 2019: B. CHIROL (2020) - World History of Karstology, a summary; p. 96-97. Spéléo Club de Paris. Second the commission reports by my colleagues of the History Commission of the UIS.

JOHANNES MATTES (Austria)

I have worked mainly on cave mapping and surveying techniques in early modern times and gave three talks on this issue, the first at the 9th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS) in Bologna, the second at the Lecture Series of the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies Department at the University of Edinburgh, and the third at the Annual Conference of the British Society for 18th Century Studies (BSECS) in Oxford.

Overall, I published three articles and wrote one review of two books:

- J. Mattes: National spaces & deepest places: Politics and practices of verticality in speleology. In: Centaurus – International Journal of the History of Science and its Cultural Aspects, 62(4), 2020, pp. 670–696.

- J. Mattes: (Macht)politik, Fundplätze und Urgeschichtsforschung. Grabungskampagnen in Höhlen der “Ostmark” und von österreichisch-ungarischen Forschern im Ausland (1920–1945) (in English: (Power) politics, sites and prehistoric research. Excavation campaigns in caves of the “Ostmark” and by Austrian-Hungarian researchers abroad, 1920–1945). In: D. Modl, K. Peitler (eds.): Archäologie in Österreich 1938–1945. Graz: Universalmuseum Joanneum 2020, pp. 528–562.

- J. Mattes: Talking about popular science in the metropolis: Learned societies, multiple publics and spatial practices in Vienna (1840–1900). In: Mitchell G. Ash (ed.): Science in the metropolis: Vienna in transnational context 1848–1914. New York: Routledge 2020, pp. 175–199.

- J. Mattes: Will Hunt: Underground. A human history of the worlds beneath our feet & Robert Macfarlane: Underland. A deep time journey. In: Traverse. Zeitschrift für Geschichte/Revue d’histoire (Switzerland), 2, 2020, pp. 159–162.

FRIEDHARDT KNOLLE (Germany)

Vice-President of the UIS History Commission

One of our projects worked on the history of the work of the Kittelsthal caving group in the former GDR, now Thuringia, from 1972 to 1990. A paper was presented by Klaus Schöllhorn in the German caving journal *Mitteilungen des Verbandes der deutschen Höhlen- und Karstforscher*, as this piece of the speleological history of exploration in the state of Thuringia has hardly been documented in previous literature.

Peter Danner worked on Dr. Walter Biese. After the publication of several studies on the speleologi-

cal work of the German geologist Walter Biese (1895-1960), now the less known activities of Biese in his exile in Switzerland (1934-1937) and Chile (1937-1960) were treated. In Switzerland Biese established a cave registry and undertook zoological research. The years in Chile, where he worked first in the service of a mining company and later as an independent geologist and in the service of the government, were dedicated mainly to geology and mining geology, but also to palaeontology and malacology. The paper was also presented in the German caving journal *Mitteilungen des Verbandes der deutschen Höhlen- und Karstforscher*.

Another paper will be presented in France - so we have corona overground and radioactivity underground! The first worldwide evidence of underground radioactivity was reported in Hartz Mountain caves, Germany (with R. G. A. Fricke).

STEPHEN CRAVEN (South Africa)

The following papers were published:

- Twinpot, alias Tripot, Western Cape Province, South Africa. Cave and Karst Science (2020) 47.(1), 26 - 28.

- Cango Cave in April 1834: Five Visitors from India. Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa (June 2020) 74. (1), 79 – 90.

- SIR JAMES SIVEWRIGHT AND CANGO CAVE IN THE 1890s. Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa (Dec. 2020) 74. (2), 123 - 134.

LUKASZ LEWKOWICZ (Slovakia)

This year, I prepared a popular science text about speleological activity in the Tatra Mountains in the 19th Century by Polish political and social activist Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski: “Podziemne Kościeliska Jana Gwalberta Pawlikowskiego - przełomowa publikacja w poznaniu jaskiń tatrzańskich” [Underground Kościeliska by Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski - a breakthrough publication in the study of Tatra caves].

On December 14, 2020, I will give an online lecture for the Slovak Institute in Warsaw “Historia turystyki jaskiniowej na pograniczu polsko-słowackim” [History of cave tourism on the Polish-Slovak borderland].

I am giving everyone a link to my publications (also speleological) on Academia.edu: <https://www.academia.edu/>.

A paper about Pawlikowski is ready for the proceedings of 18th International Congress of Speleology titled “Podziemne Koscieliska Jana Gwalberta Pawlikowskiego” and a poster is also ready.

FRANK PEARSON (United Kingdom)

At the end of last year I had an article on 17th and 18th century chemistry, carbon dioxide and cave science published in the BCRA’s Cave and Karst Science. I am currently researching understandings of climate and weather in cave science (natural philosophy) during the same period.

I have given several Zoom lectures this year to universities in the UK (Preston and Belfast) and China (with the Beijing International Studies University as the key location). They are on cultural parallels between Europe and China. One lecture was on the parallels between William Wordsworth's poetry and that of the Tang Dynasty poet, Du Fu and the tradition of Mountains and Rivers Poetry. With Wordsworth, I discussed the centrality of the Weathercote Cave System in Chapel-le-dale, Yorkshire, in his poetry.

I believe he uses this complex karst river system as his metaphor for the creative imagination. Reassessing the poetry and travel writing of Wordsworth in the context of the development of caving in the UK is a large part of my research.

ARRIGO CIGNA (Italy)

I have only prepared a paper "Life fragments from the caving world" for Alcadi 2020. As you may know, it has been postponed probably to 2021. In this paper some aspects of the personal lives of important speleologists are reported.

VLADO BOŽIĆ (Croatia)

Here is a short statistical report. Because of the Coronavirus, this year all is a little bit different.

Cave visits: This year, in February, I visited only three entrances of pits in the district Kordun and Sljeme Mountain near Zagreb, explored more than 50 years ago. I visited them for new documentation: GPS position, photo of the entrance, putting an evidence tablet (with number) near the entrance, all needed for the Croatian speleological database.

Education and association:

- Exams in January in Zagreb for the vocation "speleologist" and "instructor," as an examiner (for history).
- Speleological course of the Speleological Club "Željezničar" (Railwayman), in August and September as lecturer ("History of speleology in Croatia") and as instructor in the training hall in Zagreb, in Klana speleological camp (the cave Vela špilja u krugu) and Golubnjak speleological camp (Ledena jama - Ice pit).
- I lectured "Speleology" on the mountaineering course of the mountaineering club "Zagreb-Matica" in Zagreb.

Publications in 2020: In the spring this year my club published the journal SPELEOLOG, Vol. 67 (2019) where is my article: -Vlado Božić: "SO "Željezničar" - Kako smo počeli" ("Speleological club Željezničar - How we started"), p. 66-73, History of speleology in Croatia from 1885 - 1949, and the first ten years of my club.

In the summer 2020 my Mountaineering club "Željezničar" celebrated 70 years of continuance, and published the journal CIPELCUG (like SHOERAIL) No. 3, which includes my articles:

- Ruđer Novak, Vlado Božić, Matea Talaja: "70 godina postojanja i rada Speleološkog odsjeka HPD

"Željezničar" ("70 Years of continuance and work of the Speleological club of the Croatian Mountaineering club "Željezničar")

- Vlado Božić: "Speleological education"
- Matea Talaja, Vlado Božić: "Publication"
- Vlado Božić: "Our members of the Club - members of the Croatian Speleological Rescue Service"

The Commission for Speleology of the Croatian Mountaineering Association (CSCMA) published, in the spring of this year the manual "Speleološko školovanje u Hrvatskoj" ("Speleological education in Croatia") - History of speleological education in Croatia, list of speleological manuals, list of members who gained the name "speleologist" and "instructor", list of instructor's papers and the list of all exams in Croatia, in total 64 pages, author of this publication is me - Vlado Božić.

I also have the following report in preparation:

- Vlado Božić: Crnice iz povijesti speleologije u svijetu ("Short lines of history of speleology in the world"), working material, many problems, need review, intended for publishing at the end of 2021.

In September I participated the 22st FOSILJADA near the cave Vražić by Barilović (Little devil cave). This was a friendly, informal gathering of old "fossil" Croatian cavers. Because of the corona virus there were only 12 members. There were no traditional annual meetings, some of them only on-line meetings. During the online meeting of the Commission for Speleology of the Croatian Mountaineering Association (CSCMA) I was again elected in the Section for the history of speleology. Up to now I am corona negative.

TREVOR SHAW (United Kingdom)

2020 has seen my Slovene publisher accept something on Martel's writing on Slovenia. His 1893 visit there led to a chapter in Les Abimes; and translations into English and Slovene are planned.

An important problem resolved was to identify the present-day names of places and caves where the book uses either the Austrian names of that time or French versions of the local names which he had sometimes mis-heard.

FERDINANDO DIDONNA (Italy)

Historically for us, this was the 70th anniversary of the Italian Speleological Society (SSI), but I have added the activities from all the sectors. You can find the article on the history of SSI in https://issuu.com/speleo.it/docs/speleologia_82_completo_web_2_.pdf on pages 60-61, plus other history on 70 years to Altamura cave (p. 65), Rescuer Aurelio Pavanello (p. 72), Fabio Forti carsista (1927-2019) on p. 81.

A short article on the history of the SSI is included in this issue of the UIS Bulletin ([next page](#)).



CELEBRATION

2020: THE 70th YEAR OF THE ITALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Vincenzo Martimucci (Italy)

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Ferdinando Didonna (Costa Rica)

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The Italian Speleological Society (SSI) was formally founded on 25 June 1950, when 33 speleologists, representing the cave groups of Bergamo, Bologna, Brescia, Cremona, Como, Genoa, Lovere, Milan, Pavia, Trento, Trieste, Udine, Verona, and Vicenza, met at the Civic Museum of Natural History of Verona for a Speleological Conference. The roots of the SSI are also connected to the *Istituto Italiano di Speleologia* and the first sign of the Italian Speleological Society saw the light in 1903.

Nowadays the SSI is recognized by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (MATTM) and has a structured organization with 97 Schools of Speleology, 2,652 members and 140 groups. SSI is affiliated with the UIS, European Speleological Federation (FSE), and the European Environmental Bureau. It is organized with several commissions and action teams that contribute to the day-to-day life of the SSI (<https://www.speleo.it/>), giving to Italian speleology a solid reference for studies, explorations, learning, and protection of karst and caves.

SSI has one of the largest speleological libraries



Centro di Documentazione "F. Anelli", with more than 70,000 volumes and the site www.speleoteca.it, an OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) that allows the consultation of over 33,000 titles of publications relating to speleology and karstology.

In 2020, the original plans for the 70th anniversary of SSI were adapted and many activities took place on the speleo.it platform. One action was the general public's access to the **E-learning material** of the Teaching Resources for Speleology and Karst, that provide a collection of lectures for use in regional and local speleological courses, but also suitable for presentation at the university level. <https://www.speleo.it/site/index.php/open-document/1018-teaching-resources-for-speleology-and-karst>.

The celebration of the 70th anniversary was based on a memorial video from the Civic Museum of Natural History of Verona, with a virtual visit to the places of birth of the modern SSI. The national magazine

SPELEOLOGIA has been issued in an online version and with two excellent paper editions in 2020 <http://www.speleologiassi.it/>, **Opera Ipogea**, Journal of Speleology in Artificial Cavities, will be issued as Number 1-2/2020 Proceedings of the IX Conference of Speleology in Artificial Cavities (Palermo, March 2020), and SSI publish periodically the *Memorie dell'Istituto Italiano di Speleologia*.



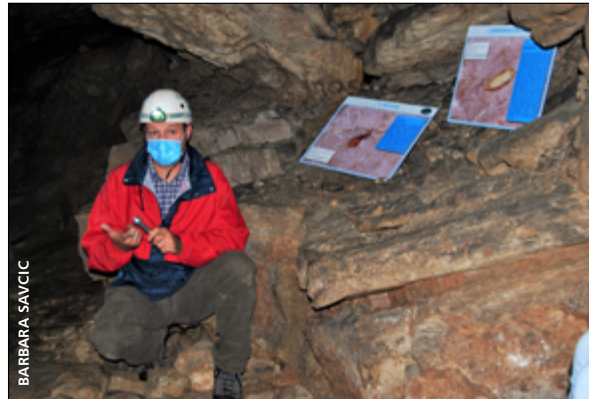
Photo of the meeting that created SSI, within a photo of the same room 70 years later.



ENRICO FONDACARO

REDI NOTE #
AL GIUGNO ZANESIA

Clean Up the Dark, GNS 2020, Grotta di Conca Vico Equense, Italy.



BARBARA SAVCIC

GNS 2020 Biospeleology and the Inhabitants of Subiolo, Italy.



FRANCESCO MAURANO

GNS 2020, Qanat delle Fontanelle, Italy.

Cave protection activities were based on leading actions such as:

- Clean Up the Dark action in Pertosa Caves in February, a UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and speleology workshop and three other cave cleaning operations resumed in the site <https://www.puliamoilbuio.it/iniziativa-2020/>.

- Meeting in Asiago for the Clean Up the Dark project within the activity of the Museum of Water for the establishment of a first draft agenda on the study of microplastic in caves.

- Also, in 2020 SSI closed an important stage of the project **The Water We Will Drink** with the support of the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (MATTM). This instructive work involved about 1,100 primary and secondary school students from six Italian regions.

- The campaign Cave Animal of the Year was promoted all year with a peak in May 2020 through a series of webinars (<https://www.speleo.it/site/index.php/newss/1043-giornata-della-biodiversita-e-animali-di-grotta-2020-conferenze-su-youtube>) celebrating with a lot of publicity through the media with the International Day for Biological Diversity.

- Additionally, in 2020 SSI signed an important agreement with the Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) (*Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale*) for collaboration in the creation of a single archive called the National Geodatabase of Artificial Cavities (GNCA).

During the pandemic lockdown from March-June 2020, the scientific actions and communications of the speleological community were not stopped and shifted to virtual meetings, conferences and talks that SSI collected in a single platform that facilitates their search

and accessibility on our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsv-msUyrqtidYz_GCE0-pQ. The IX National Convention of Speleology in Artificial Cavities was held with a very good attendance in video mode on 20 March 2020 via direct streaming from Palermo. At the international level, SSI has participated in the UNESCO Karst Virtual Conference and the NSS Convention in the USA.

In October 2020, under many limitations and precautions, the National Speleology Day (GNS) was launched with participation of groups from many regions in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund within the framework of the Urban Nature campaign <http://www.giornatedellaspelleologia.it/>.

Due to the pandemic restrictions, traditional courses of speleology since Spring 2020 have been postponed and adapted to video or cancelled. At the national level, SSI organized online courses on artificial cavities:

- a course in attendance to update and prepare for the qualification exams for obtaining the qualifications of instructor and assistant, and
- two others for online specialization training <http://speleo.it/site/index.php/scuole/cnss>.

Lastly in October and November 2020, the regular electronic elections were celebrated by refreshing the SSI board with new members and the appointment of **Sergio Orsini** as SSI President for 2021-2023.

For more information about the story of SSI, read the articles on pages 60-61, 65, and 72 of issue 84 (March 2020) of the magazine **SPELEOLOGIA** https://issuu.com/speleo.it/docs/speleologia_82_completo_web_2_.pdf.



REPORT OF TRIP / *RAPPORT DE VOYAGE*

80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUBAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

80ème Anniversaire de la Société Cubaine de Spéléologie

Cuba, February 19-23, 2020 / *Cuba, du 19 au 23 février 2020*

By/ *Par* Bernard Chirol (France)
 French Federation of Speleology
 UIS Adjunct Secretary / *UIS History of Speleology Commission President*
bearchirol@orange.fr

The journey started on February 14th from Geneva, via Madrid. The first flight takes 2 hours and the second about 9. I am accompanied by Paule Jandeau, writer and cook from the Drôme.

The arrival in Havana is prolonged by a stay in Viñales on Pilgrimage, where French colleagues contacted us before departure and told us about a new discovery of a cave of more than 400 meters (to be continued) with two climbs on February 4th. Observations outside the cave noticed an attempt to fill it. For more details see the link: <http://speleoclubde-laude.blogspot.com/2020/03/tourisme-tropikarst-premiere.html> (E. Fabre and M. Fernandez).

We made a short visit to the tourist cave of El Indio for a boat ride inside after a short walk. It is a pretty site which should be visited when you have free time. We also reviewed quickly the cave-bar of Palenque while passing by.

Another surprise in Viñales, at the Casa des Doctores (Luis and Tania), we put in our hands fragments of a meteorite that fell on February 1st, 2019. See: http://karmaka.de/?page_id=17353.

A session by Dr. Efrén José Jaimez Salgado of the Institute of Geophysics and Astronomy of Havana was dedicated to meteorites, including that of Viñales on February 21. We attended some other sessions on paleontology, diving, rescue, medicine, etc.

A beautiful exhibition of paintings by the Mexican Victor Cruz was held in the "Cristales" room.

Afterward, we returned to Viazul and spent a short night along the sea (toward the Hotel Copacabana)

Le voyage commence dès le 14 février depuis Genève, par Madrid. Il faut compter deux heures de vol puis 9 environ. Je suis accompagné de Paule Jandeau, écrivaine et cuisinière de la Drôme.

L'arrivée à la Havane se prolonge par un séjour à Vinales en pèlerinage, où des collègues français contactés avant le départ nous ont fait part d'une nouvelle découverte de grotte de plus de 400 mètres (à poursuivre) avec 2 escalades, suite à observation extérieure de vestiges de remplissage le 4 février. Ce site est proche de la Cuevas de la Vacha. Voir pour l'instant ce lien <http://speleoclubde-laude.blogspot.com/2020/03/tourisme-tropikarst-premiere.html> (E. Fabre et M. Fernandez).

Petite visite à la grotte touristique d'El Indio où l'on navigue après une courte progression à pied. Joli site où il faut aller à un moment creux !

La grotte-bar de Palenque est revue rapidement en passant.

Une autre surprise à Vinales, à la Casa des Doctores (Luis et Tania), on met entre nos mains des fragments de météorite tombés suite à explosion le 1er février 2019.

Voir: http://karmaka.de/?page_id=17353

Une conférence du Dr Efrén José Jaimez Salgado de l'Institut de Géophysique et Astronomie de la Havane est consacrée lors de ce congrès aux météorites dont celle de Vinales le 21 février. Nous avons assisté à certaines autres conférences sur paléontologie, plongée, secours, médecine, etc.

Une belle expo de peintures du Mexicain Victor Cruz vient agrémenter la salle « Cristales »

Ensuite, retour sur la Havane par Viazul. Une courte nuit face à la mer (vers l'Hôtel Copacabana)

before leaving by bus chartered by the Cuban Speleo Society on February 19th. The conditions were spartan during the 5-hour trip to Caibarien, where the anniversary took place.

The evening of the 19th saw the inauguration ceremony by SEC President Divaldo Guttierrez, Efrain Mercado, President of FEALC (UIS Vice-President of Operations), and government and local authorities. The daughter of Antonio Núñez Jiménez was present, as in 2018. I gave her a text from Spelunca about her father (A. Gilbert). She was touched.

On February 20th, presentations started. I gave a presentation to about fifty people on Jean Corbel. I reworked my presentation in Spanish and attached all the photos of Cuba in my possession. Our hostess Lellani Farinas Crespo translated my French and English.

I had the joy of meeting Maria Perez, a passionate Venezuelan-American researcher.

February 21st was a day of rest with a visit to the island of Santa Maria with the team from Puerto Rico. We saw mangroves and flamingos from the 46th bridge and enjoyed swimming and a meal at the hotel Plaza los Terrazas.

Friendly links were born and the 2021 International Congress of Speleology in France was promoted to highly motivated people. This excursion was suggested by the organizers of the SEC 80th Anniversary congress and the cost was very cheap.

The excursion on the 23rd was very cheap too, thanks to Lellani, who offered us her own service.

On February 22nd, I took advantage of my big presentation to distribute what I had left of posters and flyers on the UIS International Congress of Speleology "Savoie Technolac 2021."

I presented the "World History of Karstology" in front of a full and attentive room of about 120 people. I was given one hour, which was comfortable, with the translation made by Lellani (from Casa Doña Tata, where I stayed during my time in Caibarién).

Efrén Salgado pointed out a gap in Russian karstology to me and I apologized for having announced my necessarily Western vision of karstology. I am also waiting for his help to restore a balance, if necessary. The scientific communist imprint is still there. We will see that.



The management team of the Cuban Speleological Society (SEC) and the many and enthusiastic delegates from Puerto Rico. L'équipe de direction de la Société cubaine de spéléologie (SEC) et la nombreuse et enthousiaste délégation de Porto Rico.

avant de partir en car affrété par la Société Cubaine de Spéléo le 19 février. Conditions spartiates pour un trajet de 5 heures vers Caibarien où a lieu cet anniversaire.

Le 19 au soir, cérémonie d'inauguration par le Pdt de la SEC Divaldo Guttierrez, par Efrain Mercado, Pdt de la FEALC (Vice-Pdt UIS) et par les autorités gouvernementales et locales. La fille d'Antonio Núñez Jiménez est présente, comme en 2018. Je lui donne un texte de Spelunca sur son père (A. Gilbert). Elle est touchée.

Le 20 février, les communications démarrent. J'en donne une appréciée par une cinquantaine de personnes sur Jean Corbel. J'ai remanié ma communication en Espagnol et ai joint toutes les photos de Cuba en ma possession. Notre hôtesse Lellani Farinas Crespo traduit mon Français et mon Anglais.

J'ai la joie d'être écouté par la passionnée Maria Perez, chercheuse vénézuélo-américaine.

Le 21 février, journée de repos et visite de l'île de Santa Maria avec l'équipe de Puerto Rico. Mangrove et flamands roses vus depuis le pont 46... Baignade et repas à l'hôtel Plaza los Terrazas.

Des liens amicaux sont nés et le Congrès mondial de 2021 en France promu auprès de personnes très motivées.

Cette excursion était suggérée par les organisateurs du Congrès, assez bon marché.

Celle du 23 aussi, mais nous avons trouvé une prestation spéciale par Lellani...

Le 22 février, je profite de ma grosse communication pour distribuer ce qui me reste de posters et flyers sur le congrès mondial UIS « Savoie Technolac 2021 ».

Je présente l'« Histoire mondiale de la karstologie » devant une salle pleine et attentive de 120 personnes environ. On m'a attribué une heure, ce qui est confortable. Traduction effectuée par Lellani (de la Casa Doña Tata, où je suis resté pendant la période que j'étais Caibarién).

Efrén Salgado me fait remarquer une lacune concernant la karstologie russe et je m'en excuse ayant annoncé ma vision forcément occidentale de la karstologie. J'attends aussi son aide pour rétablir un équilibre, si besoin. L'empreinte communiste scientifique est encore là. Nous verrons cela.

On February 23rd, while the SEC devoted itself to its General Assembly, I left with two Mexicans and two French (Etienne and Marine) to visit the National Park of Caguanes, an hour's drive from Caibarién (north-central Cuba). This epic expedition began with a trip in a dilapidated 70-year-old American station wagon for two hours and then a short hour of cattle driving behind a tractor through swampy forest and meadows. We reached a coastal area where Miocene limestone rises above the sea by about 30 meters. Eduardo, a forest engineer and a park guide accompanied us.

Four caves waited for us. They are giant and well marked by bio-corrosion. An American company extracted the fossil guano from the Humbolt Caves with vehicles in 1958-59. We visited Ramos Cave, more modest at its entrance, after having left Cueva de los Chivos for another time. In Ramos, petroglyphs are interesting. They are 2,000 to 6,000 years old.

We did not have time to see "los Pirates" either, which we were told was less interesting. Núñez Jiménez came here in the 1950s and a sign from 1958 notes his research.

The father of Cuban karstology, who created the SEC 80 years ago, Jiménez published a small pamphlet on Alexander von Humbolt in 1960, after his 1951 and 1960 trips to Germany, where he proclaimed as Minister of Agrarian Reform that Cuba was on a peace camp.

Jiménez's visit to Humbolt University in Berlin prompted him to write his pamphlet "Humbolt, espeleologo precursor," published in 1960. Humbolt visited some of Cuba's caves. He is known to speleologists for having reported the guacharo (*Steatornis caripensis*), a troglodite bird endowed with echolocation, in caves in Venezuela during an expedition in 1799 with the French botanist Bonpland. In fact, a Franciscan monk, Francisco de Tauste, had preceded him in 1678.

Caguanes Park has 36 caves in its 2 km², and 13 km of underground galleries. Cuba has 211 protected areas, including 14 national parks, which represents 20% of its territory.

For the moment, tourists reach the park by broken and flooded roadways in 4x4's made available by Transgaviotta. Some Jimny Suzuki are in near the nearest city.



Humbolt Cave, Caguanes Park.
Grotte de Humbolt, Parc de Caguanes.

Le 23 février, pendant que la SEC se consacre à son AG, nous partons avec deux Mexicains et deux Français (Etienne et Marine) visiter le Parc National de Caguanes, à une heure de route de Caibarién (centre nord de Cuba). Une expédition épique commence par un voyage dans un break américain délabré vieux de 70 ans pendant deux heures puis une petite heure de bétailière derrière tracteur à travers forêt marécageuse et prairies. Nous atteignons une zone littorale où les calcaires miocènes dominant la mer d'une trentaine de mètres. Eduardo, un ingénieur forestier et un guide du parc nous accompagnent

Quatre grottes nous attendent. Elles sont géantes et très marquées par la (bio) corrosion. Une compagnie américaine y a extrait le guano fossile (Humbolt cuevas) avec véhicules en 1958-59. Nous visitons la grotte de Ramos, plus modeste à l'entrée, après avoir laissé la grotte de los Chivos pour une autre fois. A Ramos, des pétroglyphes sont intéressants. Ils seraient âgés de 2 à 6000 ans.

Nous n'avons pas le temps de voir « los Pirates » non plus, moins intéressante. Núñez Jiménez est venu ici dans les années 1950 et une pancarte de 1958 rappelle son action.

Le père de la karstologie cubaine, à l'origine de la création de la SEC il y a donc 80 ans, a publié une petite brochure sur Humbolt en 1960, après ses voyages en 1951 et 1960 en Allemagne où il proclama en tant que Ministre de la réforme agraire que Cuba était dans le camp de la paix.

*Sa visite à l'Université Humbolt de Berlin l'incita à écrire sa brochure « Humbolt, espeleologo precursor » publiée en 1960. Cet Allemand visita en effet des grottes de Cuba. Il est connu des spéléos pour avoir signalé en grotte au Venezuela le guacharo (*Steatornis caripensis*), oiseau troglodite doté de l'écholocation, lors d'une expédition de 1799 avec le botaniste français Bonpland. En fait, un moine franciscain, Francisco de Tauste l'avait précédé en 1678...*

Ce parc comporte 36 cavités pour 2 km², soit 13 km de galeries souterraines. Cuba possède 211 espaces protégés dont 14 parcs nationaux, soit 20 % de son territoire.

Pour l'instant, les touristes accèdent par ces chemins défoncés et inondés en 4x4 mis à dispo par Transgaviotta. Des Jimny Suzuki sont en nombre à proximité de la ville la plus proche.

Currently, 5,000 people each year visit Caguanes Park. Helmets and lights were lent to us by the guide Thomas to whom we have shared our observations. A charming meal of fish and salads came at the end of this trip.

On the evening of the 23rd, a gala meal was served to everyone at the SEC Anniversary, and the ball was launched to the sound of salsas and other rhythmic music that the Cubans love, not to mention the rum consumed. The presidents (SEC, clubs) said a last word.

The next day, the 24th, the return trip took place by the same bus as the outward journey and we had stayed in the home of our friends Etienne and Marine before leaving for the snows from Toronto for some, and for Geneva for others, on the 25th. For the first time, I was able to put my feet in a superb American cab from 1957, at no extra charge, to go to the airport José Martí who, I remind you, said: "A good principle from the bottom of a cave is more powerful than an army".

This international congress, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the SEC, was a great moment of exchange and friendship. There were 140 participants, about 120 registered, including 37 women and 83 men. Seven countries were represented: 2 Mexicans, 1 Portuguese, 7 Puerto Ricans, 2 Argentinians, 4 from the USA, 2 French, and 102 Cubans, according to José Ramon Rodriguez Perez, Vice-President of the Organizing Committee.

Reminder: this visit is part of the cooperation actions signed in 2011 by our two societies—SEC and the French Speleological Federation (FFS).

I would also like to thank the hummingbird that came to say "hello" in the garden of Tania and Luis.

Cette excursion vers le Parc concernerait 5000 personnes par an pour l'instant. Des casques et des torches sont prêtés par le guide Thomas à qui nous avons fait part de nos observations.

Un charmant repas de poissons et salades est venu clore ce périple.

Le 23 au soir, un repas de gala nous fut servi et le bal fut lancé au son des salsas et autres musiques rythmées dont raffolent les Cubains, sans parler du petit rhum adapté. Les présidents (SEC, clubs) dirent un dernier mot.

Le lendemain, le 24, le retour eut lieu par le même autocar qu'à l'aller et nous dûmes reprendre une casa avec nos amis Etienne et Marine avant de repartir pour les neiges de Toronto pour les uns, de Genève pour les autres le 25. Pour la première fois, je pus mettre mes pieds dans un taxi américain superbe de 1957, sans supplément de prix, pour l'aéroport José Martí qui je le rappelle, disait : « Un bon principe venu du fond d'une caverne, est plus puissant qu'une armée ».

Ce congrès international, fêtant le 80ème anniversaire de la SEC, fut un grand moment d'échanges, d'amitiés. Il y eut 140 participants, environ, 120 inscrits dont 37 femmes et 83 hommes.

7 pays représentés : 2 Mexicains, 1 Portugais, 7 Portoricains, 2 Argentins, 4 des USA, 2 Français, 102 Cubains selon José Ramon Rodriguez Perez, Vice-Président du Comité d'Organisation.

Rappel: ce séjour peut entrer dans les actions de coopération signés en 2011 par nos 2 fédérations.

Je tiens aussi à remercier le colibri qui est venu dire «bonjour» dans le jardin de Tania et Luis...



Indigenous petroglyphs in the Caguanes Caves (Ramos), Caguanes Park /
Péroglyphes indiens dans les Grottes de Caguanes (Ramos), Parc de Caguanes.



Bernard Chirol and Maria Perez, medalist of the Cuban Speleological Society /
Bernard Chirol et Maria Perez, médaillée de la Société Cubaine de Spéléo.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITION SUPPORTED BY THE UIS

CHINEXPLOS 2019

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Fédération Française
de Spéléologie



Union Internationale
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Introduction

«**CHINEXPLOS 2019**», the name of this international expedition, is the result of the contraction of “China” and “EXPLOS”, the name of the organizing association.

It was conducted from 08 November until 02 December 2019 by **EXPLOS**, a French non-governmental association “Loi de 1901” member of the French Federation of Speleology, under the invitation of the **Guizhou Institute of Mountain Resources** and of the **Dōnglán county – Guangxi**.

It was located first, partly, in the region of the Pintang county (Guizhou Province), and then in the Dōnglán county (Guangxi Province), with the sponsorship of the **French Federation of Speleology (FFS)**, of the **European Speleological Federation (FSE)/EuroSpeleo Projects ESP 2019-11**, and the **International Union of Speleology (UIS)**.

Location

The regions of Pintang (Guizhou Province) and Dōnglán (Guangxi Province) are located in the south west of China in an area of high peaks covered with lush vegetation and where immense collapses open, “tiānkēng” (250m in diameter/300m deep) whose formation still intrigue scientists. They were proposed to us as research areas because they are already known for their spectacular karstic landscapes included in a geopark where, regarding the potential, just a few things have been done so far.

Aims and organization

The purpose of “CHINEXPLOS 2019” was to thoroughly explore, document the caves and the underground water circulations, and to complete the information of the already known and listed caves of the Pintang and Dōnglán regions.



JEAN-FRANÇOIS FABRIOL

The team in Pintang.

The search to locate the cave entrances was greatly facilitated by the active help of the local population (guides to show us the way or even often clear it with a lot of blows by machete) contacted by the Chinese cavers who were systematically integrated into our team.

The expedition team composed of 15 cavers, including three women and eight Chinese cavers in two sites. They were organized around different competencies adapted to the requirements of the organizations which invited us: cavers, cave rescuers, cave technical instructors, archeologist, medical doctor, and a photographer and videographer equipped with a drone. In the field they were arranged into three or four sub-teams, depending on the importance and difficulty of the objectives to be achieved. The local Chinese cavers were always included in our teams and participated in our explorations.

Each sub-team was totally autonomous for the exploration and for greater efficiency, they used lightweight equipment. They descend on 8 mm diameter rope or less and used mostly natural anchoring with Dyneema. These teams gathered important photographic documentation, geolocated the caves, surveyed precisely



Terraced fields in a polje surrounded by tower karst, Guangxi Province, China.

the galleries as they were discovered, but also made archeological, biodiversity environmental, and socio-economical observations. In addition, Chinese scientists of various specialties of the Guizhou Institute of Mountain Resources joined our teams to integrate our findings and observations in the standards in force in this country.

The “CHINEXPLOS 2019” team

The team of «CHINEXPLOS 2019» was mostly composed of members of two previous expeditions where they had already worked together in Laos (Khammouane “Explo Laos K17 Poljé”) and in Kirghysistan (Kan-i-Gut “SPELEOZISTAN 2017”).

The “CHINEXPLOS 2019” team of 15 persons was mainly composed by French cavers (13): Auriol Philippe, Camplo Jean, Delaire Christian, Fabriol Jean-François, Guillot Florence, Hocdé Kevin, Isnar Michel, Langlois Denis, Lescure Didier, Olivier Véronique, Verdet Christophe, Verdier Nathalie, Vitte Emmanuel; one French caver residing in China: Bottazi Jean and a Belgium caver: Bartholeyns Jean-Pierre.

The expedition also mentored and trained in advanced exploration techniques eight Chinese from



Dinautiānkēng. Note the cavers at the bottom of the well, at the start of the gallery.



One of the big galleries in Dinautiānkēng.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS FABRIOL

JEAN-FRANÇOIS FABRIOL

the sector of Pintang: Li Po, He Wei, Qunan Zhi, Xiang Hong, Thian Mao Gang, Zhang Kai Qi, Luo Hui, Yaosen Wang, and eight Chinese from a team of Dōnglán: Chen Li Xin, Hu Zhen Xiong, Vlu Hong Ying, Wang Hong, Li Zun, Xiang Hang, Zheng Min, Li Bin.

The expedition results

The participants of “CHINEXPLOS 2019” gathered in Guiyang - Guizhou. After two days of logistics, the team took the bus (6 hours) to southern Guizhou.

The first two weeks (November 10-23) of the expedition took place in the county of Pintang. Following French expeditions, “CHINEXPLOS 2019” continued to explore karsts located southwest of Pintang, around the city of Tang Bian. Forty caves were explored, for a total surveyed of 12.7 km, including two tiānkēngs. The deepest reaches 362 m in depth and is around 250 m in diameter (Dàotuótiānkēng). The shallowest gives access to a network of very large galleries of 2.5 km in length (Dinautiānkēng, -182 m).

At the invitation of local authorities, the team moved (7 hours by bus) to the county of Dōnglán in northern Guangxi. Dōnglán was the new base camp. The last week (November 24-30) of the expedition, our explorations around Dōnglán followed on from Japanese, Italian and French work on the sector. Seventeen

new caves were surveyed, including a tiānkēng over 200 m deep (Nongkuntiānkēng) and another (Nongqiutiānkēng) reaching a depth of 154 m. The total surveyed in this sector in five days was 6.8 km.

Conclusion

The total surveyed by the expedition on the two sectors by 15 cavers during 20 days is 19.5 km, to which are added more than 5.5 km of surveys in artificial structures to improve knowledge about the management of this karst. Numerous observations on the linguistics of karst and caves by humans were also made.

Daily reports, scientific explanations, personal reflections, and all the results, including the surveys, are presented in a voluminous 238-page report. Abundantly illustrated, it comes in the form of a virtual book in A4 format.

The report is free to access by following this link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pr4e9-7pvd8Y_KtlpO_uU-qw1xKWuJP6/view.

You will find the expedition journal at: <https://china.explos.org/>.



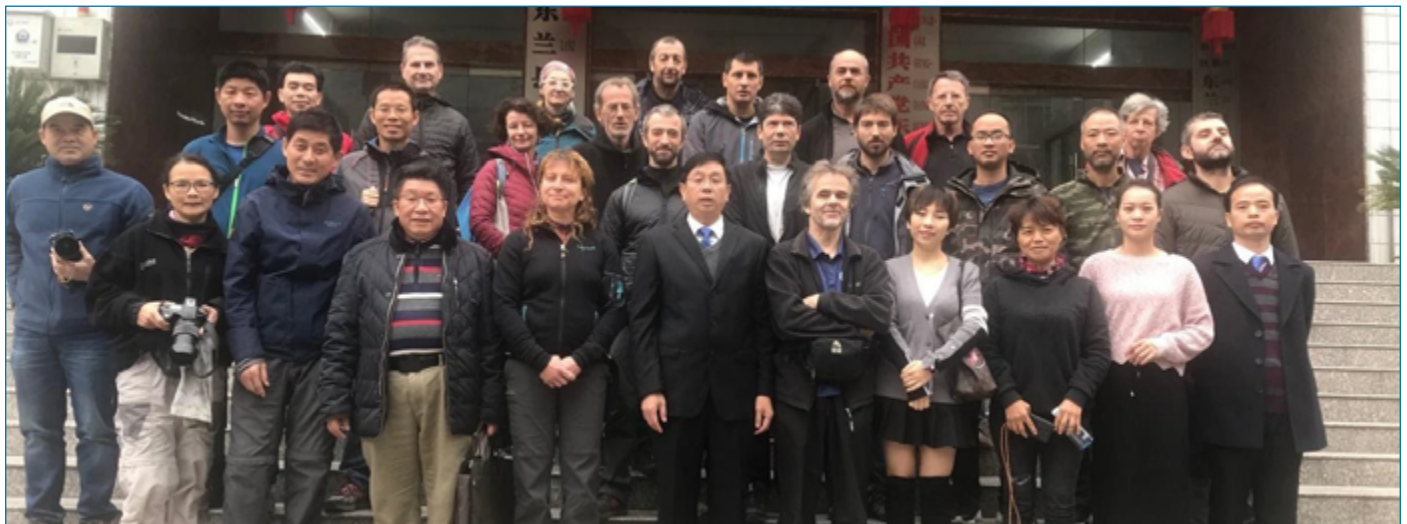
DENIS LANGLOIS

Nongkuntiānkēng, 200 m deep—Xian de Dōnglán, via drone.



© "CHINEXPLOS19"

Simeng Range caves—Xian de Dōnglán.



XIANG HANG

The team in Dōnglán with the authorities of the county.

DESTROYED SPELEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

CAVES: QUARRIES OF SPELEOTHEMS

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium)
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Many beautifully decorated Chinese caves have been looted from their thousand-year-old speleothems, often in a very organized manner, by local communities for which they were sometimes the main source of income. The exploitation of nitrate from caves for saltpeter is just the most industrial aspect of this rampage.

One of our guides made, 40 years ago, the profession of collecting and selling these natural speleothem monuments. At around sixty he is still alert and nothing scares him. He walks, cigarette on his lips, shod in old baskets, like a spider where we preferred to place a rope for our safety. In a second cave, he also knows as well as his pocket, he led us through difficult and daring passages, with a little pride over us. He wanted to test us, no doubt since on the way back we took much easier passages.



JEAN-FRANÇOIS FABRIOL

Longniandong, Dōnglán - CHINEXPLOS 2019

Stunned by his ease, we wondered about the youthful prowess of his team... and their unconsciousness. The remains of gigantic bamboo scaffolding, built to reach the speleothems a few tens of meters high in the vault of the ceiling, attest to this, as they are aerial and defy verticality.

Seeing these remains, the teams of workers were attacking very large speleothems. To convey them from their pedestals and take them out of the cave, they did not hesitate to rearrange the cave: dig galleries of at least 2 meters by 2; install large cables, in impressive zip lines, over wells and large rooms. We were humbled when we imagined the tools and equipment of these miners compared to our current techniques.

To undertake such work required a clear financial motivation and the certainty of business opportunities. Over the years, networks of commercial relationships have developed, some with strong international ramifications.

Over time, since the exploration of the caves by the first speleologists who unwittingly, at the beginning of their activities, attracted the attention of the general public to environments then little known, the looting of the caves has taken various forms. It began with the harvesting of small specimens for example collections, as curiosities and souvenirs, often associated with stores or dealers who serve mineral collectors to come to trade in speleothems and therefore organized looting. It is now a global problem.



JEAN-FRANÇOIS FABRIOL

Longniandong, Dōnglán - Artificial gallery - CHINEXPLOS 2019

The harvest—the word is weak—of speleothems is particularly prevalent in China, and the origin of world sales is said to be China, where these “trophies” are for sale at cave exits and in cities. In 2004, this practice was even the subject of reports in some countries such as Malaysia, legitimizing the practice to the extent that it provided local income. Our guided reported selling speleothems for Chinese show caves and also to South Korea.

What was my astonishment, in 2003, to find, at an antiquary in the center of Brussels, large draperies, coming from China, at the price of 9000 euros each. Showing some interest, the seller told me he had three and sold two in a month. He also told me that he had a certificate justifying the origin and the reason for the extraction of these speleothems; they were removed from a cave before it was flooded during the commissioning of a dam. It seems that this trader is not the only one in Europe to have bought batches of speleothems arriving from China by boat.

The Australian Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith (1929-2015)—chair of the IUCN/WCPA Caves and Karst Working Group, worked for the UNESCO World Heritage Office—told me that at the end of 2004 he stayed in a hotel in Guilin (China) where a series of stalagmites were installed in the fountain in the lobby, next to the Coca-Cola machine. On this trip he visited the famous Reed Flute Cave, where the path to the cave was practically lined with an avenue of stalls selling speleothems. But he also told me that

he received many demonstrations of support when he formally recommended to stop these sales which discredit the country. During 2004, there appears to have been a sharp increase in the number and size of speleothems offered for sale in various countries. In view of the developments observed at the international level, it is clear that the situation rapidly deteriorated.

Two large speleothem exhibitions were announced in July 2004 at the Sunway Lagoon Center in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and elsewhere. These speleothems are presented as “scholarly rocks”, a traditional view according to which they symbolize the growth of wisdom among scholars. It was also reported that these speleothems were being excavated in the Lingbi area of Anhui province, where they were apparently brought to light through various landscape alterations. According to the testimony of Liz Price—an English caver living in Malaysia—and Elery Hamilton-Smith, in July 2004, this type of massive mining bears little relation to traditional scholarly rocks.

In July-August 2004, a shopping center in Kuala Lumpur held an exhibition of over 210 stalagmites, stalactites, crystals and gours, incredibly beautiful specimens many of which exceeded 2 meters as well as numerous blocks of crystals, all mounted on precious wooden plinths. No precise information as to their origin could be obtained or located. This presentation looks like a gallery of “trophies” where customers and wholesalers come to their market to supply ornamental stones to hotels and other tourist sites.

An aquatic theme park near Kuala Lumpur, for example, exhibited the largest collection of “scholarly rocks” in the world. It had a large number of speleothems. Some stalactites were priced at USD 140,000, USD 225,000, another valued at USD 410,000. All weighed over half a ton and were believed to have



JEAN-PIERRE BARTHOLEYNS

Antique dealer in Sablon, Center of Brussels, in 2003



LIZ PRICE

One of the stalls at the Kuala Lumpur shopping center.



RENA KARANOUH

Rena Karanouh, a Lebanese photographer and speleologist, registered speleothems in a garden in Harissa, just 27 km from Beirut, Lebanon, and 5 km from the famous Jeita Show Cave.

come from China. The Kuala Lumpur Mall announced a change of theme and the organization of a new exhibition of stones and wood carvings as well as other Chinese objects with cultural and historical values. In particular, it would present stalactites 3-4 meters high, according to Liz Price in July 2004.

More recently, there has been an unprecedented change in the scale of the trade and the amounts involved. Huge specimens of speleothems have been sold at Chinese sites. Traders generally claimed that their extraction was not harmful because the specimens were taken from areas where massive construction had taken place, or that the caves would be flooded by dams. These arguments are not satisfactory because this practice gives legitimacy to wider vandalism.

In 2009, huge speleothems, sent from China in protective wooden boxes, were sadly and ridiculously “planted”, sometimes even upside down, in the garden of a luxurious villa in Harissa, not far from Beirut, Lebanon, five kilometers from the splendid Jeita cave.

Metrowalk stores in the Ortigas area of Manila was openly selling speleothems. So stunned at the sight of these gigantic stalagmites and stalactites shortly before the media announcement, D. M. Matias had considered them to be aftershocks. Apparently exported to the Philippines with export certificates, they came from China.



RENA KARANOUH

Another view of the “Speleothems Gardem” in a luxurious villa in Harissa, Lebanon.

The Philippines already had a law banning exports, but Matias does not believe that Filipinos also have a law banning importation. Surprised, she wondered how they got them from China? Even if they have an import permit, they can only have been stolen from ancient caves, and would be considered national treasures.

Made aware of these facts, the South Korean Kyung Sik Woo—past President of the UIS—said that he was not surprised to hear that speleothems are sold in the Philippines. He confirmed that this has been happening in South Korea for almost 10 years and that he couldn’t stop it. Apparently, speleothems



BOY SIOJO

Manila, Philippines: Speleothems in the Metrowalk.

were imported to South Korea not as “speleothems” but as “building materials”. During a meeting in 2009, Dr Yuan Daoxin, a Chinese speleologist, told him that it was strictly illegal to collect speleothems in China and export them and that he did not understand why this was happening.

Our Chinese guide made it clear to us that these practices had been prohibited for at least 10 years. And that seems to correspond to reality since the facts reported above; I have not since heard of other such situations. According to the testimonies collected, the peak of this new and curious kind of trade would therefore be between the years 2002 and 2012. Towards the end of 2003, Elery Hamilton-Smith was delighted to have already noted a huge change in general attitudes towards the conservation of Nature, at least in southern China. He concluded by adding that we should be optimistic and support those working for better environmental management in China.

Conclusions

The sale of speleothems is a constant concern of all of us who care about the conservation and protection of the world’s caves. The sale of these thousand-year-old monuments not only draws attention to them as a potentially marketable product, but also incites profitable vandalism.

This phenomenon is more broadly linked to similar practices for high quality mineral specimens and a wide range of prehistoric fossils and bones looted before any scientific excavation begins.

The protection of speleothems does not seem to benefit, around the world, from any specific law, or almost, on which to base itself to prohibit this traffic. If definitively prohibiting the sale of speleothems seems complex, on the other hand it could be, in some countries, easier to prohibit the importation. If



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European Parliament, Brussels, November 2008: Showing speleothems at a UIS stand to members of the European Parliament.

there are no more imports, there will be no more sales and therefore less motivation to loot.

Following the significant traffic observed and documented above, the various players in the caving world have not, however, remained insensitive to the problem. Several countries have reacted at regional and/or national levels.

Thus, at the beginning of 2005, Yvonne Droms reported to us an original initiative which deserves to be highlighted: “*Here in the USA we monitor the auctions offered on ‘eBay’ to be notified if someone tries to sell concretions. Unfortunately, we do not have the power to prevent them from selling speleothems from other countries. So the ads almost always say (even if it’s not true) that the concretions come from a cave in Mexico...*”

Three important actions have been launched during the last two decades:

- In November 2008, an action at the European Parliament located in Brussels called by the WD 66 declaration to obtain a motion to initiate an integrated protection of caves, karst and aquifer systems which depend on them in the path of sustainable development and environmental protection as cultural, natural and environmental heritage (www.cavedeclaration.eu).

- In 2011, launching of a petition to stop the trade in the contents of the caves, therefore both their import and their export.

- In 2016, the UIS Protection Commission carried out a major information and awareness campaign among the various players in the world caving community in an attempt to stop the looting of Chinese caves whose speleothems fueled international trade.





Union Internationale
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France HABE Prize 2019 and 2020

Prix France HABE 2019 et 2020

By

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Introduction

The France HABE Prize is awarded by the Commission on Karst and Cave Protection of the International Union of Speleology (UIS).

The prize is named in memory and honour of Dr. France HABE (†10/12/1999) of Slovenia (Yugoslavia), who among his other many accomplishments served as President of the UIS Protection Department (1973-1997).

The Prize is proposed every year. It will be awarded if a worthy candidate is nominated and accepted.

Its purpose is to promote the protection of karst and caves for generations to come. Their natural legacy are proven sources of increasingly rich information about the history of our planet and humanity, enabling people to act more thoughtfully, efficiently, and sustainably for the future of our environment.

The Jury of the France Haba Prize is composed by two members of the Scientific Committee of the UIS Karst and Cave Protection Commission and its President.

They noted each submission following an evaluation about the presentation, compilation, photography, scientific content, and originality of the activity point of view. They decided unanimously to attribute the France Haba Prize at an amount of €250 to the best and most original contribution.

2019 and 2020 Winners

The 2019 winner is "**LIGHT IN THE DARK**"-**HISTORY AND EXPLORATION OF THE CAVE REMERON**" represented by *Guglielmo Ronaghi* of the *Prealpino Speleological Group, Italy*.

The winner of 2020 is the "**SOMOSLOSCENOTES**" project, a popular initiative, without "direction" represented by *Olivier Testa, Vincent Rouquette Cathala et Phillip Lehman* whose partners to date include: Under the Jungle, Gran Acuífero Maya and Dominican Republic Speleological Society.

Both projects are presented on the following pages. The Jury congratulates the other participants for their investment in karst and cave protection for so many years.



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1970's: France Haba in Zelške Jame (The caves of Zelške), Rakov Škocjan, Slovenia.

The prize will be awarded again in 2021.

Nominations of candidates must be sent to the President of the UIS Commission on Karst and Cave Protection through the email jp.bartholeyens@gmail.com no later than May 20th 2021. The Jury will review the nominations and send their decision to the UIS Bureau. The Jury is not required to award the Prize every year if the nominees are not considered worthy.

All information and prize regulations can be found here: <http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/karst-and-cave-protection-commission/>.



FRANCE HABE PRIZE WINNER 2019

“LIGHT IN THE DARK” History and Exploration of the Cave Remeron, Italy

By
Guglielmo Ronaghi (Italy)
President of Gruppo Speleologico Prealpino (GSP)
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Introduction

This project is destined to involve as many people as possible. It's a virtual journey into the karstic subsoil to get to know its fantastic and mysterious aspects in order to defend the underground environment and its hypogene waters.

This movie is conceived and produced by Guglielmo Ronaghi and Claudia Crema, members of the Prealpino Speleological Group, Italy (www.speleoprealpino.it).

Purpose of the project

By recounting the century of history of one of the most famous caves in the Varese area, in northern Italy, the production of this documentary aims to raise public awareness to achieve greater respect for karst areas and the large quantities of drinking water they provide; a precious asset of primary importance on which entire communities depend. This heritage is increasingly threatened by multiple forms of environmental pollution.

History of the Remeron Cave

The Cave Remeron opens at an altitude of 720 meters in the territory of the Campo dei Fiori Park, just outside Varese, and its entrance has been known since the dawn of time. The origin of its name is a mystery; in local traditions it is called “Bus of Remeron” or “Rameron”,



Gruppo Speleologico Prealpino
Clivio, Varese, Italy

but no one can give an exact explanation of its ancient origin. We only know that over the centuries some of the bravest of the place limited themselves to making brief visits inside, crossing the threshold and braving the darkness with the light of a candle, thus feeding stories and legends that considered this cavity a door to the underworld.

The first real descent organized in the Remeron Cave took place in 1900 by Luigi Vittorio Bertarelli, the founder of the Italian Touring Club, accompanied by a friend and two parish priests from the area. Equipped with hemp ropes and rope ladders with wooden pegs, they managed to overcome the series of dangerous cliffs. At the depth of 164 meters from the entrance they ended their exploration on the shores of an underground lake. This unprecedented feat and was published in many national newspapers.

In the following 50 years, other important enterprises were carried out and in 1951 the bottom was reached at 210 meters deep at the small lake of a siphon.



Ph. MARCO FERRARIS

Backstage of the historical reconstruction.



Ph. BARBARA GIULIANI

Bertarelli lake.



Ph. CLAUDIA CREMA

Guided tours



Ph. GUGLIELMO ROMAGHI

Shooting scene.

After the epic exploits of Bertarelli, the Remeron Cave aroused considerable interest among the population. In 1913 it became a tourist destination, attracting thousands of visitors who contributed to the development of the local economy. With the arrival of the Second World War, visits to the cave were considerably reduced and the lighting systems, together with the fittings, deteriorated due to the state of neglect.

Tourist activity resumed from the 2000s. In 2004, thanks to the contribution of various institutions, the lighting systems and stairs were restored, thus allowing tourists to safely descend to a depth of 30 meters. Today it remains the only such equipped show cave in the Varese area, boasting such average of 2,000 visitors every year.

The natural aspects

This documentary aims to enhance this fascinating cave narrating all its aspects through five distinct chapters: from the history of its explorations to the recent hydrogeological and ecosystem studies, the description of its environments and the reality of guided tours—so many opportunities to know and appreciate this pearl of nature.

Over two years of work were required to complete the shooting and the editing of the film. Much of the credit goes to all the speleologists who helped, especially in the phases of transporting the technical equipment to the bottom areas of the cave. In the video shooting phases we operated in prohibitive conditions, protecting the delicate equipment from cold, mud and water.

Even the specialized studies conducted in recent



Ph. CLAUDIA CREMA

Sample collection.

years on the waters circulating in the Remeron and the results of such research, are amply illustrated through some interviews with experts, including the geologist Alessandro Uggeri of “Idrogea srl”. In fact, it has been ascertained that the waters of this underground complex flow deeper following a complex network that penetrates up to the slopes of Campo dei Fiori. They then flow from various springs located hundreds of meters below and several kilometers away, where they are collected to supply the aqueducts of various municipalities, especially that of Varese.

All this testifies to the importance of safeguarding and protecting the karst areas and the underground environments present in them, to ensure the good quality of the water that these places provide to the community.

Also interesting are the research and monitoring of the underground fauna present in the innermost areas of the cave as told by Prof. Andrea Colla, Biospeleologist of the Trieste Natural History Museum. He coordinated the studies thanks to which some specimens of *Duvalius Ghidinii* were found, one of the rarest Italian beetles present only in some caves of the Lombard pre-Alps.

The Remeron Cave is also frequented by five species of bats, and is considered among the most important caves in the Campo dei Fiori Park for the conservation of bats in Lombardy. For this reason it is rightly included in a European project of protected areas called “Rete Natura 2000”.

Conclusion

To give its right value to this work, many institutions, after having recognized its cultural and naturalistic depth, have granted their patronage. Among them we mention the Lombardy Region, the Italian Touring Club, the Italian Alpine Club, the Province of Varese, the Municipality of Varese, the Campo dei Fiori Park, the Municipalities of Comerio, Barasso, Luvinate and Clivio. The Varese Community Foundation ONLUS, a noble institution that has always been sensitive to environmental protection, has also granted an important economic contribution that has allowed the speleologists to carry out their work.

FRANCE HABE PRIZE WINNER 2020

#SOMOS LOS CENOTES

“WE ARE THE CENOTES”

By Olivier Testa (France)
olivier.testa@yahoo.fr

“**SOMOSLOSCENOTES**” («**We are the Cenotes**») is a grassroots initiative started in November 2019 to raise awareness locally and globally on the importance of preserving the vital aquifers of Yucatan, Mexico.

Central to the life of local people, the cenotes and the aquifer are under threat due to the proliferation of hotels, the development of urbanized areas, and new means of transportation.

Cenotes and caves are hidden under the jungle, and the local people have no knowledge of how beautiful and wide these caves are. We want to remedy that.

“SOMOSLOSCENOTES” wishes you to be the voice of the cenotes!

Context

Cenote is the Mexican word for «sinkhole» and comes from ancient Maya.

Thousands of cenotes have been surveyed, and to date, more than 1500 km of underwater passages have been surveyed in the peninsula, mainly in Quintana Roo state, among which the Sac Actun system is the longest underwater cave in the world (372 km of submerged cave passages, 119 m deep, 227 connected cenotes), and Ox Bel Ha system (271 km) is second. Besides, 15 among the 20th longest underwater caves in the world are in the area.

Every year, several tens of kilometers of new cave passages are explored and surveyed by cave diver teams from around the world. Beyond exploration, these cenotes are of high scientific interest. Remains of ancient human activities preserved underwater are regularly found, along with bones of extinct species and an abundant troglobitic life with high endemism, to cite only a few of the riches.



Map of Central America and the Caribbean: The red circle shows the Yucatan Peninsula, in Mexico, where thousands of cenotes (sinkhole, in English), and the aquifer are under threat.



More than 1500 km of submerged passages have been surveyed in the Yucatan Peninsula. The *Sac Actun* system, the longest underwater cave in the world (372 km) is there.

Cenotes also support the economy, by providing the natural resources of the area, or with tourism-related activities. Former peasants and small landowners started collecting fees for cenote visits or bathing, cave diving is huge there, and of course, the hotel and restaurant industry benefit from them.

This area, one of the poorest of Mexico two decades ago, has now its economy booming with tourism. Tourism moved south, initially from Cancun, to Playa del Carmen and now Tulum. Over the past 15 years, mega-resorts flourished on the coast, where hundreds of hectares of forest and mangroves were chopped down to build them.

Most of the time, cenotes were filled with garbage or destroyed by excavators, to allow real estate or hotel projects. In this desertic area, water pumping stations mushroomed at an alarming rate to provide the hotels with water, and contamination started to be visible, especially to cave divers who were first-hand observers.

South of Tulum, the Muyil area was still untouched. However, as real estate projects were starting, cave explorers unexpectedly discovered large cave systems in the last ten years.

A few months ago, a rumor spread across Quintana Roo that a group of investors, backed by the federal government, planned to create a new city in the forest. The proposed area was 50 sq. km (12,000 acres).

Horrified by the project, pressed by future elections, we had to move swiftly. Based on previous experiences in the Dominican Republic, Phillip Lehman (DRSS) proposed to start a massive information campaign to the public through social media. Vincent Rouquette Cathala and Nathalie Gibbs (Under the Jungle), Protec dive centers, Gran Acuífero Maya (UIS International Caves and Karst Year 2021 partner) immediately joined the initiative, and here is how “SomosLosCenotes” was born.

Making beautiful movies to change perspective. Our goal is to raise awareness of the widespread presence of cenotes in the peninsula, the karst groundwater,

and the interconnection with Mexican people’s everyday lives.

By destroying cenotes, real people’s jobs are destroyed, water resources are contaminated, and the future of the area is jeopardized.

There is a deficit of knowledge in the general audience of the role and importance of the aquifer in the area. We believe that the local people do not feel concerned about scientific and conservation arguments about the cenotes because they do not know what is inside and will never go, and they can’t relate.

When a popular public beach or surf spot is littered with plastics, people engage and clean the beaches. When a cenote is filled with garbage, when septic tanks overflow in caves, the water still looks crystal-clear and no one but the cave divers sees the pollution.

We believe that in showing beautiful images that push action, a collective awareness will arise and the population, through its vote, will have the power to overthrow some political decisions that are not in their favor.

Our action began by producing short films showing the diversity, the beauties of the Muyil and Tulum caves. In the past 12 months, 10 shorts have been produced and broadcasted freely on YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook, gathering several tens of thousands of viewers each.

Each movie features one or two caves and a message from someone of the civil society.

The movies are free to broadcast for anybody.

All material (movies, pictures) can be downloaded and shared on the webpage <http://facebook.com/SomosLosCenotes>.

HD movies are available on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/channels/1661539>.

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CAPE PENINSULA SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TRIBUTE TO

ANTHONY HITCHCOCK

South Africa, 26.03.1960 - 07.07.2020

By Parry Pavlis (South Africa)

C.P.S.S. Chairmen

*Cape Peninsula Speleological Society (Member of)
South African Speleological Association (SASA)*

parrypavlis@yahoo.com



If ever it can be said “it is in the genes” this is absolutely true in Anthony Hitchcock’s case. His father caved in the mountains above Kalk Bay with Johan Meyer, the local patriarch of caving in the Cape. At a young age, when Anthony discovered one of Johan Meyer’s maps, a lifelong passion involving caving was ignited.

During his teens he spent many hours rediscovering the caves, and soon set about mapping them in detail. In those days it was hand drawn sketches, tape measurements, and direction by compass. This was then recorded on paper, and while technology has since progressed, Anthony preferred to continue gathering his survey data the old fashioned way.

Anthony joined the South African Speleological Association – Cape Section in the late 1970s and in the 1980s set up a project to survey all the caves on Table Mountain National Park. Many fellow club members over the years have since been encouraged to record their caving activities, and to join the cave survey teams. Mapping the caves often led to new discoveries, and the driving force behind Anthony’s passion for surveying was ultimately exploration.

His interest in caves was not restricted to the Cape Peninsula but included areas such as the Zuurberg in the Eastern Cape, The Tsitsikama National Park, Oudtshoorn, De Hoop in the Bredasdorp area, Ceres and Van Rynsdorp in the Northern Cape.

Anthony was part of a highly skilled team of cavers who were given permission to survey and map, the newly discovered at the time, Cango 3 extension to the world renowned Cango Caves north of Oudtshoorn. The team spent several days and nights camping inside the system, while exploring and pushing further. Incredibly, this survey still forms the basis for the management of the Cango Caves.

Anthony was a prolific writer who was always prepared to share his knowledge and published his work mainly in the SASA Bulletin, but also in *Free Caver*, which are all currently held in the Special Collections library at UCT. One of his major contributions was “The Caves of the Southern Cape”, the first SASA Bulletin to be published with colour photographs, which recorded many of the coastal caves from Groot River, the Eastern boundary of the Tsitsikama National Park all the way to Pinnacle Point West of Mossel Bay. This was a Bulletin dedicated to a specific area, to meet the specific need of proper management of cave systems along the coastal region. It remains a valuable tool for local authorities in determining environmental controls relating to the management of caves.

In more recent years, members of the Cape Peninsula Speleological Society (CPSS) have been involved in exploring the Back Table of Table Mountain National Park. Fellow members spent many hours exploring



August 2010: Hitchcock and colleague Carly Cowell planting out seedlings of threatened species as part of restoration efforts at Tokai Park, Cape Town, South Africa..

JOHN YELD - Source: www.dailymaverick.co.za

JOHN YELD - Source: www.dailyloverick.co.za



March 2013: Anthony Hitchcock and colleague Ntsindiso Zide at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden living collections nursery, Cape Town, South Africa.



JOHN YELD - Source: www.dailyloverick.co.za

March 2013: Hitchcock on Table Mountain collecting plant cuttings for Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

this area and regularly returned with information about new discoveries. This coincided with the introduction of the use of GPS technology to record cave positions and locations, and it soon became evident that there was an extensive cave system to be explored and mapped.

Honorary CPSS member Ron Zeeman must be mentioned for his valuable assistance that he provided Anthony, using the digital mapping programs that substantially enhanced the quality of the surveys. Anthony and the survey teams spent many hours underground, not only exploring this whole area, but also recording each section, which to date, results in a mapped cave system in excess of 5 km. The final volume of this enormous project has not yet been published, however this will be undertaken by CPSS member Oresti Ventouras, and once published, this CPSS Bulletin will be dedicated to the memory of Anthony.

Anthony served as a member of the CPSS committee for many years and was heavily involved in the drawing up of the new constitution for the South African Speleological Association (SASA). This involved the forming of autonomous groups with their own constitutions under the umbrella of SASA, which culminated with a meeting in Priska, where the current SASA Constitution was adopted.

Anthony was also involved with industrial archaeology in the form of exploring the Tin Mines on Devils Peak, Kuilsriver, Durbanville, the manganese mines above Hout Bay and Gordons Bay, and the glass works at Glencairn, near Simon's Town.

With the development of Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR), a grouping of a number of different bodies involved in the outdoors was formed to assist the Provincial Emergency Services with rescue missions. CPSS, as a member organisation, ran a number

of cave rescue seminars, predominantly in Oudtshoorn. The quality of Anthony's presentation on caving set the tone for these courses and his contribution to the technical exercises introduced many Emergency Personnel to the world of caving, which naturally led to Anthony becoming involved in a number of cave rescue missions.

For Anthony there was an inescapable link between caving and botany, and on numerous occasions fellow members were coerced into assisting with the collection of plants or seeds. While surveying a cave in the Hex River Mountains Anthony found a cave cricket. His note about the crickets in his survey book encouraged him to arrange another visit to this cave. These insects have since only been noted in the Cape Peninsula, and specimens led to the discovery of a new species known scientifically as *Speleacris monslamiensis*.

Anthony's immense contribution to caving will be cherished by those who were drawn into this world, and all are richer for his knowledge that he happily shared. He was truly a pioneer of caving in the Cape, and caving was very much integral to his life. He will definitely be missed, but his legacy remains, and he will be remembered by all of us who were privileged to know him.

On behalf of SASA and CPSS I would like to extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Wendy and to Jessica and Douglas for their loss.

(This tribute was compiled with the assistance of Mr Ed Berry, Mr Alan Butcher & Mr Peter Swart).



IN MEMORIAM

NILS-AXEL MÖRNER

Sweden, 1938-2020

by Rabbe Sjöberg (Sweden)
rabbeksjoberg@gmail.com

Nils-Axel Mörner (1938-2020) is no longer among us. On October 16th he left us after a very short illness.

Niklas, as he was called by friends, has left a huge emptiness behind him. He had a great knowledge in many topics. He was a man of great thoughts, solid truth seeking and integrity. He showed us to work with eyes and measure, not with models. Empirical evidence was his law. He was a man of absolute honor and a wonderful friend. He was also a merry chap, which all who knew him, heard his lectures or joined him on excursions could experience. Our thoughts goes to his wife Ulla, his children, and grandchildren.

Niklas's 487-pages long doctoral thesis "The Late Quaternary history of the Kattegatt Sea and the Swedish West Coast: deglaciation, shorelevel displacement, chronology, isostasy and eustasy" was published in 1969. It was considered so brilliant that he received a life-time appointment at Stockholm University very early in his career.

In 1977 he organized the international conference on Earth Rheology and Late Cenozoic Isostatic Movements.

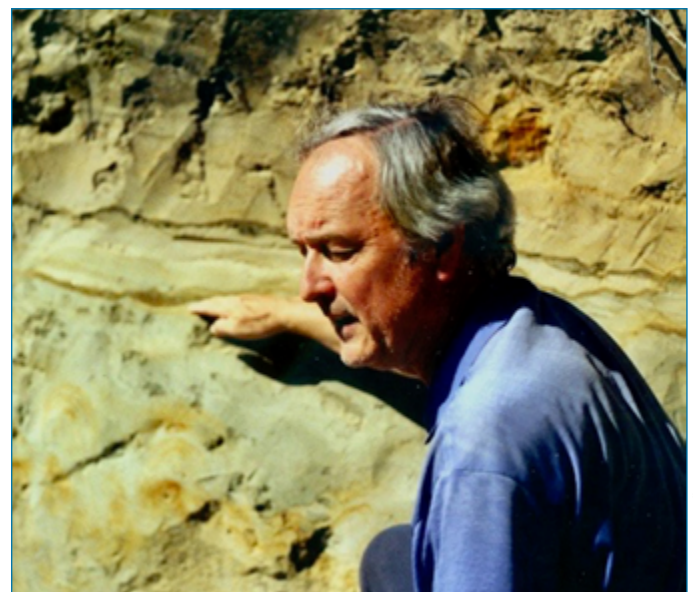
This was the ground for all that was to come. In 1991 his research center on Paleogeophysics and Geodynamics (P&G) was initiated. Niklas was the head of this department until retiring in 2005. After that, P&G became his private institute. Between 1981 and 1989 he was the chairman of INQUA Neotectonic Commission, and in 1999–2003 in the INQUA Sea-Level Commission. He was a world leading specialist on coastal studies and visited and investigated more than 50 controversial sea level sites around the globe. He had a very broad knowledge and engagement, which also included pseudokarst. As a collaborator of the Pseudokarst Commission, he co-organized in 2011 the 2nd Granite Cave Conference in Sweden with a four-day long excursion along the northern Swedish Coast. Over his long career, he published exactly 700 papers covering a variety of topics. As a scientist he was active until the very last days of his life.

Hereafter, I will concentrate on his pseudokarst research and in which way he and I solved how and when a majority of Swedish bedrock caves were formed.



© www.researchgate.net/profile/Nils-Axel_Moerner

In 1993 I asked Niklas to be my doctoral thesis advisor on the presumably seismo-tectonically formed bedrock caves I was researching. The thesis "Bedrock caves and fractured surfaces in Sweden, occurrence and origin" was successfully defended in November 1994 and became the starting point for the Boda Cave Project (1997). The field work was concentrated to the Hudiksvall region along the Baltic Sea coast, where Boda Cave, Sweden's largest boulder cave is located. This project improved our understanding on how isostatic land uplift and the processes connected to that occurred. Among many other things we showed that the isostatic uplift rate reached 300 mm/year along the edge of the inland ice 9,600 years ago, much more



RABBE SJÖBERG

Nils-Axel Mörner explaining sediments during an excursion in 2004.



May 2008: Niklas beside an isolated sandstone block in the forest next to Nybygget, Åkers Bergslag region, Sweden, during an interdisciplinary course.

than earlier anticipated. This huge land uplift caused violent earthquakes. We found how a majority of the boulder-caves in Sweden were formed by these gigantic, early post-glacial earthquakes, often followed by explosions of methane hydrate and blasted by glaciations, polished hills turned into heaps of edgy boulders. However, we had a big problem understanding why so many of these earthquakes seemed to have occurred as late as ~3,000 years BP.

Within the frames of this project two international field trips were organized in 2000 and 2008. Both started in my home town Umeå and ended in Hovs Hallar in southern Sweden, the main site of Niklas's thesis from 1969. The first one was part of the INQUA Congress, whereas the second was organized in conjunction with the International Geological Congress in Oslo. In 2011 we organized the 2nd Conference on Granite Caves in cooperation with the Pseudokarst Commission and the Swedish Speleological Society. This included a field trip from Nynäshamn, close to Stockholm, to the big boulder caves around the town of Hudiksvall, mentioned earlier. The discussions and the knowledge gained from the participants helped develop the project. The number of published scientific papers connected to the project were numerous and our last one "Merging the concepts of pseudokarst and paleoseismicity in Sweden. A united theory on the formation of fractures, fracture caves, and angular block heaps" was published in the *UIS International Journal of Speleology* in September 2018 and tells the full history of our combined projects.

Niklas last fieldwork, just weeks before his

death, was to find out how the Kaali meteorite impact in Estonia formed a gigantic tsunami wave, which in the 1171 varve years BC (as he precisely measured in August 2020 in the varved clays on the banks of the Ångermanälven River in northern Sweden) devastated the Swedish coastline, initiated earthquakes and burning methane gas venting. This, according to Niklas, could be the background to what was called the "Ragnarök" (Harmagedon) in the Northern mythology.

The world has lost a great man, a great scientist, and a great Truth Teller. I will always remember my friend Niklas.

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<https://doi.org/10.5038/1827-806X.47.3.2225>

IN MEMORIAM

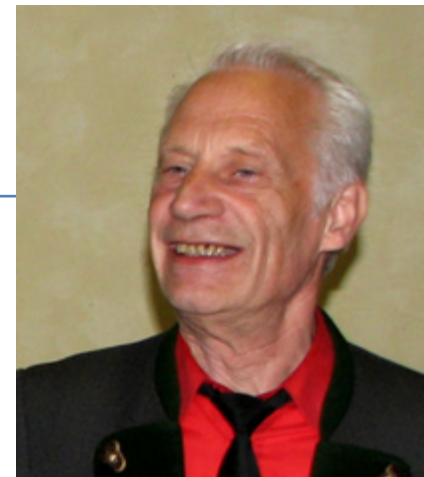
István Eszterhás

Hungary, 1941-2020

by George Szentes
georgeszentes@yahoo.de

István Eszterhás, the Honorary President of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission, died on 2 August 2020. Born in January 1941 in the historical Hungarian town of Eger, István graduated from the Földes Ferenc Secondary School in the city of Miskolc. He got to the University of Eger where he got a teaching degree in biology, geography, and art. For the next three years he was employed as a teacher in the village of Jósvalfő, the central settlement of the Aggtelek Karst Mountains. For the following 34 years, until 2001, he taught in the Transdanubian village of Isztimér. As an autodidact he gained substantial knowledge in volcanology, speleology, nature conservation, and cartography.

He started his caving activity in the 1960s, mainly by exploring and surveying local limestone caves in the Aggtelek Mountains and the Transdanubian karst regions. In the vicinity of his home village



GEORGE SZENTES

István Eszterhás, Honorary President of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission

in the Bakony Mountains, he visited and explored 58 caves, among which was the protected and spectacular Alba Regia Cave. He conducted bio-speleological studies over 5 years and collected and catalogued 225 species from the cave, including a completely new species.

Beside speleology he also dealt with etymology of topographic names and editing various maps and guidebooks. He assisted in shooting a documentary nature movie for Hungarian television on the Bakony Mountains and Alba Regia Cave.



GEORGE SZENTES



GEORGE SZENTES

May 2006: *Istvan's opening speech at the 9th International Symposium of Pseudokarst in Bartkowa, Beskid Mountains, Poland, and in the Devil Hole during the excursion of the same event.*

GEORGE SZENTES



2005: Istvan (white shirt) in discussions before a field survey.

In 1983 he turned his attention to the pseudokarst and non-karst caves in Hungary and soon became a leader of the Volcanospeleological Collective of the Hungarian Speleological Society, an organisation with 15 permanent members, who are occasionally assisted by some other cavers.

Every summer he organised exploration camps in the non-karst regions of Hungary in order to explore and document new caves. Participating in these camps, he introduced numerous young cavers to pseudokarst phenomena, as well as the geology and geomorphology of the region. Participants of these camps have listed and surveyed 1,246 non-karst caves; in 40 of these caves they discovered nearly 1000 m of new passages.

István studied the development of non-karst caves and determined new genetic types, such as consequence caves, holes formed by alkaline solution, and fumarole cavities. He also found and described types of speleothems previously unknown in Hungary, such as *siliceous stalactites* and *isingerite discs*. He solved the problem of ice development in low elevation basalt caves and has classified ca. 200 species of animals and 18 species of fungi.

He and his colleagues edited the Cadastre of Non-karst Caves of Hungary, which is a recapitulation of many years of research. The Cadastre website presents the details of 1,246 non-karst caves in 20 regions. It can be visited using a link: <http://nonkarstic.geo.info.hu>.

István's speleological activity was not limited to Hungary. He studied lava caves in Tenerife and Iceland and was invited as an expert to investigate a cave opened by basalt quarrying in Ortenberg, Germany.

GEORGE SZENTES



2006: Istvan measuring the temperature in a sandstone cave in Hungary.

István was also active in several speleological organisations. He was a member of the Committee of the Hungarian Speleological Society. Moreover, he was one of the founding members of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission and its President between 1997-2008. Since 2008 he was the Honorary President of this Commission. He gave lectures at the Pseudokarst Symposia in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Italy, Germany and Spain, as well as the International Granite Cave Symposium. He organized the 6th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Galyatető, Hungary.

Four volumes of books and 130 professional papers relating results of his research have been published in Hungarian, English and German, and he co-authored five books. Between 1998 and 2009 he was the editor-in-chief of the bilingual Pseudokarst Newsletter (Newsletter of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission).

In 1984 he was awarded with the title "Excellent Educationist." For his research in the field of speleology, the Hungarian Speleological Society awarded him the "Vas Imre Medal" in 1999 and the "Kadic Ottokar Medal" in 2010.

Since 2000 he was a member of the famous Explorers Club, based in New York City, and in 2002 he received the "21st Century Outstanding Scientist" and the "Top 1,000 Outstanding Scientist" recognition and plaque from the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge, UK.

István was married to his wife, Babika, for 56 years, and had a daughter Emőke.

We lost an active and professional speleologist and a good friend.





Union Internationale
de Spéléologie
www.uis-speleo.org

MINUTES UIS ANNUAL BUREAU MEETING

September 9th and 10th 2020 - First time ONLINE by VC (Zoom)

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

SESSION 1

Wednesday September 9th 2020 - at 15:10 CET

ATTENDANCE (15 persons)

President: *George VENI*

Vice-President of Administration: *Zdeněk MOTYČKA*

Secretary General: *Fadi H. NADER*

Treasurer: *Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA*

Adjunct Secretaries:

Bärbel VOGEL

Bernard CHIROL

Gyula HEGEDUS

Mladen GARAŠIĆ

Nivaldo COLZATO

Satoshi GOTO

Tim MOULDS

Honorary Members & Past-Presidents:

Andy EAVIS

José Ayrton LABEGALINI

Pavel BOSAK

Guests: *Laurence TANGUILLE (French Speleological Federation / President of the 18th ICS Organizing Committee)*

Absent: *Efraín MERCADO (Vice-President of Operations)*

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

George VENI thanked all participants for the 2020 UIS Bureau meeting, for the first time by video-conferencing on Zoom. The meeting consists of two sessions, each of which having a duration of around 3 hours. Several matters have been shared ahead of the online meeting in order to have time-framed, efficient discussions.

George VENI proposed to approve the meeting agenda, which was approved unanimously.

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

2) Approval of Minutes of Regular Bureau Meeting of 2019 (Bohol, Philippines)

Zdenek MOTYČKA reported that the text under Point #12 "UIS Commissions and Expeditions" in the 2019 Bureau meeting minutes has a copy-paste by error from the previous 2018 Bureau meeting minutes (Ebensee, Austria). He proposed to discard it.

Fadi NADER suggested that this error will be published in the 2020 meeting minutes as erratum of the previously published minutes.

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

Tim MOULDS seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

DECISION 2: The revised minutes of the 2019 annual meeting were approved by the UIS Bureau.

3) Review Action Items and Decisions of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (2019) – Decisions to be made on follow up un-accomplished actions

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

ACTION 1: George remains in contact with the ISCA board about having their board meeting during the Congress. He is promoting the Congress with the ISCA President and they are requesting abstracts and papers from ISCA. The time and date of the ISCA Board meeting will be coordinated by the Congress organizers either in a general meeting room or the UIS meeting room if other rooms are not available.

Fadi NADER (Action 2) explained that whenever a UIS Bulletin is published, a post on Facebook is made to inform FB members and to provide a link to the website link (where the UIS Bulletin is downloadable).

Action 4: George just sent a message to Boris Watz and Uwe Kruger to learn their status on the video. Any news will be reported below.

ACTION 5: George contacted Alexey about the Bureau's concerns. He replied that he would correct the problems and we have not heard any complaints since then.

Only two ACTIONS were kept from the 2019 meeting. They are presented here:

ACTION 1: Satoshi GOTO to coordinate/prepare use of new social media accounts in different countries/regions to promote the UIS.

ACTION 2: The UIS Bureau will inform the General Assembly and seek its approval on the new fee categories (as proposed at the 2019 Bureau Meeting, Bohol – Philippines):

- A: 480 €, 2000 or more cavers**
- B: 360 €, 1000-1999 cavers**
- C: 240 €, 500-999 cavers**
- D: 120 €, 100-499 cavers**
- E: 60 €, <100 cavers**

4) ICS 2021 (ICS Organizing Committee FFS)

Laurence TANGUILLE updated the situation with respect to the ICS organization progress.

a. UPDATES – Status

- Budget issues: the French Federation of Speleology (FFS) will not fund the ICS 18, which have an impact on the ICS program and activities.

- Zdenek MOTYCKA sent the email list to Laurence, who sent it to Yannick DECKER who will send the emails. Better communication by ICS organizers is needed.

- Tim MOULDS: Covid-19 issues and doubts on people to attend the ICS in 2021. Take into account for Budget forecast! Action>> add a mention on website that measures will be taken for Covid-19!

- January next year the ICS Organizing Committee will to decide if the ICS is postponed or not!

ACTION 3: Zdenek MOTYCKA will follow up on the recommendations/decisions for actions requested from the ICS 18 organizers:

a. Improve communications by sending invitation to the mass-email list prepared by Z. Motycka (and shared with Yannick DECKER).

b. Add information related to Covid-19 measures taken prior and during the ICS 18.

c. Organize a meeting in January 2021 to decide whether the ICS 18 will be postponed or not.

b. PROGRESS – Way Forward

- **TECHNICAL PROGRAM (involving UIS Commissions).** To date: 320 abstracts and 40 registrations received. Deadline for abstract submission: 31 October 2020. Deadline for first price subscription: 24 January 2021. More communication is needed to encourage cavers (especially locals) to participate to in the congress.

• VULCANOSPELEOLOGY

To be discussed between Christophe, George, Fadi and the Commission President (John Brush) – Action to be set.

ACTION 4: George VENI will organize a video-conference meeting including Fadi NADER, Christophe GAUCHON and John BRUSH.

• SPELEMEDIA

Films and photographs (different prizes), rooms are defined.

• UIS PRIZES

Nivaldo is in charge of the UIS Prizes 2021 and

published information in the Bulletin (categories, how to submit, etc.).

- Giving prizes at the ICS (duration: less than 60 minutes).
- Communicate more by UIS/Nivaldo COLZATO and ICS organizers /Bernard CHIROL.

ACTION 5: Bernard CHIROL and Nivaldo COLZATO will amplify communications between UIS and ICS organizers concerning the UIS Prizes.

• EXCURSIONS

Bernard CHIROL is in charge of Excursions.

20 excursions and camps before and after the congress are planned (definitive prices will be posted by the end of September 2020).

• BUDGET

The registration of UIS Bureau members is waived but they have to pay for excursion and extra expenses (to be clarified by ICS organizers /Bernard CHIROL).

ACTION 6: Bernard CHIROL will ask for clarifications concerning the payment required by UIS Bureau members.

• CIRCULARS

UIS Bureau is concerned about the fact that Circular #2 has not yet been made available on the website and sent through the participants lists.

ACTION 7: Bernard CHIROL will tell ICS organizers to provide as soon as possible the Circular (#2) with all details for registrations and excursions.

5) UIS Media

a. WEBSITE (E. Mercado)

- Translation option (M Garasic, N Colzato) – No need / automatic translators exist on the web.

- Add information and not just the link about the ICS (Efrain/Jasmina/Bernard).

- Add UIS Bulletin 52-2 on the website (still missing (Efrain/Jasmina).

- Jasmina RIJAVEC is working on reconstructing the whole website – in progress.

ACTION 8: Efrain MERCADO will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding information (e.g. on the upcoming ICS 18) on the new UIS website, including the UIS Bulletin 52-2 (missing in previous website).

B. FACEBOOK PAGE has >3200 members, as reported by Fadi.

- Add information and not just the link about the ICS.

ACTION 9: Fadi NADER will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding information (e.g. on the upcoming ICS 18, UIS Bulletin) on the FACEBOOK page.

- c. **BULLETIN (N. Colzato)** – check Nivaldo's report.

Need news and information/contributions from Commissions.

Need to disseminate/distribute the Bulletin to more people.

DECISION 3: Promote the UIS Bulletin among commissions for publishing more news and info and disseminate/distribute the Bulletin further (enhance outreach).

- d. **UIS HISTORY VIDEO** (*M. Garašić, G. Veni*)
- In progress and will be added on the website.

ACTION 10: MLADEN GARASIC will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding the UIS History video, once it is finished, to the UIS website.

6) UIS Bureau internal functioning

(*F. Nader / G. Veni*)

a. **INFORMATION POLICY INSIDE THE BUREAU** (*email, deadlines, skype*).

More Skype meetings are needed for the Bureau to share results of committees.

DECISION 4: Organize more Skype meetings for the Bureau members to share the discussions and progress of committees.

- b. **REPORTING OF UIS BUREAU MEMBERS**
c. **REPORTING OF BUREAU COMMITTEES** (*e.g. IYCK committee*)

7) UIS Relationships with Regional Organization and Countries (*G. Veni*)

- a. **FEALC/FSE/AUS.** No news.
b. **ISCA.** Discussed above.
c. **MEMBER COUNTRIES.** No news.

8) News from major past speleological events

a. **3rd Asian TransKarst Conference, 30 August – 1 September 2019** (Philippines), <http://www.transkarst2019.com/>. UIS attended!

b. **ArmConference 2019: Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments**, 11-13 September 2019 (Yerevan, Armenia), <http://armconference2019.com/>. No one attended from UIS.

c. **25th International Cave Bear Symposium**, 18-22 September 2019 (Paklenica National Park, Croatia), nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at. No one attended from UIS.

d. **13th EuroSpeleo Forum**, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org>. Mladen and Gyula attended.

e. **International Symposium on Techniques for Remote Location of Unknown Underground Cavities**, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/symposia/>. Same event as (d).

f. **Protected Karst Territories – Legislation, Tourism, Monitoring**, 29 September – 2 October 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/forum2019>. No one attended from UIS

g. **46th IAH Congress “Groundwater Management and Governance Coping with Water Scarcity”** (Topic 7: Karst Hydrogeology), 23-27 September 2019 (Malaga, Spain), <http://www.iah2019.org/topics-and-sessions/>. No one attended from UIS

h. **Sustainable Management of Show Caves**, 7-9 October 2019 (Skocjan Caves Park, Slovenia), <https://izrkc-sci-mtg.zrc-sazu.si/en/>. No one attended from UIS

i. **National Cave and Karst Management Symposium**, 7-11 October 2019 (Bristol, Virginia, USA), <http://nckms.org/2019-symposium>. No one attended from UIS but George reported that NCKRI staff attended and it was a good meeting with many talks.

j. **British Cave Research Association 30th Annual Cave Science Symposium**, 19-20 October 2019 (Keyworth, Nottingham, UK), for more information contact Dr. Andy Farrant at: arf@bgs.ac.uk. Andy Eavis attended and the meeting was good with good presentations.

k. **13th European Cave Rescue Meeting**, 15-17 November 2019 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://caverescue.eu/13th-european-cave-rescue-meeting/>. Gyula attend the meeting but moved to Croatia on the same date when it could not be held in Turkey.

l. **International Congress: 80th Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society**, 19-23 February 2020 (Caibarién, Villa Clara, Cuba), for information contact congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com. Efrain and Bernard attended. Bernard will send a report to the UIS Bulletin. It is on [page 27](#) of this issue.

The following six conferences were postponed or canceled because of COVID.

m. **16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst**, 20-24 April 2020 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), www.sinkholeconference.com.

n. **ALCADI Alps Carpathians and Dinaric Gorizia Italy**, 30 April 3 May – GH and MG to attend.

o. **23rd Conference of the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association**, 3-8 May 2020 (Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia), www.ackma.org. TM May attend

p. **9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves**, 12-15 May 2020 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia). For information contact milos.melega@ssj.sk.

q. **UIS Bureau meeting**

r. **US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting**, 13-14 May 2020 (Nashville, Tennessee). For information contact akclark@usgs.gov.

s. **UNESCOkarst 2020: Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources**, 18-22 May 2020 (Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA), <https://unescokarst2020.com/>. This conference

occurred virtually and attended by about 70 people from several countries. George gave two presentations about the IYCK. UNESCO withdrew from the meeting, so it was renamed Karst 2020.

The following three conferences were postponed or canceled because of COVID.

t. 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, 29 August – 5 September 2020 (Catania, Italy), <http://www.19isvetna.com/>. Julia James to attend.

u. European Cave and Karst Protection Symposium – BV to attend.

v. 28th Classical Karstological School, Postojna, Slovenia.

The following two conferences have not yet occurred.

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

x. 18th International Congress of Speleology, 23-29 July 2021 (Lyon, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>. UIS bureau to attend.

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

a. Geological Society of America Convention/GSA 2020 Connects Online, 25-28 October 2020 (Montréal, Québec, Canada), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home>. George Veni will not attend but will send NCKRI staff. NCKRI is planning to organize an IYCK session for next year's convention.

b. British Cave Research Association Science Symposium, 14-15 November 2020, (virtual meeting), <http://bcra.org.uk/forum>. Andy will attend and maybe George. It will be free.

c. ALCADI 2020: International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology (ALps, CARpathians and DINarides), 5-8 December 2020 (Gorizia, Italy). Contact: sepenhofer@libero.it. The meeting may be postponed again.

d. 1st Karst Science Forum, postponed to 2021 (Bucharest, Romania), <https://www.eris100.ro>.

e. 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>.

f. 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>. No more news.

g. 16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 12-16 April 2021 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), www.sinkholeconference.com. George Veni is co-chairing the conference and will send more news soon.

h. 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-25 April 2021 (Świętokrzyskie [Holy Cross] Mountains, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>.

i. 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 meeting is usually free and may be organized virtually.

j. Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Conference, 3-7 May 2021 (Wellington Caves, New South Wales, Australia). For more information: enquiries@wellingtoncaves.com.au.

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

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

m. 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 03-06 June 2021 (Brasilia, Brazil), <http://36cbe.org.br/>. Nivaldo and José will attend. The theme of the congress will be the IYCK.

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

o. EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>. Mladen will attend.

p. 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>. Nadja and Andy will attend.

q. 18th International Congress of Speleology, 25 July – 1 August 2021 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>. The full Bureau will attend.

r. Central Asian Speleological Forum, postponed to August 2021 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), <https://speleo.kg/en/news/first-circular-speleo-ca-forum-2020/>. George Veni and Satoshi will probably attend.

s. 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>.

t. International Association of Hydrogeologists 47th Congress, 22-27 August 2021 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://iah2021brazil.org/en/>.

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

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

w. **Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference**, September 2021 (Socorro, New Mexico, USA), <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/FtStanton/home.cfm>. George Veni will attend.

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

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

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

Session 1 adjourned at 17:51 CET

SESSION 2

Thursday September 10th 2020 - at 15:00 CET

ATTENDANCE (13 persons)

President: *George VENI*

Vice-President of Administration: *Zdeněk MOTYČKA*

Secretary General: *Fadi H. NADER*

Treasurer: *Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA*

Adjunct Secretaries:

Bärbel VOGEL

Bernard CHIROL

Gyula HEGEDUS

Mladen GARAŠIĆ

Nivaldo COLZATO

Satoshi GOTO

Tim MOULDS

Honoray Members & Past-Presidents: *Andy EAVIS*

Guest: *Johannes MATTES*

Absent: *Efraín MERCADO (Vice-President of Operations)*

10) IYCK 2021 (*G. Veni / N. Zupan Hajna*)

a. OPENING CEREMONY AND IYCK PROGRAM

Patronage by the Director General of UNESCO for the Opening Ceremony requested official through the Slovenian Delegation/Embassy.

Venue, Program to be approved by UNESCO (in 2 months-time).

Agreement to be signed by the Slovenian Embassy and UIS for the Opening Ceremony, to include the reservation, logistics, catering, and other event costs. We will negotiate the best price.

- Protocol managed by the Slovenian Embassy.
- Potential sponsors: 2 (Kaercher via Baerbel; Dassault Modeling via Paul Griffiths).

• Program (half day)/Concept plan (start, protocol welcome, opening of the year, movie, key lecture (Nadja), panel discussion (proposed John Gunn, Paul Griffiths, Clayton Lino, Fadi Nader), lunch by invitation.

• Book: financial support for printing from the Slovenian Karst Research Institute and the Slovenian UNESCO office will pay 5K€)

• Moderator. We will seek a well-known celebrity. Paul Griffiths has offered to help.

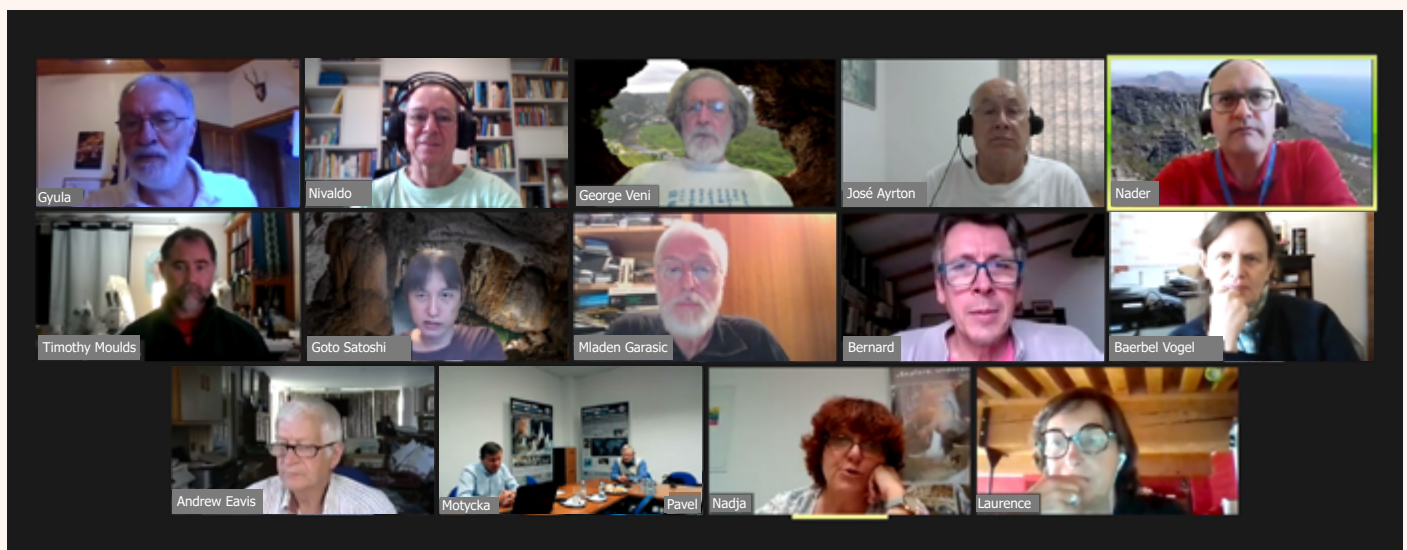
Advice by Baerbel to Bureau members: Ask UNESCO Country commissions for support

b. Leaflet, posters, movie, book and website

Missing on the IYCK website: Leaflet in French, Hungarian, Japanese, and Persian; Planning Guide in Croatian, Hungarian, and Japanese.

ACTION 11: Nivaldo COLZATO will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding all missing documents (leaflets, guides, etc.) on the IYCK website.

DECISION 5: UIS Bureau thanked Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA for her work with respect to IYCK 2021 and approved by voting the proposed steps with respect to IYCK 2021 activities.



Attendants of the first session of the UIS Annual Bureau meeting 2020.

12) UIS Commissions and Expeditions

(M. Zdenek)

a. News and Updates

b. Financial Requests

No special financial request from last meeting, except previously approved requests. (Protection Commission, Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, Glacier, Firn and Ice Cave Commission)

c. International Expeditions support

One request has been received and supported with 800 EUR. Because of the COVID situation, a new deadline has not yet been announced.

In 2019 we supported 3 projects with total amount of 2 000 EUR, so in the budget there is now still 1 000 EUR from 2019.

DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau set the end of November 2020 as a deadline for submitting requests of financial support to international expeditions (budget= 1 K€) and May 2021 the next deadline with a budget of 4 K€.

13) Finance Update (N. Zupan Hajna)

UIS treasurer report for 2020 Bureau meeting

Bank account	31.08.2020	2020	EUR	Description
balance	35 257.41 EUR			
	48 525.01 USD			
Jan. 1 - Sep.02/2020:	income	4672.14		all from fees
	payments	5859.3		- 800 eur support to conf. & meet; - commissions 1234.7 eur; - ISC membership 520 eur; - account. for taxing 320 eur; - IYCK film 2920 eur
		-1187.16		

There is no deposit in the Bank, regarding the organization of the IYCK 2021 because of the high estimated costs.

The invoices for UIS membership fees were sent on September 6. In 2020 there were higher fees paid from:

- **USA:** 1072.14 EUR - USA 2019, 2020 (2 x 480 = 960 EUR) = 112.14 EUR extra (the result of a dollar-euro conversion error).

- **Portugal:** 240 euro (until 2020 - 60/year) – their decision.

- **Spain:** 1440 EUR - Spain 2018, 2019, 2020 (3 x 480?) – their decision.

September 7, 2020 - *Nadja Zupan Hajna*

14) Venue and date of the 2021 UIS Bureau Meeting:

France, during the 18ICS.

- Extraordinary Bureau Meeting (November/December) on Zoom.

- January 2021 Meeting (in Paris?)

DECISION 7: The UIS Bureau will organize an extraordinary online meeting in November/December on Zoom. Pending instructions from UNESCO concerning the opening ceremony of the IYCK 2021, the UIS Bureau might meet in January 2021 in Paris.

15) Any other business

a. Candidates for the 19th ICS, 2025?

Brazil. George received a letter proposal, stating the full proposal will be sent later. José-Ayrton informed the UIS Bureau that the details will arrive by January 2021.

b. UIS Collection 3.0

Presented by Gyula HEGEDUS to UIS Bureau in an attached report.

16) Closing Statements (G. Veni)

George VENI thanked all participants for their contributions to the 2020 annual UIS Bureau meeting.



Attendants of the second session of the UIS Annual Bureau meeting 2020.

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

ERIS 100 - 1st International Karst Science Forum

Postponed to 2021 (Bucharest, Romania)

<https://www.eris100.ro>

International Course and Field Seminar: Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers

1-6 June 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>

Visual KARSYS Online Course

3-4 February 2021

<https://www.visualkarsys.com/>

14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst

22-25 April 2021 (Świętokrzyskie [Holy Cross] Mountains, Poland)

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

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

ALCADI 2020: International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology

(ALps, CArpathians and DInarides)

May 2021 (Gorizia, Italy)

Contact: seppenhofer@libero.it

Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Conference

3-7 May 2021 (Wellington Caves, New South Wales, Australia)

Contact: enquiries@wellingtoncaves.com.au

Calendar of Events

2021
2022

36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology

2-5 June 2021 (Brasilia, Brazil)

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

2nd Columbian Congress of Speleology

8-13 June 2021 (Hagia Sophia, Boyacá, Columbia)

<https://espeleocol.wordpress.com/iicce2021/>

Karst Waters Institute Frontiers in Karst: Sulfuric Acid Weathering

Postponed to mid-summer 2021 (San Vittore, Italy)

<https://karstwaters.org/conferences/sulfuric-acid-weathering/>

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/>

European Cave Rescue Association Meeting

Postponed to late spring or November 2021 (Cantabria, Spain)

<https://caverescue.eu/ecra-meeting-2020-cantabria-spain/>

USA National Speleological Society Convention

28 June – 2 July 2021 (Weed, California, USA)

<http://nss2021.caves.org/>

1st Karst Science Forum

24-27 June 2021 (Bucharest, Romania)

<https://www.eris100.ro>

18th International Congress of Speleology

25 July - 1 August 2021 (Savoie Mont Blanc University, Chambéry, France)

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

Central Asian Speleological Forum

August 2021 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

<https://speleo.kg/en/news/first-circular-speleo-ca-forum-2020/>

Calendar of Events

2021
2022

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://iah2021brazil.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

16-18 September 2021 (Macey Center, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, New Mexico, USA)

<https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/FtStanton/home.cfm>

26th International Cave Bear Symposium

30 September - 3 October 2021 (Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen, Mannheim, Germany)

Contact: doris.doeppes@mannheim.de

6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium

26-30 October 2021 (Isle of Vilm, Baltic Sea, Germany)

Contact: symposium@eurospeleo.org

Speleo Kamaraton 2021

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/>

Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference

Postponed to 2022 (Innsbruck, Austria)

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

18TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS **SPELEOLOGY**



25 JULY - 1 AUGUST 2021 • SAVOIE TECHNOLAC

KARST HERITAGE AND RESOURCES



NEWSLETTER N°3

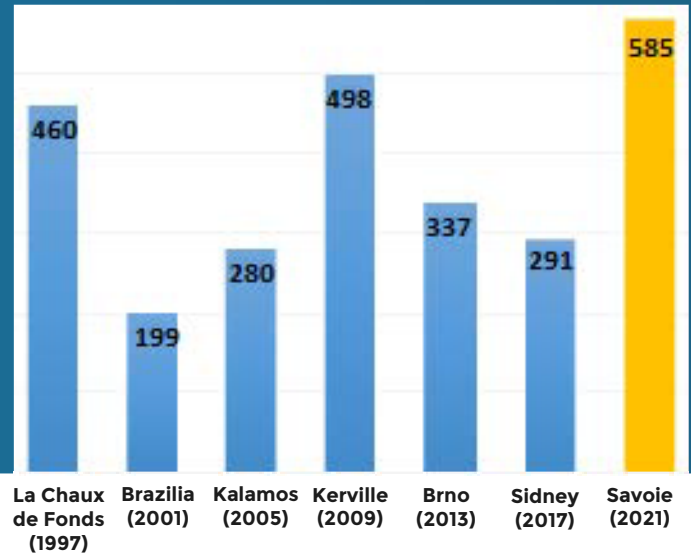


Good news !

The scientific conference has already registered 585 abstracts by speleologists from all over the world! They will all be covered through the 20 Symposiums, either as lectures or posters.

This 2021 ICS Congress organised by the FFS (French Caving Federation) in France will be remembered !

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



CAVING GATHERINGS

On the way to the Congress, don't miss the caving events organized throughout France! Whether you come from North, South, East or West, meet other addicts in caves or systems specially rigged for the occasion – Coume Ouarnède, Gouffre Berger or caves located in Lorraine...

[See all events](#)

PRE & POST-CONGRESS CAMPS

Great variety of excursions organised around several themes – caving for beginners, caving for experts, scientific course, rescue, and many more to come **soon...**



Caving camp - Coume Ouarnède / Félix Trombe System

Legendary system - one of the largest in France in the heart of the Pyrenees.



Caving camp – the Highlands of Vercors.

Discover the wonderful river in the Gournier cave or the famous Traversée des Anciens.



Multidisciplinary scientific camp in Burgundy, the Combe aux Prêtres.

Karstology, hydrology, biospeleology. Open to photographers.

[See all camps](#)

CONGRESS CAMPSITE

The municipality of Le Bourget-du-Lac is kindly turning a sports field equipped with sanitary facilities into a camp site for the occasion. Ideally located at walking distance from the congress and for **only €5 per night per person**, this is the best accommodation for participants. **Book now !**

Please note that registration to the congress is a prerequisite to confirm the booking at the camp site.



5€
per night

EXCURSIONS

Halfway through the congress week, on Wednesday 28 July, the ICS team is happy to propose several excursions like tourist caves but not only :

Local architectural heritage, historic sites, and even local specialties...

Book now one of the 21 excursions on offer !



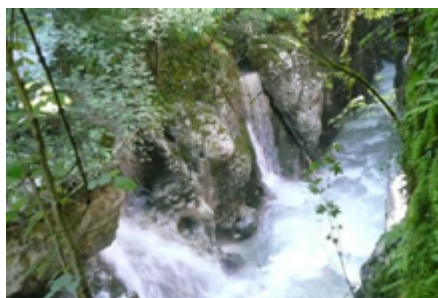
The Beaujolais region :
Gourmet experience at the Oenoparc site (enjoy the best drink and food at the wine park)



The Choranche caves + visit the Vercors Plateau



Excursions in Chamonix :
discover the Mont Blanc Massif and visit Chamonix



Suspended trail in the Sierroz Gorges



Lyon: visit of the Vieux Lyon - UNESCO site - and traditional dinner at the restaurant 'Les Lyonnais'



The Soyons caves : visit the village and the Crussol Castle

[See all excursions](#)

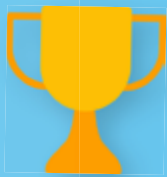
CONTESTS

Several contests are organised during the Congress and they are open to all ! Please note that participants must be registered to the ICS 2021 Congress.

CANYON & CAVING ICS FILM FESTIVAL

The ICS Film Festival is open to filmmakers on the underground world and for the first time on canyoning activities. It aims at bringing to light expert and amateur filmmakers.

Prize



EXPERTS Category : EXPERT competitors are eligible for the ICS Grand Prize of €1000 and for the Crédit Mutuel Prize of €500.

AMATEURS Category : AMATEURS are eligible for equipment, courtesy of our sponsors.

[See full details](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The photography contest of the 2021 ICS Congress is open to all photographers in the form of a permanent exhibition during the whole duration of the congress in a dedicated place. The objective is to highlight the beauty and the great variety of the underground world and karst.

Prize



The grand jury prize will consist of €200 - from ANECAT - and a 1200-lumen-Scurion lamp - from Scurion.

The public prize will consist of €100 - from ANECTAT - and a 900-lumen-Scurion lamp. **Each congress participant will get a ballot to vote on their favorite photo !**

[See full details](#)

SURVEYING CONTEST

The objective here is to promote underground surveying, recognise excellence in technique and art. It should encourage to share techniques and styles, as well as most recent exploration surveys.

4 prizes will be awarded: the jury prizes 'Topography of Excellence', 'Originality', 'Young topographer' and the Public prize

[See full details](#)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

**IMPORTANT: The reduced rate has been extended to March 24, 2021!
More than 25% reduction compared to the full price.**

COVID-19: Due to the uncertainty about the evolution of the pandemic, the organizers will decide on March 26, 2021 to maintain or postpone the congress.

In case of postponement, the tickets will be refunded or valid for the new date of the congress.

You can also take one-day passes for shorter stays!

FULL CONGRESS TICKET

Early registration - **by March 24, 2021**



This ticket allows you to submit abstracts.
Includes: the congress kit, gala dinner, congress booklet, conference e-proceedings, and Wi-Fi.

~~€175~~
€129

FULL CONGRESS Ticket (for under 26 y.o)

Early registration - **by March 24, 2021**



Adults who are under 26 years old at the congress start date are eligible for this ticket at a special rate - if registered before 24 January 2021.
Includes: the congress kit, gala dinner, congress booklet, conference e-proceedings, and Wi-Fi.

~~€148~~
€111

FULL CONGRESS TICKET 2 people

Early registration - **by March 24, 2021**



Pay €224 instead of €300 for 2 people: 1 Full Congress Ticket + 1 adult mate
Ticket includes: the possibility to submit abstracts, the congress kit, gala dinner, congress booklet, conference e-proceedings, and Wi-Fi.
Adult Mate Ticket includes: the gala dinner, congress booklet and Wi-Fi.

~~€300~~
€224

FULL CONGRESS TICKET Age 8-17 participants.

Early registration - **by March 24, 2021**



Special rate for children aged 8 to 17 at the congress start date.
Includes: the congress booklet and gala dinner.

€40

ONE-DAY CONGRESS TICKET

Access to the congress and the events of the day.
Gala dinner and congress kit excluded.



€35

[get your tickets](#)

Follow the facebook page of the congress !





OPEN THE MAP

HOW TO REACH SAVOIE TECHNOLAC?

BY CAR



From Lyon

A43 Direction Chambéry

After the Chambéry toll (exit 11), follow the sign "Le Bourget-du-Lac Bourgen-Bresse". After 5km at the roundabout enter Savoie Technolac.

From Grenoble or Turin

Take A43 (from Turin) or A41 (from Grenoble) towards Chambéry. Stay on the expressway towards Annecy.

Take exit 11 towards Bourget-du-Lac.

After 5km arrive in Savoie Technolac.

From Geneva

A1 (Switzerland) sign for "France" After customs, follow A41 sign "Aix-les-Bains Grenoble Chambéry Turin" Exit 13 Aix-les-Bains-Sud at the sign "Aix-les-Bains." At the second roundabout, follow the sign "Viviers-du-Lac."

In the center of Viviers-du-Lac turn right towards "Lac".

At the roundabout "Intermarché" follow the sign to Savoie Technolac."

After 4km arrive in Savoie Technolac.

BY PLANE



Paris CDG / Orly

Train connections to Chambéry et Aix-les-Bains

www.parisaeroport.fr

Lyon Saint-Exupéry

Train and bus connections to Chambéry et Aix-les-Bains

www.lyonaeroports.com

Geneva

Train connections to Chambéry et Aix-les-Bains

www.gva.ch

BY TRAIN



Chambéry

Direct connections to the congress by bus
Line 2

[Download the bus map](#)

15 min by car

Aix-les-bains

Direct connections to the congress by bus
Line 1

[Download the bus map](#)

15 min by car



Congress Partners



Fédération Française de Spéléologie



Union Internationale de Spéléologie



MINISTÈRE DES SPORTS

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture



Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO



UNIVERSITÉ SAVOIE MONT BLANC



UIS BUREAU 2017/2021

President:

George VENI (*USA*)

Vice-President of Operations:

Efraín Mercado (*Puerto Rico*)

Vice-President of Administration:

Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Czech Republic*)

Secretary General:

Fadi NADER (*Lebanon*)

Treasurer:

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Slovenia*)

Adjunct Secretaries:

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Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Croatia*)

Bernard CHIROL (*France*)

Satoshi GOTO (*Japan*)

Gyula HEGEDUS (*Hungary*)

Tim MOULDS (*Australia*)

Bärbel VOGEL (*Germany*)

UIS Past-Presidents

Arrigo A. CIGNA (*Italy*) - 1973-1981

Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (*Spain*) - 1981-1986

Derek C. FORD (*Canada*) - 1986-1989

Paolo FORTI (*Italy*) - 1993-1997

Julia Mary JAMES (*Australia*) - 1997-2001

José Ayrton LABEGALINI (*Brazil*) - 2001-2005

Andrew EAVIS (*United Kingdom*) - 2005-2013

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*).

LIST OF MEMBER NATIONS

as reported by the UIS Treasurer

55 Member Nations

UIS FEES - JANUARY 2021

Paid through

Australia (2020)	France (2019)	Netherlands (2021)	Spain (2020)
Austria (2020)	Germany (2020)	New Zealand (2020)	Sweden (2019)
Belgium (2020)	Greece (2020)	Poland (2019)	Turkey (2020)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019)	Hungary (2020)	Portugal (2021)	Ukraine (2021)
Brazil (2021)	Iran IR (2020)	Puerto Rico (2020)	United Kingdom (2020)
Canada (2021)	Italy (2021)	Romania (2020)	USA (2020)
China (2019)	Lithuania (2021)	Serbia (2022)	Venezuela (<i>not paying until 2021 due to economic crisis</i>)
Colombia (2020)	Luxembourg (2020)	Slovakia (2019)	
Croatia (2019)	Mexico (Half for 2023)	Slovenia (2020)	
Czech Republic (2020)	Norway (2021)	South Korea (2020)	

UIS members with debts for 2019 or more (last payment):

Algeria (2013; <i>at next Congress</i>)	Indonesia (2017)	Philippines (2017)
Argentina (2017; <i>at next Congress</i>)	Israel (2017; <i>at next Congress</i>)	Russia (2017)
Bulgaria (2018)	Japan (2018; <i>at next Congress</i>)	South Africa (2017)
Costa Rica (2018)	Kyrgyzstan (2018)	Switzerland (2018)
Cuba (2017)	Lebanon (2017; <i>at next Congress</i>)	Vietnam (2017)
Honduras (2013)	Mongolia (2017; <i>paid 4 years in 2018</i>)	

On the way to lose membership in 2021 if they don't pay their fees:

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

Titov trg 2, 6230 Postona, Slovenia

www.uis-speleo.org

If there are any irregularities, or if you have not found your country in this list, please, [ask the UIS Treasurer](#)

FINANCE

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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



© NADJA ZUPAN HAJNA

Prof. Dr. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia), *UIS Treasurer*.



© KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE - ZRC-SAZU



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

If the fees are not paid for more than five years, the Member Country will lose its membership in the UIS.

The UIS Bureau may reduce or waive the fee of a Member Country if the Member Country makes a written request describing the reasons why it is having difficulties making its payments and how long those difficulties are expected to continue. All fee payments and related communications are conducted between the UIS Treasurer and the Member Countries.

UIS BANK ACCOUNT

Account name Mednarodna speleološka zveza-UIS Titov trg 2 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	Account N° IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520 SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X
Bank (name and address) Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d. Traška 2 - 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	Accepted Currencies: EUR (Euros)

DATA ON UIS TRANSACTION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 2020

EUR

Initial balance in the account (January 1, 2020)	37,164.57
Total payment	6,757.69
Total income	7,692.14
Final balance in the account (January 1, 2021)	38,099.02

USD

Balance in the account (January 1, 2021)	48.527,45
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EDITOR'S DISCLOSURE

Before submitting articles, please, refer to the
Guide for Submitting and Publishing Articles in the UIS Bulletin

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FILE](#)

UIS Bulletin, nor its editors are responsible for:

- misspellings
- 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:

uisbulletin@uis-speleo.org



UIS BULLETIN



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