

UIAA Council 14 May 2005-04-28

Agenda item 8.1: UN Global Mountain Partnership

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The UIAA is a member of the United Nations' Global Mountain Partnership, which has developed from the UN's work on mountain issues, following the Rio agreements of 1992.
- 1.2 The UIAA made a commitment to this Global Mountain Partnership in 2002, on the basis that everyone should be able to enjoy the natural environment, including mountains and cliffs, with freedom of responsible access. It saw itself as having a particular role on clarifying and enhancing the economic benefit of mountain tourism to local communities; in developing codes of good practice for responsible mountain tourism; in helping with the training of, and the setting of standards for fair employment of, local guides and porters in those parts of the Greater Ranges where this might be helpful; and perhaps of identifying material in the archives of the older alpine clubs, showing the extent of changes over time, for example in the state of the glaciers. We also drew attention to the need for work on a Human Right of the Enjoyment of Nature, in collaboration with the UIAA Access and Conservation Commission.
- 1.3 The UIAA has also been active, usually in support of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in quietly promoting the idea of Cross-Frontier (or Peace) Parks, most notably in the case of the Siachen Glacier.

2 Second Global meeting, Cuzco, 28-29 October 2004

- 2.1 I attended the Second Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Cuzco on 28-29 October 2004, as also did Roberto di Martin (Club Arc Alpin). 75% of my travel costs were paid by UK Sport and the remainder by the BMC, for which I thank them.
- 2.2 The Summary Report of the meeting, together with other information, is available on www.mountainpartnership.org.

3 Work programme

- 3.1 The main initiatives of interest to the UIAA, listed in the Summary Report in para 2.2 above, are likely to be:
 - (a) Policy and Law.
 - (b) Sustainable livelihoods.
 - (c) Andes
 - (d) Hindu-Kush-Himalaya. And
 - (e) Europe.
- 3.2 I will report further to the Council on (a) and (b) in October.
- 3.3 As regards the Continental initiatives at (c)-(d) I suggest that we try to make progress at a series of Seminars or Conferences as follows:
 - (i) **Andes.** For discussion with the Expeditions Commission and UPAME, with a view to a report in 2006.
 - (ii) **Hindu Kush-Himalaya.** For discussion with the Expeditions Commission and the UIAA Members concerned. I am hoping to discuss some of the mountain

tourism aspects at the end of May 2005, during the meetings arranged by the Himalayan Environmental Trust and the IMF in Delhi. And

- (iii) **Europe.** This could be one of the issues for discussion with European members and the Club Arc Alpin (Agenda item 5), possibly to be associated with the May 2006 Council meeting.

These discussions would in each case raise issues best discussed on a Continental basis, but with specialist input from the UIAA Commissions and others concerned.

I raise under Agenda item 9.3 the question of how they might be reported to the UIAA General Assembly in each case.

4 **Overlap with the Olympic movement**

- 4.1 It may be seen from the Note on Agenda item 8.2 below that the keynote speech at the GAISF meeting in Berlin on 20 April 2005 was made by UN Under-Secretary and Special Adviser on Sport and Development and Peace, Adolf Ogi, who emphasised the need for sport to be closely involved in pursuing major UN objectives.
- 4.2 The UIAA could have an important role as a bridge between the UN programme and the Olympic movement, in this field, as we are probably the only Recognised International Sports Federation which is a member of both.

(Alan Blackshaw)
UIAA Bern
28 April 2005