



NEWSLETTER #5, SEPTEMBER 2021



Photo by John Gunn

Cueva de Gallardo is one of several volcanic caves in the Galápagos Islands World Heritage Property. The caves form an important part of the geoheritage but are commonly forgotten.

Welcome to the fifth of our irregular Newsletters providing information on activities within and relevant to the CKWG. This will be the last newsletter during the current 'term' of the CKWG which ends at the September 2021 World Conservation Congress. However, we hope that our Group will be able to continue when the new WCPA Executive is formed and makes decisions on future plans.

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS RESOLUTION 074

The IUCN World Conservation Congress has already passed a resolution on Geoheritage and protected areas. This resolution can be downloaded via <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49213> and we would encourage all members to do so. The following extract highlights the relevance of the resolution to caves and karst. The Congress:

2. ENCOURAGES national Member organisations, other nature conservation organisations, civil society, academia and managers of protected areas and **outstanding underground sites** to:

a. foster knowledge about geodiversity and geoheritage inside and outside protected areas and to integrate nature conservation principles and methods into the management of protected areas to ensure the effective protection of this component of natural heritage;

b. establish or improve national legislation concerning the protection of geoheritage, and enabling the necessary conditions to ensure the implementation of effective conservation measures; and

c. encourage the respectful exploration and study of underground environments and their interrelations with the surface; and

3. CALLS ON states, non-governmental organisations, universities, researchers, economic stakeholders and protected area managers **to take into account the specific issues linked to underground environments in the definition and implementation of nature conservation policies and to adopt a holistic approach to the management of underground natural environments, considering all relationships between biological and geological elements.**

The Resolution will form an important part of the CKWG work programme for the next four years.

UNESCO Protected Areas and UN Agenda 2030

As most of you will be aware 2021 is the International Year of Caves and Karst and on 13 September there will be meeting to celebrate the IYCK at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The event has been organized under the patronage of the UNESCO Director-General by the UIS in partnership with the Republic of Slovenia Permanent Delegation to UNESCO. Many of those participating are members of the CKWG and the programme will include the following talks:

Keynote presentation by Prof. Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna: *A World of Karst, Caves and People*

Discussion panel, presentations by:

- Prof. Dr. Fadi H. Nader: *Safe and sustainable use of karst resources*
- Emeritus Prof. Dr. John Gunn: *Caves and karst in UNESCO protected areas*
- Clayton F. Lino: *Conserving caves and karst in biosphere reserves: The Cave MAB network*
- Dr. Paul A. Griffiths: *Karst and UN Agenda 2030*

The event will be recorded and made available on the UIS YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzSiErLj5x6viNbvAdehDvA>

There is also a press release which we would like you to share in all of your networks: http://iyck2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/PressInformation_IYCK-2021_UNESCO-ceremony-1.pdf

Database listing cave and karst sites in each of the UNESCO Protected Area

The database listing sites in each of the UNESCO Protected Area (PA) categories that are thought to have caves or karst developed in carbonate or evaporite rocks has now been expanded to include PA that contain volcanic caves. The final step will be to add caves and karst on other lithologies such as sandstones and quartzite rocks.

Progress with Revision of IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection

As discussed in previous newsletters, the CKWG are updating the *IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection* which were published in 1997. This project is being undertaken with support from the International Union of Speleology as a contribution to IYCK and although the guidelines will not be published as an IUCN document we have sought their endorsement. David Gillieson & John Gunn have been joined by Augusto Auler and Terry Bolger as lead Editors. A first draft is very near completion and David will be sending it to all members of CKWG and to many other persons with an invitation to contribute by suggesting additions or changes. We also need good photos and diagrams to illustrate the guidelines. When these have been received a final version will be compiled and made freely available as a contribution to IYCK 2021.

Future Meetings

"FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NATURAL HISTORY & WILDLIFE"

This meeting will held in The Iraq Natural History Research Center and Museum, University of Baghdad (24-25 November 2021). Prof. Dr. Aqeel A. Al-Zubaidi who is a member of CKWG is also a member of the executive committee of this conference. The conference themes include

1. Geodiversity
2. Geoparks & Natural Heritage
3. Natural resources, Sustainability & desertification
4. Earth history evolution & Fossils

Abstracts are required by 15 September. For further information contact Dr Al-Zubaidi (<mailto:aqeel.zubaidi.az@gmail.com>)

UIS 2022

Sadly Covid-19 restrictions meant that the 18th International Congress of Speleology has had to be postponed and will now be held at the Savoie Mont Blanc University, Chambéry, France from 22-31 July 2022. The theme of Symposium 1 is "Karst Heritage and Resources" and this is the flagship theme for the whole meeting. CKWG are involved in the organisation of this Symposium and the main meeting of CKWG in 2022 will be during the Congress.

If you want to know more then please email us.

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