



400-1 Cascades Avenue, Carlsbad, NM 88220-6215 USA
575.887.5518 • 575.887.5523 (fax)
info@nckri.org • www.nckri.org

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Please contact the people and organizations listed below for more information, and feel free to share this message with anyone who may be interested.

The International Year of Caves and Karst: Cave/Karst Protection Information Needed!

The second year of the International Year of Caves and Karst continues to grow with new partner organizations and events. One event needs your help, which is organized by the Karst and Cave Protection Commission of the International Union of Speleology.

For the International Year the commission is launching a worldwide census of the legal status of caves and karst of all countries around the world. This is a basic assessment of national, regional, and local regulation on caves, karst, and caving worldwide. Your help is needed for information in your country.

To assist, go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8JO5r8pN6b4tcDNh8dZBvZ2o9shEPylixEN4pLnWOGDapkg/viewform>. If you cannot open that link, try this link: <https://forms.gle/cgvCb2kNKejpFF2x7>. If you have any questions or suggestions please write to cave.protection.laws@gmail.com.

Your help is appreciated greatly.

For more information about the International Year and its many events and activities, visit the website (www.iyck2021.org). Also like us at the UIS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/uisspeleo>), UIS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/uisspeleo>), and/or the UIS Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/uisspeleo/>).

George Veni
President, International Union of Speleology
Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute

Revised Statement by the International Union of Speleology on the War in Ukrainian

The Bureau of the International Union of Speleology (UIS) has expressed its deep dismay and concerns regarding the military offenses carried out in Ukraine and warned against the severe outcomes that conflict is having on the speleological community.

After receiving feedback on its initial statement, the UIS Bureau drafted this revised statement:

The UIS Bureau condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. This conflict is creating a severe humanitarian crisis that is worsening daily. The UIS Bureau stands with the Ukrainian people and calls on the Russian aggressors to immediately cease their brutal, inhumane, and unprovoked violence.

UIS Bureau acknowledges the contribution of both Ukrainian and Russian cavers and karst scientists to the international UIS community. However, the UIS Bureau is appalled by the current invasion and war crimes committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation. In solidarity with Ukrainian cavers and scientists, and scientific organizations worldwide, the UIS Bureau is freezing all cooperation with caving organizations and speleological institutions of the Russian Federation until further notice.

The UIS Bureau recommends to the next UIS General Assembly to suspend Russia from membership of the UIS until Ukraine's sovereignty and internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, are restored and that the Russian language be excluded as an official UIS language.

New Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection Now Available!

In 1997, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released the first edition of the *Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection* to support the growing international need for guidance in cave and karst management. In recognition of the International Year of Caves and Karst, the International Union of Speleology (UIS) has released this second edition, in cooperation with the IUCN, where 16 leading experts updated and expanded the guidelines to include new knowledge gained over the past 25 years.

The new guidelines are available for free download at the UIS website at <http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/2022/04/13/the-uis-guidelines-for-cave-and-karst-protection-are-now-available/>.

Vote: CaveLife App is finalist for the Natura 2000 Award

Dear Cave Animal Friends,

The German Speleological Federation VdHK is very pleased to announce the Euro Speleo Protection Label winner 2021 CaveLife App is finalist for the Natura 2000 Award of the European Commission. Natura 2000 is related to the European Union and the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world. VdHK participated in the Transboundary Cooperation category. There is another cave related topic in the finals this year - Postojna Jama with Proteus. There is a special category Citizen Award where you can vote. So, it is up to you to choose :)

What is the Natura 2000 Award? The prize has been awarded by the European Union Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment since 2014. In 2022, for the 6th time, outstanding achievements in Natura 2000 sites will be recognized. 40 projects from 12 member countries were considered suitable this year, from which 21 finalists were declared.

The winners in the following categories will be announced in Brussels in May: Nature Conservation on Land, Marine Conservation, Communication, Socio-Economic Benefits, Transboundary Cooperation and the Citizens' Award. All projects are summarized in the current edition:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/natura-2000-award/current-edition_en

Until 27th of April you can vote for the winner of the Citizen Award.

To vote for CaveLife App see

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/natura-2000-award/current-edition/evaluate-dark-side-cavelife-app_en

To learn more about the CaveLife App visit the vdhk homepage

<https://www.vdhk.de/en/cavelife-app>

Win with VdHK and send your message to Brussels

VdHK organized a new Facebook page [cavers4natura2000](https://www.facebook.com/cavers4natura2000). Please can send your pictures and your messages for cave protection. VdHK will take them to Brussels to tell the EU why cave protection is important. 5 pictures with the most likes get 100 €. Use the #cavers4natura2000 at other social media like Instagram VdHK will support the best messages too.

Please spread the word!

Together we are strong, thank you for your support.

With best speleo regards
Baerbel Vogel

2022 White-Nose Syndrome Research Conservation Grants

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has posted our funding opportunity announcement for the 2022 White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants (F22AS00291). We are now accepting applications to this grant program.

Funding in 2022 will support projects that address at least one of the priorities identified below:

A. *Objective:* Assess disease dynamics and population impacts in areas on the leading edge of WNS.

Priorities:

1. Characterize disease dynamics and impacts to bats facing the invasion stage of WNS, with a focus on recently exposed species (*Myotis yumanensis*, *M. velifer*, *M. thysanodes*, *M. volans*, *M. ciliolabrum*, and *Parastrellus hesperus*)
2. Characterize disease dynamics and impacts in recently exposed populations of *M. lucifugus* and *P. subflavus*.

B. *Objective:* Support research to improve critical knowledge relevant to WNS risk and management decisions for hibernating bats.

Priorities:

1. Understand genetic signatures and/or traits that influence variation in susceptibility, resilience, and severity of WNS within or between species.
2. Understand effects of non-disease factors that introduce additive or compounding impacts to WNS-affected bat species (e.g. contaminants, wind energy, etc.).

C. *Objective:* Take management action aimed at building resiliency and promoting recovery in hibernating bat populations.

Priorities:

1. Implement adaptive management programs to improve survival and persistence of bat populations currently being or soon to be impacted by WNS. (Management tools with ability to reach a benefit a large number of bats in at risk populations are a high priority.)
2. Develop and implement strategies to support biological and ecological needs of hibernating bat populations, including management actions to promote resilience to climate change and other future stressors.

Applications to this funding opportunity are due June 5, 2022.
The funding opportunity is open to U.S. and non-U.S. applicants.

More information is available on www.grants.gov:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=339237>

The 17th Sinkhole Conference: Beck Student Scholarship Call for Applications

The Sinkhole Conference was created in 1984 and led for many years by Dr. Barry Beck. In his memory, the conference now offers the Beck Student Scholarship. Students awarded a Beck Scholarship will receive free registration to the conference and up to \$1,000 reimbursement for travel expenses, as well as certain special recognitions and other benefits. Scholars from the previous Sinkhole Conference are recognized at <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/Beck-scholarship>. To apply for the scholarship, visit <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/how-to-apply-for-the-beck-scholarship>.

The 17th Sinkhole Conference: Beck Student Scholarship Call for Donors

The Sinkhole Conference funds one Beck Student Scholarship for each conference, but more than one scholarship can be offered with your support. Six were awarded last time! Attending The Sinkhole Conference can be a life-changing experience for students by opening their eyes to state-of-the-art knowledge, and important professional contacts and opportunities. To help change a student's life for the better, we ask and encourage you to donate to the Beck Scholarship. All donations are tax deductible. For details on how to donate, visit <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/How-to-sponsor-the-scholarship>.

GeoModeling N2 Course: Next Online Course Announcement

The next GeoModeling N2 course will occur online on 11-12 May 2022 in two 3-hour sessions. The course is designed for geologists and hydrogeologists (engineers, academic, students) working in karst environments for applied issues (groundwater resources, natural hazards, geothermy, construction, etc.). It

intends to provide steps and tools to attendees who will apply KARSYS by themselves. For more information visit <https://www.visualkarsys.com/>.

Karst Field Studies Summer Program: Registration Open!

Friends, Colleagues, and/or Fellow Karst Enthusiasts,

You've waited patiently for two years, but the time to formally announce the next Karst Field Studies summer program line-up has arrived!!! We are so pleased to announce that registration for Summer 2022 is officially OPEN. We are pleased to offer the following KFS courses during summer 2022:

- Cave Ecology, May 30-June 5, Dr. Jut Wynne
- Cave and Karst Field Data Collection and Visualization, June 5-11, Dr. Pat Kambesis
- Karst Hazards & Disaster Planning, June 13-17, Dr. Jason Polk
- Karst Geomorphology Field & Numerical Techniques, June 25-July 1, Dr. Rachel Bosch
- Cave Photography, July 18-23, Mr. Chuck Sutherland

Registration is now open, and we expect some classes will fill quickly! Reserve your spot in a course by clicking any of the "Register for Courses" buttons on the website or accessing our RegFox Registration Site. You may take courses for graduate, undergraduate, or continuing education credit. Courses may also be taken as non-credit workshops.

Visit www.karstfieldstudies.com for more information about the program, course descriptions and schedules, how to register, instructor bios, and more.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Leslie North at leslie.north@wku.edu.

Stay up to date on all the latest KFS news and announcements by following us on social media through Instagram @karstfieldstudies, Twitter @KFSWKU, and/or Facebook @WKUKarstfieldstudies.

Please help us spread the word about the program by forwarding this message and sharing our posts with your colleagues, grotto members, staff, students, friends, and any other parties you feel may be interested in the program courses!

Hope to see you this summer!
Leslie

Leslie A. North, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)
Director, WKU Karst Field Studies
Interim Chair, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences
Associate Professor of Environmental Studies
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101
Phone: (270) 745-5982, Office: EST 304/305

International Karstological School: Abstract Deadline Extended

Dear fans of Speleology and the International Karstological School, we are happy to inform you, that we have prolonged the dates for abstract submission and registration to the 29th Karstological School on Speleology. The deadline for both is now the 3rd of May 2022.

Feel free to see more about the school at <https://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/>, where you can learn more about planned field trips and the program of the school.

After a (seems to be) too long period, we are happy to see you in person in June in Postojna!

Contact us for further information if needed.

Best regards,
Astrid Švara, Organizing Committee 29IKS.

Post-Doctorate Biology Opportunity: Azores, Portugal

Dear colleagues,

I have a Post-doc Position in Azores within the project MACRISK-Trait-based prediction of extinction risk and invasiveness for Northern Macaronesian arthropods (<http://gba.uac.pt/research/projects/ver.php?id=135>)

General requirements for admission to call are:

- Doctoral degree in areas related to Biological Sciences and more specifically on Quantitative Ecology, Macroecology, and related areas.
- A good list of publications in the areas of Macroecology, with preference to Spatial Ecology and Functional Ecology.
- Experience in modelling with expertise in Bayesian methods.
- Experience in developing research analyses with large ecological and environmental datasets.
- Experience in one or more scripting language for data manipulation (e.g., R, Python, STAN).
- Excellent English communication skills (both verbal and written).

The application deadline is 11 May 2022. For more information visit <https://fgf.uac.pt/opportunidades>.

Best regards

Paulo A. V. Borges
<http://gba.uac.pt/member/paulo-a-v-borges>

Azorean Biodiversity Group
cE3c - Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes
(Centro de Ecologia, Evolução e Alterações Ambientais)
CHANGE – Global Change and Sustainability Institute.

Universidade dos Açores
Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias e do Ambiente (FCAA)
Rua Capitão João D`Ávila, São Pedro
9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo
Telf. 295 402 200 ext. 3247

Post-Doctorate Groundwater Microbiology Opportunity: Vienna, Austria

The Limnology Unit at the Department of Functional & Evolutionary Ecology of the University of Vienna, Austria, seeks to employ an early career scientist experienced in the field of groundwater microbial ecology. The intended focus of the research shall be on the phylogenetic and functional analysis of groundwater microbial communities. In depth knowledge on the functional role of microbes in aquifers including the microbiome of invertebrates is envisaged. Research shall strongly consider current and future pressures to groundwater ecosystems from climate and global change. Through filling this position, we aim

at complementing and extending existing research fields at the Unit of Limnology.

The position will be filled as soon as possible and is offered for a maximum time of 6 years.

For more information and to apply, visit:

<https://univis.univie.ac.at/ausschreibungstellensuche/>

Prof. Dr. Christian Griebler; christian.griebler@univie.ac.at

Head of Limnology

University of Vienna, Dept. of Functional and Evolutionary Ecology

<https://ecology.univie.ac.at/>

17th Sinkhole Conference: Call for Abstracts!

Abstracts are solicited for the 17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst (usually referred to as “the Sinkhole Conference”), which will be held at the University of South Florida campus in Tampa, Florida March 27-31, 2023. The conference will be hosted by the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, an affiliate of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

The deadline for abstract acceptance is July 1, 2022. Each abstract must be written in English and should be a concise summary of results, limited to 300 words, and the contents should not have been published previously. Abstracts should include the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of each author and co-author (one per affiliation).

The *Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst* is the longest-running international conference of its type. Since 1984, engineers, geologists, hydrologists, land managers, biologists, and many others have gathered at these meetings to exchange cutting-edge information on karst and its many benefits and challenges.

Topics often covered by the conference, and which may be selected for your abstract include:

Karst development & mapping

- The formation of karst and sinkholes

- Applications of geophysics for investigating karst
- New geotechnical investigation techniques for karst
- GIS mapping and computer databases of karst features
- Karst imaging

Proactive and remedial engineering in karst terrain

- Foundation design and construction, shallow or deep
- Dams and impoundments
- Engineering human infrastructure in karst
- Sinkhole mitigation and repair
- Grouting techniques

Karst water resource management

- Hydrology and water resource management of karstic aquifers
- Groundwater tracing
- Storm water & waste water management
- Contaminant monitoring and remediation in karst
- Modeling groundwater flow in karst
- Planning and regulation

General information about the conference and more details on abstract submission is available at <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>. Additional conference news and updates will be added soon to the website.

14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst: Poland

It is a pleasure to announce that the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst will be held on 22-26th May 2023 in the Sudety Mountains, southwestern Poland. The main conference venue will be in the village of Karłów (the Centre of Training and Education of the Stołowe Mountains National Park <https://www.pnsg.com.pl/pl/turystyka/turyst11.html>) in the central part of the Stołowe Mountains sandstone tableland. However, online participation in the scientific sessions (23-24th May) will be also possible.

Field sessions will comprise of local geosites (including the mesa of Mt Szczeliniec Wielki and the Skalniak plateau), as well as excursions to the Broumov Highland, Czechia, and granite caves of the Western Sudetes.

A guidebook and abstract volume will be provided for participants during the Symposium meeting. The geomorphological and geological materials

presented during the scientific sessions can be published in the volume of *Studia Quaternaria* (<http://www.studia.quaternaria.pan.pl/>) after normal reviewing procedure.

A more detailed program will be provided in the 1st Circular, which will be distributed in the autumn 2022 as well as at the Symposium webpage: <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>.

During the Symposium in 2023 the meeting of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission will be held, however the online meeting of the Commission preceding the 18th International Congress of Speleology is planned in the middle of June 2022.

2022 White-Nose Syndrome National Meeting: Call for Abstracts!

Join the US Fish and Wildlife Service and our partners in the North American response to White-nose Syndrome for the 2022 White-nose Syndrome National Meeting. Registration and abstract submission are now open.

The meeting will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, on 6-9 June 2022. In-person and remote attendance is available.

There is no fee for registration. If you plan to attend in-person, please register even if you do not yet have travel approval from your agency or supervisor. If you are not able or do not plan to attend in-person, you can register for the virtual portion of the meeting. Presentations will be recorded however access to recordings will be at the sole discretion of the presenters. Not all presentations are guaranteed to be available upon conclusion of the meeting.

In-person attendance may be limited due to capacity limits imposed by the meeting space so in the event we need to cap attendance, decisions on registration will be based on representation, level of engagement, and order of registration. The WNS Meeting Planning Committee will confirm your in-person registration and provide lodging information on or before May 13, 2022.

Abstracts will be accepted until May 6, 2022. The WNS Meeting Planning Committee will confirm abstract acceptance on or before May 20, 2022.

The meeting is designed to be in-person to make the most of the opportunity to meet together for the first time since 2018. We are planning to provide limited virtual access to plenary sessions to facilitate information sharing, but we will not

be able to accommodate virtual participants in the working sessions at the core of the agenda.

In-person working sessions will focus on topics such as conservation planning for species that have been heavily impacted by WNS, planning WNS treatment and management actions, and developing strategies for western species that are at-risk of WNS impacts. Plenary sessions will be scheduled daily, with opportunities for questions and discussion following presentations. Presentations will focus primarily on research in disease management, bat health and improving survival, as well as updates on *Pd* surveillance and diagnostics. Additional topics may be added. A poster and networking session will be held for in-person attendees. Posters may be available through our virtual platform at the discretion of the presenter.

If you would like more details or to receive a link to register for this meeting, please contact Meg Boera (meg@delaneymeetingevent.com).

Climate Change, The Karst Record IX (KR9): Call for Abstracts!

The next Climate Change, The Karst Record, meeting will occur on 17-20 July 2022 in Innsbruck, Austria.

Abstracts are requested, with a special request for presentations on perennial ice caves. They are visual indicators of sporadic permafrost and, thus, represent valuable end members for studying present and past heat exchanges in karst systems. Understanding the dynamics of these caves is fundamental for the interpretation of the paleoenvironmental record of cave ice, which may extend over several millennia. Proxy-records from cave ice have been revealed to be complementary to other karst records, enabling detailed investigations in relation to past climate and environments before a complete waning of this unique archive. In addition, evidence for the former presence of cave ice deposits may also represent a precious indicator of past permafrost distribution. This Ice Cave Session welcomes any contribution dealing with the presence of modern and past cave ice deposits and their contribution to environmental reconstructions.

The deadline for abstract submission is midnight, 1 May 2022, Central European time. General information about the conference is available at <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>. Instructions on registration and submission can be found here: <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/registration/>

List of Upcoming Cave and Karst Meetings

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

- 1) 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 20-23 April 2022 (Brasilia, Brazil), <http://36cbe.org.br/>
- 2) Astrobiology Science Conference, 15-20 May 2022 (Atlanta, Georgia, USA), <https://www.agu.org/AbSciCon>
- 3) International Conference on Groundwater, Key to the Sustainable Development Goals, 18-22 May 2022 (Sorbonne University, Paris, France), <http://www.gw-sdg2022.fr/index.php/en/>
- 4) 2022 White-Nose Syndrome National Meeting, 6-9 June 2022 (Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA), for information: meg@delaneymeetingevent.com
- 5) 29th International Karstological School "Classical Karst": Speleology, 13-17 June 2022 (Postojna, Slovenia), <http://iks.zrc-sazu.si>
- 6) National Speleological Society Convention, 13-17 June 2022 (Rapid City, South Dakota, USA), <https://www.nss2022.caves.org/>
- 7) EuroKarst 2022: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-25 June 2022 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>
- 8) Climate Change, The Karst Record IX (KR9), 17-20 July 2022 (Innsbruck, Austria), <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>
- 9) 25th International Conference on Subterranean Biology, 18-22 July 2022 (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), <https://www.25icsb.com/>.
- 10) 18th International Congress of Speleology, 24-31 July 2022 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>
- 11) 17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- 12) 27th International Cave Bear Symposium, 1-4 September 2022 (Golling an der Salzach, Salzburg, Austria), <https://www.museumgolling.at/forschung/icbs2022/>
- 13) Man and Karst Conference, 12-17 September 2022 (Sicily, Italy), <https://cirs-ragusa.org/blog/man-and-karst-2022/>
- 14) 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 15) 19th International Congress of Speleology, 20-27 July 2025 (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil), for preliminary information see volume 63-1 of the UIS Bulletin at <http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/uisb631.pdf>