
Environmental Caves and Karst Outlook (ECKO)

Country:

Federation:

Authors:

Year

This overview of caves, karst, and their protection summarizes all these factors into three pages. The aim is to produce a short information sheet for politicians and authorities, national and international, who do not have time to read long documents. UIS will collect ECKO data sheets and post them on the UIS website.

The suggested word limit is given as a reference. If there is no information available for a certain topic, explain the situation or write "no information available" so it is clear that the topic was not accidentally missed. Further information can be added at any time. The document shall be updated at least every four years and the results will be presented at the International Congress of Speleology.

For any question please contact [UIS Working Group ECKO](#)

Summary

- o Total number of caves (including lost caves)
- o Total number of lost caves (destroyed or permanently blocked caves)
- o Karst area coverage: approximate percentage of total land area
- o Fauna: Troglomorphic and stygobitic fauna, number of species
- o Number of speleologists:
- o Number of speleological groups and organizations:
- o National speleological organizations:
- o Main speleological publications:

Geological Diversity and Caves

Geological map of the country, information on the rocks where caves are found, overview on the main karst areas, deepest and longest cave. (100 words)

Cave Protection Status

Organization of cave database/register, legal definition and propriety of caves, cave protection laws, number of protected caves, number of lost (filled, covered, or destroyed) caves. (250 words)

Underground Geological Heritage Status

Geotopes, geosites, geoparks (UNESCO Global Geoparks and others), relation to caves and karst. (100 words)

Archaeological Heritage Status

National laws, number of protected cave and karst related sites, degrees of protection, and access. (50-100 words)

Biodiversity Conservation Status

Number of troglomorphic, stygobitic, and other notable cave-related species, national laws, number of protected sites. (100 words)

Mineral Resources Management Status

Overview, national laws, conflicts, specific regional problems. (100 words)

Water Status

General overview, quality and quantity change, pollution, affected regions, monitoring, national laws. (150 words)

Environmental Contaminants Status

Number of affected caves, which contamination (industry, agriculture, waste etc.), cave cleaning, involved organizations from outside speleology. (50 words)

Tourism

Number of show caves, public education in show caves, guided tours in caves, tourism in karst areas, concerns. (50 words)

Other Concerns

Desertification, loss of people's livelihoods, conflict related issues, war waste (50 – 100 words)

Monitoring and Research Status

National or regional programs (e.g. in the EU Natura 2000), involvement of speleology, cooperating organizations (e.g. Universities, Authorities), results (50 words)

Public Awareness and Education Status

Main topics, initiatives (50 words)

Conclusion

Key issues, outlook regarding climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, protection and other concerns. (100 words)

References:

Main references

authors :
name, affiliation, email



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