

To: All National Speleological Organisations
CC: UIS Country Delegates

World Caves Data

On behalf of the International Union of Speleology (UIS) and WikiCaves, we are contacting you to introduce you to the GrottoCenter World Caves Database (<http://en.wikicaves.org/>) managed by WikiCaves (<http://www.grottocenter.org/>), and to invite you to join an international effort for the responsible sharing of data about the world's caves.

GrottoCenter has operated the World Caves Database on the web since 2008, and it currently contains details of over 37,000 entrances in over 86 countries and with over 2100 contributors.

As you may know, WikiCaves requested UIS collaboration to share cave data during the last International Congress at Brno (CZ) in 2013. UIS was very happy to agree, while still being aware that publication of locations and other sensitive information could be a problem in some countries.

The UIS therefore set up a Working Group (www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wikicaves) under its Informatics Commission to handle this project. UIS required the Working Group to contact each country to ascertain the level of locational precision to be used when publishing data about any caves from that country, to conduct its business in English, and to have its leader appointed by WikiCaves.

So that we receive a single answer from each country even where there is more than one national organisation, we ask that you respond via your UIS Delegate, who should convey your country's consolidated wishes to the Working Group Leader. If we do not hear from you within six months, we will assume that you do not need any restriction on locational precision.

Your UIS Delegate can be found on the UIS website at: uis-speleo.org. Or if you do not have a delegate, please contact our Working Group Leader directly.

Please advise us by 31 July 2016:

- what level of locational precision we can use when listing caves from your country.
- whether you would be interested in helping this important data-sharing project by supplying information about the caves and karst from your country.

Your UIS Delegate should respond to:

Working Group Leader: Didier BORG <dcborg@aol.com>

Didier is of course happy to answer any questions you may have.

We are looking forward to your collaboration in order to promote the responsible sharing of speleological information among the global cave and karst community.

Frédéric Urien
President of the Wikicaves
Association



Fadi Nader
Secretary General
International Union of Speleology



UNION INTERNATIONALE
DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE

Secrétaire Général

