

The International Union of Speleology and the Volcanic Caves Commission

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The International Union of Speleology (UIS) is essentially the United Nations of cave exploration and cave science. It is comprised of 54 member countries, each represented by their national speleological organization. Many UIS accomplishments are achieved by its commissions—special interest groups that focus on over 20 topics. The Volcanic Caves Commission is a very active commission with symposia every two years, a newsletter, website, and good international communication among its members. This presentation is an overview of the UIS, the role of the Volcanic Caves Commission and other commissions, the UIS' plans for the next few years, how those plans will benefit cave exploration, cave research, management, education, and funding, and how you can get involved.