



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER BERGFÜHRERVERBÄNDE  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATIONS  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE GUIDES DE MONTAGNE



## The IFMGA Environmental and Sustainable Access Committee - ESAC



## Sustainable Access Learning Scheme - SALS

Example Version: Swedish Mountain Guides Association - SBO



# Outline



## Outline

1. Background
2. Aim
3. The three Topics
4. The three Stages
5. Synthesis of Topics and Stages, 3x3
6. Nation Specific Examples
7. Summary





# 1. Background - IFMGA Environmental and Sustainable Access Committee - ESAC



ESAC



Mobility



Rope Access

The Environmental and Access Committee works to strengthen both sustainable travel and work and the rights of the professional mountain guides to work and access all alpine terrain.



Trekking and Expeditions



Canyoning



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## 2. Aim of the Sustainable Access Learning Scheme - SALSI



### Aim:

- To discuss and raise awareness on how the Mountain Guide profession relates to three areas within the scope of the ESAC Committee.
- Target group: Individual Mountain Guides as well as IFMGA Member Associations.
- To be used in: Guide Training or CPD
- This demo-version includes examples of issues in Sweden
- The slides may be translated and altered according to local needs.
- Duration: 30-45 minutes
- Follows the Concept of *Each One, Teach One*





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## 3. The three Topics



Based on the scope assigned to the Environmental and Access Commission the following topics are covered:

- 1. Environment:** Includes everything from a single plant or insect to the land surface, the water bodies, and the atmosphere.
- 2. Access:** The possibility to make use of land, ones own or someone else's.
- 3. Culture:** The history, customs, social behaviour of others we encounter. Others could be locals, other commercial actors or mountain recreationalists.

These three topics will be handled in parallel along three stages.





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# 5.1 Awareness



## Motive for Awareness:

- Includes observing and understanding ones surroundings.
- Without awareness there is little ability for suitable actions.

## Pre-requisites for Awareness:

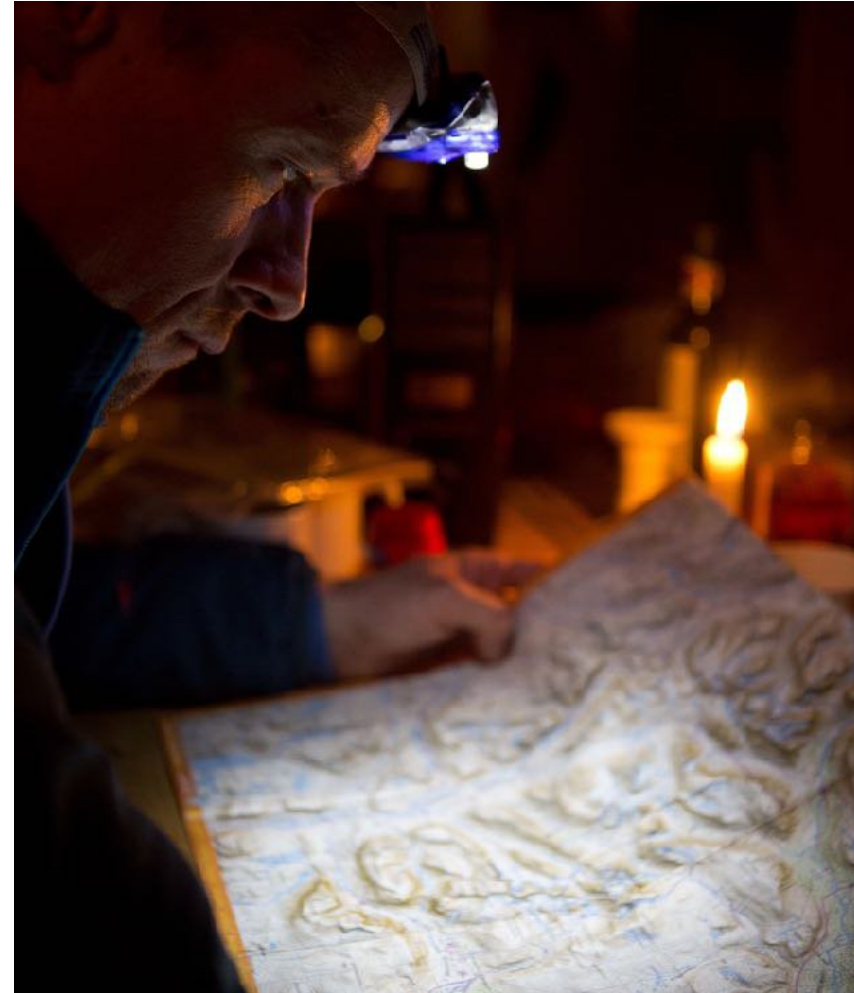
- Capability/motivation to observe ones surroundings
- Capability to understand the observations
- Understanding requires knowledge on such as:
  - Natural Science (Environment)
  - Regulation (Access)
  - History and Customs (Culture)

## Examples of Awareness:

**Environment:** Glaciers can only exist under certain conditions. These may be altered by human driven Climate Change.

**Access:** Most mountain sport takes place on land owned by someone else. The owners may have right to regulate access or not.

**Culture:** Many mountain hut network assume short stays. As long as everyone sticks to this availability may balance with demand.





## 5.2 Appreciation and Respect



### Motive for Appreciation and Respect:

- Mountain Guiding requires weather and climate in balance.
- Further the mountain guide profession depends on having access to natural mountain environments,
- that can be peacefully shared with others.

### Pre-requisites for Appreciation and Respect:

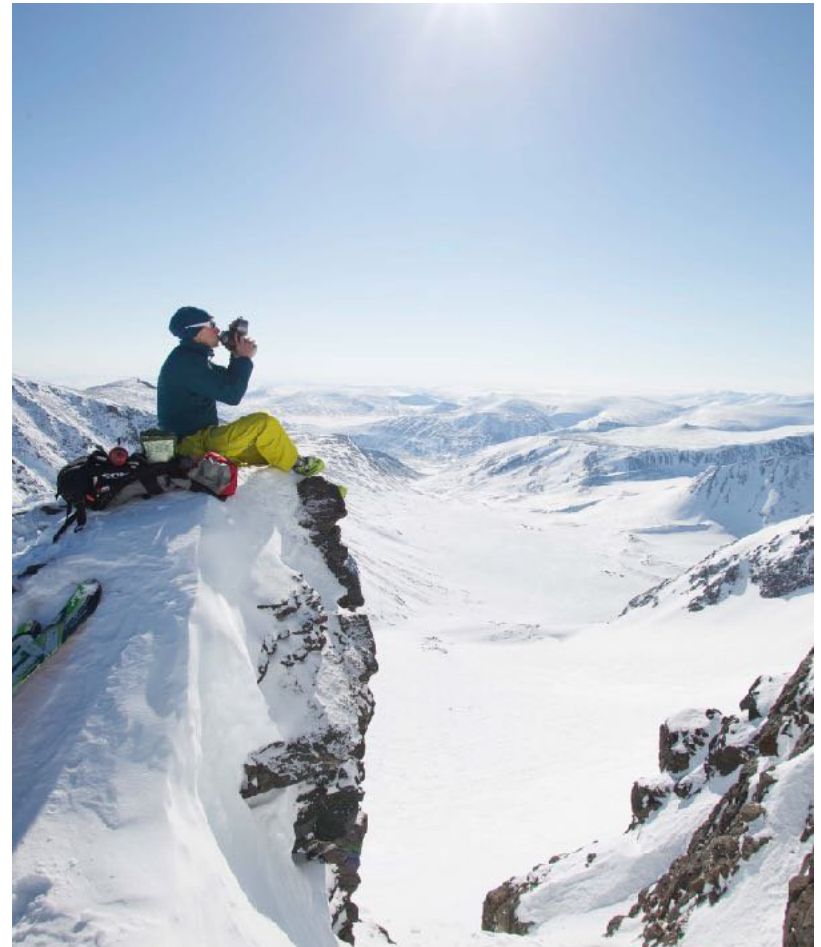
- To realise that all life depends on weather- and eco-systems in balance.
- Understanding that a mountain guides temporary visit is in land owned by others that is shared with others, temporary visiting or stationary.
- Realising that things that are minor to guides and clients might be significant to others.

### Examples of Appreciation and Respect:

**Environment:** Along with being a key feature in mountaineering glaciers are a key element in the fresh water cycle of the planet. Vanishing glaciers means loss of a professional arena to guides, but worse, affects entire civilisations and eco systems down stream.

**Access:** Realising that misbehaviour or overuse might render restrictions in access.

**Cultures:** Easy access of huts is often key to guides. Using







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# 6.1 Nation Specific Issues: Sweden Environment / Awareness



**Awareness:** Sweden already has an average annual temperature rise of 1,7 degrees celsius. Lakes and rivers freeze up later and may thaw unpredictably even mid winter.







# 6.1 Nation Specific Issues: Sweden Environment / Stewardship



**Stewardship:** As witnesses of climate change we can spread word of the severity of impact global warming has. We may also alter our execution to decrease the impact we cause ourself. Doing so will entail that we say is taken more serious.



<https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/40-renar-gick-genom-isen-och-drunknade>

Foto: OLE AILU GAUP



## 6.2 Nation Specific Issues: Sweden Access / Awareness



**Awareness:** Sweden has a vast mountain range which to large extent sees very little traffic. However it is important to realise that some area are hotspots including overuse and competition in-between interest groups (recreational, heliski, snowmobile, skitouring, and reindeer herding).









# 6.3 Nation Specific Issues: Sweden Culture / Awareness



**Awareness:** The mountains are one of the last remains of wilderness and untouched landscapes. Mountains also remains a last resort for some species of animals and plants. Traditionally transport has been on foot preventing interference with a simple way of life in the mountains. However, mechanised means of transport open for new logistical options for bringing modern habits into





# Sweden Culture / Appreciation and



**Appreciation and Respect:** Many mountain visitors are on a quest for solitude, silence, and a period of simple life close to unspoilt nature. This is also the case for most mountain guides and their customers.





# 6.3 Nation Specific Issues: Sweden Culture / Stewardship



**Stewardship:** Even if no regulations prohibits it, one can choose to take the needs of others into consideration and refrain from actions that puts the freedom for a few, ahead of, the freedom for many not to be subjected to effects caused.

## ***Code of Professional Conduct for Heliski in Sweden***

*In respect to other mountain tourism there shall be no landing at STF-mountainhuts.*

*All demands from the reindeer-industry must be respected and daily communication according to their requirement must be fulfilled. While heli-skiing radio channel Sverige P, 168,9375 MHz must be serviced. Note that reindeer herders cannot be required to communicate in English so capacity to communicate in Swedish must be available while heli-skiing.*

*Other tourism such as nordic skiing, skitouring, dog-sledding, skidoos and other mobile tourism must be respected. For example, this entails not planning to make a run which is approached by ski-tourers - this is achieved by gaining an overview via for example fly-by before landing.*

*Local regulation for the Kiruna mountain range:*

*It is accepted to land at the Kebnekaise mountain station and the Låkta cabin*

*During the opening period of the Kebnekaise mountain station or the Tarfala cabin heli- skiing shall not be carried out in the following areas:*





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# 7. Summary SALSI



This learning scheme has explored the ESAC core topics of:

- Environment
- Access
- Culture

through the stages of:

- Awareness
- Appreciation and Respect
- Stewardship

Hopefully this has brought some insight in why it makes sense to attain knowledge and understanding of the natural sciences, regulation and culture we encounter as mountain guides.

As stewards for the mountains we visit we as guides may co-exist in harmony and facilitate for others to do the same, now, and, in the future.

Source: <http://www.ifmga.info/about-ifmga/committees/environmental-and-sustainable-access-esac>

