

Annual report 2014

In 2014 ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the ISCAR convention under the presidency of Prof. Anna Giorgi (University of Milan and Mountain University in Edolo, Italy). All partners and delegates of ISCAR see: <http://iscar-alpineresearch.org/iscar>

In December 2018 all ISCAR Partners agreed with the Working programme 2015 – 2018. Prof. Leopold Füreder Austrian Academy of Sciences took over the Presidency of ISCAR for this period.

1. ForumAlpinum 2014 "Resources of the Alps"

More than 400 participants and numerous student groups visited the ForumAlpinum 2014, which took place from 17 to 20 September in Darfo Boario Terme (Italy). The breadth of the conference topic "Use, valorisation and management of Alpine resources from the local to the macro-regional level" was met with 6 plenary sessions and over 30 workshops. The results of the ForumAlpinum will be published online in an English and Italian conference report in spring 2015. The Alpine Forum was organised by ISCAR in collaboration with the Università della Montagna Edolo of the University of Milan and financed mainly by the Italian Council of Ministers (Department of Regional Affairs and Sport) and the Lombardy Region. Information: <http://www.forumalpinum.org>

2. Projects, Initiatives

The Ecological Continuum Initiative: In a workshop organised jointly by ISCAR and the Platform "Ecological Network" of the Alpine Convention (13-14 March in Innsbruck), particularly interesting questions from the publication "50 Most Important Questions Relating to the Maintenance and Restoration of an Ecological Continuum in the European Alps" (Walzer, C. et al. 2013) were discussed from a scientific and practical perspective. It turned out that questions concerning ecological networking cannot be dealt with in isolation and that the development of comprehensive projects, e.g. in the context of integrated planning of a green infrastructure, is challenging.

Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P): The focus of ISCAR-P activities addressed the function as editorial board of the journal *eco.mont* (editorial office at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck with Axel Borsdorf, Günter Köck, Valerie Braun, Brigitte Scott). Further the information system on research projects in protected areas was kept up to date by IGF Innsbruck).

Swiss-Austrian Mountain Research Alliance: ISCAR participated in the implementation of the Memorandum on Mountain Research signed in 2011 by the two research ministries. A main work concerned the elaboration of a strategic research agenda regarding Horizon 2020. The document "Mountains for Europe's Future" will be ready in 2015.

3. Alpine Convention: Meetings, contributions of ISCAR

As observers of the Alpine Convention, scientists from the ISCAR network participated in the meetings of the Standing Committee and the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention. Three topics were the focus of ISCAR's work in 2014: the development of an EU strategy for the Alpine region, the topic of energy and the topic of demographic change, on which a report on the state of the Alps was prepared. Unfortunately, the Alpine Conference under the Italian Presidency in Turin in November failed to produce any forward-looking results, so that the hopes for successful political steps now lie with the German Presidency. However, cooperation with the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention has been consolidated.

4. Partners, Meetings of the Committee, Members, Office

Partners: No changes.

Committee Meetings: Under the presidency of Prof. Anna Giorgi, the committee assembled for two meetings: the 28th meeting on 6th February in Berne, and under the presidency of Prof. Leopold Füreder the 29th meeting on 1st and 2nd December in Innsbruck.

Changes in the Committee: The Swiss delegates Prof. Heinz Veit and Prof. Patrick Kupper have been replaced by Prof. Rolf Weingartner and Prof. Chrision Rohr, both University of Berne.

Contacts: Members of ISCAR and its office were regularly in contact with alpine or mountain institutions and networks as CIPRA, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the Swiss-Austrian Alliance for mountain research, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and the International Mountain Partnership (FAO).

The office in CH-Berne gave administrative and organisational support to main ISCAR activities (office manager Thomas Scheurer 20%, secretary Marion Regli 20%) and seized opportunities for project coordination and cooperation.

Milan/Berne, January 2015 / Anna Giorgi, Leopold Füreder, Thomas Scheurer