



Report 1999–2002

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Advancement in the Organisation of Alpine Research in Alpine Countries

Since the Convention concerning ISCAR has been signed 1999 in Lucerne, national boards to coordinate and promote alpine research have been created in following countries (underlined = ISCAR-Partners):

<u>Austria:</u>	National Committee Alpine Research in 2001 (<u>Austrian Academy of Sciences</u>)
<u>Germany:</u>	Scientific Committee Mountain Research in 2001 (<u>Bavarian Academy of Sciences</u>)
<u>Italy:</u>	Istituto per la Ricerca scientifica ed tecnologica sulla montagna INRM in 2001 (Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research)
<u>Switzerland:</u>	Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies ICAS in 1999 (<u>Swiss Academies of Sciences & of Humanities and Social Sciences</u>)

Further, in France has been created in 2001 the Mountain Institute in Chambéry hosted by the University of Savoy. In Slovenia no specific organisation of alpine research has been established until now.

Conclusion: The ISCAR-Convention had a significant impact on the organisation of alpine research in most of the alpine countries. Within 4 years a network of national boards, which are able to lead common actions, has been established.

Alpine Convention: ISCAR accepted as official observer

Due to the support of the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Convention (1999-2000), ISCAR was accepted by the Alpine Conference 2000 in Lucerne as official observer of the Alpine Convention in order to represent the scientific community. Since the 2000 Alpine Conference, *ISCAR was present at all 7 meetings of the Permanent Committee as well as at the biannual Alpine Conferences 2000 in Lucerne/Switzerland and 2002 in Meran/Italy* (Roland Psenner, Flavio Ruffini, Thomas Scheurer). Members of ISCAR collaborated in some Working Groups of the Alpine Convention: Permanent Secretary (Flavio Ruffini); Implementation (Engelbert Ruoss); Protocol Population and Culture (Iwar Werlen, Roland Psenner); SOIA (Thomas Scheurer, Flavio Ruffini).

Conclusion: Contacts with AC have been established and some concrete actions are planned to be driven (AlpAtlas, CODALP; see projects). However, to participate at meetings and to cooperate within Working Groups is quite intensive in time and depend on the availability of ISCAR-members or ISCAR office. That is why contributions from ISCAR had to be concentrated.

ForumAlpinum

After Switzerland (1994), France (1996) and Germany (1998), the conveners of the two recent ForumAlpinum were:

– **Italy in 2000** (“Traffic & Living Space”): Bergamo & Presolana, organised by Evk2-CNR (ca. 300 participants & contributors) and

– **Austria in 2002** (“The Nature of the Alps”): Alpbach, organised by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Zoology, University of Innsbruck (270 participants & contributors). This Forum was the contribution of ISCAR to the International Year of Mountains 2002.

ISCAR was responsible for the scientific programme, while the Office gave support to the organisers (Programme, Website, Administration).

The Report from ForumAlpinum 2000 has been published in 3 languages:

Comitato Ev-K²-CNR, 2001: Atti del ForumAlpino/ForumAlpin/AlpenForum 2000. Supplemento al n. 248 della *Revista della montagna*. Centro Documentazione Alpina, Torino. From both, ForumAlpinum 2000 and 2002, a documentation with all press releases has been established.

Just before the ForumAlpinum in Alpbach, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences decided to host **ForumAlpinum 2004 in Slovenia**. The organising committee will be chaired by Dr. Anton Brancelj (National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana).

Projects, Co-operation

To promote information bases for Science and for Alpine Convention, especially following the tasks of SOIA, ISCAR took up planning for two projects: (1) Elaboration of cartographic information on the whole of the Alps for selected topics (**AlpAtlas**). This project will be planned as an extension of the current Austrian project RAUMALP, leaded by Prof. Axel Borsdorf. (2) The establishment of a co-ordinated data collection and data base on alpine research projects (**CODALP**). For both projects, the partnerships are partly established, but funding has still to be found (eventually by Interreg).

To promote the conservation of biodiversity in the Alps – one of 200 WWF-Ecoregions worldwide – WWF organised, with the help of ISCAR, CIPRA and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the workshop “**Biodiversity Visions for the Alps**”. The workshop took place in May 2002 in F-Gap and assembled around 60 scientists from all alpine countries. The results from Gap have been presented and discussed at the ForumAlpinum in Alpbach.

Further, ISCAR-members organised some international and national conferences on mountain topics, as the Symposium “Mountain Regions: A Research Subject” held in F–Autrans within the World Mountain Forum in 2000 in France (Bernard Debarbieux), the Young Scientists Conference in I–Trafoi in 2001 (Flavio Ruffini), the symposium “Cities in Mountains – Mountains in an urbanised world” (Iwar Werlen, ICAS/Swiss Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies) or the conference dedicated to the International Year of Mountains 2002 held in Munich and organised by the Scientific Committee on Mountain Research of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences (Horst Hagedorn, Dietrich Herm).

Public Relations, Networking, Promotion

European Union: On February 17, 2000, ISCAR and the Alpenforschungsinstitut (Germany) organised a presentation of mountain and alpine research with Prof. Bruno Messerli, Prof. Bernard Debarbieux, Dr. Christian Paternmann and Dr. Peter Eggensberger for representatives of several General Directions in Brussels.

Due to the connection of Denis Peter, Prof. Roland Psenner and Prof. Bernard Debarbieux participated at the meeting “EU Policies and Mountains” in Brussels (17./18.10.2002), organised by several EU-Commissions.

Institutions: Members of ISCAR and its office were regularly in contact with alpine or mountain organisations and institutions as Mountain Research Initiative, CIPRA, WWF, Rete Montagna or the Alpine Network of Protected Areas.

Promotion: By lack of time, promotion and public awareness rising of ISCAR could not be taken in hand sufficiently. At least, in 2002 ISCAR presented a poster at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, at the ForumAlpinum in Alpbach, at the Conference of the Bavarian Academy in Munich, at the World Mountain Summit in Bishkek and at the Alpine Conference in Meran.

Partners, Meetings of the Committee, Members, Office

At the 2nd Meeting of ISCAR Partners (27.9.2002 in Alpbach) all partners agreed to extend the ISCAR Convention, signed at the 1st Meeting of ISCAR Partners on 12.10.1999 in Lucerne, for two years. Since ISCAR started its work in 1999, the Committee assembled for 7 meetings dedicated mainly to the preparation of 2 ForumAlpinum (17.18.3.1999, 11./12.10.1999, 14.9.2000, 18./19.1.2001, 18./19.10.2001, 21.6.2002, 27.9.2002).

The Presidency was hold by Prof. Paolo Cerretelli (1999-2000) and Prof. Roland Psenner (2001-2002) and was linked with the chair function of the ForumAlpinum. After ForumAlpinum 2002, Prof. Ivan Kreft took in hand the presidency of ISCAR from Roland Psenner.

In 2000 Kurt Hanselmann (CH), Hanns Wolfgang Weinmeister (A), Wolfgang Haber (D, ancient president) and Mitja Zupancic (SI) retreated. They were replaced by Engelbert Ruoss (CH), Georg Grabherr (A), Axel Borsdorf (A) and Andrej Udovc (SI).

The office in CH–Berne gave administrative and organisational support to main ISCAR activities (office manager Thomas Scheurer 20%, secretary Vera Kaufmann 20%) and seized opportunities for project co-ordination and co-operation.

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