



International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps ISCAR

Annual Report 2009

Based on the convention signed by all ISCAR partners* on 12.10 1999 in Lucerne (Switzerland), ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the convention and the work programme 2009-2010 under the presidency of Dr. Jean-Jacques Brun (CEMAGREF, Grenoble, France).

*All partners and delegates of ISCAR see: <http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org>

1. AlpWeek 2008, ForumAlpinum 2010

Results from AlpWeek 2008 (June 11-14, 2008) in L'Argentière-La-Bessée, France, have been published as follows:

- Alpine Week of 2008: innovating (in) the Alps. Journal of Alpine Research, Vol. 97/1, 2009 (with contributions by Frédéric Giraut, Philippe Bourdeau, Yann Kohler/Thomas Scheurer/Aurelia Ullrich, Andréa Finger-Stich, Andrea Macchiavelli, Jean Corneloup)
- CIPRA Info 88 (in German, French, Italian and Slovenian).

ForumAlpinum 2010 will be organised on October 6-9, 2010, in Munich, thanks to the financial support of the Bavarian State Ministry for Environment and Health (Dr. Peter Eggensberger) and the cooperation of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Secretary general Eva Regenscheidt, Eva Samuel Eckerle). Christian Ude, the mayor of Munich will participate actively and further offer the official evening. During two meetings, ISCAR decided on the general topic of the Forum Alpinum "The metropolises and "their" Alps" and on the main aspects (socio-economy, climate change, biodiversity, geo-resources and macroregion Alpine Space) and developed the programme of the ForumAlpinum. By the end of 2009, the programme was close to be published.

2. Projects, initiatives

The Ecological Continuum Initiative: The Continuum Initiative is financed by the Swiss MAVAFoundation for Nature Protection and focusing on basic information for planning and implementing ecological networks in the Alps. The Initiative, a cooperation of the consortium WWF, ISCAR, CIPRA and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) started in 2007, continued in 2009 focusing on communication and on the planning of future activities beyond the Alpine Space project ECONNECT (2008-2009). ISCAR was responsible for developing a concept on the creation of a think tank and a service centre developed. This concept was discussed on an international workshop on December 2, 2009, in Chamonix (F). Results from the Workshop as well as from an evaluation meeting with experts from the MAVAFoundation on November 16-17, 2009 in Riomaggiore (I) were taken up into the Programme 2010 of the Continuum Initiative, which was submitted to the MAVAFoundation in December:

Scheurer T, Manfredi C 2009: Concept for the implementation of a think tank as a service centre on alpine ecological networks and work programme 2010. ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR & WWF, Schaan, 9. December 2009.

In parallel to the Continuum Initiative the 16 partners of the Alpine Space project ECONNECT (2008-2011) continued work stated in 2008. A main event was the international Conference on November 4-6, 2009, in Grenoble on the conception and implementation of ecological networks in mountain regions, directed by Jean-Jacques Brun. The ISCAR-office participated in the conference as an observer of ECONNECT. All activities of the Continuum Initiative were coordinated with the Platform "Ecological Network" of the Alpine Convention.

Detailed information on all three initiatives:

<http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/index.php/the-ecological-continuum-project>

Research Agenda for the Multi-annual Working Programme 2005 – 2010 of the Alpine Conference: The Research Agenda will serve as an instrument to promote interdisciplinary alpine research. At the end of 2006, the list of 22 topics of the research agenda has been presented to the Alpine Conference. By the end of 2008, rationale, goals and activities were described for selected priority topics. ISCAR decided not to invest on further developing the Research Agenda 2005-2010, and concentrate on developing the Agenda following the initiative taken by Slovenia and SOIA (see below) and following the next multi-annual working programme.

Research in Alpine Protected Areas: The cooperation between the Steering Committee of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) and ISCAR continued with 2 meetings of the working group ISCAR-P (Protected Areas) in Innsbruck (21.1.2009) and in Bozen (17.6.2009). Three main activities have been accomplished in 2009: The first two issues of the new scientific journal *eco.mont* have been edited (editorial office at the IGF in Innsbruck; Axel Borsdorf, Valerie Braun, Brigitte Scott; ISCAR-P as editorial board). The 4th Symposium on Research in Protected Areas in Kaprun (A, 17.-19.9.2009; ISCAR-P as scientific board) has been organised successfully by the National Park Hohe Tauern, who edited the Proceedings just before the Symposium. During the Symposium scientists from ISCAR and ALPARC decided on a declaration emphasizing the importance of long-term research and studies of the species as main tasks of alpine protected areas:

http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org/documents/JointdeclarationKaprun_E.pdf

Finally, IGF continued the up-date of the project and expert database Mountain Pool (SCNAT and ALPARC) concerning protected area research.

3. Alpine Convention: Meetings, manifestations, contributions of ISCAR

As an official observer of the Alpine Convention (AC), Jean-Jacques Brun, Andrej Udovc or Thomas Scheurer represented ISCAR in official meetings of the bodies of the AC: The Alpine Conference and the 40th meeting of the Standing Committee in Evian (F, 10.-12-3-3009) and the 41th meeting of the Standing Committee in Brdo (SI, 28.-29.10.2009).

ISCAR is cooperating in several Working groups and Platforms of the Alpine Convention and therefore, after decisions in the Committee, delegates appropriate specialists, as Jean-Jacques Brun to the ad-hoc Expert Group for the elaboration of the third status report on the Alps (Rural development and Innovation), Leopold Füreder to the Working Group “Water Management”, Friedrich Remoser to the Working group “Large Carnivores”, Oliver Bender to the Working Group “Demography and Employment” and Thomas Scheurer to the Platform “Ecological Networks” (Chamonix, F, 1.12.2009). ISCAR office was further in contact with the German delegation for bringing forward a project on climate-neutral Alps (contribution to the Action Plan Climate of the Alpine Convention).

With the support of Slovenia and ISCAR, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (Regula Imhof, SOIA) took the initiative bringing together scientists and responsible persons from research programmes and research funding institutions for discussing the funding of research topics with relevance for the Alpine Convention. A first workshop for launching these discussions was organised by SOIA on November 24-25, 2009, in Bolzano. Documentation and report:

http://www.alpconv.org/theconvention/WSresearch_en.htm

First contacts have been taken with the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Convention (2011-2012) regarding options for organising the next AlpWeek 2012 in Switzerland.

4. Further events, networking, public awareness

Institutions: Members of ISCAR and its office were regularly in contact with alpine or mountain organisations and institutions as CIPRA, WWF, EUROMONTANA, AEM, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the Mountain Research Initiative MRI (IGBP/IHDP), the Science Network for the Carpathians (S4C), and the International Mountain Partnership (FAO).

Cooperation with the Carpathians: Swiss and Austrian Academies and ISCAR office continued supporting the initiative “Science for the Carpathians (S4C)” by inviting all Carpathian Academies to a meeting of S4C on June 10, 2009, in Bratislava. Beside Serbia, all Academies followed this invitation and agreed on first future cooperations. At this meeting S4C decided on organising the first Forum Carpathicum in September 2010. Thomas Scheurer participated in this meeting of S4C reporting on ISCAR experiences in transalpine cooperation.

Promotion: The Flyer from 2008 has been revised and reprinted and the ISCAR-website (www.iscar-alpineresearch.org) was updated regularly. The current Alpine Events Calendar was sent to all members and guests of ISCAR periodically. ISCAR and some of its partners contributed financially to the international French/English Journal of Alpine Research (RGA).

Manifestations of partner organisations: The Institute for International Mountain Research IGF (an institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Innsbruck) and MRI continued cooperation to bring forward MRI-Europe by a common engagement of

Astrid Björnsen. The Swiss Interacademic Commission on Alpine Research organised a Symposium on migration processes.

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

Partners: In Germany and Slovenia, the Academies are still looking for funding opportunities to contribute financially to ISCAR. In Italy, no decision on the future of the *Ente Italiano della Montagna* has been taken until the end of 2009.

Meetings: Under the presidency of Dr. Jean-Jacques Brun (CEMAGREF), the committee assembled for the 19th meeting on 24./25.3.2009 and for the 20th meeting on 7./8.10.2009, both in Munich (Bavaria).

Changes in the Committee: The Slovenian Academy of Sciences nominated Dr. Andrej Udovc (Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana) succeeding Prof. Ivan Kreft.

The office in CH–Berne gave administrative and organisational support to main ISCAR activities (office manager Thomas Scheurer 20%, scientific collaborator Chloé Manfred (40%, 1.7.-31.12), secretary Vera Kaufmann (20% until 30.9.2009) and Marion Regli 20% from 1.10.) and seized opportunities for project coordination and cooperation.

Berne, 12. April 2010 / Jean-Jacques Brun, Thomas Scheurer