

Annual report 2016

In 2016 ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the ISCAR convention 1999 and of the multi-annual work programme 2015 – 2018 under the presidency of Prof. Leopold Füreder (Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Innsbruck).

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

1. AlpWeek 2016

AlpWeek 2016 took place from 11th to 15th October in Grassau (Bavaria, Germany) assembling around 350 participants. 2 plenary session and 30 thematic sessions covered new aspects of demography, culture and quality of life in the Alps (see homepage below). ISCAR delegates (as Philippe Bourdeau, Günter Köck, Christian Rohr, Leo Füreder) and scientists (as Bernhard Tschofen, Beat Hächler, Ingrid Machold, Simona Boscani-Leoni, Daniela Vaj, Tobias Luthe, Andrea Cottini) were engaged mainly in topics concerning demography and culture. One third of the sessions were organised by scientists. In conclusion, this AlpWeek was a fruitful interface enabling dialogues and debates between science, civil society and policy.

The AlpWeek 2016 has been organised by a consortium of eight alpine organisations, among them the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the EU Alpine Space programme, The Alpweek took place jointly with the Minister Conference of the Alpine Convention and is therefore was supported by German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. Report: <http://alpweek.org/2016/de/welcome/report/> (as well in German, French, Italian, and Slovene)

2. Preparation of the ForumAlpinum 2018

At the ISCAR meeting in Grassau Leopold Füreder presented a first concept of the ForumAlpinum 2018 taking place in Austria, as Austria will held the presidency of the Alpine Convention 2017-2018. First contacts with Austrian representatives showed, that a focus on water issues could be of common interest. ISCAR agreed to continue the preparation of the ForumAlpinum regarding water use in the Alps. Bodies of the Alpine Convention and EUSALP with a focus on water issues will be invited to join the organisation of the Forum.

3. Projects, Initiatives, Workshops

The Ecological Continuum Initiative: The Continuum Initiative (organised by CIPRA, ALPARC and ISCAR) supported the activities of the Platform Ecological Networks of the Alpine Convention by providing information on projects and experts (www.alpine-ecological-network.org). Within the European Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP), ISCAR (Thomas Scheurer) is an observer in Action 7 "To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory".

Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P): At the ISCAR meeting on 11th October in Grassau, Günter Köck (Austrian Academy of Sciences) has been elected as new president of ISCAR-P, following Axel Borsdorf. The focus of ISCAR-P activities (commonly the ALPARC, the Network of Alpien Protected areas) was twofold: First the function as editorial board of the *journal eco.mont*, indexed by Thomson Reuters. Two volumes per year are edited, the first in January, the second in June. In 2016 ISCAR members of the Editorial Board met on 11th October in Grassau. The editorial board has been enlarged with Astrid Wallner and Matej Gabrovec. The editorial office remains at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck with Martin Coy, Valerie Braun and Brigitte Scott, and with Günter Köck. Second, two articles representing the results of the ISCAR-P-Workshop 2015 "Interface between science and mountain protected areas: the role of scientific councils" have been published in *eco.mont*:

Arpin I., Wallner A., Scheurer T. & Braun V. (2016) Recommendations for establishing or renewing scientific councils in protected areas. *eco.mont* Vol. 8, No. 1 62-65.

Arpin I. Wallner A., Scheurer T. & Braun V. (2016) The scientific councils of Alpine protected areas: an overview and analysis of their contribution to linking science and management. *eco.mont* Vol. 8, No. 2:5-12

ISCAR-Workshop 2017: Following a decision at the ISCAR meeting in Grassau, Mimi Urbanc, Christian Rohr, Andrej Udovc and Thomas Scheurer started the organisation of an ISCAR-Workshop on "Exploring Alpine Landscapes as Potential Agricultural Heritage Systems and Their Contribution to Human Wellbeing" in 2017 in Slovenia. The workshop is organised jointly with the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences and aims at a contribution to the Global Inventory of Agricultural Historical systems proposed by the FAO with a focus on the Alps.

4. Alpine Convention & EUSALP: Meetings, contributions of ISCAR

Alpine Convention: ISCAR continued its engagement oriented toward the Alpine Convention (AC) based on the position paper ("Principles of work") published in 2012. As an official observer of the Alpine Convention (AC), ISCAR contributed to meetings of the bodies of the AC: Leopold Füreder participated in the 60th meeting of the Standing Committee in Innsbruck, and, together with Günter Köck, at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee and at the 14th Alpine Conference in Grassau. Concerning the twelve working groups and platforms, only some ISCAR contributions were noted in the Water Platform and its Water Conference in Herrenchemsee (Leo Füreder), in PLANALP (Massimo Pecci), in the working groups on Mountain Agriculture /Andrej Udovc) and Ecological Networks (Thomas Scheurer) Further, Mimi Urbanc represented ISCAR in the jury of the Young Academics Award of the Alpine Convention. The Award have been handed over at the Alpine Conference in Grassau by the German Minister Barbara Hendrix.

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALP: ISCAR (Leo Füreder, Thomas Sceurer) was proposed by Switzerland to collaborate as observers in two (of nine) EUSALP Action groups: Action group 1 on Research and Innovation (Lead: Anna Giorgi, also Italian ISCAR delegate) and as mentioned above in Action group 7 on Ecological Connectivity (Lead: Bavaria and Slovenia).

5. Partners, Meetings, Members, Office

Partners: no changes.

Changes in the Committee: no changes. Jean-Jacques Brun announced, that he will retreat in 2017.

Committee Meetings: Under the presidency of Prof. Leopold Füreder, the committee assembled for the 30th meeting on 11th October in Grassau.

Contacts: Delegates and ISCAR office were regularly in contact with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the Swiss-Austrian Alliance for mountain research, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), and with bodies and the permanent secretariat of the Alpine Convention, as well as with alpine institutions and networks as CIPRA or the Alpine Network of Protected Areas.

Leo Füreder and Günter Köck participated in the MAB Congress in Peru an presented the activities of ISCAR concerning Biosphere reserves.

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

Innsbruck / Berne, 2nd December 2016 / Leopold Füreder, Thomas Scheurer