

ISCAR annual report 2018

In 2018 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) and supported by the office at the Swiss Academies of Sciences in Berne (Thomas Scheurer, Ursula Schüpbach, Martin Kohli). All partners and delegates of ISCAR see: <http://iscar-alpineresearch.org/iscar>

ForumAlpinum 2018: Alpine water - common good or source of conflicts?

The organising committee – chaired by ISCAR President Prof. Leo Füreder (Innsbruck) and supported by the ISCAR Secretariat, the University of Innsbruck and the Institute for International Mountain Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences – made the final preparations for the AlpenForum 2018, which took place from 4-6 June in Breitenwang (Tyrol) with ca. 180 participants. The ForumAlpinum also hosted the 7th Water Conference of the Platform Water of the Alpine Convention and the Action Group 6 of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Space (EUSALP).

The focus of the Alpine Forum was on societal issues relating to water use in the Alpine region and emerging conflicts over water use caused by climate change and growing demand that has to be expected in the future. The conference report was available in November. In addition to the summaries of the inputs, the proceedings contain a summary of the 7th Water Conference, the results of the mapping of hotspots of water use with participants of the Alpine Forum, as well as a Policy Brief to the Alpine Convention on the need for action and recommendations for action to prevent conflicts over water use. The report is published online by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (link will follow):

Füreder L., R. Weingartner, K. Heinrich, V. Braun, G. Köck, K. Lanz, T. Scheurer (eds) (2018) Alpine Water - Common Good Or Source Of Conflicts? Proceedings of the ForumAlpinum 2018 and the 7th Water Conference, 4-6 June 2018, Breitenwang (Tyrol). Austrian Academy of Sciences Press. ISBN-Online: 978-3-7001-8353-2. DOI: 10.1553/forumalpinum2018

Further Information: <http://2018.forumalpinum.org>

AlpWeek Intermezzo 2019 and AlpWeek 2020

After AlpWeek 2016 the involved Alpine networks and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention decided to organise an intermediate event to keep the spirit of the AlpWeek alive. This event will take place during the Alpine Minister Conference in April 3-4, 2019 in Austria. All organisations met on June 14 and December 11 in Innsbruck for preparing this event. Regarding the AlpWeek 2020 in France (probably in Nice), Alpine networks including ISCAR, and French initiatives developed further ideas for this event and were in exchange French Presidency of the Alpine Convention (2019-2020).

Projects, Initiatives, Workshops

Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P): The focus of ISCAR-P activities (jointly with ALPARC, the Network of Alpine Protected Areas; chaired by Günter Köck) was twofold: First the function as editorial board of the indexed *journal eco.mont* (<http://ecomont.mountainresearch.at>). Two volumes have been edited in 2018. The editorial office with Martin Coy, Valerie Braun and Günter Köck is at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck. Second, the proceedings of the 6th Symposium on research in protected areas 2017 in Salzburg (Austria), that

has been supported also by ISCAR, have been published under the lead of Kristina Bauch (National Parks Austria) in the online edition of the Austrian Academy of Sciences:
http://hw.oeaw.ac.at/?arp=np_symposium2017

ISCAR-Workshop "Exploring Alpine Landscapes as Potential Agricultural Heritage Systems and Their Contribution to Human Wellbeing": The workshop report was published in July in the journal Mountain Research and Development:

Thomas Scheurer, Mauro Agnoletti, Matthias Bürgi, Mateja Šmid Hribar, Mimi Urbanc (2018) Exploring Alpine Landscapes as Potential Sites of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Programme. Mountain Research and Development, 38(2):172-174.

The results of the workshop were presented by Andrej Udovc (ISCAR) in October to the Mountain Agriculture Platform of the Alpine Convention. ISCAR proposed, that that the Platform takes up this topic in a future work programme. The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture showed interest.

Alpine Convention & EUSALP: Meetings, contributions of ISCAR

Alpine Convention: As observers of the Alpine Convention, scientists from the ISCAR network participated in the meetings of the Standing Committee and in meetings of the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention. In cooperation with bodies of the Alpine Convention, the above-mentioned 7th Water Conference was integrated into the ForumAlpinum and, together with the Alpine networks (CIPRA, Alliance in the Alps, etc.) and the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the AlpWeek Intermezzo Conference 2019 was prepared.

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALP: ISCAR (Leo Füreder, Thomas Scheurer) is collaborating as observer 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).

Collaboration

The office stayed in contact with the MRI and GMBA offices and participated in the activities of the Network of European Mountain Explorers (NEMOR). In addition, ISCAR office (Thomas Scheurer) collaborated in the Advisory Board of the transdisciplinary Earth Systems Sciences programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, in the Editorial Board of the journals *eco.mont* (Innsbruck) and *Journal of Alpine Research* (Grenoble), and took part in the Winter University of the Excellence Lab "Innovation in mountain territories" (Labex ITEM) of the University of Grenoble, headed by Marie-Christine Fourny), which took place on April, 4-7, in Ticino.

Partners, Meetings, Members, Office

Convention Partners: At the 6th Meeting of ISCAR Partners on June 7, in Breitenwang, the Convention partners agreed to extend the ISCAR Convention and approved the work programme 2019-2022 (see homepage).

Changes in the Committee: The following members were replaced during 2018: Philippe Bourdeau by Cristina del Biaggio (Université Grenoble Alpes) and Laurent Bergès by Thomas Spiegelberger (Irstea Grenoble).

Committee Meetings: ISCAR assembled for two meetings: A first was held in Innsbruck on 17 and 18 January and a second, together with representatives of the ISCAR partners, on 7 June following the ForumAlpinum in Breitenwang.

The office in CH–Berne gave administrative and organisational support to main ISCAR activities (office manager Thomas Scheurer 20% until August 31 / Ursula Schüpbach from October 1; secretary Martin Kohli 20%) and seized opportunities for project coordination and cooperation. Thomas Scheurer was bid farewell on the occasion of the ForumAlpinum – his 13th since 1994.

Other information can be found on the ISCAR homepage: <http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org>