

Annual report 2010

In 2010 ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the ISCAR convention under the presidency of Dr. Jean-Jacques Brun (CEAMGREF, Grenoble, France).

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

1. ForumAlpinum 2010, AlpWeek 2012

ForumAlpinum 2010: The ForumAlpinum 2010 took place on October 6-9, 2010, in Munich. Within the general topic "Metropolises and "their" Alps" main aspects as interactions between metropolises and alpine space, climate change, biodiversity benefits, geo-risk and geo-resources as well as the concept of a macro-region Alpine Space have been discussed. The Bavarian State Ministry for Environment and Health (Dr. Peter Eggensberger) provided financial and the Bavarian Academy of Sciences (Secretary general Eva Regenscheidt, Eva Samuel-Eckerle) organisational support. The Bavarian minister Markus Söder opened the Forum and Christian Ude, the mayor of Munich participated actively and further offered the official evening. The ForumAlpinum 2010 culminated in a discussion assembling mayors and representatives from cities along the Alpine Arc (Munich, Zurich, Vienna, Ljubljana) and emissaries from Alpine communities, the EU and the Alpine Convention to address essential requirements and perspectives for joint strategies in view of a European macro-region including the Alpine Arc. The Proceedings of the ForumAlpinum have been published just before the ForumAlpinum 2010:

Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (eds.) 2010: The metropolises and „their“ Alps. Proceedings of the ForumAlpinum 2010, 6.-9- October 2010, Munich / Germany – Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities and International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps ISCAR. ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-6866-9; ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6866-9

After the ForumAlpinum most of the moderators of plenary sessions and workshops participated in establishing a catalogue of research questions and needs for action concerning interactions between metropolises and Alps. This document revised by Blanka Bartol, Regula Imhof and Thomas Scheurer has been transmitted to the Alpine Convention and to the Alpine Space Programme and published in the notes of the Journal of Alpine Research.

AlpWeek 2012: As Switzerland will held the presidency of the Alpine Convention 2011-2012, the responsible Federal Agency for Spatial Development (Silvia Jost) is interested that the next AlpWeek planned for 2012 will take place in Switzerland as a main event of the Swiss Presidency. First contacts have been established with the AlpWeek Consortium (CIPRA, ISCAR, ALPARC, Alliance in the Alps, CAA) but no decisions have been taken until December 2010.

2. Projects, Initiatives

The Ecological Continuum Project: The Continuum Project, a cooperation of the consortium WWF, ISCAR, CIPRA and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), started in 2007. This project is focusing on basic information for planning and implementing ecological networks in the Alp, and financed by the Swiss MAVA-Foundation for Nature Protection. In 2010 the main event was "the Wall", a simultaneous installation of a big wall (13x3x1m) in the pedestrian zones of 6 big cities around the Alps. ISCAR was responsible in organising and exploiting 2 workshops, one on stakeholder integration and one on follow-up projects to the Alpine Space project ECONNECT. Finally ISCAR was engaged with ECONNECT and the Platform Ecological Networks of the Alpine Convention in the evaluation of 50 most important question concerning ecological networks in the Alps. Results will be published in 2011. Detailed information: <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 has been accomplished with all available information in March 2010 and published on the ISCAR homepage: http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org/research_agenda/to_map/. Some of the topics of the Research Agenda have been taken up by scientists. But regarding the weak impact of the Agenda within the Alpine Convention, ISCAR decided, that for the consecutive multi-annual work programme 2011-2016 of the Alpine Convention no research agenda will be elaborated.

Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P): The cooperation between the Steering Committee of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) and ISCAR which started in 2006 continued. No meetings were held, since there were no conferences in preparation. The function as editorial board of the journal *eco.mont* (editorial office at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck; Axel Borsdorf, Valerie Braun, Brigitte Scott) was perceived via mailings. The up-date of the project and expert database Mountain Pool (SCNAT and ALPARC) concerning protected area research was taken in hand by IGF.

3. Alpine Convention: Meetings, contributions of ISCAR

As an official observer of the Alpine Convention (AC), ISCAR contributed to several meetings of the bodies of the AC: Thomas Scheurer participated in the 42nd (Bolzano, I) 43th (Brdo, SI) and 44th (Innsbruck, A) meeting of the Standing Committee. Experts engaged by ISCAR cooperated in working groups and platforms: Leopold Füreder in the working group "Water", Fritz Reimoser in the working group "Large Carnivores", Oliver Bender in the working group "demography and Employment", Thomas Scheurer in the platform "Ecological Networks", and Jean-Jacques Brun in the elaboration of the third report on the Alps on rural development.

4. Further events, networking, public awareness

Members of ISCAR and its office were regularly in contact with alpine or mountain organisations and institutions as CIPRA, WWF, EUROMONTANA, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the Mountain Research Initiative MRI (IGBP/IHDP), The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and the International Mountain Partnership (FAO).

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

Partners: Bavaria joined ISCAR as official partner, while in Italy a new solution has to be found, as the official ISCAR partner EIM lost its official status and was integrated in the Ministry for Regional Affairs. Academies are still looking for opportunities to contribute financially to ISCAR.

Meetings: Under the presidency of Dr. Jean-Jacques Brun (CEMAGREF), the committee assembled for the 21th meeting on 15./16. April in Munich for the 22nd just before the ForumAlpinum on 6. October 2010 in Munich. This meeting was combined with the 4th meeting of ICAS partner institutions. The partner institutions decided to enlarge the ISCAR convention for another 4 years. As no new president could be designed until this meeting, Jean-Jacques Brun agreed to prolong his presidency for one year. The Partner Institutions accepted the ISCAR work programme for the coming 4 years, focusing more on specific topics (than on broad themes) and on a better orientation towards topics of political relevance for the Alpine Convention.

Changes in the Committee: EIM nominated Prof. Anna Giorgi (University of Milan) as new Italian ISCAR delegate, succeeding Loredana Alafaré.

The office in CH–Berne gave administrative and organisational support to main ISCAR activities (office manager Thomas Scheurer 20%, secretary Marion Regli 20%, scientific collaborator in the Continuum Initiative Beat Schlüchter 40%) and seized opportunities for project coordination and cooperation.

Grenoble/Berne, August 2011 / Jean-Jacques Brun, Thomas Scheurer