



International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps  
Internationales Wissenschaftliches Komitee Alpenforschung  
Comité scientifique international recherche alpine  
Comitato scientifico internazionale ricerca alpina  
Mednarodni znanstveni komitej za preučevanje Alp

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## Focus activities of ISCAR 2009 - 2010

Hand-out for the discussion

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At the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting ISCAR discussed the mission, positioning (products), visibility and legitimacy of its activities. In all domains a concentration (focus) on main aspects and an improved communication is needed.

### Uniqueness and main mission:

The uniqueness of ISCAR (compared with other similar research networks and activities) is determined by its status as an observer of the Alpine Convention and the cooperation with bodies of the Alpine Convention. Consequently, the main mission is the promotion of research and the mobilisation of expertise related to topics and activities (in the interest) of the Alpine Convention, especially in a trans-boundary (pan-alpine) and trans-disciplinary perspective. A further mission is to participate/collaborate in bodies of the Alpine Convention.

### Positioning / products:

ISCAR focuses on 4 main products:

- **Think tank:** one annual assessment (state of the art) of a current research topic (e.g. vulnerability of alpine ecosystems; research on ecological networks)
- **Meetings:** the biannual ForumAlpinum (four-annual AlpWeek with Partners);
- **Scientific publications:** with IGF and ALPARC (ISCAR-P): eco.mont
- **Project forstoring:** Alpine Ecological Network Initiative (ECONNECT, Continuum Project); Research in/on protected areas (with IGF and ALPARC=ISCAR-P: database, symposium)
- **International expertise:** for the Alpine Convention, etc.

### Visibility:

- Visibility has to be assured first by disseminating the products (-> budget!)
- A good coordination with European and global initiatives (MRI-Europe, S4C, MRI, etc.) -> complementarity has to be clear!
- Communication: RGA, Periodical Newsletter? Join Alpmedia or MRI-Newsletter ?
- Visibility of the products (see above) on the Webpage (new structure)

### Legitimacy:

- Legitimacy is given by the observer status: Necessity to communicate clearly the organisation and functioning of ISCAR -> Better involvement of ISCAR-partners (like A and CH)
- Make transparent how ISCAR-statements are worked out and how experts are engaged

## **Discussion 18<sup>th</sup> ISCAR-Meeting:**

### **2.5. Which core competences for ISCAR? (handout)**

Based on a hand-out prepared by Jean-Jacques Brun and Thomas Scheurer the core competences of ISCAR have been discussed. There was a general agreement on the following points in the hand-out:

#### *Uniqueness and main mission*

The uniqueness of ISCAR (compared with other similar research networks and activities) is determined by its status as an observer of the Alpine Convention and the cooperation with bodies of the Alpine Convention. Consequently, the main mission is the promotion of research and the mobilisation of expertise related to topics and activities (in the interest) of the Alpine Convention, especially in a transboundary (pan-alpine) and transdisciplinary perspective. A further mission is to collaborate in bodies of the Alpine Convention.

#### *Products*

ISCAR is focussing on 5 main products:

- Think tank: one annual assessment (state of the art, publications) of a current research topic (e.g. vulnerability of alpine ecosystems under climate change; research on ecological networks; water) if possible as contributions to CBD, IPCC, WFP, Status reports of the Alpine Convention, etc.
- Meetings: the biannual ForumAlpinum (four-annual AlpWeek with Partners);
- Scientific publications: with IGF and ALPARC (ISCAR-P): eco.mont
- Project fostering: Alpine Ecological Network Initiative (ECONNECT, Continuum Project); Research in/on protected areas (with IGF and ALPARC -> ISCAR-P: database, symposium). Further, ISCAR has to promote the cooperation between social and natural sciences by developing common concepts, focusing e.g. resilience, resistance or vulnerability of systems.
- International expertise: for the Alpine Convention, etc.

#### *Visibility*

- Visibility has to be ensured first by a clear USP (Unique selling point) and by disseminating the products as reports, annual report, newsletter (if possible)
- A good complementarity and coordination with European and global initiatives (MRI, S4C)
- Communication: RGA (online) and eco.mont; option: join Alpmedia or MRI-Newsletter
- New and updated webpage and links from other homepages

#### *Legitimacy*

- Legitimacy is given by the observer status: Necessity to communicate clearly the organisation and functioning of ISCAR.
- Make transparent how ISCAR statements are worked out and how experts are engaged.