

ISCAR Goals and Focus Activities 2015-2018

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Based on objectives of ISCAR-Convention (1999), the goals of ISCAR (2007), the mission statement (2008), and tasks related to the official observer status of the Alpine Convention (ISCAR principles, 2012), the following priorities and are set up for the coming 4 years (2015-2018):

ISCAR goals and focus activities 2015-2018:

1. Identify and promote future research on topics of relevance for the Alps and address emerging issues to the Alpine Convention

Target public: scientific community, policy/decision makers, Alpine Convention

Actions: Convention partners and ISCAR office organise at least one *scientific conference (including ForumAlpinum and AlpWeek) or workshop* per year on politically relevant scientific topics and present state of the art reports with recommendations for science and policy.

Focus activities: Workshop on scientific councils of protected areas (interface science-management); Contribution to AlpWeek 2016; Workshop 2017 (topic to be defined); Organisation of ForumAlpinum 2018 (general topic: water).

Responsible: Partner institutions of the ISCAR Convention, ISCAR delegates, stakeholders

Actions: Prepare *mountain topics for international (European) research programmes* (as Horizon 2020, Future Earth) or contribute to comparable initiatives.

Focus activities: Collaboration with MRI (Mountains for Europe`s future); contribute to the Multi-annual Programme of the Alpine Convention (2017-2022).

Responsible: ISCAR delegates in cooperation with MRI, PSAC and other international initiatives

2. Provide scientific support to Alps-wide and interdisciplinary initiatives and networks

Target public: scientific community, stakeholders, Alpine Convention, NGO`s

Actions: *Ecological connectivity in/to the Alps.* Continue cooperation within the Platform Ecological network of the Alpine Convention, within EUSALP Action 7 on ecological connectivity, and with the Continuum Initiative (with CIPRA and ALPARC):

Focus activities: Bring scientific expertise into all these continuum activities; provide an up-to-date list of experts in ecological connectivity and its implementation; develop activities or projects based on the 50 Q publication.

Responsible: ISCAR-Office, ISCAR delegates, research institutes

Actions: *Protected area research.* Continue cooperation with the network of Alpine protected areas (ALPARC) on protected area research by the common working group ISCAR-P (scientists and park managers).

Focus activities: a) workshop on the interface science - management in protected areas (2015); b) scientific support to the research symposium 2018 in National Park Hohe Tauern (option); c) promote scientific articles in the journal *eco.mont*; and d) up-date of the database on research projects in alpine protected areas.

Responsible: IGF Innsbruck, ISCAR Office, ALPARC

3. Act as an interface between science and the Alpine Convention

Target public: Alpine Convention, Alpine Space Programme, scientific community (experts)

Actions: *Mobilise scientific expertise for the Alpine Convention.* ISCAR, as an official observer of the Alpine Convention, will cooperate in the bodies of the Alpine Convention and with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (PSAC).

Focus activities: Delegate experts from ISCAR and the scientific community into Working Groups, Platforms or Experts Groups of the Alpine Convention, namely concerning water, natural hazards, agriculture, tourism, ecological networks, macroregional strategy and current status reports; delegate experts in EUSALP action groups, namely action 1, 6 and 7; take up topics proposed by delegated experts into scientific events and debates.

Responsible: ISCAR office and delegates, delegated experts

Actions: Use the ForumAlpinum & AlpWeek as a *show case for alpine research and as opportunity for bringing science and emerging mountain topics to policy.*

Focus activities: a) AlpWeek 2016: Cooperate with AlpWeek-partners (CIPRA, ALPARC, AIA, ATYA, CAA, PSAC, ASP) and the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention in preparing the AlpWeek 2016 in Bavaria; organise public event on alpine research in the frame of the AlpWeek; b) Organisation of policy sessions at the ForumAlpinum 2018.

Responsible: ISCAR delegates, ISCAR-Office, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

4. Integrate young scientists in ISCAR activities

Target public: young scientists

Actions: Find means and funding for integrating young scientists in pan-alpine co-operations or exchange programmes and for creating attractive opportunities for young scientists to present research results.

Focus activities: Organise young scientists poster sessions during ISCAR events; contribute to the development models for exchange of students among institutions offering mountain specific education (as Milan/Edolo, Grenoble, etc.); support the Alpine Convention in organising the young academics award; make known or contribute to national young scientists events (like winter university of Labex ITEM in France or Phil.Alp in Switzerland)

Responsible: ISCAR delegates, ISCAR office, research institutes, PSAC

5. Continuity of ISCAR activities

Action: Look for Austrian partners for organising the ForumAlpinum 2018.

Action: Ensure further cooperation of ISCAR partners and future functioning of ISCAR office

Responsible: Austrian ISCAR delegates, ISCAR Convention partners

Extension of the ISCAR-Convention 2015-2018

The present ISCAR delegates recommend to the ISCAR Convention Partners :

1. to extend the ISCAR Convention from 1999 until 2018;
2. to mandate ISCAR to achieve the gals and focus activities 2015-2018 listed above;
3. to leave the annual budget for common office and activities to 40`000 Euros as before (20`000.- Switzerland, 4`000 further partners). For the biannual ForumAlpinum / AlpWeek a specific budget has to be established.

Innsbruck, December 2, 2015