

## Annual report 2015

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In 2015 ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the ISCAR convention. Prof. Leopold Füreder (National Committee for Global Change at the Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Innsbruck) followed Prof. Anna Giorgi (2010-2014) as ISCAR president. All partners and delegates of ISCAR see: <http://iscar-alpineresearch.org/iscar>

### 1. Proceedings of the ForumAlpinum 2014

One year after the ForumAlpinum in Darfo Boario Terme (Italy) the proceedings have been published online in English (<https://doi.org/10.1553/forumalpinum2014>) and in Italian (<http://ebook.euronics.it/scheda-ebook/anna-giorgi-axel-borsdorf-gunter-kock-thomas-scheurer/le-risorse-delle-alpi-9788898490295-315621.html>). Publishers are the Austrian Academy of Sciences (English) and the Mountain University in Edolo (Italian). Conclusions have been published on the mountain platform of the journal Mountain Research and Development.

References:

Giorgi A, Borsdorf A, Köck G, Scheurer T, editors (2015) Alpine Resources: Use, Valorisation and Management From Local to Macro-regional Scale. Proceedings of the ForumAlpinum 2014 in Darfo Boario Terme (Italy). Vienna, Austria: Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Giorgi A, Scheurer T (2015) Alpine Resources: Assets for a Promising Future – Conclusions from the ForumAlpinum 2014. Mountain Research and Development 35, 4.

### 2. Preparation of AlpWeek 2016

ISCAR office and delegates (especially Philippe Bourdeau, Christian Rohr, Leo Füreder and Günter Köck) engaged actively in the organisation of AlpWeek 2016, which will take place on October 11-15 in Grassau / Achenal (Bavaria). The organising committee of the AlpWeek met four times for defining the topics (Alps & People: Demography, Culture, Quality of life), the call for contribution and the homepage, both released in December 2015. As a co-organiser, ISCAR will sponsor 2 sessions on *Urban mountains* (chaired by Bernhard Tschofen and Beat Hächler) and on *Cultural creatives* (chaired by Philippe Bourdeau). The decisions on further sessions will be taken in February 2016.

The AlpWeek 2016 is 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 will be organised jointly with the Minister Conference of the Alpine Convention and is therefore 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.

### 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 expert (<http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org>). Regarding the European Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP), one of the nine specific actions will be "To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory". This EUSALP-action is the result of various activities of the Continuum Initiative and many other initiatives focusing on ecological connectivity during the last ten years. ISCAR will cooperate in this EUSALP-action.

**Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P):** The focus of ISCAR-P activities was twofold: First the function as editorial board of the *journal eco.mont* (editorial office at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck with Axel Borsdorf, Valerie Braun and Brigitte Scott, and with Günter Köck, Austrian Academy of Sciences) with two volumes per year, the first in January, the second in June. The Editorial Board met on 26<sup>th</sup> June in Chambéry. Second, the organisation of the **ISCAR-Workshop "Interface between science and mountain protected areas: the role of scientific councils"**. This workshop was organised jointly with

Labex ITEM (Grenoble; chair: Isabelle Arpin) on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June in Chambéry (France) and gathered around 30 scientists and protected area managers. The results will be summarised in two articles submitted to *eco.mont*: A first article, submitted in December 2015, is focusing on recommendations for establishing or renewing scientific councils, a second article will analyse current councils, typify their tasks and position, and characterise their role as interface between science and management.

**Multi-annual work programme 2015 - 2018:** ISCAR developed goals and the work-programme for the coming years. Main events will be AlpWeek 2016 in Bavaria and the ForumAlpinum 2018 in Austria. In Workshops will be treated topics of relevance for the Alpine Convention.

#### **4. Alpine Convention: Meetings, contributions of ISCAR**

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 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in Berchtesgaden. Concerning the twelve working groups and platforms, only few ISCAR contributions were noted in working groups / platforms on Report on the Alps 6, Ecological Networks and on the preparation of Multi-annual programme (MAP) of the Alpine Convention 2017-2022. As it was difficult to find scientists or experts with enough time for collaborating actively in the different groups, ISCAR decided to choose some core topics and concentrate efforts there (without excluding other topics). For the coming three years, collaboration will focus on the topics "Water", "Hazards", "Agriculture", "Ecological Networks", "Macro-region" and the implementation of "MAP 2017-2022". Further, Mimi Urbanc represents ISCAR in the jury of the Young Academics Award of the Alpine Convention.

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

Partners: no changes.

Committee Meetings: Under the presidency of Prof. Leopold Füreder, the committee assembled for the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 in Innsbruck.

Changes in the Committee: Austria: Prof. Axel Borsdorf retreated. He was followed by Prof. Leopold Füreder, designated as president for the period 2015 -2018 by the National Committee for Global Change at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Switzerland: Prof. Partick Kupper (who changed as professor to the University of Innsbruck) and Prof. Heinz Veit retreated, successors are Prof. Christian Rohr (environmental history; University of Berne) and Prof. Rolf Weingartner (hydrology; chair of the Mountain Research Initiative; University of Berne).

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.

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

Innsbruck / Berne, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 / Leopold Füreder, Thomas Scheurer