

## Annual report 2011

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In 2011 ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the ISCAR convention under the presidency of Dr. Jean-Jacques Brun (Irstea, Grenoble, France) and, from September, of Prof. Anna Giorgi (University of Milan and Mountain University in Edolo, Italy).

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

### 1. AlpWeek 2012

**AlpWeek 2012 "Renewable Alps":** The third AlpWeek will take place on September 5-8, 2012 in Valposchiavo, Switzerland, as a main event of the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Convention and focus on question around modernisation. In the frame of the AlpWeek will also take place the XII<sup>th</sup> Minister Conference of the Alpine Convention. The organisers – the Swiss Agency for Territorial Development, the Valposchiavo region, and the AlpWeek Consortium with CIPRA, ISCAR, ALPARC, Alliance in the Alps, and CAA – met to four meetings for the preparation of the general programme. The call for contribution was launched in December 2011. Information: <http://www.alpweek.org>.

### 2. Projects, Initiatives

**ISCAR-Workshop "Protected Areas as tools for regional development":** As decided in 2010, ISCAR will focus more on specific topics of scientific interest as well as of relevance for the Alpine Convention. A first workshop following these aims has been organised together with the Network of Alpine Protected Areas (ALPARC) and the Network Regional Development and Protected Areas (Ingo Mose, Norbert Weixelbaumer, Thomas Hammer, Dominik Siegrist) on October 13-15 in the Regional Nature Park Chartreuse (France). About 25 invited scientists and protected area managers assisted to the workshop. Based on six inputs, future research orientations and topics have been developed. The findings of the workshop will be published in a journal, if possible in *eco.mont*.

**The Ecological Continuum Initiative:** The Continuum Initiative (organised by CIPRA, ALPARC and ISCAR) submitted to the Swiss MAVA-Foundation for Nature Protection a project proposal for the further implementation of outcomes of the Alpine Space project ECONNECT, which came to an end in November 2011. As this proposal was refused, ISCAR reduced its activities for the Continuum Initiative to the up date of the project and expert database.

**Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P):** The cooperation between the Steering Committee of the Network of Alpine Protected Areas (ALPARC) and ISCAR started in 2006 continued. A meeting held on October 13 in St. Pierre de Chartreuse (France) was dedicated to the further promotion of the journal *eco.mont* and the support by editorial board (ISCAR-P) to the editorial office at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck (Axel Borsdorf, Valerie Braun, Brigitte Scott). IGF took in hand the up-date of the project and expert database Mountain Pool (SCNAT and ALPARC).

### 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 45<sup>th</sup> (Brdo, SI), the 46<sup>th</sup> (Vaduz, LIE) and 47<sup>th</sup> (Lucerne, CH) meeting of the Standing Committee and with Andrej Udovc at the XI<sup>th</sup> Minister Conference in Brdo (SI). Experts engaged by ISCAR continued their cooperation 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", Andrej Udovc in the working group "Agriculture", Thomas Scheurer in the platform "Ecological Networks" and in the working group "Macroregion", and Philippe Bourdeau in the elaboration of the forth report on the Alps on sustainable tourism.

#### **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, EUROMONTANA, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and the International Mountain Partnership (FAO). Based on a memorandum of understanding between Austria and Switzerland the cooperation in mountain research should be enhanced. ISCAR is involved in the preparation of a working programme coordinated Mountain Research Initiative (MRI). ISCAR renewed its Web page and presented its poster at several Conferences.

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

Partners: Italy found a new solution for ISCAR partnership by integrating some tasks of the former EIM into the Ministry for Territorial Cohesion and Regional Affairs (Minister Raffaele Fitto). Further, CEMAGREF has been reorganised to a broader mission with a new name, Irstea.

Meetings: Under the presidency of Dr. Jean-Jacques Brun (irstea), the committee assembled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 20. September in Milan. ISCAR elected Prof. Anna Giorgi as new president of ISCAR, as proposed by the Italian Minister Raffaele Fitto. Decisions were taken, among others, concerning the organisation of a second ISCAR workshop in 2012 on "New highlanders (Axel Bordsorf Oliver Bender), a contribution to the AlpWeek 2012, and the elaboration of a concept for providing expertise to the Alpine Convention.

Changes in the Committee: The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts nominated PD Dr. Mimi Urbanc (Anton Melik Geographical Institute Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts) as new Slovenian ISCAR delegate, succeeding Anton Brancelj.

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.

Grenoble/Milan/Berne, February 2012 / Jean-Jacques Brun, Anna Giorgi, Thomas Scheurer