

Annual report 2017

In 2017 ISCAR continued its activities following the objectives of the ISCAR convention 1999 and of the multi-annual work programme 2015 – 2018 under the presidency of Prof. Leopold Füreder (Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Innsbruck) and supported by the office at the Swiss Academies of Sciences in Berne (Thomas Scheurer, Annick Noll). All partners and delegates of ISCAR see: <http://iscar-alpineresearch.org/iscar>

1. ForumAlpinum 2018

During 2017 the organising committee (chair: Leopold Füreder) started the preparation of the ForumAlpinum 2018 entitled "**Alpine water– common good or source of conflicts?**", taking place on June 4-6, 2018, in Breitenwang (Austria). The Forum will discuss social issues of water use in the Alps and expected conflicts in future due to demographic, economic and environmental change. The ForumAlpinum is combined with the 6th Water Conference of the Alpine Convention (Water Platform) and EUSALP (Action group 6). Representatives from these bodies joined the organising committee, which met on April 27 and October 17-18 in Innsbruck. Heidi Humer-Gruber was engaged to support ISCAR in the organisation. Until November the main programme structure has been established and published on the ForumAlpinum website, and the Call for contributions launched. The ForumAlpinum 2018 is supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, Province of the Tyrol, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. Information: <http://2018.forumalpinum.org>

2. AlpWeek 2020

After AlpWeek 2016 the involved organisations decided to organise an intermediate event to keep the spirit of the AlpWeek alive. This event will take place during the Alpine Minister Conference in early 2019 in Austria. All organisations met for preparing this event on April 4 and on October 19 in Innsbruck. Regarding the AlpWeek 2020 in France, networks (as ISCAR) and local initiatives developed first ideas on the occasion of a meeting on October 11 in Grenoble to propose to the French Presidency of the Alpine Convention (2019-2020).

3. Projects, Initiatives, Workshops

Research in Alpine Protected Areas (ISCAR-P): The focus of ISCAR-P activities (jointly with ALPARC, the Network of Alpine Protected Areas; chaired by Günter Köck) was twofold: First the function as editorial board of the indexed *journal eco.mont* (<http://ecomont.mountainresearch.at>). Two volumes and one special issue have been edited in 2017. The editorial office with Martin Coy, Valerie Braun and Günter Köck is at the Institute for International Mountain Research IGF in Innsbruck. Members of the Editorial Board met on 1st of November in Salzburg. The Board has been enlarged by Herbert Wölger (director of National Park Gesäuse) and Leopold Füreder (University of Innsbruck). Second, ISCAR-P supported National Parks Austria as Scientific Board in organising the 6th Symposium on research in protected areas on November 2-3 in Salzburg (organisation: Kristina Bauch). Around 400 participants from more than 20 countries attended to this symposium, which seems now fully established with scientists and protected areas. The proceedings follow in 2018.

ISCAR-Workshop "Exploring Alpine Landscapes as Potential Agricultural Heritage Systems and Their Contribution to Human Wellbeing": Some 25 experts participated in this workshop organized jointly by the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Mimi Urbanc, Mateja Smid) and ISCAR (Thomas Scheurer, Christian Rohr) on September 7-9 in Tolmin and Cadrg (Slovenia). The presentations focused on Alpine production systems that could fit with the FAO Inventory of *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*. Synthesizing the presentations, a list of production systems that are characteristic for the Alps were discussed, and some further steps planned. The findings will be published in a report. Presentations and information: <http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org/workshops/workshop2017/>

Inn-Dialogue: WWF Austria and ISCAR jointly organized on September 13 and 14 two days of exchange between multiple stakeholders from Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria concerning issues along the river Inn. Around 80 participants agreed that cooperation among concerned sectors and states has to be improved in future. Report (in German): www.flussdialog-inn.org

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 experts (www.alpine-ecological-network.org). The contribution is actually focused on green infrastructure and spatial planning. Within the European Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP), ISCAR (Thomas Scheurer) is an observer in Action group 7 "To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory".

4. Alpine Convention & EUSALP: Meetings, contributions of ISCAR

Alpine Convention: ISCAR continued its engagement oriented toward the Alpine Convention based on the position paper ("Principles of work") published in 2012. As an official observer of the Alpine Convention, ISCAR contributed to meetings of the bodies of the AC: Thomas Scheurer participated in the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee in Bolzano (Italy), and Leopold Füreder at the 64th meeting in Gmunden (Austria). Concerning the twelve working groups and platforms, only a few ISCAR contributions were noted in the Water Platform (Leo Füreder), in PLANALP (Massimo Pecci, Christian Rohr), and in the platform Ecological Networks (Thomas Scheurer). Further, ISCAR supported the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention in publishing the Call for the Young Academics Award 2018. Christian Rohr contributed the Status report on the Alps in charge of PLANALP.

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALP: ISCAR (Leo Füreder, Thomas Scheurer) is collaborating as observer in two (of nine) EUSALP Action groups: Action group 1 on Research and Innovation (Lead: Anna Giorgi, also Italian ISCAR delegate) and as mentioned above in Action group 7 on Ecological Connectivity (Lead: Bavaria and Slovenia).

5. Partners, Meetings, Members, Office

Convention Partners: no changes.

Changes in the Committee: no changes. Jean-Jacques Brun announced, that he will retreat by the end of 2017. Laurant Berges (irstea) is proposed to take his place.

Committee Meetings: The committee assembled for the 31st meeting on April 27 - 28 in Innsbruck and Seefeld, chaired by Prof. Leopold Füreder.

Contacts: Delegates and ISCAR office were regularly in contact with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and 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. Günter Köck organised a media conference at the occasion of the start of WhatAlps Vienna – Nice on 3rd June in Vienna.

Conferences: ISCAR members participated actively in the Conference "Mountains, territories of innovation" organised by Labex ITEM (University Grenoble Alpes) in January 2017 and at the networking meeting "Cime Milano" organised by the Mountain University in December 2017 at the University of Milan.

From CHAT to NEMOR: The Swiss-Austrian Alliance for Mountain research (CHAT) ended in 2016, as the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) got no funding for managing a European Network. ISCAR supported efforts from scientists for establishing a European Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR). A couple of scientists met at the end of May in Brussels for meetings with Euromontana, EU administration and Rumra network (organisation Evgenia Tsianou and Marie Clotteau). These scientists drafted a mission statement for NEMOR, found a network manager (Bernat Claramunt, CREAM Barcelona) and prepared an agreement with Euromontana for hosting NEMOR. Later on Euromontana agreed to host NEMOR. More information and activities see: <http://nemor.cream.cat/>

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

Innsbruck / Berne, 29th December 2017 / Leopold Füreder, Thomas Scheurer