

International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR)

Goals and Working programme 2007 – 2008

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The main objectives of the ISCAR-Convention 1999 are:

ISCAR ...

- 1) ... promotes interdisciplinary research on the Alps as well as the transfer of scientific knowledge to responsible authorities and the general public;
- 2) ... ensures the continuity and the scientific quality of the bi-annual ForumAlpinum;
- 3) ... stimulates scientific research of relevance for the Alps as well as their implementation within international or mountain research programmes;
- 4) ... takes up research topics in the interest of the Convention on the Alps and advises the responsible authorities for that Convention.

Main goals of ISCAR are:

1. Contribute to share knowledge and to effect a sustainable development in the Alpine space through:
 - building up and synthesizing scientific knowledge
 - transferring know-how to the participating countries
 - creating and co-ordinating partnership
 - moderating processes
 - providing expertises
2. Initiate integrative (= inter- and transdisciplinary) studies covering the whole of the Alps.
3. Establish cooperation in the field of science within the Alps and with other European mountain areas.
4. Initiate integrative (= inter- and transdisciplinary) regional studies covering the whole of the Alps.
5. Improve the capacity building through participatory and bottom-up processes together with partner organisations (mainly observers of the Alpine Convention) in order to implement scientific knowledge in connection with sustainable development.
6. Disseminate innovative results (and proposals) to stakeholders and decision makers.
7. Contribute as an active observer to the Alpine Convention and interact with its bodies (e.g. SOIA, working groups, platforms, conferences)

Thematic priorities of ISCAR 2007 – 2008 and related activities

1. **Landscape development in mountain regions:** Topic of ForumAlpinum 2007 based on the results of the Swiss Research Programme 48; publication of results. Initiate alp-wide research in these topics and communicate results to the Alpine Convention. Responsible: Heinz Veit, ISCAR-Office, NRP 48,
2. **Identify and promote topics for future research on the Alps:** Accomplish the research agenda to the multi-annual work programme 2005-2010 and find scientists to focus research on topics from this agenda; create attractors for contributions to EU-FP 7; contribute to the COST-Workshop 2008. Responsible: ISCAR-Office
3. **Mountain biodiversity and ecological connectivity in the Alps:** Continue consortium-projects (with WWF, CIPRA and ALPARC) on the implementation of measures in priority conservation areas (local projects) and on ecological connectivity (coordinated with a working group of the Alpine Convention). Responsible: ISCAR-Office, ISCAR-Experts from CEMAGREF, GMBA, Swiss Forum Biodiversity, etc.
4. **Innovation & sustainable development:** Topic of AlpWeek 2008; dissemination of results; interrelations with objectives of Interreg IV. Responsible: AlpWeek-Consortium, Jean-Jacques Brun
5. **Global change research in mountain regions:** Cooperate with MRI to implement the GLOCHAMORE research strategy on global change in mountains (GLORIA, Gradient studies, impacts of UV radiation, water management, etc.). Responsible: ISCAR members, in close contact with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI).
6. **Tourism:** Building up a network of experts; identify emerging topics, stakes and gaps. Organise a workshop for AlpWeek 2008 (in cooperation with Club Arc Alpin). Responsible: Philippe Bourdeau
7. **Protected area research:** Creation of an ISCAR-Working group on protected area research (scientific council for ALPARC); give support to ALPARC; launch a new scientific journal on protected area research; cooperation with European protected areas (planned COST-action). Responsible: Axel Borsdorf, Thomas Scheurer

In addition to these priorities, the following actions have to be continued or started:

- ISCAR has to make its mission clear to the main target publics (scientists, administrations, NGOs), by an own homepage, by a flyer and further publicity.
- ISCAR has to find new modes of funding for a more effective office and to integrate all convention partners in its work (e.g. by a concerted action)
- The future of ForumAlpinum and AlpWeek has to be reconsidered after ForumAlpinum 2007 and Alpweek 2008.
- To establish and publish a list of experts on alpine topics (based on information from ProClim, ICAS and MRI)
- To evaluate opportunities concerning a "Summer School" for young scientists