

New tasks ahead: protected mountain areas in Europe must seek an active role in regional development

During an international workshop held in the Chartreuse Regional Park (France) from 13–15 October 2011, more than 30 experts from science and parks management across Europe discussed the role of protected mountain areas in regional development. The discussion was based on the input of selected experts from Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Austria with special knowledge on protected area issues. In their statements, the experts identified possible economic issues of protected areas as mainly linked to added value generated by park tourism and referred to a wide range of studies. Future research will have to focus more on further economic opportunities generated by parks (ecosystem and cultural services etc.), on the involvement of regional stakeholders (perception, acceptance, multi-level governance etc.) and on regional change management (adaptive measures, scenarios in the light of climate change, demographic change etc.).

The workshop was jointly organized by ISCAR (International Scientific Committee on Alpine Research), ALPARC (Network for Alpine Protected Areas) coordinated by the Task Force Protected Areas of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and NeReGro (Network Regional Development and Protected Areas). Key results will be published in the 2012 issues of *eco.mont – Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research and Management*.

More information: <http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org/workshop2011/>

Parks discussed in this issue

Abbreviations: NP – National Park; BR – Biosphere Reserve; p. – page

