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The international research programmes of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) play a significant role in the Austrian basic and applied earth system sciences research efforts. In total, seven international research programmes are established at the Austrian Academy of Sciences: *Alpine Research*, *Global Change*, *Man and the Biosphere* (MAB), *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* (ISDR), *Hydrology of Austria* (the Austrian contribution to UNESCO's *International Hydrological Programme*), *International Geoscience Programme* (IGCP) and *Geophysics of the Earth's Crust* (GdE). These programmes, administered by national committees established at the ÖAW, are financed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF). While the programmes *Alpine Research* and *Global Change* are definitely focused on mountain, environmental and global change research issues, all other programmes are regularly (co)funding some projects in these fields of research. In the period from 2002 – 2006 the ÖAW research programmes were the most significant source of funding for climate-related research in Austria.

The programme *Alpine Research*, established in 1999, is part of the research cooperation "International Scientific Committee on Alpine Research (ISCAR)". The research programme serves to promote pan-alpine and interdisciplinary cooperation in the field of alpine research. Main research topics include global change, water, traffic, natural disasters, biodiversity, social economy and geoscience.

The *Global Change* programme, established in 1990, covers three international research networks including the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the International Human Dimension Programme (IHDP). The programme aims to promote high-quality research in the field of global environmental changes (e.g. climate, biodiversity) and the transfer of scientific results into practice and to the public. Current research topics are: effects of climate warming on alpine permafrost; global change impacts on species composition of mountain biota; the impact of neobiota; land-use change (the impact of agro-industrial practices on traditional mountain farming); hydrological processes in a changing environment; predictability; and global change effects in alpine and Arctic areas.

In the period from 2005 to 2010, the *Alpine Research* and *Global Change* programmes have financed numerous research projects with a total budget of approx. 3.0 million Euros to work on a wide range of basic and applied research topics. Here is a selection of typical projects:

Permafrost in Austria – PART1: Impact of climate change on alpine permafrost and related hydrological effects; PART 2: Permafrost in rock mass and its effect on ground stability and rock fall	K. Krainer (University of Innsbruck), M. Staudinger (ZAMG Vienna)
Austrian Permafrost Research Initiative (permafrost)	M. Monreal (ÖAW-IGF Innsbruck)
Impact of melting permafrost and rock glaciers on water quality and aquatic organisms in alpine lakes	K. Koinig (University of Innsbruck)
Proglacial stream ecohydrology and climate change over the Alps (PROSECCO.ALPS)	L. Füreder (University of Innsbruck)
Uncertainties of future streamflow scenarios for snow- and ice dominated catchments in the Austrian Alps	W. Schöner (ZAMG Vienna)
Fish from sensitive ecosystems as bioindicators of global climate change: the linkage of climate warming and mercury accumulation in oligotrophic lake food webs in the Canadian Arctic and Austrian Alps (HIGH-ARCTIC)	G. Köck (ÖAW, University of Innsbruck), D. Muir, K. Gantner (Environment Canada)
Climate-driven alterations in biodiversity of high alpine lakes (CLIMBIOFUN)	E. Ilyashuk (University of Innsbruck)
Installation of GLORIA (Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments) summit sites in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves	H. Pauli (University of Vienna)
Climate change response of sensitive habitats and landscapes in Austria (CROSS)	T. Wrška (University of Vienna)
Global change effects on invasive alien plants in Austria: a comparative case study	S. Dullinger (VINCA, Vienna)
Disentangling climate and culture impact on prehistoric alpine cultures (HALL-IMPACT)	K. Kowarik (Natural History Museum, Vienna)
Analyzing mitigation and adaptation strategies for sustainable rural land use and landscape developments in Austria	E. Schmid (BOKU, Vienna)
Prehistoric and antique routes crossing the Eastern Austrian Alps - documentation and reconstruction of archaeological settlement, trade and traffic patterns with the help of a GIS-based archaeological database	O. Urban (University of Innsbruck)
Data base of the mountain and pasture names in East Tyrol: cultural-historical documentation of the living space and the economic area of the "Alps" by means of the names inventory in East Tyrol (ALP_KULTUR)	I. Hausner (ÖAW, Vienna)
Y-chromosomal history of Tyrol: High-resolution analysis of Y-chromosome variability in selected regions of the Tyrolean Alps (Austria): Influences of topology and demographic history on the genetic differentiation	W. Parson (Medical University Innsbruck)
Socio-Economic Impact of Global Change Scenarios on Winter and Summer Tourism in Austria	F. Prettenhaler (Joanneum Research, Graz)
Climate change impacts on energy use for space heating and cooling in Austria II	A. Gobiet (Wegener Center, University of Graz)

Further information on projects funded by the seven international research programmes can be obtained from the ÖAW website (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/english/forschung/programme/programme.html>).

In order to increase both the scientific output and public access to the results of projects financed by the ÖAW research programmes, the option of online publication (including ISBN and DOI) of project reports was introduced in cooperation with Austrian Academy of Sciences Press. Currently, 27 project reports (accessible by full-text search with all WWW search engines) can be downloaded from the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press website (<http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/forschungsprogramme>).

The work as well as the scientific expertise of the seven research programmes are communicated to the public by targeted public relation work. The achievements of the research programmes are also presented at national and international conferences as well as in popular-scientific print media.