



Swiss Parks Network

The logo consists of a green square with the text 'IHC/HPA' written vertically on the left, 'PARCS' written horizontally in the middle, and 'PÄRKE' written vertically on the right. To the right of the square, the words 'RAIT', 'RESEAU', 'RETE', and 'NETZWERK' are stacked vertically.

St. Pierre, Chartreuse, 2011

Andreas Weissen

Parks in the Alps 2005



Parks in Switzerland 2012



Situation 1st January 2012

- **20 Parks and Projects:**
 - 13 in operation (Label „Park of national importance“)
 - 7 in establishment (Label „Candidate“)
- **Categories:**
 - 3 National parks (1 operation, 2 establishment)
 - 16 Regional nature parks (11 operation, 5 establishment)
 - 1 nature discovery park
- ca. 17% of the surface of Switzerland
- ca. 275 municipalities involved



Principles of Swiss Parks Policy

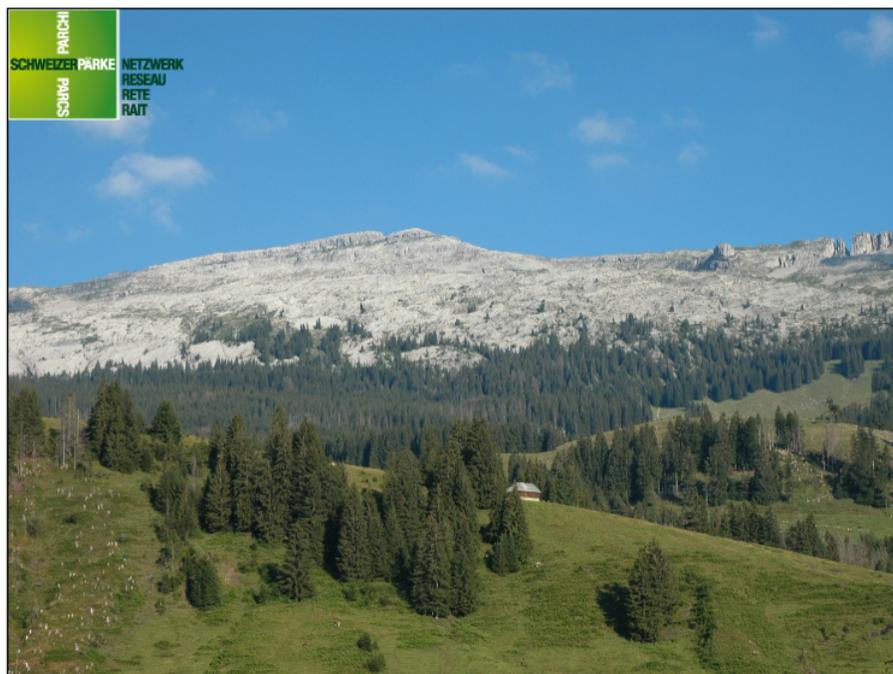
Bottom up initiatives and democratic process:

The new Swiss Parks are the result of regional initiatives. The citizens directly affected decide if their municipality will join a park project.

Incentives instead of regulations/restrictions

a) Providing financial support by the federal government

b) Awarding the label “Park of national importance” by the FOEN Federal Office for the Environment



Expectations of government and population

The Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage defines two goals of parks:

- the preservation and enhancement of nature and landscapes
- the promotion of sustainable economic and social development

The local population expects that parks will bring them additional social and economic values.

Added values?

Economy:

- Jobs
- Income
- Professional Training
- Goods and Services
- Business (firms)
- Innovation
- Cooperation
- Regional circles (...)

Society:

- Population
- Well-being / satisfaction
- Self-confidence
- Identity
- Education
- Participation
- Cooperation / Integration
- Open-Mind (...)

Sustainability



Evaluation / Reporting /Monitoring

- Manager of Parks evaluate their activities and projects and they report regularly to the local, regional and national authorities.
- They have to show what is the output of the park management and the outcome and the impact on nature, landscape, society and economy.
- This is a basic task to guarantee the long-term acceptance and support of the park.

Some fundamental questions

What is the contribution of a park to the (sustainable) regional development?

Can we show the difference that the park make?

How can we calculate and underline with numbers the impact of a park?

How can we “measure” soft-factors like “identity”, “cohesion” “self-confidence”, “well-being”

We need answers

Park managers can (easily) document and calculate their output. But they are overtaxed to deliver numbers concerning the outcome or even the impact of parks.

That’s why we need the help of researchers to get sound answers to some of our questions.

For the “daily life” – simple tools fits well (e.g. questionnaire). But from time to time a sophisticated study is necessary.



Example I (Tourisme)

A bad and simple calculation of the direct financial return of hotels due to Swiss parks (annual, in middle terms):

- 4 million over-night stays in Swiss Parks (2010)
- 10-20% due to the existence of a Park
- Estimation: $600'000 \times \text{CHF } 150 = \text{CHF } 90 \text{ Mio}$



Example II

A bad and simple calculation of the contribution of a park to strengthen the local and regional identity

- ????
- ????
- ????

