



Research programme 2008 – 2018 of the Swiss National Park & the Biosfera Val Müstair (SNP-BVM)

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The Swiss National Park has been founded in 1914 and nominated as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1979. Currently an extension of the Biosphere Reserve (core zone) with a buffer and a transition zone in the Val Mustair (Biosfera Val Müstair) is foreseen by 2010. The research is guided by the Swiss Academy of Sciences and organised by its Research Council of the Swiss National Park and the Biosfera Val Müstair.

Interdisciplinary research topics

Protected areas as SNP-BVM offer best opportunities for scientific research on the long-term evolution of ecosystems and on regional governance of natural resources. The research programme designed by the Research Council of SNP-BVM for the period 2008-2018 is expected to help focusing research activities on most pressing topics. 6 core topics for future research in the SNP (core zone) as well as in the BVM (buffer and transition zones) have been developed for the time-frame 2008- 2018:



Impacts of global and climate change on SNP-BVM and neighbouring regions



Importance of disturbances in the long-term evolution of ecosystems



Ungulates in alpine habitats



Benefits from protected ecosystems and sustainably used natural resources for society



Success factors for a sustainable regional development integrating SNP-BVM



100 years of natural dynamics in the SNP (1914-2014)

These core topics are reflecting the contribution of research and monitoring in SNP-BVM to scientific progress and the main challenges for SNP-BVM in its regional socio-economic context.

How to link science and park management

A main challenge is the link between scientific and management issues. Such a bridge can be successfully built if research is an integrative part of the management. 6 main tasks are addressed to scientists and research institutions cooperating with the Research Council of SNP-BVM:

Provide SNP-BVM with up-to-date scientific knowledge (systems knowledge)

Long-term studies (monitoring) and modeling as a basis for early detection (transformation knowledge)

Fundamentals and expertises for management and decision making (target knowledge)

Contribute to communication and education

Knowledge and data management

Guidance and Coordination

Reference

The Research Programme 2008-2018 (30 pages) is available in German and French:
http://www.nationalpark.ch/deutsch/A_4_3.php (pdf)

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