

Appendix 3: Scenario "Regionalized backwards development"

Context: regional centres
Global Trends: A2
Climate: A2
Population CH: 7.5 Mio
Migration within CH: Regional Centres
Accessibility of mountain regions: High Increase
Tourism Development: Exploitive
Natural Resource Management: Exploitive
Environmental Awareness: No Interest
Consumption Patterns: Regional Products
Economic Growth: Moderate Increase
Agricultural Markets: High Increase in Prices
Wood Prices : Stable Prices
Energy Consumption: Rising Consumptions
Technol. Innovation in Agriculture: Low Innovation Rate
Energy Policy: Business As Usual
Nature Conservation : Reduction
Climate Policy: Low Reduction
Spat Planning Policy: Laisser-Faire
Agricultural Policy: Protection
The Visp region: backwards development
Medium local consequences of climate change
Reduced environmental quality
Urban sprawl and homogenization
Low level protection policy
'Laissez-faire' planning and zoning activities
Reduction of nature protection measures
Strong support of enterprises for local goods
Intensification of agriculture
Difficult management of forests
Increase of renewables
Structural change caused by climate change and low investment
Expansion of the destination management
Structural change of third sector (services)
Higher budget
Care for locational advantage
Large inflows of non-residents (more than 15%)
Reduced quality of life
Increasing attractiveness for residents
Low importance of local identity
High degree of coherence among municipalities

Storyline – regionalized backwards development

The unabated climate change in Switzerland has resulted to a temperature increase of +2.0 °C in winter and +2.5 °C in summer. It has also resulted to a change in precipitation by +2.9 mm in winter and -6.6 mm in summer. The impact of climate change on the region is strong, causing glaciers to melt by 75%. It has also caused a decrease in weather conditions that are snow-secure and a higher frequency of extreme events, such as heat waves and fires (+13%) in summer and floods and landslides in winter. Apart from the forests, touristic infrastructure, such as mountain railways located in areas with low elevation, have also been highly affected, making some of them unfit for use. In addition, the strong competition among skiing regions, most of which are investing in top destination tourism, have led to the decrease of customers and profits among the entire tourism sector. To solve the problem of declining tourism, the region tries to tap the services of established companies from the service sector, such as the call centers, energy providers and IT companies. This strategy partly fails and the region tends to set back into the first and second sectors of the economy. For example, the value chain in agriculture grows, the construction industry increases its benefits and other industry companies, such as Lonza, stay in the region. This “backwards development“ has been faced by the region and transferred further to a planned development, which secures a positive economic development. In general, regional centers in mountain regions gain importance all over Switzerland.

Correspondingly, the Visp region benefits from this development and there is a strong influx of people, which are foreign to the region. In agriculture, the innovation rate remains low but the prices for agricultural products rise due to the protective Swiss federal policy. Switzerland follows a laissez faire-like spatial planning policy that is mirrored in the region. This results to unplanned settlement, homogeneous land-use, and low interest in nature conservation and construction quality. The high degree of unplanned settlement is decelerated by the decrease in tourism. However, the tourism-related buildings remain intact and are used for alternative purposes only in rare cases. The region benefits through the enlarged investments in infrastructure for basic services, culture and sports. In the long term, however, the quality of life shrinks due to the loss of landscape beauty and recreation quality.