

Appendix 5: Scenario "Export product 'Energy Upper Valais' and environmental sustainability"

Context: local sustainability
Global Trends: A1B
Climate: A1B
Population CH: 9.5 Mio
Migration within CH: Migration to Agglomeration
Accessibility of mountain regions: High Increase
Tourism Development: Exploitive
Natural Resource Management: Exploitive
Environmental Awareness: Technical Solutions
Consumption Patterns: Global Production
Economic Growth: High Increase
Agricultural Markets: Decline in prices
Wood Prices : Stable Prices
Energy Consumption: Stable Consumption
Technol. Innovation in Agriculture: High Innovation Rate
Energy Policy: New Priorities
Nature Conservation : Reduction
Climate Policy: Low Emission Reduction Aims
Spat Planning Policy: Laisser-Faire
Agricultural Policy: Liberalisation
The Visp region: export product ,Energy Upper Valais'
Marked local consequences of climate change
High environmental quality
Increase in regionally specific construction and settlement quality
High level protection policy
Very restrictive planning and zoning activities
Extension of nature protection measures
Strong support of enterprises for local goods
Integrated agriculture
Integrated forest management
Increase of renewables
Moderate change and investment
Expansion of the destination management
Governed shrinking of third sector (winter tourism)
Higher budget
Care for locational advantage
Small demographic fluctuations (increase or decrease by up to 15%)
Improved quality of life
Increasing attractiveness for residents
Medium importance of local identity
High degree of coherence among municipalities

Storyline – export product ‘Energy Upper Valais’ and environmental sustainability

Although the international climate policy responds adequately to massive climate change and emissions are widely reduced, the impact of unavoidable climate change (global warming: +1.4 - 3.8 ° C) is still heavily felt in the region. The glacier decline has reached 90%, rock falls and landslides are increasing and the mountain railways are heavily affected, due to the thawing of permafrost. Maintenance of winter tourism is made even more difficult by the strong and tough competition with other resorts, resulting in the decrease of margins. In response to this development, the region decided in great unity to push forward two strategies. The first strategy is to establish a fund that will compensate entrepreneurs when ski lifts are voluntarily abandoned. The second strategy is to use the national trend towards a 2000-watt society, where renewable energies are strongly supported. The region invests in the further development of hydropower. In addition, solar farms are built on land that is not used for tourism, such as steep slopes that are suffering from the effects of drought. Agriculture builds partnership for renewable energy production, such as biomass and area for solar installations. In accordance with national policies, scenic beauty, recreational quality, agro-tourism and sustainable forestry is promoted, providing momentum to summer tourism. The rise in the prices of agricultural and forestry products facilitate integrated forest management and a locally typical type of agriculture and agro-tourism.