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Federal Department of the Environment,  
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**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**  
Legal Division

# The relevance of public participation in the establishment of Swiss parks

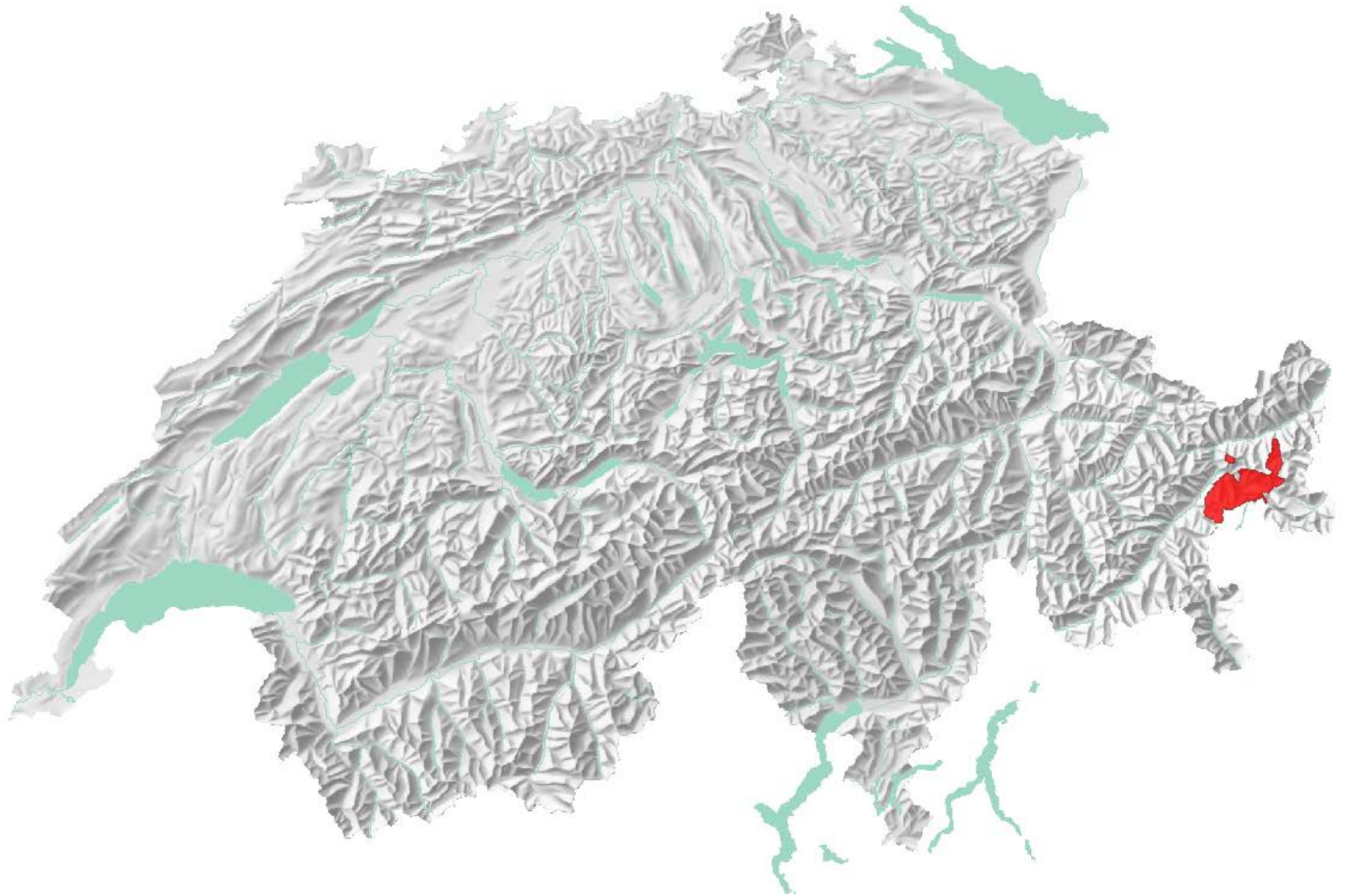


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7th meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making,  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2016



# Swiss parkland until 2008

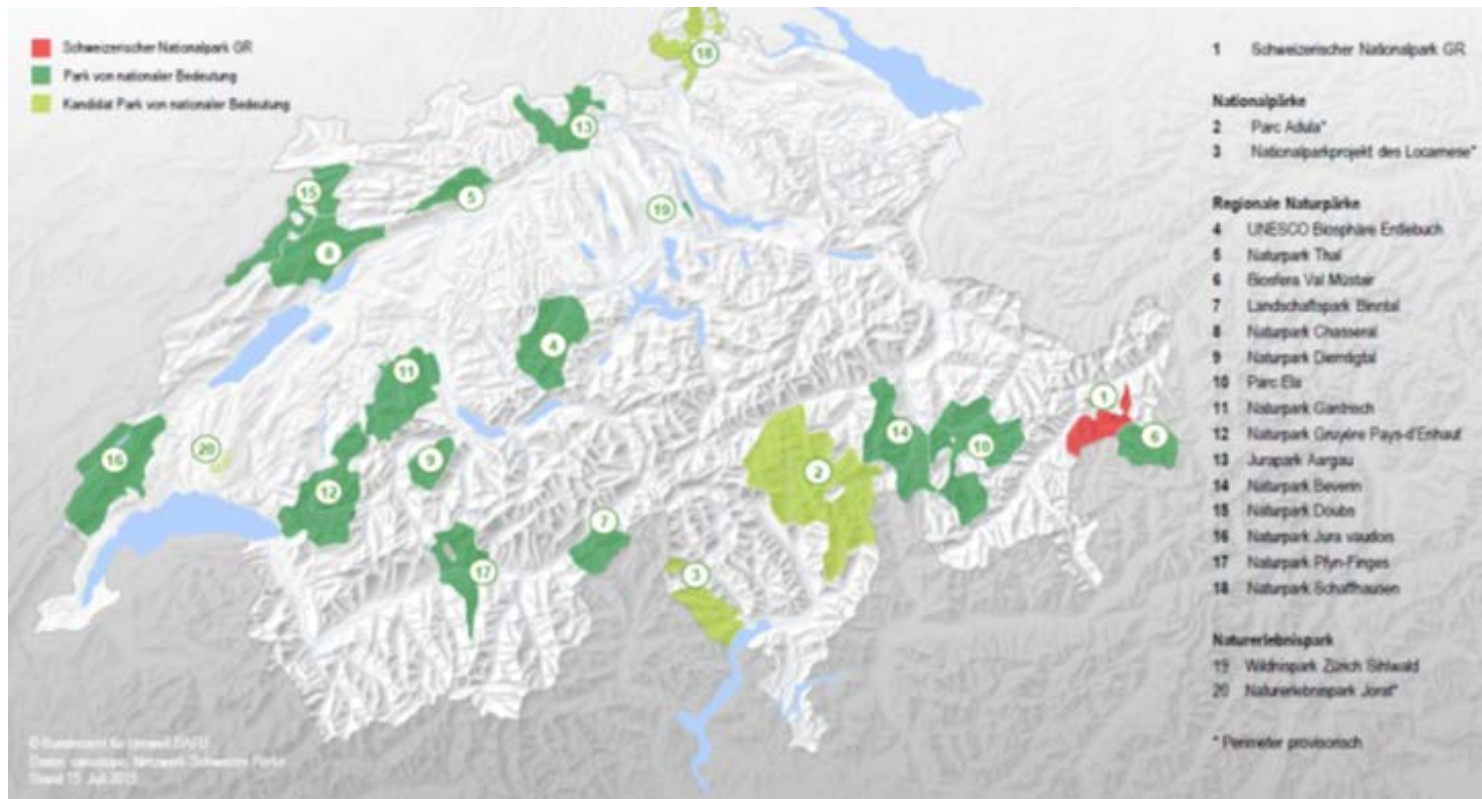






# Swiss parks in 2016

- 1 new **national park** in creation
- 14 new **regional nature parks**, 1 in creation
- 1 established **peri-urban park**, 1 in creation





# Legal bases

Entry into force on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2007:**

- **Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage**
  - Parks of national importance are areas with high natural and landscape values (Art. 23 NCHA)
- **Ordinance on Parks of National Importance**



# Important principles

- Voluntary participation
- Self-determination
- Local democratic process







# Participatory involvement

## 1. Regional initiative

## 2. Park authority

- Concerned communes must be properly represented
- The participation of the local population, interested businesses and organisations must be guaranteed

## 3. Programme agreement Global Financial Aid

- Between the canton concerned and FOEN

## 4. Charter on park management

- Drawn up and implemented by the park authority and communes, in consultation with the canton

## 5. Communal vote on the charter

## 6. Renewal of the charter after ten years



# Reasons for engaging in a participative process

## 1. Necessity for a different approach:

- Choosing a **top-down approach** is not very promising due to the political system in Switzerland

## 2. Enhance acceptance:

- Facilitation of the **implementation process**
- Avoidance of **conflicts of interests**

## 3. Ensure the functioning of the park

- The local communities need to profit from the park to achieve the goals of the park



Thank you for your attention!

