

*English is not an official language of the Swiss Confederation. This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.*

## **Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (Parks Ordinance, ParkO)**

of 7 November 2007 (Status as of 1 April 2018)

---

*The Swiss Federal Council,*

based on Articles 23<sup>l</sup> and 26 of the Federal Act of 1 July 1966<sup>1</sup>  
on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA),

*ordains:*

### **Chapter 1 Subject Matter and Principles**

#### **Art. 1**

<sup>1</sup> This Ordinance regulates the procedure and the requirements for promoting the establishment, operation and quality assurance of parks of national importance.

<sup>2</sup> Such promotion shall take equitable account of the biogeographical regions.

### **Chapter 2 Global Financial Aid, Park Label and Product Label**

#### **Section 1 Global Financial Aid**

#### **Art. 2 Requirements**

<sup>1</sup> Global financial aid shall be granted:

- a. for the establishment of a park of national importance, provided a park authority (Art. 25) is designated and the feasibility of establishing, operating and ensuring the quality of the park in accordance with the requirements for the park are demonstrated;
- b. for managing and ensuring the quality of a park of national importance provided the requirements for the park are fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> Financial aid shall be granted only if the canton and the communes whose territory is included in the park, as well as any third parties, participate in an equitable manner in financing the establishment, operation and quality assurance of the park.

AS 2007 5241

<sup>1</sup> SR 451

**Art. 3** Application

<sup>1</sup> The application by the canton for global financial aid must in particular contain:

- a. a summary of all efforts made on the territory of the canton to establish and operate parks of national importance;
- b. for the establishment of a park, a management plan and the constitution of the park authority;
- c. for the operation of a park, the charter on park management and quality assurance (Art. 26), the constitution of the park authority and proof of the spatial planning safeguards for the park (Art. 27).

<sup>2</sup> In the case of supra-cantonal park projects, the cantons concerned shall coordinate their applications.

**Art. 4** Assessment

<sup>1</sup> The amount of global financial aid is determined by:

- a. the extent and the quality of the services that will be provided in order to fulfil the requirements for the park;
- b. the quality of the provision of those services.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of global financial aid shall be negotiated between the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the canton.

**Art. 5** Programme agreement

<sup>1</sup> The FOEN shall enter into a programme agreement with the cantonal authority concerned.

<sup>2</sup> The programme agreement shall have a maximum term of four years (the programme term).

<sup>3</sup> Financial aid for the establishment of a park shall be granted in the case of national parks for a maximum of two programme terms and in the case of regional natural parks and nature discovery parks for one programme term.

**Art. 6<sup>2</sup>** Further procedural provisions

In relation to payments, reporting and controls as well as failure to adequately fulfil the reporting obligation or the obligation to provide services, Articles 10–11 of the Ordinance of 16 January 1991<sup>3</sup> on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage apply by analogy.

<sup>2</sup> Amended by No I 25 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2007** 5823).

<sup>3</sup> SR **451.1**

## **Section 2      Park Label**

### **Art. 7              Requirement**

The park label shall be awarded if the requirements for the park are fulfilled.

### **Art. 8              Application**

<sup>1</sup> An application for the award of the park label must contain the charter on park operation and quality assurance, the constitution of the park authority and proof of the spatial planning safeguards applicable to the park.

<sup>2</sup> An application for renewal of the park label must also contain a report on the services that have been provided in fulfilment of the park requirements.

<sup>3</sup> The park authority must submit the application to the canton. In the case of supra-cantonal projects, it must submit the application to all the cantons concerned.

<sup>4</sup> The cantons shall examine the application documents and the requirements for the award and forward the application together with their proposals to the FOEN.

### **Art. 9              Award**

<sup>1</sup> The FOEN shall award the park label to the park authority.

<sup>2</sup> The park label shall be awarded for a period of ten years.

### **Art. 10            Exploitation**

<sup>1</sup> The park authority may exploit the park label only to publicise the park.

<sup>2</sup> The exploitation of the park label in order to advertise individual goods or services is prohibited.

<sup>3</sup> If the requirements for the award or the requirements for exploitation are no longer fulfilled, the FOEN shall allow a period within which to remedy the deficiencies. If the deficiencies are not remedied within the period allowed, the park label shall be revoked.

## **Section 3      Product Label**

### **Art. 11            Requirements**

The product label shall be awarded if:

- a. the product or service is primarily manufactured or provided in the park using local resources and in accordance with the principles of sustainable development;
- b. a specification for the product or service is provided that has been approved by the park authority in consultation with the FOEN, attesting to the fulfilment of the requirements for the award.

**Art. 12**      Application

<sup>1</sup> The application must contain the designation of the product or service and the approved specifications.

<sup>2</sup> Individual persons and businesses or groups of persons and businesses that wish to mark specific goods or designate specific services with the product label may submit an application for the award of the product label to the park authority.

**Art. 13**      Award

<sup>1</sup> The park authority shall award the product label provided a certification agency that is accredited for the field of application of this Ordinance under Article 14 of the Accreditation and Designation Ordinance of 17 June 1996<sup>4</sup> has certified compliance with the requirements for the award.

<sup>2</sup> It shall award the product label for the term of certification.

<sup>3</sup> If certification is revoked during this term, the park authority shall revoke the product label.

**Art. 14**      Exploitation

The product label may only be used for marking and marketing the goods and services for which it was awarded.

**Chapter 3      Requirements for Parks of National Importance****Section 1      High Natural and Landscape Values****Art. 15**

<sup>1</sup> The territory of a park of national importance shall be characterised by its high natural and landscape values, and in particular by:

- a. the diversity and rarity of the indigenous animal and plant species as well as their habitats;
- b. the exceptional beauty and the character of the landscape;
- c. a low level of disturbance, by buildings, installations and uses, of the habitats of indigenous animal and plant species as well as of the landscapes and sites of local character.

<sup>2</sup> The territory of regional natural parks and of buffer zones in national parks shall also be characterised by the uniqueness and special quality of the cultural landscape as well as by historically significant sites and monuments.

<sup>4</sup> SR 946.512

## Section 2 National Parks

### Art. 16 Area

<sup>1</sup> The area of the core zone of a national park shall amount to at least:

- a. 100 km<sup>2</sup> in the Alpine foothills and Alps;
- b. 75 km<sup>2</sup> in the Jura and on the south side of the Alps;
- c. 50 km<sup>2</sup> on the Swiss Plateau (Mittelland).

<sup>2</sup> The core zone may be made up of unconnected sub-areas provided:

- a. the total surface area of the core zone exceeds the minimum area in terms of paragraph 1 by at least 10 per cent; and
- b. free natural development is guaranteed.

<sup>3</sup> At least 25 km<sup>2</sup> of the core zone shall be located below the tree line.

<sup>3bis</sup> Part of the core zone may lie in a neighbouring foreign country provided half of the minimum area is located in Switzerland and the other requirements of this Article for the core zone are met.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The buffer zone shall, as far as possible, surround the core zone completely. It shall have an area that is in appropriate proportion to the area of the core zone.

### Art. 17 Core zone

<sup>1</sup> To enable free natural development, the following are prohibited in the core zone:

- a. leaving the paths and routes provided, and bringing in animals;
- b. the use of any vehicles;
- c.<sup>6</sup> taking-off or landing using any civilian, manned aircraft, unless authorisation has been granted under Article 19 paragraph 3 letter a or 28 paragraph 1 of the Off-Airport Landing Ordinance of 14 May 2014<sup>7</sup>.
- c<sup>bis</sup>,<sup>8</sup> the operation of unmanned civilian aircraft;
- d. the construction of buildings and installations as well as terrain modification;
- e. use for agriculture or forestry, with the exception of traditional grazing use in clearly defined areas;
- f. fishing and hunting, with the exception of the regulation of stocks of game species in order to prevent significant damage caused by game;
- g. the collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, plants and fungi as well as the trapping of animals.

<sup>5</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 21 Feb. 2018, in force since 1 April 2018 (AS **2018** 959).

<sup>6</sup> Amended by Annex No 1 of the Off-Airport Landing Ordinance of 14 May 2014, in force since 1 Sept. 2014 (AS **2014** 1339).

<sup>7</sup> SR **748.132.3**

<sup>8</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 21 Feb. 2018, in force since 1 April 2018 (AS **2018** 959).