

Social acceptance of a reservoir in a recently deglaciated landscape in the Swiss Alps

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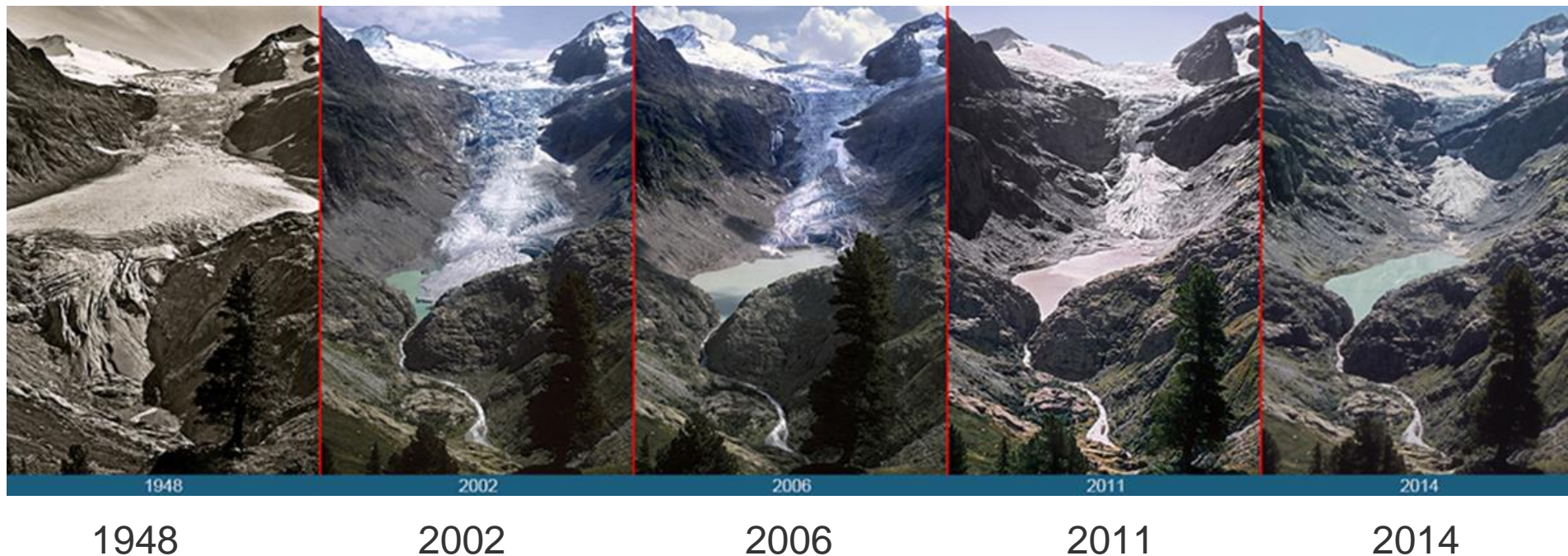
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Melting glaciers → new proglacial lakes in the Alps

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> Trift glacier, Bernese Oberland, Switzerland

Trift project (Bernese Oberland, CH)



> Hydropower reservoir

Unexpected circumstances

- > Dams → impact on nature, biodiversity, and landscape
- > New dam projects often face various conflicts
- > Most of the potential sites for dams are already built up → it is necessary to penetrate into areas that deserve protection, such as recently deglaciated high mountain areas
- > The watercourse habitat is one of the most severely affected habitats in Switzerland
- > Trift project is accepted by most of the actors

Research Questions

- > Which determinants and processes influence social acceptance of a reservoir in a landscape that deserves protection?
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Three main determinants

- 1) Project area: does not yet have protected status
 - 2) Participatory process: with a polycentric design and consider environmental issues
 - 3) The forthcoming popular vote on the national Swiss Energy Strategy 2050
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Thanks

Kellner, Elke (2019): Social acceptance of a multi-purpose reservoir in a recently deglaciated landscape in the Swiss Alps. In *Sustainability* 11 (14), p. 3819. DOI: [10.3390/su11143819](https://doi.org/10.3390/su11143819).