1. INTRODUCTION

In Switzerland, tourism is an important economic activity and it is considered to be one of the most vulnerable to climate change [Ecoplan - Sigmaplan, 2007].

2. OBJECTIVES

We will develop a method to assess regional climate change vulnerability of the tourism sector. We will in particular:

- Provide an introduction to the concept of vulnerability in the context of climate change;
- Identify the key climate change impacts on the tourism sector in Switzerland;
- Identify some of the key determinants of vulnerability (indicators);
- Present spatial representations of relative vulnerability to key impacts throughout Switzerland;
- Provide stakeholders with an opportunity to review and comment on the assessment and suggest options for improvement and/or revision; and
- Stimulate thinking about climate change drivers, impacts and adaptation responses.

3. METHOD

The concept of vulnerability to climate change can be perceived as a function of three components (Figure 1). First, it is a function of exposure to direct (such as changes in temperature and rainfall average) and indirect (e.g. increased risk of natural hazards or snow pack reduction) impacts. Secondly, it is function of sensitivity of the region to them (e.g. tourism or population structure). Finally, it depends from its adaptive capacity (e.g. the social acceptability) [IPCC, 2007]. For the three components, we have selected a total of 67 indicators, divided into the 19 classes presented in Table 1. Indicators will be summed as presented in Figure 2.

We made a selection of seven impacts, following our previous survey of estimates of physical impacts of climate change [Mataschi, 2008]:

- Changes in climate suitability (Tourism Climate Index);
- Snow pack reduction;
- Glaciers melting;
- Permafrost melting – rock falls;
- Natural hazards;
- Water scarcity – drought;
- Landscape changes – scenic beauty

The spatial level of analysis chosen is the spatial mobility region (MS region, Figure 3).

REFERENCES


Acknowledgements and Status of Research

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