

Financial Support for Research and Monitoring Projects in the Swiss National Park

1. Introduction

Research forms one of the core missions of the **Swiss National Park (SNP)**. The Research Commission of the Swiss National Park (FOK-SNP) has a budget to financially support research and monitoring projects in the SNP. Each year, the FOK-SNP allocates approximately CHF 50,000 in funds to support research and monitoring projects in the SNP. In addition, around CHF 20,000 is allocated specifically for monitoring activities in the Spöl and other streams in the catchment area of the Engadine Hydroelectric Power Plants (EKW). A further CHF 10,000 is available to support young researchers and publications, which is funded by the Biedermann-Mantel Foundation. With these funds, the FOK-SNP supports around 20 research and monitoring projects annually in the SNP and its surroundings.

2. Funding Application

To receive financial support for a project, project leaders must submit a **project proposal** to the FOK-SNP by mid-February of each year. The application must justify how funds will be spent and outline other funding sources supporting the project. Applications are then evaluated by the FOK-SNP and funding decisions are made each March. Project applications should align with the FOK-SNP's strategy. The current strategy is the "**Research strategy 2018**".

Remarks:

- In exceptional cases and when the SNP-FOK budget permits, project proposals submitted exceptionally outside of the above timeline may be funded during the year.
- The FOK-SNP only supports projects that are relevant to the goals of research and monitoring in the SNP and its surroundings and that align with the SNP's research strategy.
- The FOK-SNP has a limited budget and can only provide small additional contributions (see Chapter 3). Projects should, therefore, be primarily financed from other sources. Salaries can only be covered in exceptional cases.
- Researchers are encouraged to seek additional funding sources, such as applications to foundations or the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). The FOK-SNP is happy to offer support with such applications.

3. Funding Guidelines

3.1 Expenses

The FOK-SNP can support significant projects, as well as the extension of national and international projects into the SNP and its surroundings by covering expenses. The exact reimbursement amounts are outlined below.

The expense reimbursement includes the following maximum contributions:

- **Accommodation:** Up to CHF 120 per night for senior researchers; up to CHF 50 for students and assistants. Please consider staying at the SNP's Il Fuorn lab.
- **Meals:**
 - In a restaurant: Maximum CHF 30 per person.
 - During fieldwork (picnic): Maximum CHF 15 per person.
- **Travel costs:**
 - Train: Reimbursement of 2nd class tickets (1/2 fare).
 - Car: CHF 0.70 per kilometer. The use of a car should however be avoided wherever possible.

Remarks:

- Expenses should, whenever possible, be covered by existing budgets or projects from the applying institution.
- The SNP offers affordable accommodation at the Il Fuorn lab.

3.2 Measuring Instruments and Laboratory Costs

In certain cases, the FOK-SNP covers the costs for new measuring instruments or laboratory analyses. Researchers must provide detailed plans for these expenses and explain the benefits in the project proposal.

Instruments financed by the FOK-SNP become the property of the Research Commission after the project is completed. Researchers are obliged to return these instruments to the FOK-SNP in good working condition.

3.3 Student Support

Each year, the FOK-SNP has CHF 10,000 available to support students and publications. These funds come from the Biedermann-Mantel Foundation. The goal of this support is to promote students, facilitate their access to the SNP and its region, and increase the attractiveness of research in the SNP.

Students can use the financial support to cover field expenses such as travel, accommodation, and meals. A maximum of **CHF 750** is granted per student. In exceptional and well-justified cases, the support can be higher.

Students at the Bachelor, Master, or PhD level are eligible to apply.

3.4 Remuneration

In exceptional cases, the FOK-SNP covers researchers' remuneration. This applied, for example when a project is carried out with a direct mandate from the FOK-SNP, or where a project is of particular relevance to the FOK-SNP or the SNP. Compensation is provided according to the following list:

Position	Compensation per Hour*
Assistant	CHF 28/hour
Scientific Officer	CHF 55/hour
Senior/Professor	CHF 69/hour

**Current SCNAT rates (as of September 2024).*

Note:

- The FOK-SNP does not cover overhead costs.