

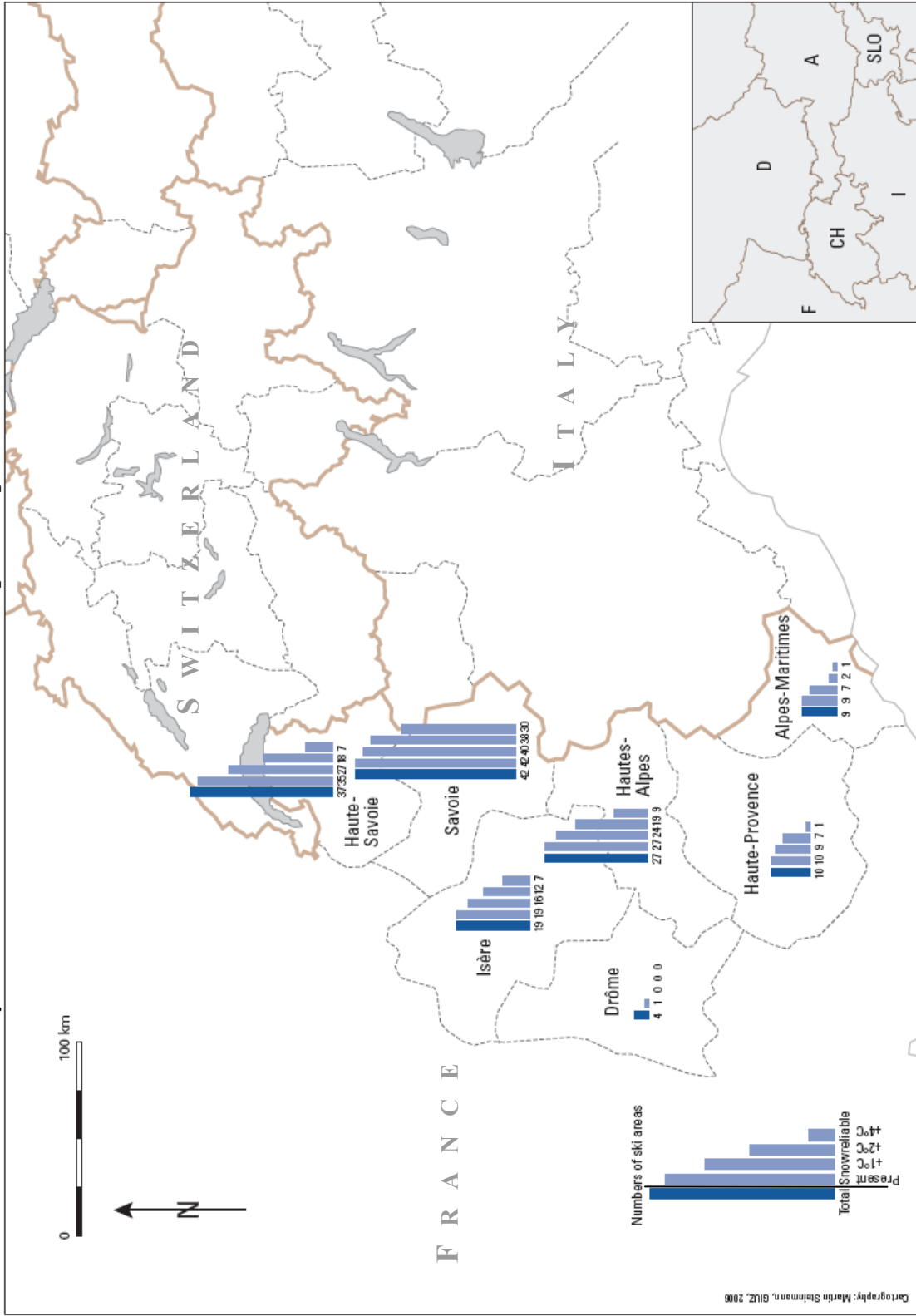
## FRANCE

In France many ski areas operate at fairly high altitudes. This is due to the presence of and access to high-elevation mountain ranges (e.g. Mont Blanc) and to the development of “*stations intégrées*” – resorts built for the single purpose of skiing – for which French ski tourism is famous. These resorts, such as Alpes d’Huez, La Plagne, Les Arcs, Tignes and Val Thorens, are usually located at relatively high altitudes above the traditional villages (which are the base for most ski areas in Austria, Germany and Switzerland), and sometimes even above the treeline.

A 300 m rise in the line of natural snow-reliability (+2°C by 2050) would decrease the number of naturally snow-reliable ski areas to only around 80% of the present total in the Départements of Savoie, Hautes Alpes, and Alpes de Haute Provence (i.e. areas with the highest altitudinal ranges). However, if it were to rise by 600 m (plus 4°C by 2100), the number of naturally snow-reliable ski areas would decline to 71% for Savoie, 33% for the Hautes Alpes and 10% for the Alpes de Haute Provence. The Départements of the Alpes Maritimes in the South and of Isère and Drôme in the West are more sensitive to changes in the line of natural snow-reliability. The same is true for Haute-Savoie, which has a large number of ski areas operating at lower elevations.

See snow-reliability map at the back

Number of naturally snow-reliable ski areas in the French Alps under present and future climate conditions



Note: A = Austria, CH = Switzerland, D = Germany, F = France, I = Italy, SLO = Slovenia