



Implications of the Global Biodiversity Framework on the forest sector in Switzerland



Panel session: “Biodiversity – Implications for forests in the ECE region”
Foresta 2023, San Marino
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Strategic question for forests and biodiversity

Position 1: Should Swiss forests be designated as entirely protected, since they are subject to close-to-nature silviculture, and therefore with almost 90% of its surface area with high biodiversity potential?

OR

Position 2: should only 6% be designated as biodiversity protection because its surface area is explicitly protected under a forest reserve contract?

What will forestry circles, or indeed those defending biodiversity, answer?

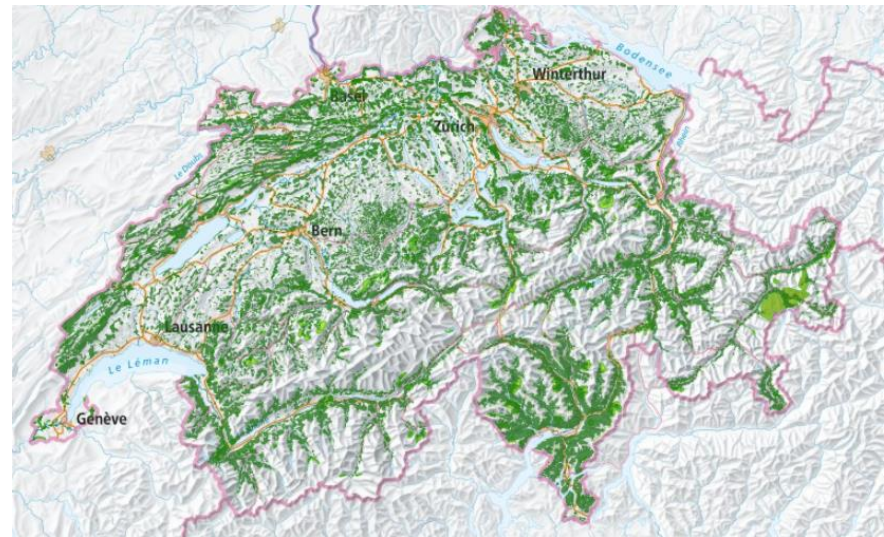
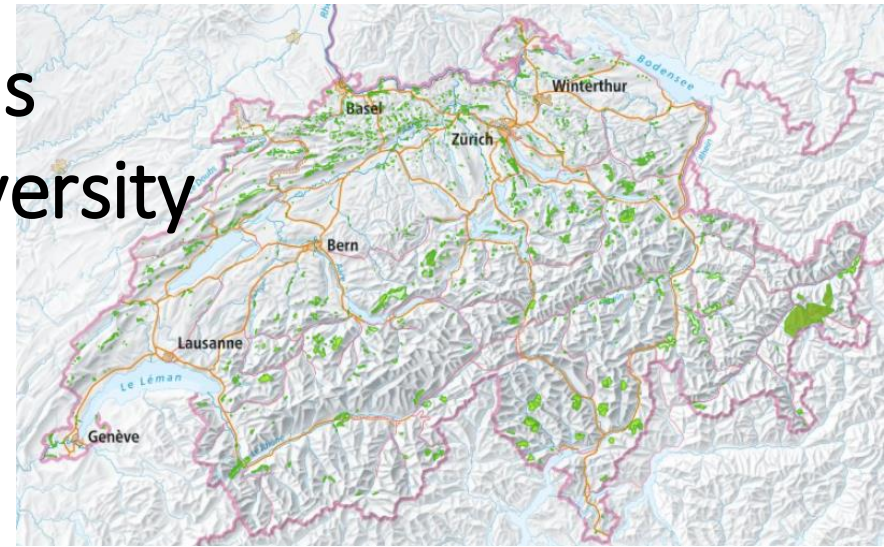




Discussion on forest areas of Switzerland and biodiversity

Forest reserves: 6% of Swiss forests, about 75,000 hectares. These areas are expected to become similar to old-growth forests over decades. The federal government's **Forest “Biodiversity Strategy”**, under which natural forest reserves are promoted, has been in place since the Federal Law on Forests was revised in 1991.

Forest areas (excluding forest reserves): The cantons have the possibility to designate areas with a specific priority function in the forest development plan (WEP). Areas with priority function **nature** are considered as connectivity areas



Connectivity = OECM?

Other effective area-based conservation measures

Forest edges: Like water bodies, forest edges have a great potential to **connect** two "large ecosystems", in this case forest and open land. Forest edges are considered as ecological network areas if they are defined by the cantons within the framework of ecological planning and are ecologically upgraded



Other areas related to forests = Other effective area-based conservation measures?

- OECD = connectivity areas?: wildlife corridors of supra-regional importance, water spaces and revitalizations, old-growth islands and biotope trees in the forest, **forest areas with priority nature** (according to forest development plans), upgraded forest edges
- Alpine areas; in contrast to the lower altitudes, the use apart from alpine farming is usually locally restricted (e.g. ski tourism, energy production). **Alpine areas are therefore mostly still natural or near-natural**. However, unless **core areas** have already been designated (e.g. hunting reserves, alluvial zones), these areas are not taken into account





Core areas of ecological infrastructure based on the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy 2012

- Swiss National Park (National Park Act)
- Core zones of the nature discovery parks (NHG Art. 23h)
- Mires of special beauty and national importance (NHG Art. 23a) and other biotopes of national importance (NHG Art. 18a)
- Biotopes of regional and local importance (NHG Art. 18b)
- Buffer zones (NHV Art. 14)
- Waterbird and migratory bird reserves of national or international importance (JSG Art. 11)
- Federal hunting reserves (JSG Art. 11)
- Cantonal hunting bans and bird reserves (JSG Art. 11)
- Forest reserves (WaG Art. 20)
- Biodiversity promotion areas QII (LwG Art. 73)
- Protected areas of third parties
- Emerald areas



Cartographic overview of protected areas (Parliamentary Motion 02 Schmid)

Schutzgebiete	AG	AR	AI	BL	BS	BE	FR	GE	GL	GR	JU	LU	NE	NW	OW	SH	SZ	SO	SG	TG	TI	UR	VS	VD	ZG	ZH
Schweizerischer Nationalpark NPG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kernzone Naturerlebnispärke NHG Art.23h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.14	-	0.26
Biotope von nationaler Bedeutung NHG Art. 23a u. 18a	1.98	0.63	1.59	1.38	0.81	2.75	2.24	8.31	1.06	2.69	2.02	2.24	1.78	2.05	5.47	1.43	3.92	1.93	1.55	1.58	1.42	2.46	1.91	2.19	2.98	1.74
Biotope von regionaler und kantonaler Bedeutung NHG Art. 18b (keine Geodaten vorhanden)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Pufferzonen Biotope nationaler Bedeutung NHV Art.14 (keine Geodaten vorhanden)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wasser- und Zugvogelreservate von internationaler und nationaler Bedeutung JSG Art. 11	0.34	-	-	-	-	0.46	0.54	10.79	-	-	-	0.34	0.38	-	-	0.46	0.08	0.57	0.50	0.45	0.32	-	0.37	2.51	-	0.99
Eidgenössische Jagdbanngebiete JSG Art. 11	-	3.47	10.16	-	-	3.12	2.34	-	18.15	2.89	-	0.78	1.76	9.68	8.04	-	9.37	-	2.69	-	3.37	6.15	8.16	3.43	-	-
kantonale Jagdbanngebiete und Vogelreservate JSG Art. 11 (keine Geodaten vorhanden)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Waldreservate WaG Art. 20	4.98	2.04	0.77	7.11	0.08	1.36	0.72	3.77	3.59	4.85	2.28	1.85	2.60	2.06	5.47	1.92	4.15	4.22	3.27	2.05	2.36	1.70	1.12	1.16	5.54	2.31
Biodiversitätsförderflächen Qualitätsstufe II LwG Art.73	3.15	2.13	2.21	3.96	1.47	2.00	1.06	-	1.32	1.71	3.50	2.41	0.03	2.88	1.52	3.96	4.11	3.31	2.07	0.91	0.57	0.99	1.12	0.05	4.39	2.88
Naturschutzgebiete Dritter	0.06	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.16	0.02	0.00	-	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.18	0.01	0.04	0.16	0.13	0.03	0.36	0.17	0.03	0.00	-	-	0.07	0.04
Schutzgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung (Smaragdgebiete)	2.30	-	-	-	-	2.84	0.51	9.29	-	1.24	2.85	2.67	0.46	3.53	1.60	0.16	-	0.87	0.26	-	3.84	0.93	0.39	1.72	1.23	1.36



Overview of biodiversity areas and pathways to global target 30% (1/2) (Parliamentary Motion)

1. definition of the biodiversity areas with the following categorization

- a. Biotopes, protected areas and reserves
- b. Habitats of populations worthy of protection
- c. Connectivity areas
- d. Other (?)

2. assess the classification of the following categories of land as biodiversity areas:

- a. Wildlife corridors
- b. Riparian areas
- c. Forest areas (excluding forest reserves)
- d. Forest edges
- e. embankments of roads and railroads
- f. Biodiversity promotion areas of category I
- g. Alps no longer in use
- h. Alpine areas

i. Water bodies (especially lakes)

j. Unproductive areas with unproductive vegetation.

k. Alpine farming areas

l. Wildlife resting areas

3. area information on the categories of biodiversity areas defined according to point 1, indicating the available data sources.



Overview of biodiversity areas and pathways to global target 30% (2/2)

4. milestones for achieving the COP 15 Montréal target with regard to reaching the 30% target, indicating the distribution of the biodiversity area by category.

- Federal hunting reserves (JSG Art. 11)
- Cantonal hunting bans and bird reserves (JSG Art. 11)
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