

*Please provide the following details on the origin of this report*

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<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	22 November 2002

***Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report***

This report has been prepared by the division Nature and Landscape of the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) in co-operation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, the Federal Office for Agriculture, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum and the secretariat of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment in Switzerland.

It takes into account the relevant national laws and strategic papers on sustainability and monitoring projects.

***Mountain Ecosystems***

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) High		b) Medium	<b>X</b>	c) Low	
2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	<b>X</b>	c) Limiting	<b>X</b>
3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) no (not relevant for Switzerland)					<b>X</b>
b) yes, please provide details					

***Assessment, Identification and Monitoring***

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	
c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	<b>X</b>
5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, please specify	<b>X</b>
6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	<b>X</b>
7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	
c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	<b>X</b>

***Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan***

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify sectors	<b>X</b>
9. Has your country applied the Ecosystem Approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	<b>X</b>
10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	<b>see comments</b>
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	
11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	<b>X</b>

***Co-operation***

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	<b>X</b>
13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	<b>X</b>

***Relevant Thematic Areas and Cross-cutting Issues***

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	<b>X</b>
b) yes – but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	
15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no , please specify why	
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	<b>X</b>
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	
16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	<b>X</b>
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	
17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some information in the programmes	<b>X</b>
18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	<b>X</b>
19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify	<b>X</b>

### *Case Studies*

*Please provide case studies made by your country in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems.*

Out of many case studies, the following have been chosen:

Hislaire P (2001) Sustainable Use, Natural Resources, Biodiversity. Learning from Practice

Godde PM, Price MF, Zimmermann FM (2000) Tourism and development in mountain regions. CABI Publishing, Wallingford

Kienast F, Wildi O, Brzeziecki B (1998) Potential impacts of climate change on species richness in mountain forests - An ecological risk assessment. *Biological Conservation* **83**: 291-305

Kohler T, Hurni H et al (2001) Mountains and People: An Account of Mountain Development Programmes supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) - A review of SDC experience in mountain development

Krauchi N, Brang P, Schonenberger W (2000) Forests of mountainous regions: gaps in knowledge and research needs. *Forest Ecology and Management* **132**: 73-82

Series of case studies in the journal Mountain Research and Development (MRD), <http://www.mrd-journal.org>

Series of case studies in the Mountain Agenda / CSD publications:

(2002) Mountains of the World - The Need for Adequate Policies and Instruments

(2001) Mountains of the World - Mountains, Energy and Transport

(2000) Mountains of the World - Mountain Forests and Sustainable Development

(1999) Mountains of the World - Tourism and Sustainable Development

(1998) Mountains of the World - Water Towers for the 21st Century

(1997) Mountains of the World - Challenges for the 21st Century

<http://www.deza.ch>, <http://www.cde.unibe.ch>

Other case studies are to be found on the website of the Mountain Forum e.g: Synthesis report of four test areas (Aletsch, Davos, Grindelwald, and Pays d'Enhaut) of the Swiss MAB-6 programme

(<http://www.mtnforum.org/resources/library/pricm95a.htm#switz>)

or a case study (St.Martin) on community-based sustainable mountain tourism:

(<http://www.mtnforum.org/resources/library/stmar98a.htm>)

### *Further comments*

#### ***General remark:***

Switzerland takes seventh place in the top-twenty of mountainous countries (Mountain Watch 2002, UNEP-WCMC, p.15).65% of the surface of Switzerland are situated in mountain regions. Therefore, the protection of the biological diversity in mountain ecosystems is not treated separately, but is fully integrated in the national and regional laws, regulations and policies concerning nature and environment. The preservation, sustainable use and development of mountain ecosystems is a main objective of the Swiss biodiversity-policy.

The major aspects of these laws, regulations and policies mentioned above are explained in the 1st National Report of Switzerland for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is available on the website of the Convention at: "<http://www.biodiv.org>".

#### ***Question 2***

The resources available on national level for conservation and promotion of sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity are adequate whereas the resources for other measures of conservation and sustainable use are to be considered limited.

#### ***Question 4***

Actions taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity:

- Protection of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity
- Ensuring the economic livelihood of the alpine population
- Protection against natural hazards
- Preservation of the social and cultural characteristics of alpine populations and promotion of a form of development that takes into account their special features and needs

#### ***Question 5***

Some species (animals, plants, lichens and fungi) are directly protected by the ordinance to the Federal Law on protection of Nature and Landscape. Other endangered species are protected by virtue of National Red Lists (listed below). Other species are protected by regional Laws and regional Red Lists (not listed).

National Red Lists:

- National and regional Red List of endangered vascular plants in Switzerland
- Red List of endangered animal species in Switzerland
- Red List of endangered bird species breeding in Switzerland
- Red List of rare or endangered Swiss bryophytes
- Red List of indigenous species of fish and crayfish
- Red List of corticolous or terricolous lichens in Switzerland
- Provisional Red List of endangered higher fungi in Switzerland

### ***Question 6***

Many of those studies in Switzerland are dealing with the vulnerability and fragility of mountain ecosystems. These analysis were brought forth by universities, national research institutes and others. This extensive field of scientific work is not to be summarised in the present report.

### ***Question 7***

The following assessments of the mountain biological diversity in Switzerland were made:

Assessment on genetic level:

Assessment of the Plant and Animal Genetic Resources in Agriculture

Assessments on species level:

- Biodiversity Monitoring in Switzerland (more information at: “[www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch](http://www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch)”)
- Red Lists (see question 5)
- Inventory of Waterfowl and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance

Assessments on ecosystem and landscape level:

- Federal Inventory of Peat Bogs and Transitional Marshes
- Federal Inventory of Fenlands of National Importance
- Federal Inventory of Flood Plains of National Importance, including Proglacial Margins and Alpine Flood Plains
- Federal Inventory of Lean Pastures and Dry Grasslands of National Importance (in preparation)
- Federal Inventory of Mire Landscapes of Particular Beauty and National Importance
- Inventory of Sites of Reproduction of Amphibians of National Importance
- Federal Inventory of Game Reserves
- Federal Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance
- Swiss Biogenetic reserves of the Council of Europe

In addition, assessments on an international level are under way:

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (<http://www.unibas.ch/gmba>): Collection of fragmented knowledge and expertise on mountain biodiversity of all major mountain regions of the world.

Information platform on plants in European mountain regions by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape: <http://www.wsl.ch/land/products/floralp/welcome.ehtml>

### ***Question 8***

National regulations:

- Federal Law on the Protection of Nature and the Landscape (1966)
- Federal Law on Land-use planning (1979)

- Federal Law relating to the Protection of the Environment (1983)
- Federal Law on Environmental impact assessment (1983)
- Federal Law on hunting and protection of mammals and wild birds (1986)
- Federal Law on Forests (1991)
- Federal Law on water pollution control (1991)
- Federal Law on the Management of Watercourses (1991)
- Federal Law on investment aid for mountain areas (1997)
- Federal Law on Agriculture (1998)

Policies, strategies and programmes:

- Swiss Landscape Concept (SLC): a coordinated strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (sectoral objectives and measures; Federal buildings and installations; Energy; Sports leisure and tourism; National defence; Agriculture; Aviation; Protection of nature, landscape and cultural heritage; Area planning; Regional policy; Transports; Forests; Hydraulic engineering; Hydraulic power)
- Sustainable Development Strategy 2002 (areas of action: Economic policy and public services; Financial policy; Education, research, technology; Social cohesion; Health; Environment and natural resources; Spatial and settlement development; Mobility; Development co-operation and promotion of peace; Methods and instruments)
- Swiss National Forest Programme (Focus areas: Forest resources; Forest health and vitality; Productive function; Biodiversity; Protective function; Socio-economic functions)
- National Biodiversity Monitoring ([www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch](http://www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch))

***Question 9 See question 7***

***Question 10***

Switzerland has integrated all regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity in mountain ecosystems in national and regional laws and in various sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies (compare question 8).

***Question 11***

In order to reach the relevant actors concerned, information is disseminated using different channels.

A major channel are the publication series of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL). Information about these series can be retrieved from the website of the Agency at : "<http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/eng/medien/publikationen/>".

Detailed information concerning agriculture are published annually in the "Agricultural Report" ("[www.blw.admin.ch/agrarbericht2/e/](http://www.blw.admin.ch/agrarbericht2/e/)").

Fact sheets, magazines of professional associations, periodicals of National Research Stations and other scientific journals as well as the public press provide further vehicles to disseminate information.

Farmers are informed by specific agricultural journals and newspapers as well as the agricultural consultants.

### **Question 12**

There are collaborations on the international level (e.g. International Commission for the Protection of the Alps(CIPRA, see: <http://www.cipra.org>)or with FAO and their mountain programme, see <http://www.mountains2002.org/>), on the regional level (e.g. a network of communes in the Alps, called : Gemeindenetzwerk "Allianz in den Alpen", <http://www.alpenallianz.org/e/allianz.htm> ) and on the scientific level (e.g. Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, (<http://www.unibas.ch/gmba/>). GMBA is a research network aiming at a synthesis of knowledge on the biological richness, its function and change at all major mountain regions of the world. It's part of the Swiss Forum Biodiversity (<http://www.biodiversity.ch>) and a Swiss contribution to DIVERSITAS (<http://www.icsu.org/diversitas>), financed by Swiss Agencies such as SAEFL and SFOAG. GMBA held a briefing for delegates at COP6 (The Hague) on scientific priorities for mountain biodiversity research and is currently providing expertise for the preparation of CBD-documents on the topic "Mountain Biodiversity" and by holding a key-note at SBSTTA 8 (Ch. Körner). See also underquestion 13 and 19.

### **Question 13**

- UNESCO Convention on the protection of global cultural and natural heritage (World heritage: Mountain region Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn).
- The Alpine Convention
- Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy
- European Landscape Convention

### **Question 14**

- Agricultural biodiversity:  
The state and the progress of sustainable use of the agricultural biodiversity in Switzerland is assessed and published annually in the "Agricultural report". This report and further details are available on the website of the Federal Office for Agriculture at "[www.blw.admin.ch](http://www.blw.admin.ch)".
- Inland waters:  
Watercourses in mountain regions may be affected through hydraulic engineering and hydroelectric power facilities. Measures taken to optimise new and existing projects and for the protection of watercourses are available on the website "[www.landschaftskonzept.ch](http://www.landschaftskonzept.ch)".
- Forest:  
The Swiss National Forest Programme is a political action programme. It contains long-term visions for the desired state of the forest; derived from these visions are specific objectives for the year 2015 and strategies for fulfilling the proposed objectives.  
The Forest Programme includes six focus areas: forest resources, forest vitality and health, productive function, biodiversity, protective function and sozio-economic functions. The mountain forest ecosystems are considered in all focus areas. Information on the Swiss Forest Program are available on the website "[www.waldprogramm.ch](http://www.waldprogramm.ch)".
- Dry and sub-humid lands:  
Please compare: "Questionnaire on the Dry Lands and Collaborative partnership in the

implementation of the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands of the Convention on Biological Diversity”.

As far as international cooperation is concerned, SDC – as part of the federal government – is following the same approach, i.e. that sustainable management of natural resources is the underlying basic principle for any activities.

### ***Question 15***

The Confederation task is, in accordance with the Federal Law on the protection of Nature and the Landscape, to carry out its tasks (construction, granting concessions, subsidies, etc) with due respect for biological and landscape diversity. All projects with federal involvement must satisfy these conditions.

Ordinance on Environmental Impact Assessment: An environmental impact assessment is obligatory for all projects which have effect on land and the environment (construction of housing developments, roads, railways, pipelines and cables etc.).

Swiss Landscape Concept (SLC): Sport, leisure and tourism is a sectorial objective of the SLC.

### ***Question 16***

In Switzerland we have no comprehensive programme so far to protect the traditional knowledge of local communities. However, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities are promoted by the granting of the label “Appellation d'origine contrôlée“ (AOC) to some agricultural products (e.g. wine, cheese, sausages and others). The Swiss organization Pro Specie Rara intends to register the traditional knowledge of farmers and breeders on domestic animals. Some local initiatives try to save the traditional knowledge on plant use in mountain valleys in selected regions of Switzerland.

### ***Question 17***

There are three main initiatives to protect the natural and cultural heritage in the Swiss mountains:

- the Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance
- the Inventory of Swiss Heritage Sites ([www.isos.ch](http://www.isos.ch))
- the Inventory of Historic Traffic Routes in Switzerland ([www.isv.unibe.ch](http://www.isv.unibe.ch))

### ***Question 18***

The surface of protected areas is listed below according to their IUCN classification. As the different classes may overlap, an adding up of the surfaces is not permissible.

Total mountain area of Switzerland: 2'581'916 ha

IUCN I: 172'000 ha (6.7 %)

IUCN IV: 257'481 ha (9.9 %)

IUCN V: 593'728 ha (23 %)

It is stressed that the surfaces mentioned above are to be considered with care, due to an ongoing census of the protected forest areas.

### ***Question 19***

#### Activities in Switzerland:

- Pooling of experience acquired from Swiss-financed programmes and projects for sustainable development in alpine regions.
- Information and education campaigns in Swiss schools and, with the collaboration of UNESCO, in schools in over 150 other countries.
- World Mountain Symposium WMS2001: Community Development between Subsidiarity, Subsidiarity, and Sustainability; Interlaken, 30 September to 4 October 2001
- Support for special international activities in Switzerland e.g. actions in the Canton of Valais which focus on water management in alpine regions.
- Special information and media activities, support for various cultural events related to mountains.
- The Swiss Biodiversity Forum published a special issue of its regular journal HOTSPOT on new research results concerning mountain biodiversity ([www.biodiversity.ch](http://www.biodiversity.ch)). The Swiss Biodiversity Forum is supported by the SAEFL.

#### International activities

- Co-operation in launching the Partnership Initiative for Mountain Development. The initiative was officially launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (26 August to 4 September 2002).
- Contributions to the CSD 10 and Rio+10
- Launch and support for the FAO
- Ongoing support for the FAO
- Support for local, national and regional actions in the priority regions of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Support for the the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit (BGMS) scheduled for 29 October to 1st November 2002 in Kyrgyzstan, including pre-summit conferences.
- Series of publications on sustainable mountain development
- Global preparatory conference to the IYM2002 with all major international stakeholders in September 2001 in Interlaken, Switzerland
- Support of the Mountain Forum
- Significant programmes as follow-up to the IYM2002 are under preparation
- Switzerland organised, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the international Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M2002), which was held in June 2002 at Adelboden, Switzerland ([www.sard-m2002.ch](http://www.sard-m2002.ch)).

For more detailed information please consult the website of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at "[www.deza.ch](http://www.deza.ch)" and also the website of Swiss National Activities for IYM 2002, <http://www.berge2002.ch/> "