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AND SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS ★  
ABOUT NATURAL CAPITAL

# Country Fact Sheet **SWITZERLAND**

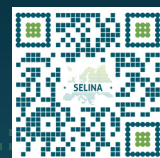


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## Country Fact Sheet: Switzerland (CH)

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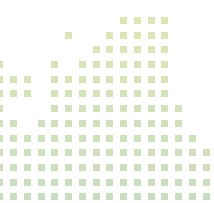
If you feel there are ongoing or upcoming research projects, policy initiatives or legislations, concerning the use of biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services knowledge in decisions and policies, missing, please contact [inge.lieken@vito.be](mailto:inge.lieken@vito.be) and we will update the country fact sheet (until March 2027)

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# 1

## Update on projects concerning biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services assessment and accounting since 2022

Commissioned by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the interdisciplinary research team in charge of the research project ValPar.CH examines the benefits and added values of the ecological infrastructure (EI) in parks of national importance. This network of ecologically valuable areas forms the basis of ensuring the social, economic and ecological values of nature's contributions to

people (NCP, ecosystem services). The ValPar.CH research project is one of three sub-measures of the pilot project "Valorisation of the ecological infrastructure in the parks of national importance" as part of the "Action Plan for the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (AP SBS)".

More details are available under [www.valpar.ch](http://www.valpar.ch)

# 2

## Perceived barriers and needs to enhance uptake

### 2.1 Barriers

- Research outputs temporally not in-line with needs from the cantons.
- Level of details of calculations not suitable for site-specific measures
- No mandate to consider future change.
- Difficult to consider multiple values of nature, no aggregated information.
- Lack of understanding of the role of NCPs for supporting ecological infrastructure.

### 2.2 Needs

- Courses/education for practitioners for awareness raising on biodiversity and NCPs and their temporal and spatial dimensions.
- Political mandate to consider NCPs in defining ecological infrastructure.
- New policy instruments to consider flexible conservation areas because of temporal changes in species distribution due to climate change.
- Policy to plan across administrative boundaries.



# 3

## On the way to transformative change

The overall conclusion of the IPBES global assessment (IPBES 2019) was that Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond, may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.

Transformative or transformational change refers to “a fundamental, system-wide reorganization

across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values” (IPBES, 2019). Simply said, doing things differently, rather than doing less or optimising the system.

A means to enhance uptake is bringing people of the quadruple helix together and exchange information and learn from each other. Another is to establish projects that can show that it works and lead to possible pathways of transformative change.

### 3.1 Community of practice

The existing network will be expanded by other networks (e.g. Speed2zero – a research network) to jointly develop a platform for defining renewable energy locations.

### 3.2 Seeds of transformative change

There are no projects nominated through the online survey except an international project:

#### Network of Transition Town Initiatives in German-speaking countries

##### ■ Objectives of the network:

- Connecting and supporting transition town initiatives in German-speaking countries
- Publicity work to spread the idea of transition.

##### ■ Objectives of individual transition town initiatives:

- Promoting and practicing a sustainable lifestyle on a local scale (within their respective towns)
- Initiate a transition on an individual level to ensure a sustainable, liveable future.



**Project duration:** 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2027

**Keywords:** biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services, natural capital accounting, evidence-based decision-making, transformative change

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## PROJECT PARTNERS

-  Leibniz University Hannover
-  Stichting Capitals Coalition
-  Ecostack Innovations Limited
-  University of Trento
-  Pensoft Publishers
-  Centre for Ecological Research
-  Mykolas Romeris University
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-  Wageningen University
-  The Finnish Environment Institute
-  Global Change Research Institute SarVision
-  Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
-  Gaspar Frutuoso Foundation
-  Flemish Agency for Nature and Forest
-  Municipality of Trento
-  Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
-  Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
-  Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources
-  University of Haifa
-  COHAB Initiative Secretariat
-  KTH Royal Institute of Technology
-  Croatian Forest Research Institute
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