



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Swiss Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Division

Switzerland's strategic approach to biodiversity conservation

- What has been done so far?
- All problems solved?
- Current work, obstacles





Work done so far...

—1994	- Ratification of Convention on Biodiversity - Launch Red List Programme of threatened species in Switzerland
—1995	- Launch Swiss Biodiversity Monitoring Programme
—1997	- Sustainable development strategy (revised 2002, 2008) - Swiss Landscape Concept [NBSAP1]
—1999	- National Action Plan on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
—2003	-Landscape 2020 -Guiding principles for Swiss watercourses
—2004	- National Ecological Network - Swiss National Forest Programme 2004 – 2015
—2008	- Environmental objectives for agriculture

+++ many Action Plans and Management Plans +++



There are achievements towards the 2010 target...

- **Data on Switzerland's biodiversity**
 - Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland (latest report 2009)
 - Swiss data centers
- Increase of size of **protected areas** since 1991; currently around 13%
- Improvement of **ecological network**
- **Private sector involvement**
 - e.g. Foundation 'Nature & Economy'
- Increase in **communication / education**
 - Eg Forum on Biodiversity/ 'naturally interconnected'



...and there are problems waiting to be resolved!

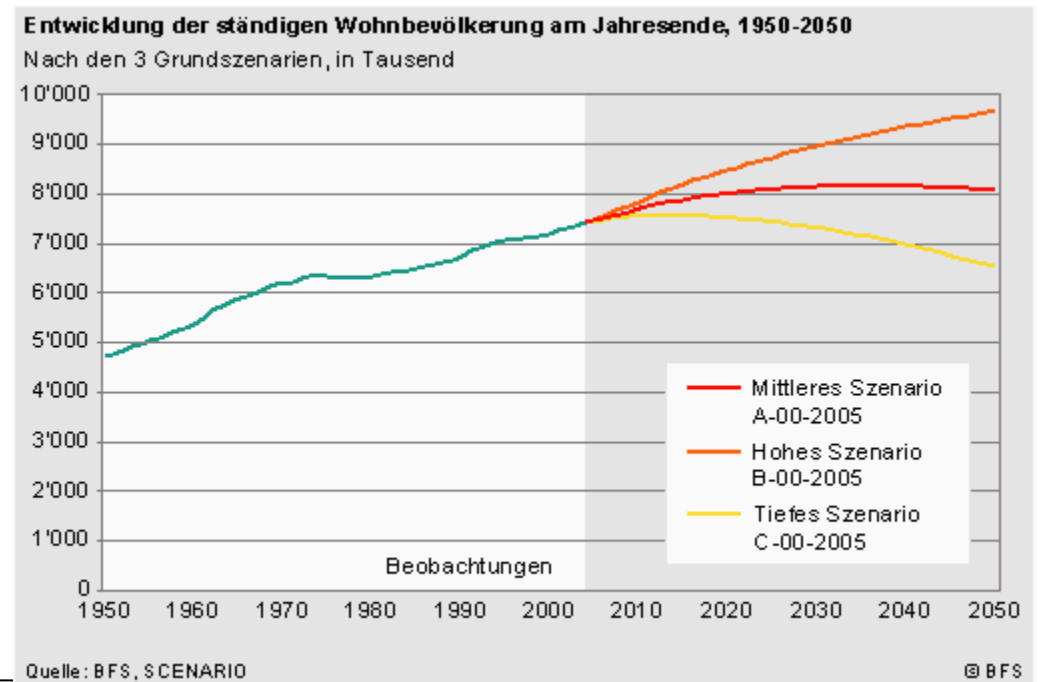


1. Surface, quality and connectivity of habitats continue to decline; and so are the species that depend on it
 - Every second 0.9 m² of land is converted to settlement; mostly at the loss of fertile agricultural land
2. The Biodiversity decline is insidious; the society does not perceive the decline nor the need for immediate action
3. The economic costs due to the loss of ecosystem services are underestimated
4. Ecological Footprint of Switzerland is high, and thus the reliance on the global biodiversity



Further challenges ahead...

- Continuous Population Growth
 - Pressure on remaining land increases
- Climate change / Water / Energy
- Effects of non-native species (Neobiota)
- Effects of new technologies / substances





New mandate for a NBSAP

- Mandate by the Federal Parliament to elaborate a new National Biodiversity Strategy (September 2008)
- To be adopted by the Federal Council, accepted by the parliament
- Finalized version due early 2011
- Work began in early January 2009
- Relevant actors are included in the elaboration process
- Scope: national & international issues





Work in progress....

- In the focus of our attention:
 - The resilience of biodiversity
 - The safeguarding of ecosystem services in the long-term
 - The mainstreaming of biodiversity into all relevant sectors (*alias* common benefit, shared responsibility)



Obstacles along the way....

- ‚Seeing the forest amongst the trees‘
 - many processes in parallel at the federal level (e.g. adaptation strategy, development of agricultural policy)
 - NBSAP elaborations at the cantonal level
 - Challenge to coordinate! To keep an overview!
 - Challenge for our implementing partners on the ground!

- Legacy of past communication!
 - We say ‚Biodiversity‘
 - They understand nothing!
 - Or they think ‚*Giant Panda*‘!
 - Challenge to communicate biodiversity as an essential basis for life! It is more than just something ‚nice to have‘...



Thank you!



Source: www.ethlife.ethz.ch, 2006



Source: <http://www.fe.ethz.ch/research/standdynamics>