

# Ramsar National Report to COP14

## Section 1: Institutional Information

**Important note:** the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at <https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Aperson#search-contacts>

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP14 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below)

› Switzerland

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

20012021\_Scan\_von\_HP\_MFP.pdf - Letter of confirmation

### Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority

› Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title

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### Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title

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### Designated National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Name and title

› Sabine Herzog, Senior Policy Advisor

Name of organisation

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**Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)**

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Name of organisation

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**Designated Non-Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)**

Name and title

› -

Name of organisation

› -

Mailing address

› -

Telephone/Fax

› -

Email

› -

## Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP13 reporting)

### A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

1)

> Protected areas: The habitats of national importance, including fens, raised bogs, dry grasslands, riparian areas, flood plains, and amphibian breeding sites, are a crucial element of the network of protected sites in Switzerland. For the reporting period, the following developments of the Swiss protected sites network is highlighted:

65 additional fenlands in the mountain region of canton Graubünden protected:

With the revision of the Ordinance on Fenlands of National Importance, 65 fenlands in the mountain regions of Graubünden are designated as of national importance and are therewith protected by national legislation by 1st January 2021. The revision of the Ordinance also includes a review of 160 already designated fenlands.

This adds another 2478 hectares to fenlands of national importance that are protected under national legislation (fenlands of national importance: total 22'158 ha).

For further information, see 8.2

“Monitoring the effectiveness of habitat conservation in Switzerland (WBS)“:

The project aims at monitoring whether the habitats of national importance evolve according to the conservation targets defined. First analyses show that raised bogs and fens have become drier over the past two decades. Furthermore, fens, raised bogs, and dry grasslands are experiencing shrub encroachment and increased colonization of nutrient-loving species. In addition, the national amphibian breeding sites have lost an average of one amphibian species per site. However, there were also positive developments; for example, in the raised bogs of the Swiss lowlands, woody cover decreased, and the losses of common amphibian species have been compensated by the observation of new species in amphibian breeding sites. Moreover, populations of rare amphibian species have also stabilized in some cases. These positive findings demonstrate that conservation measures are effective and should therefore be continued or even enhanced.

For further information, see 8.5

2)

> Revision of the Ordinance on Fisheries: The aim of the revision is to update the national red list status of the native fish and crayfish species listed in Annex 1 of the ordinance and to make taxonomic adjustments.

The new endangerment statuses of fish and crustaceans are based on data on their distribution throughout Switzerland and following various national research programmes (e.g. "Projet lac", "Progetto fiumi", etc.) and were established following the IUCN categories and criteria. All faunistic information collected was stored in the national database "Info Fauna", which is managed by the Swiss Centre for Fauna Cartography (SZKF). The data were used in particular in the compilation of the new distribution atlas of fishes and cyclostomes in Switzerland, which was published in 2018.

For further information, see 9.2

3)

> Federal Council approved a total credit of CHF 1022 million for the second stage of the Rhone correction during the years 2020 to 2039: The 3rd Rhone correction of the cantons of Valais and Vaud covers a length of 162 kilometres of the river Rhone between the Ramsar site "Rhonegletschervorfeld" in the east and the site "Les Grangettes" on the shore of Lake Geneva in the west. This makes the project the largest flood protection project in Switzerland in recent times.

In addition to more safety, the project will also bring more nature to the Rhone by implementing river widening measures in support of biodiversity. The project started in 2009, is a project for generations and will take several decades to complete.

The Federal Council wants the ongoing work on the flood protection project on the Rhone to continue. At its meeting on 14 December 2018, the Federal Council approved a total credit of CHF 1022 million for the second stage of the Rhone correction during the years 2020 to 2039.

For further information, see 12.2

4)

> Study "Biodiversity-damaging subsidies in Switzerland": The Federal Council's Swiss Biodiversity Strategy aims to identify the negative effects of such measures and to abolish, gradually dismantle or redesign the harmful subsidies. A study carried out by the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum (SCNAT) identifies 162 subsidies harmful to biodiversity and makes recommendations on how they can be abolished or reconfigured.

For further information, see 3.4

5)

› Revision of the Ordinance on Waters Protection: Pesticides and other micropollutants can contaminate drinking water resources (groundwater, most importantly) and harm aquatic organisms in surface waters. To improve water protection, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) has adapted the Water Protection Ordinance (WPO). As hitherto, organic pesticides must not exceed 0.1 micrograms per litre in lakes, streams and rivers used for drinking water supply. New, stricter limit values were introduced in the Water Framework Directive for twelve pesticides that are particularly problematic for aquatic organisms. In addition, three medicines will now also be subject to limit values. The revised Water Ordinance entered into force on 1 April 2020.

## **B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?**

- 1)
  - › Pressures on habitats / land use changes / spatial planning
- 2)
  - › Effort to extend the network of protected areas for waterbirds were stopped because of the rejection of the revision of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds by a referendum on 27.09.2020.
- 3)
  - › Conflicts / trade-offs, e.g. agriculture, fishery
- 4)
  - › Conflicts / trade-offs with renewable energy policy, e.g. small hydropower plants
- 5)
  - › -

## **C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?**

- 1)
  - › Maintenance and remediation of existing protected areas as well as of areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas (OECMs).
- 2)
  - › Revision of the Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act with the following key points: Anchoring of a concrete area target in the law; increased restoration of national biotopes as well as revitalization of floodplains, networking of water and migratory bird reserves or Ramsar sites, improved species protection in urban areas and agglomerations. Increase of financial support.
- 3)
  - › Design of the countrywide ecological infrastructure with special emphasize on securing the ecological connectivity among wetlands
- 4)
  - › Consideration of ecosystem services in spatially relevant decisions
- 5)
  - › Analysis of the need for action for Switzerland resulting from the post2020 global biodiversity framework

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning priorities for implementation assistance and requirements for such assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

› -

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

› -

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), World Heritage Convention (WHC), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

› The global strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 provided the opportunity for increased collaboration

among MEAs, to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of MEA implementation at the global, regional and national level. This opportunity was so far not sufficiently seized at all levels. None of the Aichi Targets was fully achieved.

It is therefore of high priority for Switzerland, that the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, that is expected to be adopted at CBD COP-15, further strengthens the cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and thereby contributes to effective and efficient implementation of the biodiversity framework. In this context, Switzerland hosted two Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern I in 2019 and Bern II in 2021). Participants included nominated Ramsar Party representatives, as well as representatives of the Ramsar secretariat. Options to increase the effective use of synergies, to highlight and communicate the achievements of MEA implementation include, as mentioned in CBD COP decision XIII/27 para 9:

- Common sets of indicators, where appropriate;
- Common reporting modules on shared issues;
- Interoperability of information management and reporting systems;
- Harmonization of tools for national reporting.

A joint timing for reporting would also ease much the work of the Parties and enhance the links between MEAs. At the national level, a national committee could examine the topics of joint interest to link the conventions for future joint national actions and international joint decisions.

The implementation of the global Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Helsinki Convention), through all the joint bodies Switzerland has with its neighbors on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters will also greatly contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

G. How is the Ramsar Convention linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity) and how this could be improved?

› The resolutions and guidance provided by the Ramsar Convention are taken into account for policy/strategy development, alike decisions and guidance from other biodiversity-related conventions. The impact of the global biodiversity community on national policy/strategy development could be increased by fostering the use of synergies among the conventions, the adoption of common sets of indicators, shared reporting modules and establishing interoperability of information management and reporting systems.

H. According to paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between men and women participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

› No data readily available to answer this question

I. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

› Focal points need to be the ambassadors of the convention at the national level and inform on a regular basis the different levels of national governance. The COP preparation should encompass all the relevant Ministries.

J. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report

› Federal office for the environment FOEN  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

## Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

### Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

#### Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1 Have wetland conservation and the identification of wetlands benefits been integrated into sustainable approaches to the following national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

Please select only one per square.

a) National Policy or strategy for wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
b) Poverty eradication strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
e) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
f) National forest programmes	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

i) National policies on energy and mining	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
j) National policies on tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
k) National policies on urban development	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
l) National policies on infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
m) National policies on industry	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not Relevant

### 1.1 Additional information

› The following questions are not applicable to Switzerland: b), d), e)

## Target 2

Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8], [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

2.1 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.

☒ A=Yes

### 2.1 Additional Information

› The Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (Waters Protection Act, WPA, 1992) aims at protecting waters against harmful effects, in particular to preserve the health of people, animals and plants, to preserve the natural habitats of indigenous fauna and flora, and to preserve waters suitable as a habitat for fish. The Act requires a permit by any person who, over and above normal public use (Art. 29): a. withdraws water from a watercourse with permanent flow; b. withdraws water from lakes or groundwater resources in such a way as to affect substantially the discharge rate of a watercourse with permanent flow. Further, the Federal Council

specifies the water quality requirements for surface and underground waters (Art. 9). The state of and changes in Swiss bodies of water is monitored by the National Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network (NAWA). NAWA surveys are conducted in close cooperation between the federal government and the cantons and are coordinated by the Federal Office for the Environment. The concept provides for the following levels of monitoring:

**TREND:** Basic long-term monitoring network The TREND monitoring programme is designed to provide a long-term overview of the state of Swiss watercourses. In addition, watercourses are studied at monitoring sites distributed across Switzerland using the same, uniform set of parameters. Since 2011, chemical and physical parameters have been recorded at 111 monitoring sites (currently 135 sites), the biological surveys take place every four years (last survey: 2019).

**SPEZ:** Problem-related special monitoring. Specific issues are clarified with temporary, in-depth monitoring programmes. These surveys take place at selected monitoring sites that are closely studied using specific methods. As part of these surveys, screening analyses were conducted in 2012, 2015 and 2017 on pesticides and other micropollutants at five monitoring sites per campaign (13 sites in total). Other programmes are being developed on an ongoing basis.

**NADUF:** Long-term study of sediment load in rivers. The National River Monitoring and Survey Programme (NADUF) monitors changes in concentrations and loads of important substances in the water of selected Swiss rivers. Since 1972, chemical parameters (nutrients, geogenic substances, heavy metals), the level (discharge) as well as water temperature, electrical conductivity, pH and oxygen are continuously studied at selected sites (samples are collected).

The NAQUA National Groundwater Monitoring provides a nationally representative picture of the situation and development of the groundwater resources in terms of both quality and quantity. Within the framework of the NAQUA National Groundwater Monitoring, the Federal Office for the Environment records the state of and changes in the groundwater resources at more than 600 monitoring sites in Switzerland. The natural conditions and the impact of human activity on the typical aquifers of Switzerland are monitored. The purpose of the National Groundwater Monitoring is to:

- document the situation and development of groundwater quality and quantity at national level; - detect the occurrence of problematic substances at an early stage and to systematically follow up any undesirable developments;
- check the effectiveness of protective measures already adopted (e.g. ecological measures in agriculture) and identify the need for further measures; and
- characterise and classify the most important groundwater resources in Switzerland. NAQUA forms the basis for nationally coordinated protection of groundwater as a natural resource in Switzerland and ultimately helps to protect the public from harmful organisms and substances. The collected data are used in national and international reporting.

## 2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)

☒ A=Yes

### 2.2 Additional Information

> The Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (Waters Protection Act, WPA) prescribes that a permit is required by any person who, over and above normal public use withdraws water from a watercourse with permanent flow or from lakes or groundwater resources in such a way as to affect substantially the discharge rate of a watercourse with permanent flow (art. 29 WPA). The WPA defines the minimum residual flows that need to be observed as a prerequisite to obtain a permit (art. 30, WPA). According to Art. 31 WPA the minimum residual flow needs to be increased if it is necessary for the preservation of rare biotopes that depend directly or indirectly from the water course.

The methodology for the calculation of the minimum residual flows is laid down in the publication: Débits résiduels convenables - Comment peuvent-ils être déterminés? Instructions. 2000. 142 p. Annexe: Elements pour la détermination du débit Q347. Carte 1:500000.

## 2.3 What, if any, initiatives been taken to improve the sustainability of water use (or allocation of water resources) in the context of ecosystem requirements across major river basins (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12)? (Action 3.4.6.)

☒ A=Yes

### 2.3 Additional Information

> In recent years, Switzerland faced several drought periods. As a consequence parts of the country have been affected by temporary water shortages. Such problems can be dealt with in good time and conflicts about water volumes can be avoided through the forward-thinking regional planning of water resources. To help with the management of these water shortages, the Federal Office for the Environment defines principles for water management practice in three modules. (Module 1 - Identifying risk areas; Module 2 - Managing water resources in the long term, Modul 3 - Managing exceptional situations) , which are based on the watershed

management model. These include regional solutions for land-use conflicts involving water catchment areas and buildings in groundwater protection areas and water abstraction during periods of drought.

The implementation of the Waters protection Act includes the following initiatives:

**Revitalisation of waterbodies:** The Waters Protection Act requires the cantons to plan and implement revitalisation measures. The aim of these measures is to restore the natural state of watercourses and lakes so that they can support a diverse range of flora and fauna. They also contribute to the creation of recreation areas and to flood protection.

**Safeguarding the necessary space for rivers:** Watercourses can only return to their natural state if sufficient space is provided for them to fulfil their various functions. By the end of 2018, the cantons are thus required to define and take into account in their development plans and land-use plans a reserved area along lakes, rivers and streams. This space is required to ensure the long-term protection of natural water functions, flood protection and water use.

**Reduce the effects of hydropеaking:** Several measures can be envisaged to reduce the effects of hydropеaking:

- Rerouting hydropеaking, e.g. to a larger lake or river,
- Discharge the turbinеd water into a compensation basin and gradually release the water back into the watercourse;
- Reduce the variations between peak-flow and base flow by increasing the minimum water discharge from the plant,
- Smoothing the transition between peak-flow and base-flow, e.g. through slower turbine starting and shutdown.

Operators of existing hydropower plants are fully compensated by the Confederation for the development and implementation of such and other remedial measures to reduce the negative effects of hydropower operation. They are also compensated for carrying out efficiency checks.

**Bedload regime:** The bedload regime is disturbed by hydroelectric power stations, river developments (e.g. alluvial deposits) and industrial gravel extraction. The disturbed bedload regime can be reactivated by means of various technical or operational solutions.

**Restoration of fish migration:** The free migration of fish along all watercourses and the removal of obstacles to their longitudinal continuum are among the requirements laid down in the Waters Protection Act and the Fisheries Act. An implementation aid from the FOEN describes the prerequisites for planning remediation measures and successful examples of restoring upstream and downstream fish migration at hydroelectric power plants.

**Financing rehabilitation:** Owners of existing hydropower plants are compensated for the financial consequences of the remediation measures implemented in the areas of hydropеaking, bed load regime and the restoration of fish migration. The compensation is financed by consumers through a surcharge paid for the transmission of electricity on the high-voltage grids. The revenue from this charge, which has been levied since 2012, amounts to around CHF 50 million per year.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Renaturation des eaux - Les eaux figurent parmi les écosystèmes les plus éloignés de leur état naturel. La politique suisse en matière de protection des eaux vise à revaloriser les cours d'eau et les rives lacustres par la délimitation d'un espace suffisant autour des eaux, la mise en œuvre de mesures de revitalisation et la diminution des atteintes écologiques induites par l'utilisation de la force hydraulique.

Water resource management - Changes in land use and progressive climate change pose new challenges to the management of water in Switzerland. Despite being the 'water tower of Europe', as demonstrated by summer 2003, spring 2011 and the drought of 2015, Switzerland can be affected by temporary water shortages. Construction in groundwater protection zones and areas also poses an increasing threat to the security of the water supply.

2.4 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix. )

☒ A=Yes

#### 2.4 Additional Information

› The web site "Renaturation" is a platform for exchanging and sharing information, knowledge and experiences created by water renaturation specialists and professionals concerned by the subject. The Renaturation platform is proposed by the Agenda 21 for Water and co-funded by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Plattform Renaturierung - The web site "Renaturation" is a platform for exchanging and sharing information, knowledge and experiences created by water renaturation specialists and professionals.

#### 2.5 Percentage of households linked to sewage system?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

› 100

## 2.5 Additional Information

› The Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (Waters Protection Act, WPA) establishes a duty to connect to sewers (art. 11). The one percent is in very isolated areas (e.g. high mountains) and other ecofriendly solutions are present.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (Waters Protection Act, WPA) - Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (Waters Protection Act, WPA)

## 2.6 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ E=Exact number (percentage)

› 97.3

## 2.6 Additional Information

› 99 % of the Swiss resident population is connected to wastewater treatment plants (WTP).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Indicator: Connection rate to wastewater treatment plants

## 2.7 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine if relevant to your country?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ Y=Not Relevant

## 2.8 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ Y=Not Relevant

## 2.9 Number of wastewater treatment plants (or volume treated exist at national level)?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ E=Exact number (plants)

› 836 (2011)

## 2.10 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? If relevant to your country

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ A=Good

## 2.10 Additional Information

› The development of water treatment facilities has significantly improved the quality of water in Switzerland over the past decades and is now dealing with the elimination of micropollutants.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://>

L'épuration des eaux usées en Suisse, une belle réussite - L'histoire de l'épuration des eaux usées en Suisse est celle d'un succès. Il y a encore 60 ans, les baignades en nature n'étaient pas dépourvues de risques. Grâce à la construction, en partie financée par la Confédération, de canalisations, de stations d'épurations et d'autres ouvrages d'évacuation des eaux usées, la qualité des eaux s'est considérablement améliorée. À cette fin, la Confédération a octroyé aux communes des subventions d'un montant total de 5,3 milliards de francs, dont elle versera les 10 derniers millions en 2017. Un dossier consacré à la journée mondiale de l'eau du 22 mars.

## 2.11 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ Q=Obsolete

## 2.12 Additional Information

› Not relevant

## 2.13 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system if relevant to your country ?

SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.

☒ Y=Not Relevant

2.14 Does your country use a wastewater treatment process that utilizes wetlands as a natural filter while preserving the wetland ecosystem?

☒ B=No

### Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 and 8]

3.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i

☒ C=Partially

#### 3.1 Additional Information

> The principle of sustainable development is anchored in Switzerland's strategic framework and is therefore pertinent for the private sector. The Ramsar handbooks are not specifically promoted at the federal level, however, they are used at the local level, possibly also by the private sector.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

*Please select only one per square.*

a) Ramsar Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Wetlands in general	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

#### 3.2 Additional information

> a) The collaboration with the private sector (e.g. public-private-partnerships) for the conservation of wetlands / for the conservation of specific Ramsar sites is seen as an option to increase private sector engagement.

b) For instance the "Water Agenda 21" is a network of public and private stakeholders in Swiss water management, which promotes water management according to the wise use principle / principle of sustainable development.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Agenda 21 pour l'eau - En tant que réseau, l'Agenda 21 pour l'eau relie entre elles les organisations de tous les secteurs et groupes d'intérêts, actives dans le domaine de la gestion des eaux à l'échelle de la Suisse. En tant qu'interlocuteur et moteur d'initiatives, l'Agenda 21 pour l'eau apporte son soutien aux organisations dans leurs démarches d'identification, d'évaluation et de développement de questions prioritaires.

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 3.3 Additional information

> E.g., owners of existing hydropower plants are compensated for the financial consequences of implementing the initiatives described under point 2.3. For biotopes of national importance (Raised Bogs and Transitional Mires, Fenlands, Amphibian Spawning Areas) in agricultural production areas, eco-subsidies can be provided by the Federal and cantonal levels.

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

☒ A=Yes

### 3.4 Additional Information

> The Federal Council's Swiss Biodiversity Strategy aims to identify the negative effects of such measures and to abolish, gradually dismantle or redesign the harmful subsidies. A study carried out by the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum (SCNAT) identifies 162 subsidies harmful to biodiversity and makes recommendations on how they can be abolished or reconfigured.

Individual subsidies damage biodiversity to varying degrees: in 55% of cases, the level of damage is low, in 23% medium and in 10% high. In 10% of cases, the effects are not clear. Often it is a low level of damage caused by many individual subsidies which in aggregate produces a strong overall impact.

The recommendation is that 40% of the biodiversity damaging subsidies identified should be abolished. For 9% of cases, could not make a recommendation. For 51%, the authors recommend redesigning or diverting the subsidy: the political and administrative difficulty involved should be relatively low for 18% of these cases, medium for 51% and high for 31%.

In 28% of the subsidies identified, there is an internal conflict between ecological goals: the goal of the subsidy is to protect the environment or nature, but at the same time the activity supported has side-effects which are harmful to biodiversity.

The overall total of these quantified subsidies amounts to CHF 40 billion. Of this, CHF 15 billion (39%) is entirely damaging to biodiversity, CHF 19 billion (47%) is partially damaging to biodiversity and CHF 6 billion (14%) is damaging subject to implementation. In contrast, the public sector spends annually - depending on the calculation - CHF 520 million to 1.1 billion on biodiversity protection.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Swiss academy of science factsheet: Biodiversity damaging subsidies in Switzerland

Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL: Over 160 subsidies harm biodiversity in Switzerland

### Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

4.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 4.1 Additional information

> The inventory on alien species in Switzerland lists about 800 alien species and characterizes 107 IAS in Factsheets: five mammals, four birds, one reptile, three amphibians, seven fish, four mollusks, 16 insects, six crustaceans, three spiders, two 'worms', seven fungi, one bacterium, and 48 plants. Reference: FOEN (ed.) 2005: An inventory of alien species and their threat to biodiversity and economy in Switzerland. CABI Bioscience Switzerland Centre report to the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape. The environment in practice no. 0629. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. 155 p.

An update of these data is in progress and expected to be available in the course of 2021.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Stratégie de la Suisse relative aux espèces exotiques envahissantes

4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii

☒ A=Yes

#### 4.2 Additional information

> In 2016, Switzerland adopted a strategy on invasive alien species which defines the following strategic goals: Alien species do not endanger human beings and the environment nor do they affect biodiversity or ecosystem services and their sustainable use. The spread of potentially harmful alien invasive species is contained and their re-introduction prevented.

The strategy is implemented according to three objectives: i) Invasive alien species, their pathways of introduction and spread, and their potential harm are identified and prioritized; ii) The introduction of invasive alien species and their spread across the territory is prevented; and iii) Alien invasive species are contained or eliminated through effective measures.

With the implementation of measures from the national strategy, a technical and a governance group were installed on the national level to better coordinate the action among the federal offices concerned with invasive alien species and between the federal and the cantonal level. Currently, the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (Environmental Protection Act, EPA) is being revised with a view to anchor prevention, control, and monitoring measures in the EPA.

4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to

wetland ecosystems?

☒ A=Yes

#### 4.3 Additional Information

If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management action

> Management actions to control invasive alien species are planned and implemented by a multitude of stakeholders at the subnational level, including cantonal authorities, municipalities, protected areas managers, NGOs and further civil society stakeholders.

With the revision of the Ordinance on the Handling of Organisms in the Environment (Release Ordinance RO; SR 814.911) in 2008, Switzerland created the legal basis for protecting people and the environment against harm done by invasive alien species. According to the Release Ordinance (RO, SR 814.911), the handling of alien organisms in the environment must be carried out in such a manner that it neither endangers human beings, animals or the environment, nor impairs biological diversity, nor the sustainable use thereof. (Art. 15, para. 2). In dealing with alien organisms in the environment, the principles of due diligence, self-control, and the obligation to inform and to instruct recipients have to be applied.

In addition, the Ordinance on the Handling of Organisms in the Environment prohibits the use of certain invasive alien plants and of three animal species (Annex 2). These invasive alien organisms may not be handled directly in the environment, except in circumstances where measures to control them are in place. Plants: *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Crassula helmsii*, *Elodea nuttallii*, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Ludwigia* spp. (*L. grandiflora*, *L. peploides*), *Reynoutria* spp. (*Fallopia* spp., *Polygonum polystachyum*, *P. cuspidatum*), *Rhus typhina*, *Senecio inaequidens*, *Solidago* spp. (*S. canadensis*, *S. gigantea*, *S. nemoralis*; except the native *S. virgaurea*).

Animals: *Harmonia axyridis*, *Trachemys scripta elegans*, *Rana catesbeiana*.

Through the revision of the Ordinance on Hunting and the Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds in 2012, the list of non-native mammals and birds that threaten biodiversity and whose import and keeping is prohibited or in need of authorization, has been made more easily adaptable (annex I and II instead of article in ordinance). This allows Switzerland to react more readily to any changes in the threat potential of non-native mammal or bird species.

Special measures, concepts, and strategies are applied additionally to invasive alien species, which are potentially harmful to people (e.g., Concept 2011 for the fight against the Asian Tiger Mosquito *Aedes albopictus*), threaten native species (e.g., alien crayfish) or which have the potential to cause great economic losses. For instance, in forestry, eradication strategies are developed for selected particularly harmful organisms that affect forests or tree cultures (i.e., *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, and *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*).

Currently, the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (Environmental Protection Act, EPA) is being revised with a view to anchor prevention, control, and monitoring measures in the EPA.

4.4 Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?

☒ X=Unknown

4.5 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?

☒ C=Partially

## Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

### Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6,11, 12]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

☒ B=No

5.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

☒ B=No

5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a formal management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

☒ E=Exact number (sites)

> 11

5.4 Of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these is the plan being

implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

☒ E=Exact number (sites)

> 11

5.5 Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, for how many is there effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

☒ Y=Not Relevant

5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with either a formal management plan or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management)? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

☒ A=Yes

5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv

☒ E=Exact number (sites)

> 6

#### 5.7 Additional information

If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites

> Sites managed by a cross-sectoral management committee: No. 079 'Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin'; No. 231 'Bolle di Magadino'; No. 504 'Les Grangettes'; No. 505 'Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel'; No. 506 Le Rhône genevois - Vallons de l'Allondon et de la Laire; No. 509 'Kaltbrunner Riet'.

### Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11, 12]

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 7.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established

> Annual reporting of the cantonal authorities on activities undertaken protected areas of international, or national importance.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 7.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made

> The Federal Office for the Environment informed the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention in a letter dated July 24th 2013 about the case of likely change of the ecological character of Ramsar Site No. 231 Bolle di Magadino.

The 'Bolle di Magadino' is not only designated as a Reserve for waterbirds and migratory birds of international importance, but also protected by virtue of the ordinances on alluvial zones, raised bogs and transitional mires, fenlands, amphibian spawning areas, mire landscapes and the inventory of landscapes of national importance.

The Locarno airport - in the immediate vicinity of the site - is in operation since 75 years and the infrastructure needs to be adjusted to new requirements, including a planned extension of the runway by 150 m. The planned extension of the runway has no direct impact on the perimeter of the site 'Bolle di Magadino'. To prevent eventual indirect impacts, see the following conditions:

The Federal Council approved the revised Sectoral Plan for Aviation Infrastructure for the Locarno airport. The revised plan specifies that an extension of the runway in an easterly direction can only be carried out if there is no further prejudice to the protected areas and if operational measures are implemented to protect birds. These measures include special regulations for the approach, taking off and overflying of the Bolle di Magadino, as well as daily quotas during bird migration periods. In addition, the extension of the runway must not lead to an increase in the take-offs of jet and multiengine aeroplanes over the site, and flights of other types of planes in the direction of the Bolle di Magadino must be restricted.

To date the submission of an infrastructure project has been submitted. At the moment, the evaluation process is ongoing.

7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, such as requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

☒ Z=Not Applicable

### **Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands**

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

#### **Target 8**

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19]

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

☒ A=Yes

##### **8.1 Additional information**

> Switzerland has conducted inventories of various types of wetlands and designated protected areas by the mean of following ordinances:

Ordinance on Reserves of International and National Importance for Waterbirds and Migratory Birds (1991, SR 922.32): Includes a list of protected areas of international and national importance for waterbirds and migrants.

Ordinance on Alluvial Zones of National Importance (1992, SR 451.31): Inventory of alluvial zones of national importance.

Ordinance on Raised Bogs and Transitional Mires of National Importance (1991, SR 451.32): Inventory of raised bogs and transitional mires of national importance.

Ordinance on Fenlands of National Importance (1994, SR 451.33): Inventory of fenlands of national importance.

Ordinance on Amphibian Spawning Areas of National Importance (2001, SR 451.34): Inventory of amphibian spawning areas of national importance.

Ordinance on Mire Landscapes of Particular Beauty and National Importance (1996, SR 451.35): Inventory of mire landscapes of national importance.

The inventories are comprehensive for the types of wetlands listed above. However, the inventories do not cover all wetland types recorded in Switzerland.

8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?

☒ A=Yes

##### **8.2 Additional information**

> Federal Council enacted, as of 15 July 2015, the revised Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32). The revised ordinance adds 560 hectares to existing protected areas for waterbirds and migratory birds and strengthens the legal safeguards on 1000 hectares in existing sites. This is an important step forward in the creation of an ecological infrastructure, the second objective of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy.

Between 2012 and 2017, the biotopes of national importance (see question 8.1) were revised throughout Switzerland in cooperation between the Confederation and the cantons. At its meeting on 29 September 2017, the Federal Council approved the revision. It came into force on 1 November 2017. The revision is a further milestone in the conservation of natural habitats and endangered species in Switzerland. The share of the total national area accounted for by the inventories rose from 1.8 to 2.2 percent.

The revised Ordinance on Fenlands of National Importance enters into force on 1st January 2021: 160 existing fenlands located in the canton of Graubünden are revised and 65 additional fenlands (+2478 hectares) are designated as of national importance.

8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

☒ A=Yes

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii

☒ A=Yes

##### **8.4 Additional information**

> Data and information about national inventories and protected areas are available at the website of the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN in German, French or Italian: Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV: Infrastructure écologique: [www.bafu.admin.ch](http://www.bafu.admin.ch), visited: November 2017).

Georeferenced data: [geo.admin.ch](http://geo.admin.ch) is the platform for the Federal Administration's georeferenced information,

data and services. These are made available by public bodies and are accessible to all via the Internet, on [www.geo.admin.ch](http://www.geo.admin.ch).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[geo.admin.ch](http://geo.admin.ch) - [geo.admin.ch](http://geo.admin.ch) is the geographical information platform of the Swiss Confederation within the Federal Administration. As a user, you can directly access federal geographical information, data, services and metadata right here.

**OFEV: Infrastructure écologique** - Dans le cadre de sa politique en matière de biodiversité, la Confédération accorde une importance particulière aux aires protégées.

#### 8.5 Has the condition\* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3}

Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

\* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated
b) Wetlands generally	<input type="checkbox"/> P=Status Improved <input type="checkbox"/> O=No Change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N=Status Deteriorated

#### 8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b)

> Maintenance and remediation of existing protected areas: The habitats of national importance, including fens, raised bogs, dry grasslands, riparian areas, flood plains, and amphibian breeding sites, are a crucial element of the network of protected sites in Switzerland. In 2011, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL launched the joint project "Monitoring the effectiveness of habitat conservation in Switzerland (WBS)" to observe whether these habitats are developing in line with their conservation targets and whether the area and quality of habitat is being maintained. The WBS is using remote sensing approaches as well as extensive floristic and faunistic field surveys to calculate various indicators, which evaluate the state and the development of the sites of national importance.

First results show mainly negative trends: in the last 20 years raised bogs have become drier and richer in nutrients. Fens also became drier, cover by shrubs increased and the proportion of typical fen species decreased. Active drainage systems in raised bogs and fens, as well as land-use abandonment in fens appear to be the most important drivers. The national amphibian breeding sites have lost on average at least one amphibian species per site. Populations of the common toad and the midwife toad continued to decline sharply.

Although developments were predominantly negative, positive changes were observed in some particular regions or at least in individual sites. For example, in the raised bogs of the Swiss lowlands woody cover decreased and losses of frequent amphibian species (common toad, alpine newt, grass frog) in amphibian breeding sites have been mitigated or were even reversed by new discoveries. In addition, rare amphibian species showed a partial stabilization of their populations. These positive developments can be attributed to restoration and conservation measures by the cantons and other stakeholders, as well as to the appropriate management of the sites. This shows that these measures are effective and should be continued or even intensified in order to preserve the biodiversity of the habitats of national importance in the long term.

8.6 Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2020 and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This Information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Ramsar Convention is a co-custodian.

☒ E=Exact Number (km2)

> 1873

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2)

> 0

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2)

> 1873

#### 8.6 Additional information

Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over

the last three years. Please note: For the % of change in the extent of wetlands, if the period of data covers more than three years, provide the available information, and indicate the period of the change.

> Switzerland's wetlands consist of

- watercourses: 1620 Km<sup>2</sup>

- Wetlands: 228 Km<sup>2</sup>

- Reeds: 25 Km<sup>2</sup>

The data for the Swiss area statistics were collected during the years 2013/2018 with the final results being available soon.

## Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7]

9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i

If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box

☒ B=No

### 9.1 Additional information

> Switzerland has no overarching policy for wetlands. The conservation of wetlands is organized according to various Acts and specifically the Ordinances listed under 8.1. Further, wetland issues are incorporated in various national strategies especially the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and its action plan and the Swiss Landscape Concept.

9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}

☒ A=Yes

### 9.2 Additional information

> Revision of the Ordinance on Fenlands of National Importance: 160 existing fenlands located in the canton of Graubünden are revised and 65 additional fenlands are designated as of national importance.

Revision of the Ordinance on Fisheries: The aim of the revision is to update the national red list status of the native fish and crayfish species listed in Annex 1 of the ordinance and to make taxonomic adjustments.

The new endangerment statuses of fish and crustaceans are based on data on their distribution throughout Switzerland and following various national research programmes (e.g., "Projet lac", "Progetto fiumi", etc.) and were established following the IUCN categories and criteria.

The changes in endangerment statuses can be summarized as follows:

The endangerment status worsens for ten species of fish, i.e.

- *Salapia fluviatilis*

- *Leucaspis delineatus*

- *Rutilus aul*

- *Rutilus pigus*

- *Salmo rhodanensis* (

- *Thymallus thymallus*

- *Anguilla anguilla*

- *Sabanejewia larvata*

- *Alburnus arborella*

- *Barbatula barbatula*

The endangerment status improves for three species:

- *Cyprinus carpio*

- *Telestes muticellus*

- *Silurus glanis*

Four species are given endangered status for the first time:

- *Cobitis bilineata*

- *Phoxinus phoxinus*,

- *Scardinius hesperidicus*, and

- *Squalius squalus*

The revised Annex 1 of the ordinance now includes 75 species (taxa) of fishes and crustaceans, which are distributed among the various endangerment statuses as follows:

- 9 species already extinct (12.0 %)

- 16 species threatened with extinction (21.3 %)

- 10 critically endangered species (13.3 %)

- 12 endangered species (16.0 %)

- 9 potentially endangered species (12.0 %)

- 14 non-endangered species (18.7%)

- 5 species for which there is insufficient data to assign an endangered status (6.7 %).

All faunistic information collected was stored in the national database "Info Fauna", which is managed by the Swiss Centre for Fauna Cartography (SZKF). The data were used in particular in the compilation of the new distribution atlas of fishes and cyclostomes in Switzerland, which was published in 2018.

Revision of the Ordinance on Waters Protection: Pesticides and other micropollutants can contaminate drinking water and harm aquatic organisms. In order to improve water protection, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) has adapted the Water Protection Ordinance (WPO). As hitherto, pesticides must not exceed 0.1 micrograms per litre in lakes, streams and rivers used for drinking water supply. New, stricter limit values were introduced in the Water Framework Directive for twelve pesticides that are particularly problematic for aquatic organisms. In addition, three medicines will now also be subject to limit values. The revised Water Ordinance entered into force on 1 April 2020.

9.3 Are wetlands treated as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.3 Additional information

> The 'Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland' have been developed by the network of stakeholders in Swiss water management called Water Agenda 21, and are therefore widely supported. They can provide the impetus for modern water management which covers both protection and user interests. The Guiding Principles serve as a policy framework for the water management stakeholders in cantons, regions and communes. Protection, conservation and restoration of the ecological, landscape and social functions of the water bodies is one of the main objectives. Publication: FOEN (publ.) 2011. Watershed Management - Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern: 20 p. pdf: [www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1032-e](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/ud-1032-e)

The Federal Council adopted the updated Swiss Landscape Concept (SLC) on 27 May 2020. The SLC consolidates the coherent landscape policy of the federal government. It is based on a comprehensive and dynamic notion of landscape as defined in the European Landscape Convention. As a federal planning instrument, the SLC defines the framework for a coherent and quality-based development of the Swiss landscapes. The overall orientation for a coherent federal landscape policy is defined in the strategic objectives and landscape quality objectives binding on the authorities. Spatial planning principles and factual objectives concretize these for the various sectoral policies of the federal government. Through its strengthened territorial approach, the SLC aims to improve its spatial effectiveness.

The SLC defines landscape quality targets for 2040, with target 7 "Allow natural dynamics" addressing landscapes where development dynamics can occur naturally are encouraged. For example, water bodies have sufficient space and can develop naturally or close to nature. This target is further specified by a set of sub-targets, organized according to sectoral policies.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Conception «Paysage suisse» - The Swiss Landscape Concept SLC consolidates the coherent landscape policy of the federal government

9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.4 Additional information

> Participation is an important aspect of the principles for the integrated water management mentioned (see question 9.3).

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.5 Additional information

> On 19 August 2020, the Federal Council adopted an action plan on the implementation of the adaptation strategy "Adaptation to climate change in Switzerland" in the period 2020–25. This builds on the first action plan for the period 2014–19 and implements many of the measures contained in it.

The 2020–25 action plan contains 75 measures at federal level. 63 of the measures concern activities in the water management, management of natural hazards, soil protection, agriculture, forestry, energy, tourism, biodiversity management, health (human and animal), housing and spatial development sectors. Most of these measures aim to improve the framework for adapting to climate change, to improve the knowledge base through monitoring and research, to review and, where necessary, amend standards, to develop new management strategies and to integrate adaptation into existing processes and forms of cooperation.

The pilot programme 'Adaptation to climate change' is part of the federal government's adaptation strategy. It supports exemplary, innovative projects in the cantons, regions, cities and communes and shows practical ways that Switzerland can adapt to the changing climate. The projects aim to minimise climate risks, increase adaptability and exploit opportunities at a local level.

The pilot programme 'Adaptation to climate change' has been running since 2013. An initial phase involving 31 projects was successfully completed in 2017. The second phase is now under way, comprising a total of 50 projects.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Adaptation to climate change - This platform provides current information about the adaptations being undertaken by the Swiss Confederation, cantons and municipalities.

Pilot programme Adaptation to climate change - The climate will continue to change over the coming decades and we must therefore adapt to new conditions. With this in mind, the federal government has been running the pilot programme 'Adaptation to climate change' since 2013.

Federal Council strategy for adaptation to climate change in Switzerland - Climate change is having an effect on the environment, the economy and industry in Switzerland as it is elsewhere. Actions to adapt to these effects are already needed now and will become more and more important in the future. The Federal Council's strategy sets out the framework for a coordinated approach by the Federal Offices in adapting to climate change.

9.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

☒ A=Yes

#### 9.6 Additional information

> The interrelationship between sustainable agriculture and the conservation of wetlands is addressed in laws, plans and projects.

9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

Please select only one per square.

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	<input type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) climate change	<input type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) valuation of ecosystem services	<input type="checkbox"/> C=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?

☒ B=No

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?

☒ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented)

If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented

> E.g. the revision of fenlands of national importance - see 9.2

### Target 10

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.

[Reference to Aichi Target 18]

10.1 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)

☒ A=Yes

## 10.1 Additional information

If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands

> E.g.: The Wässermatten in the Langete, Oenz and Rot river valleys of Oberrhein are the last remaining examples of a cultural practice of cooperative meadow irrigation and fertilisation that was once widespread in the Swiss Central Plateau. The practice can be traced back to the 9th century and was promoted in the 13th century by the Cistercian monks of the St. Urban monastery as part of a soil enrichment campaign. Extensive networks of canals and ditches, dams and central irrigation channels with "Brütschen" (floodgates), side channels with "Ablissen" (water outlets), "Wuhren" (weirs) and small dams made of planks were constructed. The Wässermatten were irrigated several times a year and simultaneously fertilised by manure contained in the water. The main ditches were jointly maintained by members of the Wässermatten cooperatives, while the side ditches were looked after by private individuals. Today, there are some 80 hectares of Wässermatten in the Oberrhein region of the canton of Bern, 15 hectares in the Zofingen-Wiggertal region of Aargau, and a further 20 hectares in the Rottal area of the canton of Lucerne. In all other parts of Switzerland, they have either disappeared completely or are limited to a few small areas. In 1983, the Wässermatten were included in the Federal Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Living Traditions in Switzerland - Wässermatten

## 10.2 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied such as (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)

Please select only one per square.

a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Preparation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) involvement and assistance of indigenous people's and community-based groups, wetland education centres and non-governmental organizations with the necessary expertise to facilitate the establishment of participatory approaches	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Preparation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

## 10.2 Additional information

If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines

> Switzerland has no local communities and indigenous people as defined by the Convention.

## 10.3 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)

☒ A=Yes

## 10.3 Additional information

> See 10.1

## Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.} [Reference to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14]

## 11.1 Have ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands been researched in your country, recorded in documents like State of the Environment reporting, and the results promoted? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

☒ C=In Preparation

## 11.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many wetlands and their names

> Ecosystem services are the many services provided by the environment for human and economic well-being.

These include, for example, the provision of renewable energy and resources, nature as a recreational space, clean air or CO2 sequestration. It is of central importance that ecosystem services are ensured for the future. However, many are at risk. The Ecosystem Services guidelines help to determine whether there is an environmental or financial need for action to ensure a particular ecosystem service.

The «Environment Switzerland 2018» report provides an overview of the current state and development of the environment in our country, including on wetlands. It assesses the measures implemented by the federal authorities to improve the quality of the environment and identifies areas in which further action is required. Ecosystem services, including those of wetlands, are assessed in the framework of the measure 4.2.5 of the AP-SBS, which addresses the "Consideration of ecosystem services in spatially relevant decisions".

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Environment Switzerland 2018 - The «Environment Switzerland 2018» report provides an overview of the current state and development of the environment in our country. It assesses the measures implemented by the federal authorities to improve the quality of the environment and identifies areas in which further action is required.

FOEN: Economic consulting - Various advisory services are available within the FOEN to provide support for macroeconomic and environmental-economic issues. The main focus of the advisory services is on ex-ante and ex-post evaluations, cost-benefit analyses, economic instruments, behavioural economics, ecosystem services and transformation consultancy.

11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.2 Additional information

› The contribution of wetlands to food and water security are for instance addressed within the pilot programme "Adaptation to Climate Change" (see 9.5).

11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.3 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

› Management authorities of Ramsar sites with socio-economic values address them in the management planning.

11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19)? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

☒ A=Yes

#### 11.4 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names

› Management authorities of Ramsar sites with socio-economic values address them in the management planning.

## Target 12

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.} [Reference to Aichi Targets 14 and 15].

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

☒ A=Yes

#### 12.1 Additional information

› Switzerland has revised its legislative basis for the protection of water in the Waters Protection Act and the associated ordinance. To meet the requirements of water protection legislation, the cantons developed, by 2014, a long-term strategic plan for the restoration of watercourses. This strategic planning should identify those watercourses for which restoration measures will have the greatest benefit for nature and the landscape and which should be prioritized. The objective of strategic planning is the restoration of approximately 4'000 km of watercourses. This ambitious objective shall be achieved within a period of 80 years. The first projects are already being implemented. Around CHF 40 million per year is allocated to these restoration measures with the Confederation contributing between 35 to 80% of the renaturation costs. It is then in the responsibility of cantons and owners of hydropower plants to implement the remedial. It does not only include

the river beds but also the space around them which should only be exploited extensively and could also function to mitigate floods. Until 2030, more than 1000 obstacles to fish migration, 100 hydropower plants causing hydropowering, some 500 further plants causing sediment deficit in rivers will need to be improved. This will be driven by cantons. Documents related to the strategic planning are found here (fr): <http://plattformrenaturierung.ch/fr/liens/Liens-cantons> Further, agricultural areas located within the surface water areas must be managed as ecological compensation areas. CHF 20 million has been added to the agricultural budget for this purpose.

## 12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

☒ A=Yes

### 12.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored

> E.g. The 3rd Rhone correction

The 3rd Rhone correction of the cantons of Valais and Vaud covers a length of 162 kilometres of the river Rhone between the Ramsar site "Rhônegletschervorfeld" in the east and the site "Les Grangettes" on the shore of Lake Geneva in the west. This makes the project the largest flood protection project in Switzerland in recent times.

In addition to more safety, the project will also bring more nature to the Rhone by implementing river widening measures in support of biodiversity. The project started in 2009, is a project for generations and will take several decades to complete.

The Federal Council wants the ongoing work on the flood protection project on the Rhone to continue. At its meeting on 14 December 2018, the Federal Council approved a total credit of CHF 1022 million for the second stage of the Rhone correction during the years 2020 to 2039.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

La 3e correction du Rhône, un projet intergénérationnel pour davantage de sécurité - La 3e correction du Rhône constitue le plus grand projet de protection contre les crues de Suisse

## 12.3 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands and on Peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.11) been implemented including?

Please select only one per square.

a) Knowledge of global resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) Education and public awareness on peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) Policy and legislative instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
d) Wise use of peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
e) Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

f) International cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
g) Implementation and support	<input type="checkbox"/> Y=Not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> X=Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

### 12.3 Additional Information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation

> E.g. Implementation of the concept for phasing-out the use of peat: In Switzerland, peatlands have been under protection since 1987, and no more peat may be extracted in this country. This prevents the environmental damage caused by peat extraction, especially to biodiversity in Switzerland. In order to reduce the environmental damage caused by the import of peat abroad, the Federal Council adopted the peat phase-out concept in 2012. The concept provides for the industries to become active in a first phase with voluntary measures.

In summer 2019, representatives of horticulture, the garden trade and soil producers signed a voluntary declaration of intent. In this declaration, they undertake to reduce the proportion of peat in the production and supply of ornamental plants, houseplants, perennials and ornamental wood to a maximum of 50 percent by 2025 and to a maximum of 5 percent by 2030. This is to be achieved through the gradual replacement of peat in the production of soil substrates and by refraining from selling plants that are grown with the help of peat. This is the second declaration of intent; in summer 2017, the market participants had already committed to voluntarily reducing the peat content in bagged soil to a maximum of 5 percent by 2020.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Abandon de la tourbe : la branche s'engage à prendre de nouvelles mesures - L'exploitation de la tourbe nuit au climat et à la biodiversité. Si la Suisse l'interdit sur son territoire, elle importe jusqu'à 524 000 m<sup>3</sup> de tourbe chaque année. Afin de réduire l'utilisation de la tourbe en Suisse, des représentants de l'horticulture productrice, du commerce horticole et des fabricants de terreaux ont signé une déclaration d'intention dans laquelle ils annoncent leur objectif de baisser à 5 % d'ici à 2030 la part de tourbe dans leur production.

### Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7]

13.1 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.3} {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii

☒ B=No

#### 13.1 Additional information

> Switzerland has not yet introduced SEA at federal level.

Today, Switzerland is pursuing the goal of introducing an impact assessment (Federal Council response to motion 04.3664 "Better coordination between environmental protection and spatial planning"). The impact assessment is intended to combine the sustainability assessment (SA) and the SEA; it thus covers the environment, the economy and society in broad terms and, in particular, also fulfils the requirements of an SEA. The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) are currently developing a corresponding methodology for use in cantonal structure planning. According to a press release of 3 September 2008, the Federal Council intends to regulate the impact assessment by law.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Evaluation environnementale stratégique (EES) - L'évaluation environnementale stratégique (EES) est une analyse plus globale des considérations environnementales que celle concernant uniquement un projet.

13.2 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands?

{1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

☒ A=Yes

### 13.2 Additional information

› On the national level, the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is anchored in the Federal Law on the Environmental Protection (EPA) RS 814.01 and the according ordinance (RS 814.011). It refers to the construction of new or the modification of existing installations and constructions which may significantly affect the environment and has to be carried out in the early planning stage.

## Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

### Target 15

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

☒ B=No

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

☒ A=Yes

### 15.2 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s)

› For instance, Switzerland supports the International Waterbird Census (IWC) run by Wetlands International.

### Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18]

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below

*Please select only one per square.*

a) At the national level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress
b) Sub-national level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress
c) Catchment/basin level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress
d) Local/site level	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> C=In Progress

### 16.1 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs

› Strategic Goal no. 7 of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) stipulates: By 2020, sufficient knowledge about biodiversity is available to society and provides the basis for the universal understanding of biodiversity as a central pillar of life, and for its consideration in relevant decision-making processes. The Action Plan for the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy was adopted on 6 September 2017. The action plan defines the measures necessary to achieve Goal no. 7. These measures will be implemented in the period of 2019 – 2023. The

measures will be evaluated in 2022 in relation to their ecological and economic impact on the conservation and promotion of biodiversity. This impact analysis will form the basis for an evaluation of the SBS and its Action Plan as well as the substantive and financial decisions by the Federal Council in relation to a revision of the SBS and a subsequent implementation phase of the Action Plan 2024 - 2027.

## 16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established?

{4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ E=Exact Number (centres)

> 5

## 16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established?

{4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

b) at other wetlands

☒ G=More than (centres)

> 20

## 16.2 Additional information

If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks

> The Swiss Network of Nature Centers enables close cooperation between 37 nature centers in Switzerland. The Swiss Network of Nature Centers aim to make as many people as possible aware of nature. With a variety of observation possibilities, information and excursions, the nature centers show the fascinating world of biodiversity. Most of the nature centers in our country are run by private nature conservation associations and local institutions. The Confederation and the cantons, which are responsible for informing the population about nature conservation, support part of the centers.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Centres nature de Suisse - Les centres nature de Suisse ont comme objectif de sensibiliser le plus de personnes possibles à la nature. Avec diverses possibilités d'observation, des informations et des excursions, nous vous montrons le monde fascinant de la biodiversité.

## 16.3 Does the Contracting Party {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

Please select only one per square.

a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

## 16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

☒ C=Partially

## 16.4 Additional information

If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has

> Switzerland organises Ramsar Network meetings at irregular intervals with participants from national and cantonal authorities, NGOs, representatives from the scientific community, site managers, colleagues from neighbouring countries and representatives of the Ramsar Secretariat. The last meeting took place in May 2018.

The objective of the meetings are an exchange of information on the implementation of the Convention globally, in neighbouring countries as well as in Switzerland (at the national and subnational level) and to explore opportunities for future implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Switzerland.

## 16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v

☒ Y=Not Relevant

## 16.5 Additional information

If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has

> See 16.4

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and a), b) or c) below? {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi:

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Site managers	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> D=Planned <input type="checkbox"/> C=Partially <input type="checkbox"/> B=No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A=Yes

## 16.6 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place

> The Federal Office for the Environment organizes biennial course for wetland site managers at changing locations/sites. These courses serve also as a platform for a regular exchange of information between stakeholders at all levels.

16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP13? {4.1.8}

☒ A=Yes

## 16.7 Additional information

> NGOs, the scientific community, national and subnational authorities organise the "Festival for Nature" during which many activities related to biodiversity are proposed to a broad public. The Festival takes place annually for 10 days in May. The Festival usually includes activities specifically related to the Ramsar Convention, is however intended to promote awareness on biodiversity in general.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Fête de la Nature - Du 21 au 30 mai 2021, la Fête de la Nature célèbre son 10ème anniversaire.

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP13 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

☒ A=Yes

## 16.8 Additional information

If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this

> Other events include e.g. Eurobirdwatch, International batnight and oiseaux de nos jardins.

## Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

[Reference to Aichi Target 20]

17.1a Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2018, 2019 and 2020? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

☒ A=Yes

17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i

☒ A=Yes

## 17.2 Additional information

If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities

> CHF 10'000.- for the participation of African parties at COP 13 in Dubai.

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

☒ A=Yes

## 17.3 Additional information

If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12

> The project database of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) includes a total of 880 projects related to water.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

International cooperation projects - The project database provides concrete insights into the international cooperation work of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

☒ A=Yes

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

☒ Z=Not Applicable

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?

☒ B=No

## Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

☒ A=Yes

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

☒ A=Yes

18.3 Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii.

The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).

☒ Y=Not Relevant

18.4 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

☒ A=Yes

18.5 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv

☒ A=Yes

## 18.5 Additional information

> Websites of specific areas: No. 79, Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin: L'ASPO/BirdLife Suisse: Réserve de Cudrefin : <http://www.birdlife.ch> No. 231, Bolle di Magadino: Fondazione Bolle di Magadino: <http://www.bolledimagadino.com/> Ramsar National Report to COP13 [Sabine Herzog] Page 34 of 73 No. 504,

Les Grangettes: Pro natura, réserve naturelle des Grangettes: <http://www.pronatura-grangettes.ch/> No. 505,  
Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel: The Grande Caricaie's website : <http://www.grande-caricaie.ch/> No. 507,  
Klingnauer Stausee: <http://www.klingnauerstausee.ch/> No. 509, Kaltbrunner Riet: Pro natura:  
<http://www.pronatura-sg.ch/kaltbrunner.riet>

18.6 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

☒ A=Yes

18.7 Additional information

If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place  
> E.g. through the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, or at the level of specific wetland systems: - Lake of Constance: Internationale Gewässerschutzkommission für den Bodensee (IGKB): [www.igkb.org](http://www.igkb.org) - Lago Maggiore, Lago di Lugano: Commissione Internazionale per la Protezione delle Acque Italo-Svizzere (CIPAIS): [www.cipais.org](http://www.cipais.org) - Lake of Geneva and Rhone River: Commission internationale pour la protection des eaux du Léman (CIPEL): [www.cipel.org](http://www.cipel.org) - International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR): [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org) - North-East Atlantic: The OSPAR Convention is the current legal instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic: [www.ospar.org](http://www.ospar.org) Others - River Doubs: Groupe de travail binational pour l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux et des milieux aquatiques - Lake Constance: Environmental Council of Lake Constance of the Lake Constance Foundation.

18.8 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

☒ A=Yes

18.8 Additional information

> For instance through the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds AEWA, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals CMS and the according Aquatic Warbler Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

## Target 19

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

19.1 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

☒ A=Yes

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?

☒ A=Yes

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

a) at Ramsar Sites

☒ Y=Not Relevant

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv

b) at other wetlands

☒ Y=Not Relevant

19.3 Additional information

including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training

> See 16.6

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

☒ A=Yes

