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Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Federal Department of the Environment,
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Building the Business Case for Biodiversity in Switzerland

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Business for Biodiversity in Switzerland

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is responsible for the sustainable use of natural resources, including soil, water, air and forests

FOEN : is the **lead agency responsible for Switzerland's international environmental policy and the related instruments**, notably those addressing biodiversity like the **Convention on biological diversity**

Greening the economy is one of FOEN's current priorities.

FOEN need also to contribute for promoting Swiss industry on a resource-conserving track and generates internationally coordinated tools to assess natural resource consumption and the environmental impacts of products and services.

Read more at www.bafu.admin.ch



key MEAs

- **Biodiversity and wildlife**, Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocol, the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on biosafety, and also
 - the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling; the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance; the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); the 1979 Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species; the 1992 UN and the 1994 International Tropical Timber Agreement.
- **The other well known Rio Convention UNFCCC (on Climate change) and CCD (on desertification)**
- **Protection of the atmosphere**, including the 1979 UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-Range transboundary Air Pollution (together with five protocols on particular pollutants: nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, sulphur, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants); the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and its protocol, the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its protocol, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol
- **Marine environment**, including the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter; the 1973 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and its protocol, the 1978 Marpol Protocol; and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, together with an implementing agreement, the 1995 Agreement on Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
- **Regulating the use of chemicals**, including the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (both agreed but not yet in force). The Montreal Protocol could be considered under this category, since it regulates the production and consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals.
- **Dealing with waste**, including the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (see also under marine environment).
- **Others**, including the 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment, the 1992 UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the 1998 Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

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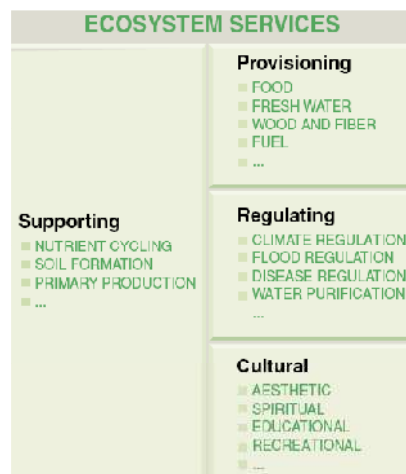
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The Importance of Biological Diversity for governments and business

Extrinsic value of biodiversity can be categorized as Ecosystem Services.



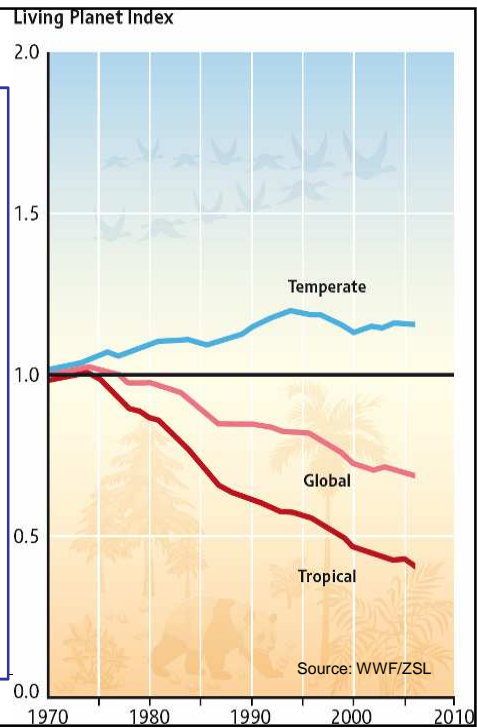
(Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005b)



The crisis of biodiversity is well known

- The global Living Planet Index (LPI), has declined by more than 30% since 1970,
- The Tropical LPI has declined by almost 60%.
- The Temperate LPI showed an increase of 15%, reflecting the recovery of some species populations in temperate regions

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Tipping Points

Amazon dieback



Eutrophication



Coral reef collapse



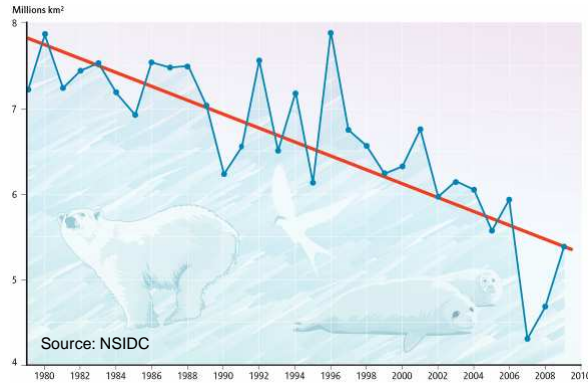
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Trends in habitats are varied but show declines over all:

- Wetlands, salt marshes, coral reefs, seagrass beds and sea ice continue to decline
- Extensive fragmentation of forests and rivers
- Mangrove decline slowing (except in Asia)
- The condition of many terrestrial habitats is deteriorating (degrading)



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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- The first global treaty to explicitly take comprehensive ecosystem based approach
- A multi-lateral, voluntary agreement
- Ratified by 193 countries (parties)
- Allows each party to implement its own provisions according to guidelines
- Mandates that financing and administration are shared according to ability

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Three Goals of the Convention

Conservation of biological diversity

Sustainable use of its components

Fair and equitable sharing of benefits of **Genetic Resources**



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Aichi-Nagoya Outcomes (COP-10 / MOP-5)



Life in harmony,
into the future

47 decisions of COP-10, including:

- Nagoya Protocol on ABS
- Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets
- Strategy for Resource Mobilization

17 decisions of MOP, including:

- Nagoya-KL Protocol on Liability & Redress
- Strategic Plan for Biosafety Protocol

Plus declarations of parallel meetings with,
Business, Local Authorities & Cities,
Parliamentarians,
Biodiversity and Development

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Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Framework for all Conventions and stakeholders.

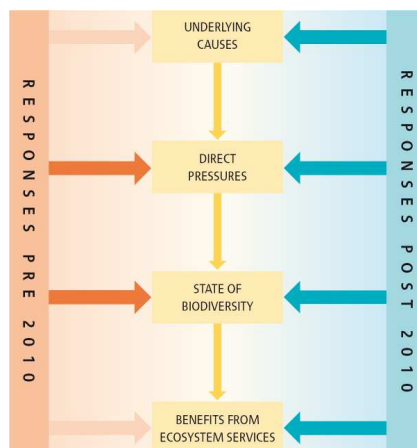
Vision: *Living in harmony with nature.* By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

Mission Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication

20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Implementation mechanisms

Strategic Goals



- A. Address the **underlying causes** of biodiversity loss (mainstreaming)
- B. Reduce the **direct pressures** and promote sustainable use
- C. **Directly safeguard** ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- D. Enhance the **benefits** to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- E. **Enhance implementation** through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building



Nagoya: Clear demands by the Conference of the Parties

CBD: COP Decision X/21 on **Business and Biodiversity**

- §1: Parties are invited to promote a public-policy environment that enables **private-sector engagement** [...]
- §2: **Businesses and the private sector** are encouraged to contribute to the implementation of the Convention as well as its Strategic Plan [...]



Long history of related decisions

COP-9: Decision IX/28, on **Business engagement**:

- §1 Invites *Parties* to [...] enhance the engagement of the business community [...] in particular through the development of public-private partnerships [...].
- §2: Encourages public and private financial institutions to include biodiversity considerations into all investments [...].

COP-8: Decision on **private sector engagement**:

- §1: Urges national focal points to communicate the importance of biodiv. to companies [...]
- §6: Invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the three objectives of the Convention and its goals and targets.



Project goals

Improve Swiss companies' understanding of biodiversity issues and enhance their commitment to conserve and mainstream biodiversity in their management strategies.



Business for Biodiversity - Switzerland

The project consists of three phases:

- 1) To promote the expansion of the number of Swiss businesses engaged in the biodiversity agenda at international (regional at Pan-European level) and at national level.
- 2) Undertake a review of the biodiversity-related activities and opportunities for businesses in Switzerland to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
Develop a process to recognise commitments by businesses in Switzerland to enhance their biodiversity performance.
- 3) Explore possible concrete actions on the basis of the first two phases such as : **The establishment of a Swiss Business and Biodiversity Platform.**



Business for Biodiversity - Switzerland

Project Achievements

- Engagement with Swiss companies and a desk study of key partners
- Leaders for Nature Switzerland
- Presentation of the project in past events, e.g. CBD COP 9, Fifth Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity for Europe