

**Astana Water Action (AWA)
Actions by SWITZERLAND**

Country: Switzerland

Title of the action:

Promoting the concept of integrated water management (AWA Paragraphs 9a, b, c and 10a).

Switzerland is implementing integrated water management within the catchment area as management and planning space, using the “Watershed Management – Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland“ as a policy framework for water managers in cantons, regions, syndicates and communes and by developing a code of practice and pilot projects.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01576/index.html?lang=en>

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/wasser/01444/08981/index.html?lang=en>

Expected outcome: Code of practice on Integrated Management of Water in Switzerland.
Pilot projects.

Partners: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes

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Title of the action:

Water quality: Mitigating micropollutants from point and diffuse sources (AWA paragraphs 11f and g)

The largest wastewater treatment plants (over 100 wastewater treatment plants /700) are to be upgraded with an additional treatment step to mitigate point-source pollution by micropollutants. The corresponding legal basis including the development of financing solutions is being established. The understanding of the origins and pathways of diffuse pollution from micropollutants (originating from transport, urban areas, agriculture) are further researched as a basis for determining appropriate mitigation strategies.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/gewaesserschutz/01308/index.html?lang=en>

http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/countries/ch/soertopic_view?topic=freshwater

Expected outcome: Legal basis for mitigating point-source pollution from micropollutants and financing. Research on origins and pathways of diffuse pollution from micropollutants

Partners: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

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Title of the action:

Remediation of hydromorphological alterations: Strategic planning by the cantons
(AWA paragraphs 12b, c, d and 15e)

To respond to the hydromorphological pressures due to river corrections, flood control measures and hydropower production, an amendment of the Swiss Water Protection legislation (including, in support, a financing scheme of the Confederation) has entered into force in 2011. Until 2015, the cantons must develop their strategic planning of rehabilitation activities for rivers and of mitigation measures with regard to hydropower production. Strategic planning of restoration activities for lakes must be finalized by 2018.

<http://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=38964>);
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/medieninformation/00962/index.html?lang=fr&msg-id=38964>; <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01916/index.html?lang=de>;
<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01916/index.html?lang=fr>)

Expected outcome: Cantonal strategic planning of rehabilitation activities for rivers and of mitigation measures with regard to hydropower production by 2015. Cantonal strategic planning of restoration activities for lakes by 2018.

Partners: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

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Title of the action:

Climate change adaptation: Adaptation strategy for Water Management (AWA Paragraphs 15a, 16a, b, d and 21h).

An Alpine country, Switzerland is strongly affected by climate change. However, due to its abundance of water, its economic power and its high level of policy, technical and scientific know-how, the effects on society and economy can be minimised. Integrated water resources management (see Action 1), the enforcement of the revised Water Protection Act (see Action 3) and transboundary cooperation within the international river and lake commissions to which Switzerland belongs are essential elements for the successful implementation of the climate change adaptation strategy for water management.

Source: Aschwanden et al. 2011 (cited in the UNECE Assessment Report, Rhone basin). The adaptation strategy in the field of water described in the paper is part of a wider initiative "Adaption to Climate Change in Switzerland – The National Strategy" (working title), under preparation.

Expected outcome: Implementation of the climate change adaptation strategy for water management.

Partners: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

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Title of the action:

Integrated Flood Prevention (AWA Paragraphs 9 a, b and c).

Flood risk prevention in Switzerland is based on the integrated risk management and underlined by the following principles: **Know your risk** by completing and regularly update hazard and risk assessment and maps; **reduce your vulnerability** by holistic planning of protection measures combining land use planning, biological and technical measures; **be prepared** by managing the residual risks through organisational measures, monitoring and warning, information dissemination; **reducing damage potential** by short-term damage mitigation measures and evacuation; **speed up recovery** by contingency planning, insurance; **learn from past events** by monitoring and evaluating the process.

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/00804/index.html?lang=en>: Flood control at rivers and streams, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, 2001)

Expected outcome:

Through the flood risk prevention policy : ensure adequate protection of areas vital to human livelihoods and economic development, limit economic damage, improve the handling of uncertainties and residual or remaining risks, and understand rivers and streams as essential linking elements in landscapes and nature.

Partners: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Cantons, regions, water syndicates and communes. Research institutions

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