



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Département fédéral de l'environnement,
des transports, de l'énergie et de la communication DETEC
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV

Swiss Experience and Approach to Biodiversity Maintenance



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19th Century: First Biodiversity Crisis in Switzerland

Important loss of Forest Habitat and Wildlife





1860: New Federal Laws on Forest and Hunting

The main new aspects of these laws included:

- Conservation
- Sustainability
- Wildlife sanctuaries
- Restricted hunting periods
- Protection of females
- Game Wardens





Biodiversity during the 20th Century

Recovery of Forests and Game during 20th Century

HOWEVER:

Important loss of Biodiversity due to agriculture and water engineering





Federal Legislation on Conservation and hunting of Mammals and Birds (1986)

The main new aspects of this law included a fundamental rethinking:

1. From the protection of „beneficial“ animals to the conservation of species
2. From the protection of species to habitat conservation



Biodiversity Strategy Switzerland

1. Approved by the Federal Council in 2012
2. Main objective:
 - to maintain the resilience of biodiversity
 - to maintain the ecosystem services
3. Ten strategic goals for all actors orientation in the years to come



Major principles

The implementation of Biodiversity in Switzerland considers three major principles:

- Conservation AND utilization of natural resources is bound together.
- Decisions are based on knowledge.
- Pragmatic solutions are better than waiting.



Biodiversity in forests as an Example

Biodiversity in forests...



...is a common task of the Confederation and the Cantons:

1. The Confederation elaborated enforcement guidelines on a national scale in which the regional action requirements are identified and priorities of implementation are set.
2. On this basis the Confederation negotiates four-year-contracts with the Cantons in which...
3. ...the Confederation offers financial support, and the Cantons are obliged to implement the measures identified in the contract.

(→ See Side-event Nov 4, 2015)