






Centralized National Risk Assessment for SWITZERLAND

FSC-CNRA-CH V1-0 EN

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Risk assessments that have been finalized for Switzerland

| Controlled Wood categories | | Risk assessment completed? |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Illegally harvested wood | YES |
| 2 | Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights | YES |
| 3 | Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities | YES |
| 4 | Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use | YES |
| 5 | Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted | YES |

Risk designations in finalized risk assessments for Switzerland

| Indicator | Risk designation (including functional scale when relevant) |
|--|---|
| Controlled wood category 1: Illegally harvested wood | |
| 1.1 | Low risk |
| 1.2 | N/A |
| 1.3 | Low risk |
| 1.4 | Low risk |
| 1.5 | N/A |
| 1.6 | Low risk |
| 1.7 | Low risk |
| 1.8 | Low risk |
| 1.9 | Low risk |
| 1.10 | Low risk |
| 1.11 | Low risk |
| 1.12 | Low risk |
| 1.13 | Low risk |
| 1.14 | N/A |
| 1.15 | N/A |
| 1.16 | Low risk |
| 1.17 | Low risk |
| 1.18 | Low risk |
| 1.19 | Low risk |
| 1.20 | Low risk |
| 1.21 | N/A |
| Controlled wood category 2: Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights | |
| 2.1 | Low risk |
| 2.2 | Low risk |
| 2.3 | Low risk |
| Controlled wood category 3: Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities | |
| 3.0 | Low risk |
| 3.1 | Low risk |
| 3.2 | Low risk |
| 3.3 | Low risk |
| 3.4 | Low risk |
| 3.5 | Low risk |
| 3.6 | Low risk |
| Controlled wood category 4: Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use | |
| 4.1 | Low risk |
| Controlled wood category 5: Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted | |
| 5.1 | Low risk |

Risk assessments

Controlled wood category 1: Illegally harvested wood

Overview

Thirty-two percent of Switzerland's land base (i.e. 1'308'000 ha) is covered by forests (59). Of the forests in Switzerland, 51% are production forests, 51% are protective forests against natural hazards, 17% are nature protection forests and 7% are drinking water protection forest (NFI, forest area by forest function divided by forest area). Notice that the forest can have more than one function at a time. Of the total area, 67.8% of forests are public owned and 32.2% are in private ownership (Annual yield, NFI, 2015). Conversion of forest land is prohibited, with some exceptions for infrastructure regulated by National Forest Act (Waldgesetz, WaG) and National Forest Ordinance (Waldverordnung, WaV).

Conversion of forest land is prohibited, with some exceptions for infrastructure regulated by National Forest Law (WaG) and National Forest Enactment (WaV).

Switzerland is a Federation of 26 cantons. Forest management – guided by WaG and WaV – is controlled through 26 State forest offices supervised by the national forest department. The legislation does not permit clear-cutting. Timber harvesting is possible only with specific permission for selective cutting (WaG Art. 21) and normally in the presence, in the specific forest, of a certified forester involved in decisions as to which trees to cut; as well as determining the volume of wood. After cutting, the forest stand is monitored and the wood measured by a local forester. The law stipulates a fine for non-compliance (WaG Art. 43).

In about 50% of the private forests, the wood is sold without the assistance of the local forester, which means that, for about 86% of the total forest area, forest officers are involved in harvest and sale of timber.

As mentioned above, an approval is required to conduct harvesting. The harvesting permit is monitored and a new permit is not issued before the old one is correctly finished.

In 2016 Switzerland had a CPI of 86 (above the threshold of 50) and, according to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators, – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance. This is relevant for all indicators below.

The list of sources provided in FSC-PRO-60-002a, Section 3.3.3, has been reviewed for relevance in regards to the national legality risk assessment of Switzerland. The following sources have been used:

- a) Chatham House: <http://www.illegal-logging.info/>
- l) Stakeholder and expert consultation outcomes from NRA development processes (see excel sheet)

- n) Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index: http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi (see excel sheet)
- o) World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators: <http://data.worldbank.org/datacatalog/worldwide-governance-indicators>
- In cases where other sources of information are not available (Section 3.3.4), consultations with experts within the area shall be conducted. Where relevant, they have been specifically referenced under 'Sources of Information' for each applicable sub-category.

Sources of legal timber in Switzerland

| Forest classification type | Permit/license type | Main license requirements (forest management plan, harvest plan or similar?) | Clarification |
|---|--|--|---------------|
| Production forest | Felling permit (Holzschlagbewilligung) | Forest Management plan and/or sustainable harvest plan (at least) | |
| Production Forest with protection function | Felling permit (Holzschlagbewilligung) | Forest Management plan and/or sustainable harvest plan (at least) | |
| Protected areas with maintenance (reserves) | Felling permit (Holzschlagbewilligung) | In complex protection areas, cuts are allowed for protection aims (e.g.: biodiversity): Forest Management plan and/or sustainable harvest plan | |

Risk assessment

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Legal rights to harvest | | | |
| 1.1 Land tenure and management rights | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Swiss Civil Code of 10 December 1907 (Grundbesitz) (ZGB 210): https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19070042/index.html</p> <p>Art. 942 ff (land tenure rights)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>26 State forest offices (six French language offices; one Italian; two French/German; one Romansh/German; 16 German)</p> | <p>Government Sources:</p> <p>Personal communication 1: Adrian Meyer (Deputy Chief Forester, Bern)</p> <p>Non-Government sources:</p> <p>Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <p>World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements</p> <p>Swiss forests can be privately owned or publicly owned at communal, cantonal or State level. All 26 cantons have laws concerning legalisation of land register offices. Land sales are routine and registered in the land registry with every community having a register of plots and plot plans in a regional land register office.</p> <p>Forest owners shall be registered for tax.</p> <p>Description of Risk</p> <p>Land rights in Switzerland are well-established, with ownership information publicly available by request at the department of land registration.</p> <p>Even though it is legally possible, the State as a rule does not sell forest land and thus there is no transfer of forest land rights from</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | <p>No local authorities; some of the local foresters are part of the relevant State forest office</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land title document can be retrieved from the land register. • Tax registration document (Mehrwertsteuer) | <p>Indicators 2014: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, Visited 19 May 2016</p> | <p>State to private. Private owners do sell forest land, but this occurs rarely. A potential land transfer will be registered with the land registry.</p> <p>In 2016 Switzerland had a CPI of 86 (above the threshold of 50) and, according to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance.</p> <p>Switzerland is densely populated, with land often held in in the same family for generations; and as a result land boundaries are clearly established. Boundaries are marked on the ground with stones, with a clear view to the next stone. Close to the boundaries are trees that have been coloured on the boundary side as well as coloured posts. There is no major reporting of logging beyond formal boundaries (personal communication 1).</p> <p>Risk Conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities.</p> |
| <p>1.2 Concession licenses</p> | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Not applicable – there are no concession licenses in Switzerland</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>1.3 Management and harvesting planning</p> | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf <p>Art. 20.2 (management planning by the States)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) since 1891, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf <p>Art. 18 (detail of planning for every forest owner)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 State forest laws and 26 State forest enactments <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>26 State forest offices (six French language offices, one Italian; two French/German; one Romansh/German; 16 German)</p> <p>No local authorities; some of the local foresters are part of the relevant State forest office</p> | <p>Government sources: Economics Department of the Canton of Berne (N.Y): http://www.vol.be.ch/vol/de/index/wald/wald/waldbewirtschaftung/holzanzeichnung.html, visited 19 May 2016</p> <p>Canton Aargau (2016): Operational planning: https://www.ag.ch/de/bvu/wald/waldbewirtschaftung/betriebsplanung/betriebsplanung_1.jsp, visited 26 May 2016</p> <p>BAFU (2016): Jahrbuch Wald und Holz 2015. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Bern - Federal Office for the Environment. Umwelt-Zustand Nr. 1520: 162 S: http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01833/index.html?lang+118</p> <p>Non-government Sources: Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016, URL: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements The National Forest Law states that the Swiss Cantons must set the requirements of forest management planning, and the planning requirements thus differ from State to State. Generally, there are requirements to specify the planning content, the objectives of the planning, the nature of the procurement and planning principles, the planning and control process, as well as the periodic review of the management plans. Furthermore, the site conditions and the forest functions (as a minimum) shall be recorded in the forest management plan. The community shall be informed of the objectives and procedures and may review the plan and participate in an appropriate manner in its development. The spatial impact of forest planning shall also be included.</p> <p>Description of risk The requirements relating to management and harvesting planning are the same in publicly owned and privately owned forests. Privately owned forests are generally small (1–10 ha), but bigger forest entities also exist. In some Cantons, part of the planning is supported financially. It is common for smaller forest owners to form a collective and contract a forester to do the planning for the group of forests. The planning requirements are the same for both collectives and single forests.</p> <p>Planning is carried out by the forest owner/ manager and reviewed; and shall be accepted by the State forest office. A survey of the forest area is conducted both prior to and following harvesting. Almost all of the trees to be cut are marked by trained foresters with a university degree (FH or Fachhochschule) and the trees are counted and measured at the same time, with volumes therefore precisely known in advance of the cut.</p> <p>The Federation and States /Cantons control the entire forest area and have adequate resources for such control in the forest offices/ services. The offices employ qualified foresters and certified forest engineers to care for the forest management units (Art. 51 WaG</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>For every State/Canton: authorised management plan</p> | <p>perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <p>World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014, URL: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, visited 19 May 2016</p> <p>Personal communication 11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi))</p> | <p>Forest Law). External foresters are contracted if capacity is low within the forest department.</p> <p>In 2016 Switzerland received as a Corruption Perceptions Index score 86 out of 100: well above the threshold of 50. This is supported by the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (2011) with a rank of 8.8. out of 10, as well as the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators, which – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance and low levels of corruption associated with issuing permits. There are no reports of corruption in connection to management plans, and governance and enforcement are considered reliable with on-site, follow-up of harvesting.</p> <p>The system is considered well implemented and harvesting planning is well implemented (Personal communication 11).</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities.</p> |
| <p>1.4 Harvesting permits</p> | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf Art. 21 and 43 26 State forest laws and 26 State forest enactments | <p>Personal communication 1 (Adrian L. Meyer, State Forest Office Bern) Canton Aargau (2016): Bewilligung für das Fällen von Bäumen im Wald beantragen. URL: https://www.ag.ch/de/bvu/wald/waldbewirtschaftung/holznutzung/bewilligung_fuer_das_faellen_von_baeumen_beantragen_1.jsp</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements Whoever wishes to cut trees must have permission from the forest offices (Art. 21 WaG Forest Law). Such permission requires that the rights of the owner are respected and that there is a basic right of objection by the owner or forest manager. The permit type – called ‘Holzschlagbewilligung’ – is the same for all forests and harvest types. According to Swiss forest law, however, the form of written permission is not fixed nationally and varies between Cantons.</p> <p>In smaller Cantons, all volumes shall be covered by a harvesting permit (this applies also to harvesting for personal use), while in</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| | <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>26 State forest offices (six French language offices; one Italian; two French/German; one Romansh/German; 16 German)</p> <p>No local authorities; some of the local foresters are part of the relevant State forest office.</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Harvesting permits are issued at State level and requirements can vary.</p> | <p>State Basel Land: Holzschlagsbewilligung: https://www.baselland.ch/filadmin/baselland/files/docs/vsd/forstamt/waldrecht/merkblatt/holzschlaggesuch_pri_vatwald_bl.pdf</p> <p>BAFU (2016): Jahrbuch Wald und Holz 2015. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Bern - Federal Office for the Environment. Umwelt-Zustand Nr. 1520: 162 S. URL: http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01833/index.html?lang+118</p> <p>Non-Government sources: Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016, URL: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <p>World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014, URL: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, visited 19 May 2016</p> | <p>(for example) Bern, harvesting under 25 m³ per owner and year for personal use is exempt from permit requirements.</p> <p>Private forests: The permit is issued only to the owners or someone contracted by the owner (forester or company). The forest owner will request approval by the forest office to cut trees. The forest official will inspect the forest with the forest owner and mark the trees to be cut and included in the permit. The forest owner can request harvest of specific trees if agreed with the forest official. Only selective cutting is allowed to take place.</p> <p>Public forests: The forest agency can carry out their own harvesting, but it is common to contract companies to do the cutting. All trees to be cut will be marked by the forest agency. Within the forest agency, special forest officers control harvest approvals, always ensuring that the approvals are reviewed by a forest official.</p> <p>For both private and public forests, the lowest level of the hierarchy is the forester, who agrees with the owner what shall be cut. This is approved by the forest engineer (one level up), who must check against the planning document to ensure that volumes are correct, etc.</p> <p>There are no fees associated with obtaining a harvesting permit.</p> <p>Description of risk Harvesting wood without the required permits or felling license is not known to be an issue in Switzerland.</p> <p>In 2016 Switzerland received as a Corruption Perceptions Index score 86 out of 100: well above the threshold of 50. This is supported by the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (2011) with a rank of 8.8. out of 10, as well as the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators, which – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|--|---|--|---|
| | | <p>Personal communication 11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi))</p> | <p>corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance and low levels of corruption associated with issuing permits. There are no reports of corruption in connection with issuing forest sector permits, and governance and enforcement are considered reliable with on-site, follow-up control.</p> <p>Forest officials regularly monitor the forest and thus, there is high awareness and control of the forests by both the public and the authorities. The forest sector in Switzerland is well networked among hunters, NGOs and the police; and it is therefore unlikely that illegal harvesting would occur without its being detected (personal communication 11).</p> <p>In the Canton of Bern in the past ten years (2005–2015), only two cases of illegal forest activity have been raised by the forest authorities: In one case a fine was accepted and paid for over-harvesting, while the other (also over-harvesting) was brought to court and decided to the benefit of the accused as the cut was exclusively for personal use as firewood and thus considered legal. Thus for Bern, the second biggest State in Switzerland with 190'000 ha forest and about 35'000 forest owners, there has been only one incident of cutting without a permit in a ten-year period (personal communication 1). This reflects the general picture of very low-scale harvesting in contravention of the requirement for permits in Switzerland.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| Taxes and fees | | | |
| 1.5 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Not applicable. There are no forest harvesting-specific fees in Switzerland.</p> | N/A | N/A |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|--|---|---|---|
| | <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | | |
| <p>1.6 Value added taxes and other sales taxes</p> | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value Added Tax Act/ VAT Act 2009 (641.20 Federal Act of 12 June 2009 on Value Added Tax) <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20081110/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value Added Tax Ordinance/ VAT Ordinance 2009 (641.201 Ordinance of 27 November 2009 on Value Added Tax) <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20091866/index.html</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal tax administration (Eidgenössische Steuerverwaltung (ESTV))</p> <p>Municipalities (2500 villages and towns) have a fiscal administration (tax office)</p> | <p>Government sources: ESTV (2016): Steuerpflicht, massgebender Umsatz, Beginn der Steuerpflicht, Anmeldung. Webpage. Eidgenössische Steuerverwaltung – Federal Tax Administration. 16 March 2016: https://www.estv.admin.ch/estv/de/home/mehrwertsteuer/themen/steuerpflicht/allgemeine-informationen.html, visited 28 June 2016</p> <p>Non-Government sources: Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <p>World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014: http://info.worldbank.org/go</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements Only companies with a total turnover of CHF 100'000 are required to pay tax. Nearly every wood seller has a turnover above CHF 100'000, where timber sometimes only constitutes part of the income, and is registered and required by the fee administration to pay 8% VAT. There are no other sales taxes to be paid.</p> <p>Companies who become liable for domestic tax must register voluntarily within 30 days at the Federal Tax Administration in Bern (Art. 66 para. 1 Value Added Tax Act). A company will receive its own business identification number (UID) and be registered as a taxpayer.</p> <p>Annual taxes are included in the budget and yearly bill, which is approved by the Committee/ Meeting of owners and auditors. During tax audits, every bill and tax payment will be accounted for. For private forest owners without a formal business, the accounting requirements are not as strict. All enterprise benefits are regularly monitored, at least annually.</p> <p>Description of risk Clear sales documents – with volume, species, origin and final prices paid – are required by the tax authorities and specific fiscal controls minimise the risk of abuse. Tax control is carried out regularly, based on a random sample. Tax and VAT administration are rigorously managed by two separate authorities (Federal and Cantonal/ communal) (personal communication 3). In 2016 Switzerland had a CPI of 86 (above the threshold of 50) and, according to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| | <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Disposition from tax offices</p> | <p>vernance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, visited 19 May 2016</p> <p>Personal communication 3 (Christian Binggeli, SGS forestry)</p> | <p>2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance.</p> <p>VAT and sales taxes are considered to be effectively monitored and enforced (personal communication 3).</p> <p>Risk Conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| 1.7 Income and profit taxes | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal law on direct federal tax (642.11 Federal Act on Direct Federal Tax (DBG) of 14 December 1990): https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19900329/index.html 26 forest tax laws <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal tax administration (Eidgenössische Steuerverwaltung (ESTV))</p> <p>Municipalities (2500 villages and towns) have a fiscal administration (tax office)</p> | <p>Government sources: CH.CH: Steuern zahlen. Federal, State and communal administration. Webpage: https://www.ch.ch/de/steuern-zahlen/#ancre2, visited 7 June 2016</p> <p>Steuerstandort Schwiez (2010–2016): Einleitung zum Steuerstandort Schweiz. Tax location Switzerland: http://www.steuerstandort.ch/, visited 28 June 2016</p> <p>Non-Government sources: Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements Companies shall be tax registered. All wood sellers have to pay income taxes in Switzerland, with this requirement rigorously controlled by the fee administration. The rate of income tax differs, ranging between 8% and 16% depending on personal circumstances. Tax transactions are completed online.</p> <p>Since 1 January 1993, the Tax Harmonisation Act has been in place. The purpose of the legislation is to develop formal harmonisation for the tax laws of the 26 Cantons and 2500 municipalities. However, tax rates and tax allowances are still not harmonised: each Canton has its own tax legislation, charging income, asset, profit, capital, source and capital gains taxes. The municipalities have tax jurisdiction in those cases where Cantonal law allows. The municipalities receive an income tax as a percentage of the Cantonal income tax rate.</p> <p>Description of risk Clear sales documents – with volume, species, places and final prices paid – are required by the tax authorities and specific fiscal controls minimise the risk of abuse. Tax control is carried out regularly, based on a random sample. Tax and VAT administration are rigorously managed by two separate authorities (Federal and Cantonal/communal) (personal communication 3).</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Disposition from tax offices</p> | <p>perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <p>World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, Visited 19 May 2016</p> <p>Personal communication 3 (Christian Binggeli, SGS forestry)</p> | <p>In 2016 Switzerland had a CPI of 86 (above the threshold of 50) and, according to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance.</p> <p>VAT and sales taxes are considered to be effectively monitored and enforced (personal communication 3)</p> <p>Risk Conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| Timber harvesting activities | | | |
| <p>1.8 Timber harvesting regulations</p> | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf Art. 21 (Tree cutting) Art. 22 (Clear-felling Prohibited) Art. 43 (Violations) National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) since 1891, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf | <p>Government sources: Personal communication 1 (Adrian L. Meyer, State Forest Office Bern)</p> <p>BAFU (2005). Nachhaltigkeit und Erfolgskontrolle im Schutzwald. Bundesamt für Umwelt. Federal Office for the Environment. Available at: https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/themen/wald/publikationen-studien/publikationen/nachhaltigkeit-und-erfolgskontrolle-im-schutzwald.html, visited 20 November 2017</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirement Clear-cutting is prohibited in Switzerland, with only selective cutting allowed. Harvesting in winter is carried out mostly at altitudes lower than 800 m, and at altitudes of 800–2000 m above sea level in summer. The cutting technique is not regulated, but machinery is permitted only on skidding lines, cable cranes or forest roads. The maximum permissible cut over a ten-year period is the incremental increase in stock in a period calculated in advance as allowable cut and controlled by the authorities. The average stock in Switzerland, 351 m³ per hectare, is partially reduced to compensate for the risk of economic losses from (e.g.) snowfall and storms. Harvesting on slopes and harvesting in protected forest is clearly regulated in Switzerland by NaiS BAFU (ed.) 2005).</p> <p>Description of risk Harvesting is strictly regulated, with forest officials controlling the harvest site before and after harvest. The results from forest control activities are not made publicly available.</p> <p>Forest officials regularly monitor the forest and there is high awareness and control of the forests by both the public and the authorities. The forest sector in Switzerland is well networked</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>Art. 13 (Forest Roding only Permitted Following Planning Permission)</p> <p>Art. 18, 19 (Forest Planning and Authorised Activities in the Forest)</p> <p>Art. 20 (Clear felling Definition)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>26 State forest offices (six French language offices; one Italian; two French/German; one Romansh/German; 16 German)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Harvesting permits are issued at State level and requirements can vary.</p> <p>Rodungsbewilligung – Authorisation for conversion of forest</p> <p>Authorisation for construction (Baubewilligung) and EIA (UVP) (For conversion and constructions of roads, bridges, etc.)</p> | <p>Non-Government sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016, URL: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017 <p>11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi))</p> | <p>among hunters, NGOs and the police; and it is therefore unlikely that illegal harvesting would occur without its being detected (personal communication 11).</p> <p>In the State/ Canton of Bern in the past ten years (2005–2015), only two cases of illegal forest activity have been raised by the forest authorities: In one case a fine was accepted and paid for over-harvesting, while the other (also over-harvesting) was brought to court and decided to the benefit of the accused as the cut was exclusively for personal use as firewood and thus considered legal. Thus for Bern, the second biggest State in Switzerland with 190'000 ha forest and about 35'000 forest owners, there has been only one incident of cutting without a permit in a ten-year period (personal communication 1). This reflects the general picture of very low-scale harvesting in contravention of the requirement for permits in Switzerland (personal Communication 1).</p> <p>No control measures are required when the harvested volume is less than 25 m³ in total per forest owner. This timber is for own consumption and does not enter the commercial timber chain. Furthermore, due to the low volumes and general lack of evidence that harvesting regulations are being systematically violated, the lack of control does not raise concern.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| 1.9 Protected sites and species | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation (CC 101) of 18 April 1999: | <p>Government sources:</p> <p>BAFU (ed.), 2014: Switzerland's Fifth National Report under the</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements</p> <p>No harvesting is allowed in protected areas, and special approval is required for harvesting within forest reserves where limited harvesting is allowed for maintenance. Non-timber forest products are included under indicator 1.13.</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html</p> <p>Art. 77 (Forests)</p> <p>Art. 78 (Protection of peatlands and wetlands of national importance)</p> <p>Art. 79 (Protection of Fauna)</p> <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf</p> <p>Art. 20, 38 Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) since 1891, version from 1991, actualised: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf <p>Art. 21, 41 Financing of Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 States have forest laws to protect and to support/promote protected areas. <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Swiss Federal Council (Bundesrat)</p> | <p>Convention on Biological Diversity. Bundesamt für Umwelt - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. 132 pp.</p> <p>http://www.sib.admin.ch/fileadmin/chm-dateien/dokumentation/Publikationen_2014/Switzerland_5th_National_Report.pdf</p> <p>Non-Government sources:</p> <p>Personal communications 7 (Christa Glauser, Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS/BirdLife Schweiz) and 8 (Jörg Rüetschi, WWF Bern)</p> | <p>In regular production forests, High Conservation Values (HCV) shall be preserved. HCV areas are mapped by the forest service at Canton level. The HCV maps are publicly available. To avoid public attention and potential disturbance of, for example, nesting sites, the locations of some key HCV are known only to the relevant forester. An HCV evaluation includes independent specialists and the State offices for nature protection. The key biotopes and HCVs are mapped; with the requirement to protect as well as (in most cases) publicise them.</p> <p>Description of risk Foresters visit all forests before and after harvesting. Special approval is required for harvesting within forest reserves, with such approval permitted only for management purposes. In some instances, information on HCV is not made public, as there is a risk of disturbance by the public (e.g. nesting sites, etc.). The HCV that are not located in formal forest protected areas are mapped and protected within the forest management unit (FMU) in the same way as in the protected areas.</p> <p>The first inventory of HCV in Swiss forests has been finalised, but an update is in progress. Protected biotopes in the forest are generally well-known by forest owners, forest officials, hunters and NGOs.</p> <p>Biodiversity status reports are regularly being published by the Federal Office for the Environment under the Convention on Biological Diversity. While the trends recorded for different indicators of the ecological quality of forests ecosystems (such as structural diversity, volume of standing and lying deadwood, natural regeneration) are considered satisfactory, a decline is still observed for many species (insects, mushrooms, lichens). While the report concludes a need for further conservation measures, there are no indications of the current legislation being violated (BAFU (ed.), 2014). Also, according to NGOs, there are no major cases of destruction of protected areas/ species (personal communications 7 and 8).</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree of the State or Federal Government for protection • Authorised management plan for protected sites • Project document (how to protect species and how to operate; can be attached to the management plan) • Harvesting license | | <p>Risk conclusion</p> <p>Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| 1.10 Environmental requirements | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation (CC 101) of 18 April 1999, <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html</p> <p>Art. 73 (Sustainable Development)</p> <p>Art. 74 (Environmental Protection)</p> <p>Art. 77 (Forests)</p> <p>Art. 78 (Protection of Peatlands and Wetlands of National Importance)</p> <p>Art. 79 (Protection of Fauna)</p> <p>Art. 120 and 197(7): GMO</p> | <p>Government sources:</p> <p>BAFU (ed.), 2014: Switzerland's Fifth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Bundesamt für Umwelt - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. 132 pp.</p> <p>http://www.sib.admin.ch/fileadmin/chm-dateien/dokumentation/Publikationen_2014/Switzerland_5th_National_Report.pdf</p> <p>ENHK (2014): Jahresbericht 2014. Eidgenössische Natur- und Heimatschutzkommission. Bundesamt für Umwelt</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements</p> <p>The relevant laws and regulations provide protection for environmental values, soils, buffer zones, biodiversity, and water in all forms; and require seasonal limitations on harvesting as well as environmental restrictions on forest machinery. Pesticides and fertilisers are forbidden in the forest. Forest machinery is allowed only on special tracks (skidding lines, cable cranes and forest roads).</p> <p>Description of risk</p> <p>In every forest, the forester provides instructions and controls forestry activities such that damage to the environment is minimised. If damage is identified as occurring during such control activities, the forest manager shall clarify how this has occurred and ensure restoration if possible; e.g. in the case of damaged soils. Consultation with NGOs (Birdlife Schweiz, WWF, Pro Natura) and annual reports by the Federal Office for Environment reveals no risks relating to systematic and/or large-scale non-compliance with legally required environmental protection measures – evident to an extent that threatens forest resources or other environmental</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf</p> <p>Art. 4–7 (Clearing Ban)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) since 1891, version from 1991:https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf <p>Art. 4–11 (Clearing Procedure)</p> <p>Regulation on Plant Protection (916.20) of 27 October 2010. (Interdict pesticide in the forest). https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20101847/index.html</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>Federal Commission for the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (ENHK)</p> | <p>BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. http://www.enhk.admin.ch/fi/leadadmin/enhk-dateien/Jahresberichte/Jahresbericht_ENHK_2014.pdf</p> <p>ENHK (2013): Jahresbericht 2013. Eidgenössische Natur- und Heimatschutzkommission. Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. http://www.enhk.admin.ch/fi/leadadmin/enhk-dateien/Jahresberichte/Jahresbericht_ENHK_2013.pdf</p> <p>ENHK (2012): Jahresbericht 2012. Eidgenössische Natur- und Heimatschutzkommission. Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. http://www.enhk.admin.ch/fi/leadadmin/enhk-dateien/Jahresberichte/Jahresbericht_ENHK_2012_d.pdf</p> <p>ENHK (2011): Jahresbericht 2011. Eidgenössische Natur- und Heimatschutzkommission.</p> | <p>values (personal communications 6, 7 and 8). Damage to soil and standing trees is non-systematic.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorised management plan • Document on protection project confirmed by the owner, the community, and (possibly) the State and the Federal Government (for subsidies). • Harvesting license | <p>Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. http://www.enhk.admin.ch/fi/leadmin/enhk-dateien/Jahresberichte/Jahresbericht_ENHK_2011.pdf</p> <p>ENHK (2010): Jahresbericht 2010. Eidgenössische Natur- und Heimatschutzkommission. Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. http://www.enhk.admin.ch/fi/leadmin/enhk-dateien/Jahresberichte/Jahresbericht_ENHK_2010.pdf</p> <p>Non-Government sources: Personal communications 6 (Marcus Ulber, Pro Natura), 7 (Christa Glauser, Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS/BirdLife Schweiz) and 8 (Jörg Rüetschi, WWF Bern)</p> | |
| 1.11 Health and safety | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf</p> | <p>Government sources: BAFU (2006) Referat Werner Schärer, Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment, Chef Abteilung Wald, anlässlich der</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements The National Accident Insurance Institute (SUVA*) provides an occupational health and safety code (EKAS Richtlinie Nr. 2134 'Waldarbeiten'). This code is binding for organisations with forestry personnel. The Swiss Association of Forest Owners (Waldwirtschaft Schweiz) offers – with its forestry sector-specific program 'Solution Forestry' (Branchenlösung Forst) – a certification system ensuring the implementation of EKAS guidelines. Harvesting companies are contracted only if they are</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>Art. 29, 30, 39</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) since 1891, version from 1991: <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf</p> <p>Art. 34 (Apprenticeships for Casual Work)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation on the prevention of accidents, VUV 1983 (832.30 Regulation on the Prevention of Accidents and Occupational Diseases of 19 December 1983) <p>https://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c832_30.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour Code 1993 (822.113 Regulation 3 to the Labour Code (ArGV 3) (health) of 18 August 1993) <p>https://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c822_113.html</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>26 State forest offices (six French language offices; one Italian; two French/German; one Romansh/German; 16 German)</p> | <p>Auszeichnung vorbildlicher Forstbetrieb 2006 in Seon, vom 28.6.2006 (Referenz/Aktenzeichen: F221-1149). URL: http://www.suva.ch/forst-referat-schaerer-20060628.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EKAS (2005) Richtlinie Nr. 2134 Waldarbeiten. Ausgabe 1.91. Eidgenössische Koordinationskommission für Arbeitssicherheit - Federal Coordination Commission for Occupational Safety. www.aln.zh.ch/internet/bau/direktion/aln/de/wald/schnellzugang/gemeinden/sicherheit/_jcr_content/contentPar/downloadlist/downloaditem/s/ekas_richtlinie_2134.spo/oler.download.1301905918918.pdf/EKAS_Waldarbeiten.pdf Federal Department of Home Affairs (2016): Industry Solutions. Webpage: EKAS Guideline 6508, 02 Forstwirtschaft: http://www.ekas.admin.ch/index-de.php?frameset=22 | <p>part of Branchenlösung Forst and thus in compliance with health and safety regulations. Thus, every team of forest workers, including private ones, has to fulfil the 'Branchenlösung forestry' (Industry solution). (Branchenlösung (Solutions for the Swiss Forest Industry) is a handbook of over 100 pages including forms for prevention, for accidents and to ensure correct procedures at work.) Every forest worker has to repeat the emergency rules for accidents in special classes and has to work with protective equipment. Every forest entity adapts the handbook and implements it with their own safety procedures; for example, to save injured persons in the forest and carrying out health and safety exercises with the hospital emergency team.</p> <p>Description of risk Between 1970 and 1990, many accidents occurred in Swiss forests and a major campaign was initiated by SUVA and the forest offices. After 1990, the rate of forest accidents in Switzerland fell. In professional interactions, the focus on protection and awareness was and is still very high. However, in rural areas with traditional work conducted by farmers and private foresters, the safety regulations have at times been violated leading to significant risks for the workers as well as higher accident rates. However, the Federal government has been aware of this risk and a campaign ('Work Safety in Private Forests') was launched in 2006–2008 to lower the accident rate and to publicise the risks of having untrained personnel working in the forest.</p> <p>Every State forest office has a register of accidents; and for every forest unit the safety risk factor is known and multiplied by the premium for the insurance (personal communication 11).</p> <p>In 2014 there were 311 accidents per 1000 forest workers. This number includes also minor accidents. One third of these accident victims were unfit for work for periods exceeding three working days. In 2015 there were 302 accidents out of 1000 forest workers (incl. minor accidents). Of these 104 accidents resulted in more than 3 days' absence. Invalidity as a result of accidents was 0,87</p> |

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| | <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EKAS (2005) Richtlinie Nr.2134 Waldarbeiten. Ausgabe 1.91. Eidgenössische Koordinationskommission für Arbeitssicherheit. http://www.aln.zh.ch/internet/baudirektion/aln/de/wald/schnellzugang/gemeinden/sicherheit/_jcr_content/contentPar/downloadlist/downloaditems/ekas_richtlinie_2134.spooler.download.1301905918918.pdf/EKAS_Waldarbeiten.pdf • Branchenlösung Forst (Solutions Forestry– Handbook) | <p>BAFU (2015): Indicator Accidents in the forestry sector. Bundesamt für Umwelt, BAFU - Federal Office for the Environment. Webpage. Zuletzt aktualisiert am: 26.01.2015: http://www.bafu.admin.ch/umwelt/indikatoren/08606/08629/index.html?lang=en, visited 12 July 2016</p> <p>Non-Government sources: SUVA Webpage (2005): http://www.suva.ch/startseite-suva/die-suva-suva/medien-suva/medienmitteilungen-suva/2005/suva-zeichnet-forstbetriebe-aus/medienmitteilung-detail-suva.htm, visited 6 May 2016</p> <p>SUVAPro (2008): Development of accident rates in the forest, 1975–2007: http://www.suva.ch/forst_unfallentwicklung_2008.pdf</p> <p>SuvaPro (2014): Ausbildungskonzept für Waldarbeiterinnen und Waldarbeiter Empfehlung der Arbeitsgruppe «Arbeitssicherheit» Februar</p> | <p>out of 1000 and 0,60 deaths out of 1000 forest workers (Personal Communication 12). This accident rate is not considered to be low by the BAFU (BAFU 2015), and further campaigns showing the high level of focus on avoiding accidents though training and changing behaviour of works in the forest.) especially target apprentices and private forests. Despite accidents taking place in the forest, the risk for illegalities within both public and private forests are considered low as the accidents are not a consequence of a lack of following legalisation (Personal communication 11).</p> <p>* SUVA (Schweizerische Unfallversicherungsanstalt) is an independent, non-profit company under public law, providing obligatory insurance for forestry workers. In 1918, Suva opened its doors as the Swiss Accident Insurance Fund. As an insurer, SUVA is carrying out preventative work, training, and controlling legality.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |

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| | | <p>2014. URL: http://www.codoc.ch/fileadmin/files/Dokumente/Holzerkurse/140128_Mitteilung_d_AGAS_Empfehlung_Waldarbeiter.pdf. (Legally required only for State forest.)</p> <p>SuvaPro (2015): Zeitreihen zum Unfallgeschehen nach Klasse. Version: 1.06.03 / 27.04.2015. http://www.unfallstatistik.ch/d/neuza/Suva_Kl_d/WirtKl_BUV_42B.pdf</p> <p>Personal communication 1 (Adrian L. Meyer, Deputy Chief Forester, BE)</p> <p>Personal Communication 11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi)).</p> <p>Personal Communication12 (Thomas Müller, SUVA)</p> | |
| 1.12 Legal employment | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) 1991, <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf</p> | <p>Non-Government sources: Personal communication 9</p> <p>Personal communication 11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements To work in Swiss forestry, a professional forest qualification is required. Private forest owners have to receive training relating to harvesting of timber. Every team of forest workers (including private teams) has to fulfil the Solutions for the Swiss Forest Industry 'Solution forestry' (Branchenlösung Forst) in detail. (Solution Forestry for the Swiss Forest Industry is a handbook of</p> |

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| | <p>Art. 29, 30, 39</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) 1991, https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf <p>Art. 34 (Apprenticeships for Casual Work)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Working law and Five Enactments (ArG 821 und 822 inkl. Verordnungen 1–5 https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/82.html Labour Code 1993 (822.113 Regulation 3 to the Labour Code (ArGV 3) (health) of 18 August 1993) https://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c822_113.html ZGB/OR Schweizerisches Zivilgesetzbuch und Obligationenrecht. OR 322 Lohn und Sozialleistungen URL: http://www.zgbor.ch/ Regulation on the prevention of accidents, VUV 1983 (832.30 Regulation on the Prevention of Accidents and Occupational Diseases of 19 December 1983) https://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c832_30.html GIG-Gleichstellungsgesetz https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19950082/index.html | <p>Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi)). SuvaPro (2014): Ausbildungskonzept für Waldarbeiterinnen und Waldarbeiter Empfehlung der Arbeitsgruppe «Arbeitssicherheit» Februar 2014: http://www.codoc.ch/fileadmin/files/Dokumente/Holzerkurse/140128_Mitteilung_d_AGAS_Empfehlung_Waldarbeiter.pdf. (Legally required only for State forest.)</p> | <p>over 100 pages including forms for prevention, for accidents and to ensure correct procedures at work.) The team leader (normally a certified forester) is responsible for legal requirements relating to employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities – including requirements for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurances, requirements for competency certificates and other training requirements. Legal requirements also include observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personnel involved in hazardous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labour, discrimination, and freedom of association.</p> <p>Description of risk Based on field experience by forest auditor Karl Büchel it is the experience that leading foresters are aware that forestry work is dangerous, and can be particularly so for non-professionals (Personal communication 11). Thus there are no major issues with non-professionals carrying out forest work (Personal Communication 11). The Association of Forest Workers (VSF) is active and available for forest workers. The number of workers and entrepreneurs in the forest sector is limited and most are well-known to the foresters in charge. There are no major known issues of forced, under-age or illegal labour, nor workers being mistreated (personal communication 9), This includes issues with contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurance, payment of social and income taxes</p> <p>There is no known systematic or large-scale non-compliance with labour and/or employment laws. No serious violations of the legal rights of workers have been identified, such as forced, under-age or illegal labour; and this indicator has therefore been evaluated as low risk.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
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| | <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>SECO: Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft; https://www.seco.admin.ch/</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>26 State forest offices (six French language offices; one Italian; two French/German; one Romansh/German; 16 German)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal dossier with professional education and further training of every worker. • Branchenlösung (Solutions for Forestry in Switzerland – Handbook): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arbeitsvertrag und Stellenbeschreibung - Branchenlösung II (03, Ausbildung) - Branchenlösung II (08, Mitwirkung) - Branchenlösung II (09_02, Gleichstellung) - Branchenlösung II (09_03, Jugendschutz) | | <p>preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| 1.13 Customary rights | Applicable laws and regulations | <p>Third parties' rights</p> <p>Non-Government sources: VAPKO (2014): Regulations on mushroom gathering in Switzerland: http://www.vapko.ch/phoca</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements</p> <p>Access to the forest and the collection of wild berries, mushrooms, etc. is generally permitted, except under certain circumstances where the collection might be prohibited by the competent authority.</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swiss Civil Code of 10 December 1907 (ZGB 210): https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19070042/index.html Art. 699, free access to forest (also private forest) • National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf Art. 15 • Ordinance on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHV 451.1) of 16 January 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910005/index.html Art. 20, paragraph 1 (protection of mushrooms in Switzerland) • Legislation of 26 States <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Forest offices (at State, city or communal level)</p> | <p>download/public/DE/Oekologie/2014-08-26%20pilzsammelbestimmungen_in_der_schweiz.pdf.</p> <p>Personal communication 3 (Christian Binggeli, SGS forestry).</p> | <p>In general, the collection of mushrooms is permitted (unless protected). Mushrooms cannot be collected in protected areas; and in the forest can only be gathered for personal use (sometimes a maximum of 2 kg applies).</p> <p>Forest and forest roads can be used only for forestry vehicles. The Federal Council regulates the exceptions that exist for military and other public functions. The Cantons may allow forest roads to be used for other purposes if there are no conflicts with forest conservation or other public interests. The Cantons shall ensure the appropriate signage, barriers and the necessary checks.</p> <p>Description of risk</p> <p>There are no indications that requirement of open access to the forests and the collection of mushroom and berries, etc. is being violated by forest owners/forest operations. The Swiss population respects the regulations relating to the collection of berries and mushrooms (personal communication 3).</p> <p>Risk conclusion</p> <p>Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | | |
| 1.14 Free prior and informed consent | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Not applicable. There are no applicable laws or regulations.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | N/A | N/A |
| 1.15 Indigenous peoples rights | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Not applicable. According to the OECD definition, no Indigenous people are living in Switzerland. No Indigenous people are recognised by Swiss legislation.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | N/A | N/A |
| Trade and transport | | | |
| 1.16 Classification of species, | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Regulation on the declaration of wood and wood products (944.021) of 4 June 2010:</p> | Government sources: WBF (2015): Formelle Anforderungen zur Rechnungsstellung. KMU- | Overview of Legal Requirements Information on the species and the origin shall be provided. Volume/ quality are usually also clearly provided in invoice/transport documents, although not specified as a legal |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| quantities, qualities | <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20092250/201301010000/944.021.pdf</p> <p>Ordinance on the Declaration for Timber and Timber Products (944.021.1) of 7 June 2010:</p> <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20092251/index.html</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research</p> <p>Federal Office of Consumer Affairs (BKF)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Declaration on applicable information on species, origin and volume/ quality (invoice/ waybill)</p> <p>Log list (Rundholzliste) with species information</p> | <p>Portal für kleine and mittlere Unternehmen. Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft – Swiss Confederation. Webpage: https://www.kmu.admin.ch/kmu/de/home/praktisches-wissen/finanzielles/steuern/mwst/formelle-anforderungen-zur-rechnungsstellung.html, visited 28 June 2016</p> <p>BKF (2016): Holzdeklaration. Eidgenössisches Büro für Konsumentenfragen - Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs (BFK) Webpage: https://www.konsum.admin.ch/bfk/de/home/themen/holzdeklaration.html, visited 11 June 2016</p> <p>Non-Government sources: WSL (2013). Schweizer Handelsgebräuche für Rohholz. Redaktion waldwissen.net – WSL. 13 January 2013. Webpage: http://www.waldwissen.net/waldwirtschaft/holz/sortierung/wsl_holzhandelsgebraeuche_schweiz/index_DE, visited 28 June 2016</p> | <p>requirement in the legislation (see Holzhandelsgebräuche, correct invoice). In Switzerland, a standard also exists to define a correct invoice (Formelle Anforderungen zur Rechnungsstellung). There are no legislative requirements as to how this should be written, other than that it shall be clear. However, a manual exists to describe the company standard declaration for wood.</p> <p>As of 1 October 2010, there is a Federation rule that clarifies the declaration. The species and origin of raw wood, semi-finished products and finished products made fully of wood or containing significant amounts of massive wood, are to be declared. The species declaration has to be made at the point in time that the product is handed over to the consumer. The information is added to the invoice/ waybill as a log list (Rundholzliste) provided by the local forester. Industry wood is classified in the same way and measured by weight when transported. This is also applicable to firewood and chips.</p> <p>Our assessment reveals no taxes to be paid based on species and quality.</p> <p>Description of risk There is no indication of a systematic lack of proper declaration of species, volume and quality. The information provided by the seller is checked by the buyers. Monitoring by forest officials will occur only if there is suspicion of fraud (Personal communication 11).</p> <p>An important tool for correct classification is the wood database (Holzdatenbank). Here the scientific name and the trade name can be identified (the database can be found at: https://www.konsum.admin.ch/bfk/de/home/themen/holzdeklaration.html)</p> <p>In 2016 Switzerland received as a Corruption Perceptions Index score 86 out of 100: well above the threshold of 50. This is supported by the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (2011) with a rank of 8.8. out of 10, as well as the World Bank Worldwide Governance</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | <p>Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <p>OECD (2011) Phase 3 Report on Implementing the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention in Switzerland. OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. December 2011. http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber/message/attachments/25368.pdf</p> <p>Personal communication 11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi)).</p> | <p>Indicators, which - on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance</p> <p>As there are no taxes to be paid based on species and quality, there is considered to be little incentive to provide incorrect information. There is no evidence of legal violation. Together with the generally high level of law implementation in the country and lack of reports that incorrect classification is an issue, this risk is considered low.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| 1.17 Trade and transport | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Regulation on the declaration of wood and wood products (944.021) of 4 June 2010: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20092250/201301010000/944.021.pdf.</p> <p>Ordinance on the Declaration for Timber and Timber Products (944.021.1) of 7 June 2010: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20092251/index.html</p> | <p>Government sources: BFK (2016): Holzdeklaration. Eidgenössisches Büro für Konsumentenfragen - Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs (BFK): https://www.konsum.admin.ch/bfk/de/home/themen/holzdeklaration.html</p> <p>WBF (2015): Formelle Anforderungen zur</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements Trading requires correct invoices. The requirements of the species, origin and volume/ quality are clearly required on transport documents which shall be issued by the seller. A log list for roundwood (Rundholzliste) and transport order (Transportaufträge) for transport and trade shall be issued by the forest officials so that wood may be transported out of the forest. There is no right to access the forest without a transport order.</p> <p>Description of risk The transport documents are controlled by the buyer. There is no intervention by the authorities, unless there is suspicion of fraud, meaning there is no pre-emptive or proactive control.</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| | <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Office of Consumer Affairs (BKF)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration on applicable information on species, origin and volume/ quality/ weight (invoice/ delivery docket and waybill) • Log list (Rundholzliste) with species information • Transport order | <p>Rechnungsstellung. KMU-Portal für kleine and mittlere Unternehmen. Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft. Swiss Confederation. Webpage: https://www.kmu.admin.ch/kmu/de/home/praktisches-wissen/finanzielles/steuern/mwst/formelle-anforderungen-zur-rechnungsstellung.html, visited 28 June 2016</p> <p>Non-Government sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017 • World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, Visited 19 May 2016 <p>Personal communication 11 (Karl Büchel, Ingenieurbüro für naturgemässe</p> | <p>In 2015 Switzerland received as a Corruption Perceptions Index score 86 out of 100: well above the threshold of 50. This is supported by the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (2011) with a rank of 8.8. out of 10, as well as the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators, which - on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance. There is no indication (no court cases found) of issues associated with illegal removal of timber or lack of requisite transport documents. (Personal communication 11)</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1.18 Offshore trading and transfer pricing | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal law on direct federal tax 1990 (642.11 Federal Act on Direct Federal Tax (DBG) of 14 December 1990: <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19900329/index.html</p> <p>Art. 58</p> <p>Federal tax harmonization law 1990 (642.14 Federal Act on the Harmonization of Direct Taxes of Cantons and Municipalities (THA) of 14 December 1990):</p> <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19900333/index.html</p> <p>Art. 24</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Tax Administration (FTA)</p> <p>Cantonal and Communal Tax Authorities (CTA)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | <p>Umgebungsentwicklung (natentwi))</p> <p>Non-Government sources: PWC (2015): International transfer pricing 2015/16, PwC: http://www.pwc.com/gx/en/services/tax/transfer-pricing/itp-download.html</p> <p>Personal communication 4 (Mr Wyss, KPMG)</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements</p> <p>There are no special tax laws or statutory transfer pricing rules in Switzerland. The principle of an 'arm's length' is covered by the Federal Act on Direct Federal Tax and the Federal Tax Harmonization Law, and costs must be commercially justifiable.</p> <p>Switzerland is a member of the OECD and has accepted the OECD Guidelines on transfer pricing. The Cantonal tax authorities are to observe the OECD guidelines when adjusting profits or when assessing multinational enterprises in the Canton.</p> <p>Description of risk</p> <p>Swiss tax authorities employ tax officers who are experienced and educated with regard to transfer pricing issues and the use of options for tax adjustments granted under existing Swiss tax legislation (PWC 2015).</p> <p>There have been several cases of transfer pricing brought before the Swiss courts. This has especially concerned the interpretation of costs that are not commercially justifiable (e.g. non-arm's length transactions of management services or license fees), the privileged use of company assets by the shareholder, and the restructuring of sister companies by means of non-arm's length transactions (PWC 2015).</p> <p>While several transfer pricing cases have been identified, according to personal communication with Mr Wyss (KPMG) (personal communication 4), the problems identified with multinational enterprises and transfer pricing are not associated with the wood and forest industries. Switzerland is in line with all OECD instructions and has also introduced the new stricter documentation rules relating to transfer pricing. Among the 26 Cantons/ States, internal prices are well-known – as the issue of transfer pricing is a prioritised area. In addition, the State authorities are aware of this issue.</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |
| 1.19 Custom regulations | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Customs Act 2005 (631.0 Customs Act (ZG) of 18 March 2005): https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20030370/index.html</p> <p>Plant Protection Ordinance (PSV) 2010 (916.20 Ordinance on Plant Protection of 27 October 2010): https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20101847/index.html#app5</p> <p>Regulation of BLW on temporary phytosanitary measures (916.202.1) of 13 March 2015: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20150343/index.html</p> <p>Regulation of the WBF on prohibited plants (916.205.1) of 15 April 2002: http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c916_205_1.html</p> <p>Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on trade in agricultural products (0.916.026.81) of 21 June 1999: http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c0_916_026_81.html</p> <p>Art. 1.2: (Definition)</p> <p>Art. 4: Requirement of origin</p> | <p>Government sources: • FOAG (2016): Import of plants and plant products. Federal Office for Agriculture: http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00012/01153/01155/index.html?lang=de, Visited 19 May 2016</p> <p>BLW (n.d.) Export von Pflanzen. Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft, BLW: http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00012/01153/01157/index.html?lang=de, visited 8 June 2016</p> <p>BAFU (2016): Jahrbuch Wald und Holz 2015. Bundesamt für Umwelt - Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. Umwelt-Zustand Nr. 1520: 162 S: http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01833/index.html?lang+18</p> <p>EZV (): Vorschriften. Eidgenössische Zollverwaltung – Federal</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements Export has to be registered by Customs department and is specified with identification papers indicating species and volume (plant passport and log list). No export taxes on wood shall be paid, but obtaining exemption from payment of Swiss VAT export has to be registered. Phytosanitary certificates for wood and wood products for export are issued by BAFU and some Cantonal forestry services.</p> <p>Description of risk Customs controls are conducted randomly. The customs officials in Switzerland know the species and, for uncommon species, they have wood specialists who are able to communicate in the four official languages of Switzerland, as well as English (English, German, French, Italian, Romansh). The registration for export is organised, and Swiss timber is followed by a declaration of origin and species (EZV ()). The export/ import statistics are published every year in the BAFU 'Jahrbuch Wald und Holz'. (see list of sources).</p> <p>In 2016 Switzerland had a CPI of 86 (above the threshold of 50) and, according to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance. As there is no ban on timber export and no export tax to be paid it is evaluated that there is low incentive not to follow export requirements of registration goods for export, together with the generally high level of law implementation in the country and lack of reports of export registration being an issue, this risk is considered low.</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|------------|---|--|---|
| | <p>Art. 13.1: Future development</p> <p>Annex 1: Definition of categories of wood and plants, in the same way as the Swiss legislation is made.</p> <p>International Plant Protection Convention (0916.20) of 6 December 1951: http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c0_916_20.html</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Directorate General of Customs</p> <p>Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW)</p> <p>Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant passport/ phytosanitary certificate for timber (information on origin and species are included in the plant passport) • log list for tax and statistics • invoice for tax | <p>Custom Declaration, EZV. Webpage: http://www.ezv.admin.ch/dokumentation/04032/index.html?lang=de, visited 11 June 2016</p> <p>Non-Government sources: Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016.: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 21 April 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, visited 19 May 2016 | <p>Risk conclusion</p> <p>Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities.</p> |
| 1.20 CITES | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Swiss ratified. (0.453. Convention on International Trade in | <p>Non-Government sources: Schweizer Holzhandelszentrale (2015): Hölzer, die den Bestimmungen des</p> | <p>Overview of Legal Requirements</p> <p>Switzerland has ratified the CITES Convention through national law. The Management Authority in charge of implementing the Convention is the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA)</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| | <p>Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Completed in Washington on 3 March 1973. From the Federal Assembly approved on 11 June 1974. Swiss instrument of ratification deposited on 9 July 9 1974. Entered into force for Switzerland on 1 July 1975)</p> <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19730069/index.html#a%C3%BCbereinkommen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BGCITES 2012 (453 Federal Law on the marketing of animal and plant protected species of 16 March 2012) <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20092733/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCITES 2013 (453.0 Regulation on the marketing of animal and plant protected species of 4 September 2013) <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20121348/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Regulation (453.1 Ordinance on the Control of Trade in animal and plant protected species of 4 September 2013) <p>https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20121349/index.html</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO)</p> | <p>Washingtoner Artenschutz-Übereinkommens (WA / CITES) unterstehen und regelmässig angeboten werden (Schweizer Holzhandelszentrale (SHHZ)) Swiss Timber Trading Center, Stand 1 December 2015: www.holzhandelszentrale.ch/pdf/cites_liste.pdf. visited 26 May 2016</p> <p>CITES (2016) Checklist of CITES Species: http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=238&output_layout=alphabetical&level_of_listing=0&show_synonyms=1&show_author=1&show_english=1&show_spanish=1&show_french=1&scientific_name=Plantae&page=1&per_page=20, Visited 19 May 2016</p> | <p>while the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (BLV) issues import/ export permits.</p> <p>Description of risk There are no wooden species on the CITES list for Switzerland (CITES checklist 2015), and there is therefore no risk of violating CITES in relation to timber harvested in Switzerland.</p> <p>Risk conclusion Low risk. Threshold (1) is met: Identified laws are upheld. Cases where law/regulations are violated are efficiently followed up via preventive actions taken by the authorities and/or by the relevant entities</p> |

| Indicator | Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records | Sources of Information | Risk designation and determination |
|---|---|--|--|
| | <p>Federal Department of Home Affairs (BLV)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document of physical identification • Document of proof of the trade (such as invoice, payment, etc.) • CITES permit | | |
| Diligence/due care procedures | | | |
| <p>1.21 Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures</p> | <p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p> <p>There are currently no due diligence requirements in place for timber or wood products in Switzerland, and this indicator is therefore considered not applicable.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A. Not yet in place</p> <p>(The authority that will be responsible in the future: BAFU, Department for Environment)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p> | <p>Government sources: Personal Communication 10 (Achim Schafer – BAFU)</p> <p>Non-Government sources: IHB, the Timber Network (2013): Exclusions and problems for Switzerland: http://www.ihb.de/wood/news/schweiz_holzhandelsverordnung_eutr_33358.html, visited 19 May 2016</p> | <p>N/A</p> <p>Overview of Legal Requirements There are currently no due diligence requirements in place for timber or wood products in Switzerland, and this indicator is therefore, at current stage, considered not applicable.</p> <p>Switzerland will implement legislation similar to the European Union Timber Regulation. It is expected that it will be introduced within a few years of 2016, but a date of implementation has not been provided (Personal communication 10).</p> |

Recommended control measures

N/A

Controlled wood category 2: Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights

Risk assessment

| Indicator | Sources of Information | Functional scale | Risk designation and determination |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 2.1. The forest sector is not associated with violent armed conflict, including that which threatens national or regional security and/or linked to military control. | See detailed analysis below. | Country | Risk determination: Low risk Justification: All low risk thresholds are met (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) and there is no other evidence of specified risk. None of the specified risk thresholds are met. |
| 2.2. Labour rights are respected including rights as specified in ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work. | See detailed analysis below. | Country | Risk determination: Low risk Justification: Low risk thresholds (10) and (12) are met. |
| 2.3. The rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples are upheld. | See detailed analysis below. | Country | Risk determination: Low risk Justification: Low risk thresholds (16) and (21) are met. |

Recommended control measures

| Indicator | Recommended control measures |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 2.1 | N/A |
| 2.2 | N/A |
| 2.3 | N/A |

Detailed analysis

| Sources of information | Evidence | Scale of risk assessment | Risk indication ¹ |
|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Context (the following are indicators that help to contextualize the information from other sources) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searching for data on: level of corruption, governance, lawlessness, fragility of the State, freedom of journalism, freedom of speech, peace, human rights, armed or violent conflicts by or in the country, etc. | | | |
| World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators - the WGI report aggregate and individual governance indicators for 215 countries (most recently for 1996–2012), for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; Control of Corruption http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home | http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports (click on table view tab and select Country) In 2014 (latest available year) Switzerland scores between 94 and 100 on the percentile rank among all countries for all six World Governance Indicators. In comparison, these are very high scores. The scores range from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest rank) with higher values corresponding to better outcomes. | Country | |
| World Bank Harmonized List of Fragile Situations: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTLICUS/Resources/511777-1269623894864/Fragile_Situations_List_FY11_%28Oct_19_2010%29.pdf | Switzerland does not feature in this list. | Country | |
| Committee to Protect Journalists: Impunity Index CPJ's Impunity Index calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. For this index, CPJ examined journalist murders that occurred between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2013, and that remain unsolved. Only those nations with five or more unsolved cases are included on this index. http://cpj.org/reports/2014/04/impunity-index-getting-away-with-murder.php | Switzerland does not feature in this list. | Country | |
| Carleton University: Country Indicators for Foreign Policy: the Failed and Fragile States project of Carleton University examines state fragility using a combination of structural data and current event monitoring http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/ffs.htm | http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/app/serve.php/1419.pdf Switzerland scores 'Low' on the State Fragility Map 2011. | Country | |
| Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org | http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015 | Country | |

¹ A risk indication is provided for each source analyzed, except in the first part that addresses the general country context as that is not a risk indicator. A cumulative risk assessment for each risk indicator is provided in the row with the conclusion on each risk indicator, based on all the sources analyzed and evidence found.

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| | <p>There is no chapter on Switzerland in the country chapters of the World Report 2015.</p> <p>https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/05/04/universal-periodic-review-switzerland <i>Universal Periodic Review of Switzerland</i> <i>Human Rights Watch's Submission to the Human Rights Council, 04 May 2008</i></p> <p>“III. Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We recommend that the Swiss government use the opportunity of the Universal Periodic Review to unequivocally reject the use of diplomatic assurances in all transfer contexts where a person is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment, and commit to promoting system-wide efforts to eradicate torture throughout the world. - The Swiss authorities should refrain from any action that could place an individual at risk of torture or ill-treatment, and that would legitimize a practice that undermines the prohibition against torture and ill-treatment. - We recommend that the Swiss parliament launch an initiative to revisit the recently adopted Law on Asylum in compliance with international human rights standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention.” <p>No information found on risks regarding governance or illegal logging in the periodic review nor on the HRW website.</p> | | |
| US AID: www.usaid.gov Search on website for [country] + ‘human rights’ ‘conflicts’ ‘conflict timber’ | No information found that indicates a specified risk after searching Switzerland + ‘human rights’ ‘conflicts’ ‘timber conflicts’ | Country | |
| Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org Search on website for [country] + ‘human rights’ ‘conflicts’ ‘conflict timber’ | No information found that indicates a specified risk after searching Switzerland + ‘human rights’ ‘conflicts’ ‘timber conflicts’ | Country | |
| http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/deforestation/forest_illegal_logging/ | <p>Switzerland is not reported as a source for illegal timber.</p> <p>WWF report: Failing the Forests; Europe’s illegal timber trade. http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/failingforests.pdf Switzerland is not reported as a source for illegal timber.</p> | Country | |
| Chattam House Illegal Logging Indicators Country Report Card http://www.illegal-logging.info | <p>http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/swiss-timber-and-european-timber-regulation-eutr <i>Swiss Timber and the European Timber Regulation (EUTR); 26 April 2013</i> “This factsheet considers Swiss timber in light of the EUTR. Timber from Swiss forests does not pose any cause for concern in terms of illegal harvesting: the nationwide control and monitoring implemented by the forestry service guarantees that the legal provisions for sustainable forest management and wood harvesting are complied with and verified in</p> | Country | |

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| | Switzerland. This ensures that the risk of illegal logging in Switzerland is negligible.” | | |
| Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016 | Switzerland scores 86 points on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2016 on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Switzerland ranks 5th out of 176 with rank no. 1 being the cleanest country. | Country | |
| Amnesty International Annual Report: The state of the world's human rights -information on key human rights issues, including: freedom of expression; international justice; corporate accountability; the death penalty; and reproductive rights | https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/0001/2015/en/ A few negative issues and cases are reported on Switzerland in the country chapter of the <i>State of the Human Rights Report 2014/15</i> (pages 352-353). The issues are related to discrimination, refugees and asylum-seekers, prison conditions and legislative, constitutional or institutional developments. No information relevant for this risk assessment found. | Country | |
| Freedom House http://www.freedomhouse.org/ | https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2015#.VgwaoXrtIHw The status of Switzerland on the Freedom in the World index 2015 is 'free'. https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2015#.VgwZ2HrtIHw The status of Switzerland on the Freedom of the Press in 2015 is 'free' https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/freedom-net-2015 There is no score for Switzerland in the Freedom on the Net index in 2014. | Country | |
| Reporters without Borders: Press Freedom Index https://index.rsf.org/#/ | <i>2015 World Press Freedom Index</i> In 2015, Switzerland ranked #20 out of 180 countries on World Press Freedom Index with a score of 13.85. | Country | |
| Fund for Peace - Fragile States Index - the Fund for Peace is a US-based non-profit research and educational organization that works to prevent violent conflict and promote security. The Fragile States Index is an annual ranking, first published in 2005 with the name Failed States Index, of 177 nations based on their levels of stability and capacity http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/ | <i>Fragile States Index 2015</i> Switzerland is ranked 173 out of 178 countries on the Fragile States Index 2015. (no. 1 being the most fragile state). This ranks Switzerland in the category Sustainable with only Finland being in the highest category Very Sustainable. | Country | |
| The Global Peace Index. Published by the Institute for Economics & Peace, This index is the world's leading measure of national peacefulness. It ranks 162 nations according to their absence of violence. It's made up of 23 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the level of respect for human rights. Source: The Guardian: http://economicsandpeace.org/research/iep-indices-data/global-peace-index | http://static.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Peace%20Index%20Report%202015_0.pdf <i>2015 Global Peace Index</i> Switzerland is ranked #5 out 162 countries (with #1 having the highest state of peace) which means that it is assessed as one of the 25 countries in highest category Very high State of Peace. | Country | |

| Additional sources of information (These sources were partly found by Googling the terms '[country]', 'timber', 'conflict', 'illegal logging') | Evidence | Scale of risk assessment | Risk indication |
|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| No additional sources found. | No additional evidence found. | | |
| From national CW RA: Info on illegal logging <i>FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Switzerland Evaluation of risks in relation to the procurement of uncertified timber from Swiss forests Version 2009</i> | No information or risk assessment on illegal logging | - | - |
| Conclusion on country context: Switzerland scores very positive on all indicators reviewed in this context section. It is a stable country, with a strong democratic system and good governance, and it is a free country for all its citizens with a good justice system. | | Country | |
| Indicator 2.1. The forest sector is not associated with violent armed conflict, including that which threatens national or regional security and/or linked to military control. | | | |
| Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the country covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber? Is the country covered by any other international ban on timber export? Are there individuals or entities involved in the forest sector that are facing UN sanctions? | | | |
| Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists http://www.un.org/sc/committees/list_compend.shtml | There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from Switzerland. Switzerland is not covered by any other international ban on timber export. There are no individuals or entities involved in the forest sector in Switzerland that are facing UN sanctions. | Country | Low risk |
| US AID: www.usaid.gov | | | |
| Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org | | | |
| From national CW RA: <i>FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Switzerland Evaluation of risks in relation to the procurement of uncertified timber from Swiss forests Version 2009</i> | No information or risk assessment on CW Category indicator 2.1 | | |
| Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the country a source of conflict timber? If so, is it at the country level or only an issue in specific regions? If so – which regions? Is the conflict timber related to specific entities? If so, which entities or types of entities? | | | |
| www.usaid.gov Conflict Timber is defined by US AID as: - conflict financed or sustained through the harvest and sale of timber (Type 1), - conflict emerging as a result of competition over timber or other forest resources (Type 2) | No information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. | Country | Low risk |

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| Also check overlap with indicator 2.3 | | | |
| www.globalwitness.org/campaigns/environment/forests | No information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. | Country | Low risk |
| Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/ | No information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. | Country | Low risk |
| World Resources Institute: Governance of Forests Initiative Indicator Framework (Version 1) http://pdf.wri.org/working_papers/gfi_tenure_indicators_sep09.pdf Now: PROFOR http://www.profor.info/node/1998 | This work resulted in a publication: Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance: A user's guide to a diagnostic tool (available on this page) published by PROFOR in June 2012. This tool has not yet been applied to Switzerland. | Country | Low risk |
| Amnesty International Annual Report: The state of the world's human rights -information on key human rights issues, including: freedom of expression; international justice; corporate accountability; the death penalty; and reproductive rights http://www.amnesty.org | No information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. | Country | Low risk |
| World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators - the WGIs report aggregate and individual governance indicators for 213 economies (most recently for 1996–2012), for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; Control of Corruption http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home Use indicator 'Political stability and Absence of violence' specific for indicator 2.1 | In 2014 (latest available year) Switzerland scores percentile rank 94 on the dimension <i>Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism</i>. | Country | Low risk |
| Greenpeace: www.greenpeace.org Search for 'conflict timber [country]' | No information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. | Country | Low risk |
| CIFOR: http://www.cifor.org/ http://www.cifor.org/publications/Corporate/FactSheet/forests_conflict.htm | No information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. Switzerland does not feature on this website. | Country | Low risk |
| Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms or in combination 'conflict timber', 'illegal logging' | No other information on conflict timber in Switzerland found. | Country | Low risk |
| From national CW RA: <i>FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Switzerland Evaluation of risks in relation to the procurement of uncertified timber from Swiss forests</i> Version 2009 | No information or risk assessment on CW Category indicator 2.1 | | |
| Conclusion on indicator 2.1: No information was found on Switzerland as a source of conflict timber and the forest sector is not associated with any violent armed conflict. | | Country | Low risk |

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| <p>The following low risk thresholds apply:</p> <p>(1) The area under assessment is not a source of conflict timber²; AND (2) The country is not covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber; AND (3) The country is not covered by any other international ban on timber export; AND (4) Operators in the area under assessment are not involved in conflict timber supply/trade; AND (5) Other available evidence does not challenge 'low risk' designation.</p> | | | |
| <p>Indicator 2.2. Labour rights are respected including rights as specified in ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work.</p> <p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the social rights covered by the relevant legislation and enforced in the country or area concerned? (refer to category 1) • Are rights like freedom of association and collective bargaining upheld? • Is there evidence confirming absence of compulsory and/or forced labour? • Is there evidence confirming absence of discrimination in respect of employment and/or occupation, and/or gender? • Is there evidence confirming absence of child labour? • Is the country signatory to the relevant ILO Conventions? • Is there evidence that any groups (including women) feel adequately protected related to the rights mentioned above? • Are any violations of labour rights limited to specific sectors? | | | |
| <p>general sources from FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0 EN</p> | | <p>information found and specific sources</p> | |
| <p>Status of ratification of fundamental ILO conventions: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11001:0::NO:: or use: ILO Core Conventions Database: http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm C29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930 C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 C98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 C100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 C105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973 C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999</p> | | <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102861 Switzerland has ratified all 8 Fundamental ILO Conventions. The status on the ILO website for all 8 Conventions is 'in force'</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3175569:NO Direct Request (CEACR) - adopted 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Switzerland</p> <p>“Articles 1(1), 2(1) and 25 of the Convention. Trafficking in persons. In its previous comments the Committee noted the measures taken by the Government to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for combating trafficking in persons, particularly the coordination and awareness-raising activities carried out by the Coordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (SCOTT).</p> | |
| | | <p>scale of risk assessment</p> <p>Country</p> | <p>risk indication</p> <p>Low risk</p> |

² “Conflict timber” limited to include “timber that has been traded at some point in the chain of custody by armed groups, be they rebel factions or regular soldiers, or by a civilian administration involved in armed conflict or its representatives, either to perpetuate conflict or take advantage of conflict situations for personal gain - conflict timber is not necessarily illegal. Please refer to FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0.

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| <p>Ratification as such should be checked under Category 1. In Cat. 2 we take that outcome into consideration. Refer to it.</p> | <p>The Committee notes that the information supplied by the Government in its report indicates that it remains strongly committed to the fight against trafficking in persons, as borne out by the adoption of the “National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking (2012–14)”. The plan defines 23 measures within four strategic objectives, namely: prevention; stepping up the prosecution of perpetrators; improving victim identification and protection; and international cooperation. Among the activities carried out in implementing these four strategic objectives, the Committee notes the awareness-raising activities undertaken under the auspices of SCOTT, including those undertaken in various cantons during the week of action against human trafficking (October 2013) and the preparations for the 2016 national awareness-raising campaign; the organization of training days for members of the criminal prosecution authorities and staff of the Migration Office; and the possibility for the Confederation to grant financial aid to private or public law bodies to enable them to implement measures for the prevention of trafficking (following the entry into force of the Ordinance against human trafficking). Moreover, the “Trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants” commissariat continues to coordinate and support judicial procedures at national and international level (in particular with Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria), which has resulted in an increase in requests for information exchange with these countries. The Committee notes that, according to the latest report from the Federal Police Office (FEDPOL) (May 2014), Switzerland is still mainly affected by the trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation. The last ten years have seen a slight increase in the number of convictions, with heavy prison sentences handed down in 2013. The report also underlines the large number of trafficking cases which are not recorded. These cases do not lead to prosecution because the offence is not identified or because of the reluctance of victims or witnesses to testify. Proceedings are even fewer for cases involving trafficking in persons for the exploitation of labour, which, according to police information, probably exist in the sectors of construction, agriculture and domestic work.</p> <p><i>The Committee requests the Government to continue to supply information on the activities implementing the National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking in order to ensure better identification and protection of victims and also genuinely effective penalties for perpetrators, in accordance with Article 25 of the Convention. The Government is also requested to indicate the specific measures taken to improve detection and handling of cases of trafficking in persons for labour exploitation. The Committee further requests the Government to indicate whether it is planned to evaluate the impact of the measures taken in the context of the National Plan of Action and, if so, to provide information on this evaluation and on any measures taken or contemplated as a result.”</i></p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Specified risk on forced labour</p> |
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| | <p>USS/SGB again cites new instances of obstacles to the presence of unions at the workplace in one canton's public administration as well as in the catering and retail sectors. The Committee is bound to point out once again that the right conferred by Article 3 of the Convention on workers' and employers' organizations to organize their activities and formulate their action programmes in full freedom in order to defend the occupational interests of their members, in observance of the law, includes in particular the right to hold trade union meetings and the right of trade union officers to have access to places of work and to communicate with management. <i>The Committee trusts that the Government will ensure full observance of this principle in the future.</i></p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3084258:NO</p> <p><i>Observation (CEACR) - adopted 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013) Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) - Switzerland</i></p> <p>"Articles 1 and 3 of the Convention. Protection against anti-union dismissals. The Committee recalls that its last comments addressed the difference of opinion between the Government and the trade unions on the degree of protection of trade union delegates and representatives against anti-union dismissals. While the trade unions considered that this protection was not adequate on the basis of cases ruled on by courts, the Government maintained that Swiss law offers adequate protection and fully respects the Convention; and that the compensation for unfair dismissal which may amount to as much as six months' pay is sufficiently dissuasive, given that the great majority of Swiss firms are small and medium-sized enterprises. The Government nevertheless indicated that the Federal Council decided on 16 December 2009 to reconsider the matter of penalties for unfair dismissal, including the dismissal of elected staff representatives, dismissal for membership or non-membership of a trade union or for lawful trade union activity, for the purpose of looking into an increase of the maximum penalty. In September 2010, therefore, the Government was to hold consultations with the social partners on improving protection against unfair dismissals, including dismissal on anti-union grounds. The Committee had welcomed this initiative and asked the Government to indicate the outcome.</p> <p><i>The Committee notes the Government's indication that the said consultation, which ended in January 2011, revealed strongly conflicting opinions on the need to review the Code of Obligations on the issue of protection against dismissals and that the Federal Council must take a policy decision on actions to be taken on the draft review.</i> The Committee also notes the observations of Travail.Suisse and the USS/SGB which confirm that the consultations ended in January 2011, regret the fact that the Federal Council still has not brought this issue before Parliament over a year and a half after public consultation and objects to the continuation of anti-union dismissals. In this regard, the</p> | Country | Low risk on violation of right to organise |
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| | <p>Committee notes the various cases cited by the USS/SGB and the indication that the Federal Court considered, in a recent ruling of 19 March 2012, that an improvement in the protection of workers' representatives can be implemented only through an amendment to the law.</p> <p>In these circumstances the Committee is bound to recall its opinion that the applicable compensation for unfair dismissal (up to six months' wages) may be a deterrent for small and medium-sized enterprises, but that this is not so for high productivity enterprises or large enterprises. The Committee requests the Government to indicate the action taken by the Federal Council to follow up the public consultation on improving protection against unfair dismissals. More generally, and despite the conflicting positions reported, the Committee invites the Government to maintain open tripartite dialogue on the issue of adequate protection against anti-union dismissals in the light of its comments."</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3184619:NO</p> <p>Direct Request (CEACR) - adopted 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015) Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) - Switzerland</p> <p>"Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention. Wage gap and its causes. The Committee notes the detailed information provided by the Government on the gender wage gap and their underlying cause. It notes that, in the private sector, the wage gap narrowed by 1 per cent between 2008 and 2010 (to 18.4 per cent) but widened between 2010 and 2012 to reach 18.9 per cent. In the public sector as a whole, the average wage gap was 13.6 per cent. The information also shows that the component unexplained by objective factors ("discrimination component") decreased from 745 Swiss francs (CHF) per month in 2008 to CHF677 in 2010 in the private sector; however, major differences are observed according to sector of activity. In the public sector (Confederation), the discrimination component increased slightly, from CHF254 in 2008 to CHF259 in 2010. As regards the 2010 survey of fringe benefits, the Government indicates that these are constantly increasing and an analysis of fringe benefits from a gender perspective, based on the 2012 Wage Structure Survey, will soon be conducted. The Committee recalls that since wage discrimination cannot be tackled effectively unless action is taken simultaneously to deal with its causes (for example, stereotypes regarding women's role in terms of family responsibilities or resulting in limited job choices or undervaluation of their work), it is important to address equal remuneration in the context of the more general rights and protections regarding gender equality and non-discrimination (see General Survey on the fundamental Conventions, 2012, paragraphs 712–719). The Committee asks the Government to examine the underlying causes of the gender pay gap in the wider context of gender equality in employment and occupation, and to take the necessary steps to remedy them. Noting that the gender wage gap remains significant and is only changing very slowly, the Committee asks the Government to continue evaluating these disparities,</p> | Country | Specified risk on gender wage discrimination |
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| | <p><i>including the component unexplained by objective factors, and to provide information on any developments in this respect. The Committee further asks the Government to provide information, including statistics, on the conclusions of the survey of fringe benefits paid by enterprises in relation to gender wage equality.”</i></p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3184629:NO <i>Observation (CEACR) - adopted 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) - Switzerland</i></p> <p>“Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention. Effective protection of workers against discrimination. Legislative and other measures. For several years, the Committee has been drawing the Government’s attention to the fact that the legal measures in force are inadequate to ensure the effective protection of workers against discrimination on all of the grounds enumerated in Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention (race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin) at all stages of employment, including vocational training, recruitment and terms and conditions of employment, and to enable them to assert their rights in this respect. The Committee notes the Government’s indications that the situation remains unchanged, as Parliament has not given effect to the interventions proposing the strengthening of protection against discrimination in the field of private law, including labour. With regard more particularly to racial discrimination, the Government recognizes that, in so far as the constitutional provisions are not directly applicable to relations between individuals and that penal provisions (section 261bis of the Penal Code) are not often applicable in the field of employment, victims have to avail themselves of the general provisions of the Civil Code or the Code of Obligations, including general principles such as good faith or the invalidation of the contract. In this regard, the Committee recalls the conclusions of the study published in 2010 on law against racial discrimination, which was undertaken by the Federal Commission against Racism (CFR), according to which the absence of an explicit prohibition of racial discrimination is the cause of considerable legal uncertainty, particularly with regard to indirect discrimination. The Committee notes that, in its concluding observations, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommends Switzerland to adopt a clear and comprehensive definition of racial discrimination and to prohibit it in all areas of private and public life (CERD/C/CHE/CO/7-9, 13 March 2014, paragraph 6). Furthermore, in its 2014 report, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) also emphasizes the deficiencies in the protection afforded against discrimination between individuals and once again recommends the reinforcement of the civil and administrative law provisions on the protection of victims of racial discrimination in all key fields of life (CRI(2014)39, 19 June 2014, paragraphs</p> | Country | Specified risk on discrimination, especially racial discrimination |
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| | <p>7–12). The Committee also notes the information provided by the Government on the practical measures taken to combat discrimination and to promote integration, such as the establishment of dialogue on integration in work with, among other parties, workers' and employers' organizations, the measures adopted within the framework of the Global Strategy to Combat Poverty, the publication of brochures and the preparation of studies. In this respect, the Government indicates that the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) is to conduct a study to assess the mechanisms for access to justice by victims of acts of discrimination, on whatever grounds and in all areas of law, and that the Federal Council is currently preparing a report on the effectiveness of the legal instruments in force and on measures against discrimination. <i>The Committee requests the Government to take the necessary measures to establish an effective legal framework against any form of discrimination based, as a minimum, on all of the grounds enumerated in Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention, at all stages of employment and occupation, with a view to providing effective protection to workers and enabling them to obtain compensation. The Committee requests the Government to continue adopting specific measures to prevent and combat discrimination in employment and occupation and to provide information on this subject. The Committee also requests the Government to provide information on the following points:</i></p> <p><i>(i) any cases of discrimination detected by labour inspectors or brought to their knowledge;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) any cases of discrimination in employment examined by the courts, with an indication of the respective ground of discrimination, the respective legal provisions and the outcome; and</i></p> <p><i>(iii) the conclusions of the studies conducted by the SCHR on access to justice and by the Federal Council on the applicable legal instruments, and any measures taken as a result in the fields of employment and occupation.”</i></p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3184633:NO</p> <p><i>Direct Request (CEACR) - adopted 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) - Switzerland</i></p> <p>“Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention. Discrimination based on sex. Sexual harassment. The Committee notes that, according to the Government, since 2010 the courts and the conciliation authorities have had before them 30 new cases of sexual harassment at work based on the Gender Equality Act. It further notes that information is made available to the public, by the Office for Equality between Women and Men (BFEG), and that various prevention projects are being implemented. <i>The Committee encourages the Government to continue its efforts to prevent harassment in employment and occupation and requests it to continue providing information on any measures taken, in</i></p> | Country | Low risk on discrimination based on sex |
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| | <p><i>collaboration with the social partners, to prevent and combat sexual harassment in the private sector (in small and large enterprises) and in the public sector (at the central and local levels). The Committee also requests the Government to indicate the measures adopted or envisaged to facilitate the access of victims of sexual harassment to judicial or conciliation procedures and to provide information on the penalties imposed and the compensation granted.</i></p> <p>(..)</p> <p>Equality of opportunity and treatment for Roma and travellers. The Committee notes the acknowledgement by the Government that in 2012 the Roma and travellers were stigmatized in political debates and the media, and the indication that the Federal Commission against Racism has selected this as its priority area of action. The Committee requests the Government to intensify its efforts to combat the stereotypes and prejudices with which the Roma and travellers are confronted, particularly when they are seeking employment, and to continue providing information on the measures adopted in this respect. Please provide any available information, and particularly statistical data, on the situation of the Roma and travellers in employment and occupation.”</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_LANG_CODE:3145269,fr:NO <i>Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) – Switzerland</i> No evidence found that indicates a specified risk on child labour.</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3145249:NO <i>Observation (CEACR) - adopted 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014)</i> <i>Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) - Switzerland</i> The only issue that is discussed in this Observation is Article 3 of the Convention. Worst forms of child labour. Clause (b). Use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances. No evidence found that indicates a specified risk on child labour in the forest sector.</p> | Country | Low risk on child labour |
| <p>ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Country reports. http://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang--en/index.htm Source of several reports. Search for 'racial discrimination', 'child labour', 'forced labour', 'gender equality', 'freedom of association'</p> <p>Amongst others use, if applicable:</p> | <p>http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_324678/lang--en/index.htm <i>Global Wage Report 2014/15</i> “The Global Wage Report 2014/15 analyses the evolution of real wages around the world, giving a unique picture of wage trends and relative purchasing power globally and by region.” Not applicable: Switzerland does not appear in the relevant analyses of this report (namely figure 37 on page 49).</p> | Country | No assessment |

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| <p>http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_324678/lang-en/index.htm <i>Global Wage Report 2014/15</i> “The Global Wage Report 2014/15 analyses the evolution of real wages around the world, giving a unique picture of wage trends and relative purchasing power globally and by region.”</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_178415.pdf <i>Equality and non-discrimination at work in East and South-East Asia – Guide (2011)</i></p> | <p>No other relevant sources found. (A problem is that the ILO headquarter is based in Switzerland and that therefore the term ‘Switzerland’ appears in each publication. This makes the search more complicated than for other countries. Nevertheless, no reference that indicates a specified risk on Switzerland was found.)</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk</p> |
| <p>ILO Child Labour Country Dashboard: http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Regionsandcountries/lang-en/index.htm</p> | <p>Switzerland does not feature in the Child Labour Country Dashboard</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk on child labour</p> |
| <p>ILO Helpdesk for Business on International Labour Standards: http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business-helpdesk/lang-en/index.htm</p> | <p>No reference that indicates a specified risk in Switzerland found.</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk</p> |
| <p>Global March Against Child Labour: http://www.globalmarch.org/</p> | <p>No reference that indicates a specified risk in Switzerland found.</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk on child labour</p> |
| <p>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Committee on Rights of the Child: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx</p> | <p>Switzerland has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fCHE%2fCO%2f2-4&Lang=en <i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of the Child</i> <i>Concluding observations on the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Switzerland; 26 February 2015</i> “II. Follow-up measures undertaken and progress achieved by the State party 3. The Committee notes with appreciation the ratification of or accession to, inter alia, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in September 2006 • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in April 2014 • Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in September 2009 • Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in September 2008 • International Labour Organization Convention No. 183 (2000) concerning the revision of the Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952, in June 2014 • Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, in March 2014. | <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk on child labour</p> |

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| | <p>4. The Committee welcomes the entry into force of the following legislative measures, inter alia.” [14 legislative measures listed entering into force between 2004-2014].</p> <p>“5. The Committee also welcomes the following institutional and policy measures, inter alia.” [7 measures listed].</p> <p>“III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>(..) Legislation</p> <p>8. While welcoming the adoption of various child-related legislative measures at the federal and cantonal levels to ensure further conformity of domestic legislation with the Convention, the Committee is concerned that these efforts do not cover all areas of the Convention.</p> <p>9. <i>The Committee recommends that the State party continue and strengthen its efforts to harmonize federal and cantonal laws comprehensively with the Convention.</i></p> <p>Comprehensive policy and strategy</p> <p>10. The Committee notes that the State party issued the Strategy for a Swiss Policy on Childhood and Youth in 2008, which led to the adoption of the Federal Act on Promotion of Children and Young People in 2011, and that it has recently elaborated a report on the status of the children and youth policy. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned that the Strategy does not cover all areas under the Convention.</p> <p>11. <i>The Committee recommends that the State party develop and implement, in consultation with children and civil society, a national policy and strategy for the overall realization of the principles and provisions of the Convention, thus providing a framework for cantonal plans and strategies. The Committee also recommends that the State party allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of that comprehensive policy and strategy and related plans or strategies at the cantonal level.</i></p> <p>(..)</p> <p>“Children’s rights and the business sector</p> <p>22. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on measures taken and envisaged to regulate the activities of multinational business enterprises, including the development of the Ruggie Strategy for Switzerland. However, the Committee is concerned that the State party solely relies on voluntary self-regulation and does not provide a regulatory framework which explicitly lays down the obligations of companies acting under the State party’s jurisdiction or control to respect the rights of the child in operations carried out outside the State party’s territory.</p> <p>23. <i>In the light of its general comment No. 16 (2013) on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children’s rights, the Committee recommends that the State party:</i></p> <p>(a) Establish a clear regulatory framework for industries operating in the State party, including through expediting the adoption of the Ruggie Strategy for</p> | | |
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| | <p><i>Switzerland, to ensure that their activities do not negatively affect human rights or endanger environmental, labour and other standards, especially those relating to children's rights, and ensure its effective implementation;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Ensure that business enterprises and their subsidiaries operating in or managed from the State party's territory are legally accountable for any violations of children's rights and human rights in general."</i></p> <p>No information found with relation to child labour, the forestry sector nor on any other specified risks in Switzerland.</p> | | |
| <p>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx (Use the link to 'Key documents' on the left hand side. Go to "observations" and search for country.) (Refer to CW Cat. 1) Or: Right top select country click on CEDAW treaty, click on latest reporting period and select concluding observations</p> | <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fCHE%2fCO%2f3&Lang=en <i>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; 7 August 2009 Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Switzerland</i> "Employment and economic empowerment 37. <i>The Committee notes the various measures taken by the State party to support the participation of women in the labour market and facilitate the reconciliation of family and work life, including the recent introduction of paid maternity leave and the creation of additional childcare facilities. The Committee notes that the right to equal pay is guaranteed in the Constitution and in the Equality Act of 1995. The Committee, however, remains concerned about the persistence of horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market, with women concentrated in the lower-paid service sectors, a higher unemployment rate for women, the persistence of the gender pay gap and the continued predominance of women in temporary and part-time work due to their traditional role as caregivers for children and the continued lack of available and affordable childcare services. Also in this regard, the Committee notes that the current federal system of joint taxation for married couples with two incomes, with no deductions possible for childcare costs, is another impediment to women's participation in the labour market. The Committee is also concerned about the low representation of women in managerial and decision-making positions.</i> 38. <i>The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market, including through the use of temporary special measures, with time-bound targets, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and its general recommendation 25. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to take proactive and concrete measures to eliminate occupational segregation, both horizontal and vertical, through, inter alia, education, training and retraining and effective enforcement mechanisms. It also recommends that job evaluation systems based on gender-sensitive criteria continue to be developed with the aim of narrowing and closing the gender pay gap. Furthermore, the Committee urges the State party to create more opportunities for women to access full-time employment. The Committee recommends that the State party continue its</i></p> | Country | Low risk on discrimination of women at work |

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| | <i>efforts to allow women and men to reconcile family and professional responsibilities and for the promotion of equal sharing of domestic and family tasks between men and women by providing, inter alia, more childcare facilities and paid paternity leave. The Committee also encourages the State party to undertake the planned reform of the current federal taxation system in a timely manner, with a view to eliminating the burden on married couples with two incomes, and to report on progress achieved or, if relevant, on outcome in its next periodic report.”</i> | | |
| Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/ | https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/05/04/universal-periodic-review-switzerland <i>Universal Periodic Review of Switzerland Human Rights Watch's Submission to the Human Rights Council, 04 May 2008</i> No reference that indicates a specified risk in Switzerland found in this review nor on the HRW website. | Country | Low risk |
| Child Labour Index 2014 produced by Maplecroft. http://maplecroft.com/portfolio/new-analysis/2013/10/15/child-labour-risks-increase-china-and-russia-most-progress-shown-south-america-maplecroft-index/ | Switzerland scores 'low risk' on the Child Labour Index. | Country | Low risk on child labour |
| http://www.verite.org/Commodities/Timber (useful, specific on timber) | Switzerland is not mentioned on this site. | Country | Low risk on forced labour |
| The ITUC Global Rights Index ranks 139 countries against 97 internationally recognised indicators to assess where workers' rights are best protected, in law and in practice. The Survey provides information on violations of the rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and strike as defined by ILO Conventions, in particular ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98 as well as jurisprudence developed by the ILO supervisory mechanisms. http://www.ituc-csi.org/new-ituc-global-rights-index-the?lang=en | <i>New ITUC Global Rights Index - The world's worst countries for workers</i> “The International Trade Union Confederation has been collecting data on the abuse of trade union rights around the world for the past 30 years. Now for the first time the ITUC Global Rights Index presents carefully verified information from the last 12 months in an easy-to-use format so that every government and business can see how their laws and supply chains stack up.” http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/survey_ra_2014_eng_v2.pdf The report distinguishes five clusters of countries with scores from 1 to 5 (score 1 being countries with highest level of protection of collective labour rights). Switzerland is classified in category 2: “Repeated Violation of Rights”. “Countries with a rating 2 have slightly weaker collective labour rights than those with the rating 1. Certain rights have come under the repeated attack by governments and/or companies and have undermined the struggle for better working conditions.” | Country | Low risk on violations of workers' rights to organize |
| Gender wage gap (in OECD countries) https://data.oecd.org/earnwage/gender-wage-gap.htm | http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=54751 The gender wage gap in Switzerland in 2014 was 16.9%, with the EU average being 19.1%. Since 2000, there was a steady decrease of the gender wage gap from 23.8% to the current value. (The gender wage gap is unadjusted and is defined as the difference between median earnings of men and women relative to median earnings of men. Data refer to full-time employees and to self-employed.) | Country | Low risk on gender wage discrimination |

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| <p>World Economic Forum: Global Gender Gap Report</p> <p>http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/rankings/</p> <p>Search for country rankings for the adjusted and the unadjusted pay gap</p> | <p><i>Global Gender Gap Report 2016.</i></p> <p>The highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality)</p> <p>http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/economies/#economy=CHE</p> <p>Switzerland ranks no. 11 out of 144 countries for the overall Gender Gap Index with a score of 0.776. Switzerland ranks no. 30 for the more specific sub-index on Economic participation and opportunity out of the 144 countries that were included.</p> <p>Within that index, the most specific and most relevant indicator is the Wage equality for similar work. This is an adjusted gender pay gap because it excludes known factors as job segregation and therefore specifies the factor “discrimination”. Here Switzerland ranks no. 43 out 144 countries with a score of 0.70.</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Specified risk on gender wage discrimination</p> |
| <p>Google the terms [country] and one of following terms 'violation of labour rights', 'child labour', 'forced labour', 'slave labour', 'discrimination', 'gender pay/wage gap, 'violation of labour union rights' 'violation of freedom of association and collective bargaining'</p> | <p>http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/equal-pay_gender-wage-gap-widens-in-switzerland/38491840</p> <p>SWISSINFO.CH</p> <p><i>Gender wage gap widens in Switzerland; By Samuel Jaberg, 01 May 2014</i></p> <p>“An extensive survey carried out by the Federal Statistics Office released on April 28 reveals that the gap between men’s and women’s salaries, which had progressively narrowed over recent years, had grown by 0.5% between 2010 and 2012. Women earned on average 18.9% less than men with the same profile.</p> <p>Sylvie Durrer, director of the Federal Office for Gender Equality, said it was not clear what factors were driving these “worrying” results: “We still need to study the details to see how much this can be attributed to objective factors like levels of education and responsibility and how much is discrimination.”</p> <p>In 2010 the statistics office estimated that 40% of Switzerland’s gender pay gap was unexplained and probably pure discrimination.</p> <p>Unions reacted sharply to the news. The Trade Union Federation said the trend was “very worrying” and the inter-professional trade union Unia said it was a “very alarming” sign for women.</p> <p>Switzerland is one of the worst for wage discrimination, alongside countries like Japan and South Korea, said Trade Union Federation Vice President Vania Alleva: “As one of the richest nations in the world, which lacks qualified labour and where women contribute enormously to the economy, it’s intolerable to be among the worst.”</p> <p>With less than three weeks to go before the nationwide vote for the introduction of a minimum wage in Switzerland, the survey gives plenty of ammunition to supporters of the initiative, who are trailing in the polls.</p> <p>“Of the CHF7.7 billion (\$8.7 billion) that women lose through discriminatory wage deals every year, CHF1 billion would be paid back thanks to the initiative,” said Alleva.”</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Specified risk on gender wage discrimination</p> |

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| | <p>(..) “Different state of mind</p> <p>The statistics office estimates that two-thirds of the 339,000 people who held low paid jobs in 2012 – earning two-thirds of the median salary of CHF6,000 – are women. Low paid jobs dominated by women are especially prevalent in the retail sector (19.7%), hotel industry (38.1%) and the service sector (51.9%).</p> <p>Employer associations, which oppose the introduction of a minimum salary, have often declared that women’s salaries should be considered as secondary household incomes.</p> <p>Hans-Ulrich Bigler, director of the Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, gave this message in an interview with Geneva’s Courier newspaper in February.</p> <p>“These people [low salary earners] can generally count on another salary which is higher than theirs. Women who work part-time and for less than CHF22 an hour do so to contribute to the household,” he commented.</p> <p>In a similar vein, Roland Müller, president of the Swiss Employers’ Association, believes the gender wage gap is down to a different “state of mind” between male and female workers.</p> <p>“For some well-paid posts you have to be prepared to give more effort. It’s really men who are ready to accept the extra hours,” he told the Bund and Tages-Anzeiger newspapers.</p> <p>He added that women generally preferred “regular hours and work conditions that are less unpredictable”.</p> <p>Unions roundly dismissed these arguments.</p> <p>“It’s shocking to blame women for the discrimination they are victims of, just like it’s unacceptable to say a second household income has less value,” reacted Alleva.</p> <p>“Women are very effective during their studies, as members of associations and at home, so why shouldn’t they be at work?” added Sylvie Durrer.</p> <p>Heads and brick walls</p> <p>So far, the federal authorities have always supported voluntary measures to end wage discrimination. In 2009 employer and union associations launched a project to discuss wage equality offering Swiss firms the possibility of cross-checking the wages they paid to ensure they offered gender parity.</p> <p>The objective was to get 100 companies signed up to the scheme by 2014, but so far only 50 have joined.</p> <p>“If we conclude that the voluntary approach is not satisfactory, we have to create the foundations for more coercive measures,” the project deputy director Luzius Mader told swissinfo.ch in 2013.</p> <p>“This discussion didn’t get the results we were looking for. Only 230,000 employees fell under the scheme and half the firms were from the public or broader public sectors,” said Durrer.</p> <p>Unions say it is high time the government announces more binding measures. On top of a minimum wage, the Trade Union Federation is also calling for more</p> | | |
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| | <p>companies and industries to introduce collective bargaining agreements and for the creation of more affordable nurseries.</p> <p>Acknowledging the failure of these voluntary experiences, Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga is set to present a project this summer regarding non-discrimination measures proposed since 1996 which are outlined in the sex equality law, according to the Swiss News Agency.</p> <p>“There is great public interest to resolve these issues,” said Durrer. “Wage discrimination doesn’t only affect women. It also has an impact on many families, in particular single-parent families who struggle to make ends meet, as well as the entire Swiss social security system.””</p> <p>http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/03/04/blank/key/lohnstruktur/nach_geschlecht.html</p> <p><i>Swiss Statistics</i> <i>Wages and income from employment – Indicators</i> <i>Wage level - by gender</i> “Results up to 2012 Explained and unexplained share in gender pay gap</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Results based on NOGA 2008 (new standard)</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2012</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Percentage of gap that can be explained: Due to explainable factors</td> <td>60.4%</td> <td>62.4%</td> <td>59,1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Percentage of gap that can be explained: No explainable reasons for gap</td> <td>39.6%</td> <td>37.6%</td> <td>40,9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Source: Swiss Earnings Structure Survey, Calculation Department of Quantitative Economics, University of Fribourg, Büro BASS“</p> <p>Gender pay gap and unexplained share in gender pay gap by economic branch <i>(No information on economic branch “07 Agriculture and forestry” found.)</i></p> <p>http://www.thelocal.ch/20150305/swiss-pay-gap-for-women <i>Rising Swiss gender pay gap above EU average</i> <i>Published: 05 Mar 2015</i> “<i>The pay gap between women and men in Switzerland is above the average in Europe and has risen since 2008, a new study shows.</i> <i>Women with Swiss jobs earn 19.3 percent less than their male counterparts, according to a report issued on Thursday by Eurostat, the European statistical agency.</i>”</p> | Results based on NOGA 2008 (new standard) | 2008 | 2010 | 2012 | Percentage of gap that can be explained: Due to explainable factors | 60.4% | 62.4% | 59,1% | Percentage of gap that can be explained: No explainable reasons for gap | 39.6% | 37.6% | 40,9% | Country | Specified risk on gender wage discrimination |
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| Results based on NOGA 2008 (new standard) | 2008 | 2010 | 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of gap that can be explained: Due to explainable factors | 60.4% | 62.4% | 59,1% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of gap that can be explained: No explainable reasons for gap | 39.6% | 37.6% | 40,9% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>Private sector</p> <p>Source: Swiss Earnings Structure Survey, Calculation Department of Quantitative Economics, University of Fribourg, Büro BASS“</p> <p>Gender pay gap and unexplained share in gender pay gap by economic branch <i>(No information on economic branch “07 Agriculture and forestry” found.)</i></p> <p>http://www.thelocal.ch/20150305/swiss-pay-gap-for-women <i>Rising Swiss gender pay gap above EU average</i> <i>Published: 05 Mar 2015</i> “<i>The pay gap between women and men in Switzerland is above the average in Europe and has risen since 2008, a new study shows.</i> <i>Women with Swiss jobs earn 19.3 percent less than their male counterparts, according to a report issued on Thursday by Eurostat, the European statistical agency.</i>”</p> | Country | Specified risk on gender wage discrimination | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>“Wage Discrimination 2008: 36% of the wage gap cannot be explained by means of the applied regression model ... women with the same human capital endowment as men earned in average 9% less (adjusted).”</p> <p>“Development 2002-2010: Unadjusted gender pay gap increased over the last decade (+2.8 pp), but discrimination effect decreased (-10 pp)...”</p> <p>No other references that indicate a specified risk in Switzerland found.</p> | | discrimination |
| Additional general sources | Additional specific sources | | |
| Comments received during the consultation of the draft controlled wood standard 1.08. - 17.09.2017. Compiled by FSC CH and sent to FSC IC and the CNRA consultant on 18-9-2017. All sources and underlying documents available with FSC CH. | <p><i>Statement WaldSchweiz, Swiss Association of Forest Owners</i> “As association of the forest owners, thus also employer representatives and even employers, we cannot understand this risk assessment and do not approve it. We rely on the following sources (documents electronically enclosed): The BASS wage structure analysis 2014 (pages 91, 99-101, 113 & 114) shows, on the one hand, that no statistically relevant surveys of the wages of women in the Forestry sector exist. On the other hand, the interpretation of the data shows minimal deviations of mens’ and womens’ wages, which do not allow the conclusion of a systematic difference. We are in the per mill range resp. low percentage range! This cannot not be demonstrably attributed to gender discrimination. Salary survey SIA Fachverein Wald 2012 (pages 6 & 7) attests to the industry “no distinct difference between the genders”. Young specialist women even deserve a bit more. At no time any corresponding cases have been reported by employee representatives to us. The subject matter has never been identified as a relevant one. Thanks to the high portion of publicly employed people in the forestry (auxiliary staff up to the engineer), a large proportion of the employees of the branch are working and paid in the gender-neutral wage classes according to public law requirements.”</p> <p><i>Trade Union of Swiss Forest Personnel</i> “The union is not aware of gender-specific differences in employment conditions and compensation for forestry personnel. Nor have there been any cases reported by those who were affected or by any members. For the rest, we agree with the arguments of the forest owners’ association WaldSchweiz.”</p> <p><i>Pfleiderer Deutschland GmbH</i> “The figures for the Swiss Federal Statistical Office show a total of 87.5% for Switzerland (women earn 87.5% of men’s wages); a value of 88.5% for professionals in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This aspect should also be taken into account in the assessment.”</p> | <p>Country</p> <p>Country</p> <p>Country</p> <p>Country</p> <p>Country</p> <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk on gender wage discrimination</p> <p>Low risk on gender wage discrimination</p> <p>Low risk on gender wage discrimination</p> <p>Low risk on gender wage discrimination</p> <p>Low risk on gender wage discrimination</p> <p>Low risk on gender wage discrimination</p> |

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| | <p>SWISS KRONO AG</p> <p>“3. SWISSKRONO AG is a major employer in Swiss wood processing and therefore has a certain weight when the wood sector in Switzerland is to be assessed. Our internal rules (and those of the entire SWISS KRONO GROUP) do not discriminate against employees on account of their gender (nor other factors such as race, religious affiliation, etc.). This implies equal wage for equivalent work, as defined in the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>4. The comparison of wage sums between women and men results in a factor of 0.94 for SWISS KRONO AG for comparable work. (Women work in our 4-shift production company mainly in administration and in-sales service.) This is a very good value and expresses wage equality as the female staff is on average a bit younger than the male comparison staff. It should be pointed out that wages are not due to sex, but because of their education, function and responsibility, age and years of service at SWISS KRONO AG. First and foremost, years of service and age are the reason why the factor wage of women is less than 1.0 (1.0 would be absolute wage equality).”</p> | Country | Low risk on gender wage discrimination |
| | | Country | Low risk on gender wage discrimination |
| <p>From national CW RA: <i>FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Switzerland Evaluation of risks in relation to the procurement of uncertified timber from Swiss forests Version 2009</i></p> | <p>No information or risk assessment on CW Category indicator 2.2</p> | | |
| <p>Conclusion on Indicator 2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is evidence that the rights like freedom of association and collective bargaining are upheld. - There is no evidence for cases of child labour nor of forced labour in Switzerland. No evidence found of cases of child labour nor of forced labour in the forest sector. - There is evidence that there is a gender pay gap in Switzerland. Several sources say that it is around the EU average while other sources point to a more limited gender wage gap. One source points to data that discrimination is a significant factor: 40% of the gender wage gap is caused by discrimination. On the other hand, during the public consultation a few forest sector-specific sources delivered evidence that gender wage discrimination does not occur (or is significantly lower) in the Swiss forest sector. This evidence is more specific and therefore more decisive and leads to a low-risk designation. <p><u>'Low risk' thresholds 10 and 12 apply:</u> (10) Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the key principles recognized in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work (which are recognized as: freedom of association and right to collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; eliminations of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and effective abolition of child labour), AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms enforcement of applicable legislation ('low risk')</p> <p>AND (12) Other available evidence do not challenge a 'low risk' designation.</p> | | Country | Low risk |
| <p>Indicator 2.3. The rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples are upheld.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> | | | |

- Are there Indigenous Peoples (IP), and/or Traditional Peoples (TP) present in the area under assessment?
- Are the regulations included in the ILO Convention 169 and is UNDRIP enforced in the area concerned? (refer to category 1)
- Is there evidence of violations of legal and customary rights of IP/TP?
- Are there any conflicts of substantial magnitude [footnote 6] pertaining to the rights of Indigenous and/or Traditional Peoples and/or local communities with traditional rights?
- Are there any recognized laws and/or regulations and/or processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to TP or IP rights and/or communities with traditional rights?
- What evidence can demonstrate the enforcement of the laws and regulations identified above? (refer to category 1)
- Is the conflict resolution broadly accepted by affected stakeholders as being fair and equitable?

| general sources from FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0 EN | information found and specific sources | scale of risk assessment | risk indication |
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| ILO Core Conventions Database http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm - ILO Convention 169 | http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102861 Switzerland has not ratified ILO Convention 169. | Country | Specified risk |
| Survival International: http://www.survivalinternational.org/ | No sources mention IP/TP presence in Switzerland, neither the sources that give overviews, such as The Indigenous World, nor could any report or website be found mentioning or claiming IP/TP presence or a discussion or debate about such a presence. | Country | Low risk |
| Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/ | | | |
| Amnesty International http://amnesty.org | | | |
| The Indigenous World http://www.iwgia.org/regions | | | |
| United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/ipeoples/srindigenouspeoples/pages/sripeoplesindex.aspx | | | |
| UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx | | | |
| UN Human Rights Committee http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx search for country Also check: UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx | | | |
| Intercontinental Cry https://intercontinentalcry.org/ | | | |
| Forest Peoples Programme: www.forestpeoples.org FPP's focus is on Africa, Asia/Pacific and South and Central America. | | | |

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| <p>Society for Threatened Peoples: http://www.gfbv.de/index.php?change_lang=english</p> | | | |
| <p>Regional human rights courts and commissions: - Inter-American Court of Human Rights http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en - Inter-American Commission on Human Rights http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/ http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/ - African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights - African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights - European Court of Human Rights</p> | | | |
| <p>Data provided by National Indigenous Peoples', Traditional Peoples organizations;</p> | | | |
| <p>Data provided by Governmental institutions in charge of Indigenous Peoples affairs;</p> | | | |
| <p>Data provided by National NGOs; NGO documentation of cases of IP and TP conflicts (historic or ongoing);</p> | | | |
| <p>National land bureau tenure records, maps, titles and registration (Google)</p> | | | |
| <p>Relevant census data</p> | | | |
| <p>- Evidence of participation in decision making; (See info on implementing ILO 169 and protests against new laws) - Evidence of IPs refusing to participate (e.g. on the basis of an unfair process, etc.); (See info on implementing ILO 169 and protests against new laws)</p> | | | |
| <p>National/regional records of claims on lands, negotiations in progress or concluded etc.</p> | | | |
| <p>Cases of IP and TP conflicts (historic or ongoing).) Data about land use conflicts, and disputes (historical / outstanding grievances and legal disputes)</p> | | | |
| <p>Social Responsibility Contracts (<i>Cahier des Charges</i>) established according to FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) principles where available</p> | | | |
| <p>Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms 'indigenous peoples organizations', 'traditional peoples organizations', 'land registration office', 'land office', 'indigenous peoples', 'traditional peoples', '[name of IPs]', 'indigenous peoples+conflict', 'indigenous peoples+land rights'</p> | | | |

| Additional general sources for 2.3 | Additional specific sources | scale of risk assessment | risk indication |
|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| From national CW RA: <i>FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Switzerland Evaluation of risks in relation to the procurement of uncertified timber from Swiss forests Version 2009</i> | No information or risk assessment on CW Category indicator 2.3 | | |
| Conclusion on Indicator 2.3: There are no indigenous peoples and no traditional peoples in Switzerland. Therefore, the following 'low risk' thresholds apply: (16) There is no evidence leading to a conclusion of presence of indigenous and/or traditional peoples in the area under assessment; AND (21) Other available evidence does not challenge 'low risk' designation. | | Country | Low risk |

Controlled wood category 3: Wood from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities

Overview

Thirty-two percent of Switzerland's land base (i.e. 1'308'000 ha) is covered by forests (59). Of the forests in Switzerland, 51% are production forests, 51% are protective forests against natural hazards, 17% are nature protection forests and 7% are drinking water protection forest (58). Notice that the forest can have more than one function at a time. Of the total area, 67.8% of forests are public owned and 32.2% are in private ownership (43). Conversion of forest land is prohibited, with some exceptions for infrastructure regulated by National Forest Act (Waldgesetz, WaG) and National Forest Ordinance (Waldverordnung, WaV).

Switzerland is a Federation of 26 Cantons. Forest management – guided by WaG and WaV – is controlled through 26 State forest offices supervised by the national forest department. The legislation does not permit clear-cutting. Timber harvesting is possible only with specific permission for selective cutting (WaG Art. 21) and normally in the presence of a forest officer, who is involved in decisions to which trees to cut; as well as determining the volume of wood. After cutting, the forest stand is monitored and the wood measured by a local forester. The law stipulates a fine for non-compliance (WaG Art. 43).

FSC has a very strong position in Switzerland. Almost 50% of the forest area is FSC certified (609'289 ha). This certified area is managed by 551 resource management units (RMU). One RMU has a size of 12'659 ha, 109 RMUs have a size between 1'000-10'000 ha, 381 RMUs have a size between 100-1'000 ha and 60 RMUs are smaller than 100 ha. This 551 RMU produce more than 70% of the logs harvested in Switzerland each year (info.fsc.org).

The average annual increment is in 9.3m³/y/ha (41) in Switzerland. The average annual yield is in average 6.7m³/y/ha (42). The NFI shows that the harvesting is below the increment. The forest area has in the past 30 years in average grown by 7% (44). The growth of the forest area differs by region and according to altitude. The forest area has hardly changed in the Jura and the Plateau since 1985, but it has increased by about 9-18% in the Southern Alps and the Alps (32).

According to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators, – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2015 – Switzerland received a score of 2,01 for Government Effectiveness, 1,97 on Rule of Law and 2,17 on Control of Corruption (23a), indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance. This means that lacking evidence to the contrary, the risk is low that the laws are not well-enforced.

In the federal system of Switzerland, the forest legislation is enacted at national level. Regulations at canton and community level are subordinate. Compliance is enforced by the authorities for all three levels (national level, cantons and municipalities). Each level has got the opportunity to supervise actions taken in the forest. Therefore, there are many controlling instruments in place to monitor forest operations.

Units under assessment

The five production regions in Switzerland are called Jura, Plateau, Pre-Alps, Alps and Southern Alps. They differ by the productivity of the soil, the climate, the average altitude, the exposition and the mixture of tree species. All production regions contain HCV. It is possible to preserve and enhance HCV in forests managed for timber production.

There are two stands of natural forests, covering 46 ha. There are another 7'200 ha of old grown stands (63). These stands are protected by a reserve. There are no harvesting activities in those stands.

There are two source types identified:

a) Semi-natural forests publicly owned

These forests are with a natural origin and have been treated by forest management activities. The forest management also includes long term plantations mixed with natural elements that give them a semi natural appearance. The reason for plantation is mainly for bringing in appropriate species that are not present yet or to enhance a habitat. 67.8% of the forest area is publicly owned. Each harvesting action in publicly owned forests need an authorization by the forest service. The forest service has to check if the law and the other binding information (e.g. NaiS, federal act on the protection of nature and cultural heritage, groundwater protection map, map of protection forests, etc.) have been taken into consideration.

b) Semi-natural forests privately owned

Semi-natural privately forests occupy 32.2% of the forest area. Each harvesting action in privately owned forests need an authorization by the forest service. The forest service has to check if the law and the other binding requirements (e.g. NaiS, federal act on the protection of nature and cultural heritage, groundwater protection map, map of protection forests) have been taken in consideration. The average size of a privately owned forest plot is 1.5 ha.

The same requirements apply to privately owned semi-natural forests and publicly owned semi-natural forests. Each single harvesting action needs an authorization by the forest service. The forest service has to mark each tree to be cut. After the harvesting action the forest service checks how the work has been carried out, whether only the market trees have been removed and if HCV were preserved. Therefore, there is no need to use a functional scale in the assessment.

In addition to semi-natural forests, Switzerland also has a small area of plantation forests, although these cover less than 1% of the total forest area in the country. As short/medium rotation plantations aren't a near-natural community (WaG, Art. 1, Abs. 1, lit. b) they are only allowed under certain circumstances. Short/medium rotation plantations are in the forest areas only permitted in former tree nurseries, underneath electric power lines or on road slopes. None of these areas contains HCVs. In most cases these areas are used for Christmas tree plantations. These areas make less than 1% of the total forest area in Switzerland. Short/medium rotation plantation forestry is a negligible source of commercial forest products in Switzerland and not relevant for controlled wood and have not therefore been included as a functional scale or source type for the purposes of the risk assessment.

HCV Occurrence

The forest is very important for species diversity. Almost half of the flora and fauna in Switzerland, i.e. 20'000 species, depend on it. The maintenance of a balanced and near-natural distribution of tree species has positive effects on both biodiversity and the stability of the forests. Despite its generally positive situation, the Swiss forest also has ecological deficits. There is too little dead wood in some areas which is essential to the survival of thousands of species (18). There is also a lack of forests with light conditions and old aged tree stands.

Switzerland inherits a great biological diversity. This is caused by the topography, the big difference in height with climatic variations and its position in the middle of Europe. In Switzerland half of the habitats and one third of the species are threatened. With the reduction of the species also the genetic biodiversity is reduced (60).

To sustain and enhance biodiversity in long term the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) has developed a Swiss Strategy for Biodiversity (SSB) that was approved by the Federal Council on the 25th April 2012. Ten strategic targets of the SSB describe the key aspects. In the coming years all the relevant stakeholders have to orient themselves on these key aspects to develop together an impact that shows clear results. The main target that has to be achieved is: "The biodiversity is highly diverse and is able to react against changes. The biodiversity and its ecosystem services are sustained in long term." The SSB also contains a specified chapter to sustain and enhance biodiversity in the forest (61). The SSB is Switzerland's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to fulfil Aichi Target 17 (66).

In general, there are three approaches in the forest to enhance biodiversity. In Switzerland all the following approaches are used complementary (28):

- Segregation by installing reserves, where biodiversity has top priority
- Integration with sustainable forest management activities
- Specific enhancement program for national priority species and national priority communities outside from reserves.

Starting with this complementary approach and the designated deficit of the biodiversity the FOEN has defined packages of measures. To all these packages there are practical measures defined in the guidelines (21) to achieve the worked out objectives. The five packages of measures are:

- Allowing natural forest development
- Old grow wood and deadwood
- Enhance quality of forest communities
- National priority forest communities
- Preserve genetic variability

Each region in Switzerland has different nature values, but also different demands on the forest. Therefore, also the regional contributions are different to achieve the objectives. It is necessary to regionalize the need for action.

At the moment the most effective instrument for implementing these measures are the program agreements between the Federation and the cantons. The Federation and the cantons sign an agreement for a four-year period. The cantons receive subsidising for fulfilling the measures they agreed on. The cantons fulfil the agreement with authorisations of harvestings activities and making themselves agreements with the forest owners. These agreements can contain:

- Installation of nature reserves
- Installation of specific reserves (e.g. forest with lightly condition)
- Plant rare tree species
- Measures to enhance protective forests
- Further measures to enhance biodiversity
- Programs to enhance rare species

The national strategy to improve biodiversity in the forest is defined by the forest policy 2020 and the SSB. One of the main targets from the forest policy 2020 is to assure the sustainable forest management. To sustain biodiversity belongs to a sustainable forest management. Guidelines describe the federal strategy for sustaining biodiversity in the Swiss forest. Key elements are the definition of five measures with corresponding action points from a national point of view. These targets are a guideline for the implementation of biodiversity protection in the forest.

These guidelines address first the federal and cantonal administration. They are the strategic basis for program agreements between the federal and cantonal administration and to develop precise projects with the forest owner to sustain biodiversity in the forest. The cantonal und communal administrations are still free to develop projects by themselves.

Threats to HCV and safeguards

In general, forest management activity could threaten HCVs mainly by means of habitat removal, habitat disturbance, introduction of alien/invasive species, fragmentation of forest areas at landscape level, lack of protection for species and habitats, reduction of water quality or quantity and destruction or disturbance of values of cultural or historic significance. But in practice in Switzerland there is little room for some of these threats since each harvesting action has to be approved by the forest service and there is extensive protection legislation including: Federal Act on Forest, Federal Act on Hunting and the protection of wild living mammals and birds, Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment, Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage, and the Federal Act on the Protection of Waters.

There is a consistent system in place. The HCV are well documented across Switzerland, including in forest areas. There is a biodiversity monitoring system in place. According to the results of the monitoring the federal and cantonal administrations adapt the measures to sustain and enhance the HCV. They also have financial programs and resources to support forest owners to preserve and enhance HCV.

Source types and risk assessment

Semi-natural forests publicly owned are considered Low Risk, even where HCVs are present. Each publicly owned forest has got a management plan. In the management plan the forest owner has got to address HCV 1, 3, 4 and 6. The management by the forest public administration must comply with legal requirements and additional protection measures needed. The also get supervised by the cantonal forest service. The cantonal forest service authorizes at least once a year the harvesting actions, when they comply with the management plan.

Semi-natural forest that are privately-owned are also considered Low Risk, even where HCVs might be present. Each single harvesting action needs an authorization by the forest service. The forest service has to mark each tree to be cut. After the harvesting action the forest service checks how the work has been carried out, whether only the market trees have been removed and HCV protected.

Experts consulted

| | Name | Organization | Area of expertise (category/sub-category) |
|----|--------------------|--|---|
| 1. | Karl Büchel | Standard Development Group, project manager | Forest consultant, forest certification |
| 2. | Marcus Ulber | Pronatura Schweiz | NGO, expert in forestry and land-use planning |
| 3. | Markus Brunner | WaldSchweiz, managing director | NGO, forest engineer, representing forest owners |
| 4. | Hubertus Schmidtke | FSC Schweiz, managing director | Forest consultant, CO2 assessment |
| 5. | Bruno Stadler | Wildlife and forest biodiversity Section, FOEN | Birds, forest biodiversity, wildlife in residential areas |
| 6. | Christa Glauser | Birdlife Schweiz | NGO, national and local expertise |

Risk assessment

| Indicator | Sources of Information | HCV occurrence and threat assessment | Functional scale | Risk designation and determination |
|--|---|--|------------------|--|
| 3.0 Information availability. Data available are sufficient for a) Determination of each HCV presence, and b) the assessment of the threats for HCVs from forest management activities | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23a, 23b, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 | <p>a) Data available are sufficient for determination of each HCV presence The presence of HCV proxies is well reported in Switzerland on national and cantonal level. These reported HCV are the bases for programs to preserve and enhance HCV as well as for subsidy funds.</p> <p>The following HCV proxies are mapped in Switzerland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forests that protect against natural hazard: Snow avalanches, landslide, debris flow, rock fall, overbank sedimentation (52) - wildlife network system (55) - mire landscapes (51) - water and migrant bird reserves (54) - forest reserves: national park, biosphere reserves, UNESCO world natural heritage, forest reserves, forest preserves, Swiss parks (47) - dead wood (46) - Federal Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance (50) - Ground water protection zones (48) <p>There are 121 forest types in Switzerland. 81 of them are on the list as national priority forest types (21). The national priority forest types cover about 14.8% of the forest area. Those forest types should be sustained and enhanced because they are rare, threatened or because Switzerland has a high responsibility in a European context to preserve them. On cantonal level these forest types are</p> | Country | <p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (1) Data available are sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment and (2) Data available are sufficient for assessing threats to HCVs caused by forest management activities.</p> |

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| | | <p>mapped (i.e. canton Aargau) or at least there exists a key to address them properly (53).</p> <p>b) Data available are sufficient for the assessment of the threats for HCVs from forest management activities All HCV proxy areas are regularly and effectively monitored by government agencies. Switzerland is one of the first countries in the world to monitor its biological diversity. The Federal Office for the environment (FOEN) has launched a program for this purpose called Biodiversity Monitoring in Switzerland (BDM). In conjunction with the BDM program, experts contracted by the Federal Government will regularly count animals and plants in numerous predetermined areas in the field (15). The monitoring system guarantees that systematic threats to HCV are detected. It is therefore possible to adequately identify and monitor potential threats to HCVs 1-3 within HCV proxy areas caused by forest management in Switzerland.</p> <p>HCV 4 areas are all contained within protected forests and forest management activities in these areas are clearly regulated and monitored (NaiS, 20). Monitoring of HCV 6 impacts is also regular and effective.</p> | | |
| <p>3.1 HCV 1 Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species that are significant at global, regional or national levels</p> | <p>4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 47, 51, 53, 54, 57, 62, 68</p> | <p>In Switzerland there is a list with forest habitats of national priority. The habitats are selected based on their scarcity and degree of threat, as well as their conservation importance at European level. This list shows 81 forest habitat types that together occupy 14.8% of the total forest area in Switzerland. The Swiss strategy is to protect these habitats by reserves first (21), and 5% of the priority forest habitat area is already protected by reserves.</p> <p>Additional protection of these HCV1 proxy areas is provided in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The forest act ensures that the forest is maintained as near natural community (§1 in the forest act). For example, whilst alien species have spread from plantation areas to priority natural forest habitats through natural regeneration (68), the forest act (§23, forest act) requires restocking forest gaps by natural regeneration or planted tree and shrubs that are native, healthy and are typical of the particular habitat type (§24, forest act). The enforcement of these paragraphs is secured by the forest service during the approval process. | Country | <p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (7) HCV 1 is identified and its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats from management activities.</p> |

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| | | <p>2. No clearcuttings are permitted. The harvesting intervention has to be near natural (4) During the forest harvesting approval process the relevant given sources of information on rare, threatened and endangered species are considered. After the intervention the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> <p>3. Ecosystem depletion and/or transformation are not possible by forest management activity because deforestation is prohibited. In exceptional cases a deforestation permit may be granted if the applicant proves that there are important reasons for the deforestation that outweigh the interest of forest conservation and, furthermore, the following conditions are fulfilled: the proposed site must be essential to the works for which the deforestation is to be carried out; the works must essentially fulfil the spatial planning requirements; the deforestation does cause any serious threat to the environment. (Federal Act on Forest, 4)</p> <p>In general, the status of biodiversity in Swiss forests has improved in the past decade. Large clearings more than 1 hectare are not allowed. Most forest management actions are low impact, selective interventions or limited in their extent to small areas (62).</p> <p>Over the last twenty years the number of forest management sites using natural regeneration has risen by 30% from 50% to 80%. Currently, only 6% of sites are regenerated artificially by tree planting. But these artificially regenerated areas have to be stocked with species that are suited to the location (39).</p> <p>During the forest harvesting approval process all relevant given sources of information on rare, threatened and endangered species are considered. After the intervention, the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> <p>There are also federal and cantonal subsidy programs that support forest owners to protect and enhance endangered species. To protect rare species and stands the cantonal administration together with the forest owner identifies natural forest reserves, special forest reserves, old tree stands and light forest stands that are set aside from production. These rules on set asides are well enforced as demonstrated by the growth in area of forest reserves (40, 47), the overall increase in forest area (44). The average standing volumes and tree</p> | | |
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| | | <p>density has been stable (16) and the dispersal and amount of dead wood have increased (38, 46). The Swiss Bird Index measures the populations of 57 forest-dependent bird species, and has also risen by 20 points in the past 25 years (32), indicating that improvements in forest area and health are also being reflected in enhanced populations of birds.</p> <p>Considering the elements above and the low levels of corruption and high degree of legal compliance in Switzerland based on international indices (see category 1 of this risk assessment), the risk is low that forest management significantly threatens HCV 1.</p> | | |
| <p>3.2 HCV 2 Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p> | <p>20, 21, 22, 32, 33, 45, 56, 63, 69</p> | <p>Switzerland has no Intact Forest Landscapes. Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) are defined as large unbroken expanses of natural ecosystems in the zone of current forest landscapes extent without signs of significant human activity. For the global IFL analyses, the following criteria were used: (1) minimum area of 50'000 hectares; (2) minimum IFL patch width of 10 km; and (3) minimum corridor/appendage width of 2 km. The criteria were chosen to ensure that IFL patch core areas are large enough to provide refuge for wide-ranging animal species.</p> <p>However, the Alps do represent a landscape-level ecosystem and habitat mosaic of global significance. The Global 200 Initiative of WWF recognizes the Alps as one of the most important ecoregions for conserving a major proportion of the global biodiversity for future generations. According to WWF, the Alps are also one of the most exploited ecosystems worldwide. However, the risks to ecosystem integrity mostly originate from the abandoning of traditional agricultural activities, high touristic utilisation, enhancement of urban centres in the mountains and the development of infrastructure to manage the commuter streams, not from forest management activities (33).</p> <p>Furthermore, the forests in the alpine region have the function of protective forests. Therefore, the rules of Nais (Sustainability and monitoring in protection forests) have to be applied. (20)</p> <p>Within the Alps ecoregion, WWF and their partners have identified internal corridors that link Priority Conservation Areas with each other and to other important natural areas. A number of those corridors occur in Switzerland. For example, the Rhaetic Triangle that spans the borders of Austria, Italy and Switzerland. Two areas are particularly important in this region:</p> | <p>Country</p> | <p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (11) HCV 2 is identified and its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats from management activities.</p> |

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| | | <p>The first one extends from the Po-Plains along the Adige-valley over the central Alps to the Inn-Valley (Engadin in Switzerland and the upper Inn Valley in Austria). Here, migration paths from the east and south are present and mostly determined by geographic/topographic characteristics. Networks are of particular importance in the densely populated and intensively used Adige-valley (fruit-growing). The second important area is situated between the existing protected areas like the Swiss National Park and the National Park Stilfserjoch, the Biosphere Val Müstair, the Natural Park Kaunergrat, Adamello and Adamello Brenta as well as parts of the south Tyrolean Natural Parks.</p> <p>Another important forest corridor is the Laghi Insubrici. WWF is working to restore ecological continuity in the Laghi Insubrici area. In the Vedeggio River area (CH), for example, WWF is helping to re-establish the ecological network by promoting connectivity between the few remaining natural and semi-natural zones within this highly urbanized area.</p> <p>In principle, the integrity of these areas is not threatened by forest management activities in Switzerland. The forest act ensures that the forest is maintained as near natural community (§1 in the forest act). Also the forest act (§23, forest act) requires restocking forest gaps by natural regeneration or planted tree and shrubs that are suited to the location. Reproductive material and plants only healthy and suited to the location may be used (§24, forest act). The enforcement of these paragraphs is secured by the forest service during the approval process. After the intervention the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> <p>The risk trend recorded for different indicators of the ecological quality of forests ecosystems like structural diversity, volume of standing and lying deadwood, and natural regeneration, is low (32)</p> <p>Considering the elements above and the low levels of corruption and high degree of legal compliance in Switzerland based on international indices (see category 1 of this risk assessment), the risk is low that forest management significantly threatens HCV 2.</p> | | |
| 3.3 HCV 3 Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or | 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, | There are federal and cantonal subsidizing programs that support forest owners protect and enhance endangered ecosystem, habitats or refugia. To protect rare ecosystem, habitats or refugia the cantonal administration releases | Country | Low risk The following thresholds are met: (15) HCV 3 is identified and its |

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| <p>endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</p> | <p>27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 47, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 63, 67, 71, 72</p> | <p>together with the forest owner nature forest reserves, special forest reserves, old tree stands, forest stands with light condition.</p> <p>The trend recorded for different indicators of the ecological quality of forests ecosystems like structural diversity, volume of standing and lying deadwood, natural regeneration, is satisfying (32).</p> <p>Switzerland has signed the Convention on Biological Convention. It also has signed and ratified the Nagoya Protocol. To comply with national obligations under the Convention, the Swiss Parliament commissioned the development of a new Swiss Biodiversity Strategy which was adopted in 2012. The new Strategy has taken the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets into account (71). Several mechanisms support the national implementation such as legislation, funding, capacity-building, coordination, mainstreaming, etc. For monitoring reasons and reviewing the implementation also of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets there is a long-term monitoring system in place called Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland (BDM) (71). 2012 4.8% of the entire forest area has been preserved by forest reserves (32). Until 2014 the area has risen up to 5.6% of the entire forest area (19). In 2015 the national government negotiated the new subsidizing program for the years 2016-2019 with the state governments. The national government will subsidize almost CHF 40 Billion within this four-year period to enhance Biodiversity and enlarge the area of forest reserves among other measures (19). There is a positive progress in the achievement of the Aichi targets in the forest.</p> <p>a) Existing forests in forest landscapes where these ecotypes are rare The rare forest ecotypes are known. The rare ecotypes belong to the following forest types: Fagion, Lunario-Acerion, Tilion, Fraxinion, Alnion incanae, Carpinion, Quercion pubescenti-petraeae, Orno-Ostryon, Salicion albae, Alnion glutinosae, Betulion pubescenti, Vaccinio-Piceion, Larici-Pinion cembrae, Vaccinio-Pinion mugo, Ledo-Pinion, Dicrano-Pinion, Erico-Pinion, Molinio-Pinion, Cytiso-Pinion, Erico-Pinion mugo, Ononido-Pinion. (21)</p> <p>The forest act ensures that the forest is maintained as near natural community (§1 in the forest act).</p> <p>During the forest harvesting approval process rare ecotypes are addressed. After the intervention the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> | <p>occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats from management activities.</p> |
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| | | <p>b) Areas of important genes or genetically distinct populations Near natural forest management has a positive effect for the genetically diversity (67). Genetic diversity among young trees is higher in naturally regenerated forests than in stands planted using seedlings supplied by nurseries. Naturally regenerated forests are usually more diverse. The share of naturally regenerated young woodland has increased considerably. In the surveying periods of 1983/85, 1993/95, and 2004/06, natural regeneration raised from 50% (1983/85) to 80% in 2004/2006 (32). This signifies positive progress in achieving Aichi targets 13 and 16.</p> <p>Areas of important genes are protected by the national government (67). Within these areas a near natural forest management is allowed.</p> <p>During the forest harvesting approval process the forest service secures the near natural forest management. After the intervention the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> <p>c) Ecosystems that are depleted or poorly reserved at the regional or national scale</p> <p>In Switzerland there is a list with forest habitats of national priority. The habitats are selected based on their scarcity and degree of threat, as well as their conservation importance at European level. This list shows 81 forest habitat types that together occupy 14.8% of the total forest area in Switzerland. The Swiss strategy is to protect these habitats by reserves first (21), and 5% of the priority forest habitat area is already protected by reserves outside of the reserves the near natural forest management concept ensures that ecosystems are not depleted by forest management activity. During the forest harvesting approval process the forest service secures the near natural forest management.</p> <p>d) Old growth forests, outside of forest biomes where the concept is redundant The FSC HCV Evaluation Framework defines two different types of old growth. Type 1 old growth is stands that have never been logged and that display late successional/old growth characteristics. Such types do not exist in Switzerland.</p> <p>Type 2 old growth is stands that have been logged but which retain significant late-successional/old growth structure and functions. Such stands exist in Switzerland. About 2.5% of the whole forest area in Switzerland is protected as</p> | | |
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| | | <p>reserves by long term contract to preserve Old growth forests (21). In these reserves any interventions are prohibited. All known old growth forests in Switzerland are protected (63). These areas are regularly controlled by the national and cantonal forest services. Therefore, it is assured that no forest management activity takes place in these areas. It is foreseen that this protected area is doubled by 2030.</p> <p>e) Remnant natural forest vegetation in heavily cleared landscapes. In Switzerland are about 7'200 ha remnant natural forests known. These areas are protected by reserves (63). Those reserves are regularly inspected.</p> <p>There is a decline observed for many species such as insects, mushrooms, lichens (32). But the source does not say anything about that this is caused by active forest management. The decline has multiple reasons such as climatic changes, atmospheric input of nitrogen, missing old tree stands, missing dead trees or dark stands with a high stock (72). There is a positive development in the area of forest reserves, amount of dead wood in the stands, old tree stands and natural regeneration.</p> <p>Considering the elements above and the low levels of corruption and high degree of legal compliance in Switzerland based on international indices (see category 1 of this risk assessment), the risk is low that forest management significantly threatens HCV 3.</p> | | |
| 3.4 HCV 4 Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes. | 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 64 | <p>HCV 4 exists in Switzerland, represented by the proxy of the network of protection forests in the country. These forests in Switzerland protect settlements and agricultural areas from natural hazards such as avalanches and soil erosion, landslides. Forests also protect water catchment areas. The potential areas, where the forests fulfill the function of protection forests are mapped on the national and cantonal level (48, 52).</p> <p>Forest management activities in these areas are clearly regulated in Switzerland by the forest service in accordance with the guidelines published in 2005 on the sustainable management and monitoring of protection forests (NaiS, 20).</p> <p>a) protection from erosion There are forests in Switzerland that protect from erosion. These forests are mapped (52). Only forest management actions that preserve and enhance the</p> | Country | Low risk (21) HCV 4 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities. |

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| | | <p>function as protection forests are allowed in these forests. The allowed forest management actions are described in sustainability and monitoring in protecting forests (NaiS, 20).</p> <p>While marking trees to be cut through the forest service, the forest service refers to the recommendations made by NaiS.</p> <p>b) clean water catchments The Main sources of water for drinking are mapped and have three zones. These sources are protected by cantonal and community law. These zones are known to the resource manager and the forest service.</p> <p>Since each harvesting event has to have an official permission, the forest service informs the forest owner before the harvesting of this situation and tells him the measures he has to take.</p> <p>The wells and ground water in the forest are protected by law. Sensitive areas are demarcated on maps and restrictions on forest management activities in the protection zones are prescribed in harvesting plans. The law is enforced by the forest service.</p> <p>The forest service monitors and strictly enforces the Nais guidelines, and there have not been any reports of negative impacts.</p> <p>Considering the elements above and the low levels of corruption and high degree of legal compliance in Switzerland based on international indices (see category 1 of this risk assessment), the risk is low that forest management significantly threatens HCV 4.</p> | | |
| 3.5 HCV 5 Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (e. g.: for livelihoods, health, nutrition, | 2, 7, 17, 48, 64, 65 | <p>According to the UN definition (UN doc. E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1986/7/Add. 4) there are no indigenous people living in Switzerland.</p> <p>The local people have access to the forest to gather wild berries and fungi to the extent permitted by local custom except where the competent authority enacts specific limited prohibitions in the interests of conservation. This right is not limited by forest management activities.</p> <p>The wells and ground water in the forest are protected by law. Sensitive areas are demarcated on maps and restrictions on forest management activities in</p> | Country | Low risk (25) HCV 5 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities. |

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| <p>water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.</p> | | <p>the protection zones are prescribed in harvesting plans. The law is enforced by the forest service.</p> <p>a) Unique/main sources of water for drinking and other daily uses; Main source of water for drinking are mapped and have three protection zones. These sources are protected by cantonal and community law. These zones are known to the resource manager and the forest service. The water quality is at least yearly checked by the public authority. The monitoring results can be found on www.trinkwasser.ch. If the information is not available there, then you can get the information directly from the local authority.</p> <p>Each water protecting zone has an ordinance. In this ordinance it is ruled to which extend forest management is permitted. These zones are marked in the forest (64).</p> <p>Since each harvesting event has to have an official permission, the forest service informs the forest owner before the harvesting of this situation and tells him the measures he has to take.</p> <p>Contamination of water source due to forest management is not an issue. So far there has not been published a report about significant negative impact on this sub-category of HCV 5.</p> <p>b) Unique/main sources of water for the irrigation of food crops The main source of water for the irrigation of food crops is mapped and has three zones. These sources are protected by cantonal and community law. These zones are known to the resource manager and the forest service.</p> <p>Each water protecting zone has an ordinance. In this ordinance it is ruled to which extend forest management is permitted. These zones are marked in the forest (64).</p> <p>Each harvesting act has to have a legal permission. The forest service informs the forest owner before the harvesting of this situation and tells him the measures he has to take.</p> <p>c) Food, medicines or fuel etc. for local consumption. The civil right (Art. 699) allows the local people to gather wild berries and fungi to the extent permitted by local custom except where the competent authority</p> | | |
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| | | <p>enacts specific limited prohibitions in the interests of conservation. This right is not limited by the forest management activities.</p> <p>This legislation is well known and accepted. So far there has not been published a report about significant negative impact on this HCV.</p> <p>No reports exist identifying forest management activities as a threat to this sub-category.</p> <p>Considering the elements above and the low levels of corruption and high degree of legal compliance in Switzerland based on international indices (see category 1 of this risk assessment), the risk is low that forest management significantly threatens HCV 5.</p> | | |
| <p>3.6 HCV 6 Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological for historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples</p> | <p>4, 11, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 40, 47, 49, 50, 51, 63, 70</p> | <p>All sites of cultural, archeological and historical significance in Switzerland are fully inventoried and mapped at the Canton level (49, 50, 51). These site lists can be accessed either under https://map.geo.admin.ch or under the server of the canton (eg. canton of Aargau, https://www.ag.ch/app/agisviewer4/v1/agisviewer.html).</p> <p>Switzerland has comprehensive regulatory protections in place for HCV 6. The cultural values are protected by the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage. The aim of this Act is (Art. 1): a) to carefully manage and protect heritage landscapes and sites of local character, historical sites, and the country's natural and cultural monuments, and to promote their preservation and upkeep; b) to support the cantons in fulfilling their tasks in the fields of nature protection, cultural heritage protection and monument preservation, and to ensure cooperation with them; c) to support the endeavors of organizations active in the fields of nature protection, cultural heritage protection or monument preservation; d.) to protect indigenous flora and fauna, their biological diversity and their natural habitats; dbis.4) to promote the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources; e) to promote science and research and the education and training of experts in the fields of nature protection, cultural heritage protection and monument preservation.</p> <p>Monitoring and enforcement of the regulatory protections is also effective. The federal administration and the cantons ensure that heritage landscapes and</p> | Country | <p>Low Risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (29) HCV 6 is identified and its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats from management activities.</p> |

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| | | <p>sites of local character, historical sites, and natural and cultural monuments are carefully managed and, where there is an overriding public interest, preserved undiminished. They fulfil this obligation by: a) suitably designing and maintaining their own buildings and installations, or by foregoing their construction altogether; b) imposing conditions or requirements on the issue of licenses and authorizations, or refusing to issue them; c) restricting or refusing subsidies.</p> <p>There is also a program of sociocultural forest monitoring in place which is designed to ensure effective oversight of implementation of requirements. The last report concluded that the Swiss people appreciate and actively use the forest and that the ban for clearcutting is strongly accepted. (70).</p> <p>a) Aesthetic values Aesthetic values are present such as World Heritage sites, National Parks, historic and archeological heritage. These values are protected by the Federal Act on Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage. This legislation is well known and accepted (70). So far there has been published a report about significant negative impact on this sub-category of HCV 6.</p> <p>b) Historic values There are historic values present in the forest such as historic roads, old forest stands, historic cultivation forms and historic mark stones. In publicly owned forest these values are addressed during elaborating the management plan. In privately owned forest these issues are addressed during the approval process.</p> <p>Most of the old forest stands (7200 ha) are actually protected by reserves (63).</p> <p>Of its position in the middle of Europe historic transit routes and trails are a major issue. There is a national inventory for historic transit routes. As historic transit routes are known, they are considered within the forest management planning. In most situation only the direction is historic, not the road construction. In other situation where there is still a historic road construction the roads are too narrow for heavy forest machines or the roads have a weight ban for heavy vehicles.</p> <p>c) Scientific values There are monitoring sites or sampling sites. These sites are marked in the forest and mapped. Many monitoring sites are also in protected areas. These protected areas are addressed already in HCV1 and HCV3. The other sites are</p> | | |
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| | | <p>known to the forest service who is involved in issuing the harvesting permission.</p> <p>d) Social (including economic) values According to the UN definition (UN doc. E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1986/7/Add. 4) there are no indigenous people living in Switzerland.</p> <p>The social values are protected by the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>During the forest harvesting approval process all relevant given sources of information are considered. After the intervention the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> <p>e) Spiritual values According to the UN definition (UN doc. E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1986/7/Add. 4) there are no indigenous people living in Switzerland. The spiritual values are protected by the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>During the forest harvesting approval process all relevant given sources of information are considered. After the intervention the site is inspected by the forest service again.</p> <p>There is a sociocultural forest monitoring in place. The last report concluded that the Swiss people appreciate and actively use the forest and that the ban on clearcutting is strongly supported. (70)</p> <p>Considering the elements above and the low levels of corruption and high degree of legal compliance in Switzerland based on international indices (see category 1 of this risk assessment), the risk is low that forest management significantly threatens HCV 6.</p> | | |
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Recommended control measures

N/A

Information sources

| No. ³ | Source of information | Relevant HCV category and indicator |
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| 1 | HCV Resource Network, https://www.hcvnetwork.org/resources/global-hcv-toolkits (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3 |
| 2 | Swiss Civil Code, (Zivilgesetzbuch, ZGB), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19070042/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV5 |
| 3 | Federal Act on the Amendment of the Swiss Civil Code (Obligationenrecht, OR), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19110009/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3 |
| 4 | Federal Act on Forest (Waldgesetz, WaG), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 5 | Federal Act of game and the protection of wild living mammals and birds (Jagdgesetz, JSG), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19860156/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 6 | Federal Act of spatial planning (Raumplanungsgesetz, RPG), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19790171/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 7 | Federal Act of environmental protection act (Umweltschutzgesetz, USG), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19830267/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV4, 5 |
| 8 | Ordinance on the Reduction of Risks relating to the Use of Certain Particularly Dangerous Substances, Preparations and Articles, (Chemikalien-Risikoreduktions-Verordnung, ChemRRV), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20021520/index.html (15.1.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV4 |
| 9 | Ordinance on Protection against Dangerous Substances and Preparations (Chemikalienverordnung, ChemV), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20141117/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV4 |
| 11 | Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (Natur- und Heimatschutzgesetz, NHG), https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19660144/index.html (15.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 13 | GIS map server Switzerland, https://map.geo.admin.ch (16.11.2016) | HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 14 | National biodiversity in brief (Biodiversität in Kürze), http://www.bafu.admin.ch/biodiversitaet/15201/index.html?lang=en (16.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 15 | National biodiversity, monitoring program, http://www.bafu.admin.ch/biodiversitaet/14377/index.html?lang=de (16.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 16 | National forest inventory (NFI), (Landesforstinventar) http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (16.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 17 | Water protection maps of the cantons (Grundwasserschutzkarten der Kantone) http://www.bafu.admin.ch/wasser/13462/13496/15005/index.html?lang=de (16.11.2016) | HCV4, 5 |
| 18 | Forest and wood in brief (Wald und Holz in Kürze), http://www.bafu.admin.ch/wald/15225/index.html?lang=en (16.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |

³ Please note that missing source numbers do not appear in the risk assessment. The missing numbers were preserved solely to prevent errors in adjusting source numbers in the text above.

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| 19 | BAFU (Hrsg.) 2015: Jahrbuch Wald und Holz 2015. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Bern. Umwelt-Zustand Nr. 1520: 162 S. Yearbook forest and wood 2015 (Jahrbuch Wald und Holz 2015), BAFU, 06.01.2016 | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 20 | FREHNER, M.; WASSER, B.; SCHWITTER, R., 2005: Nachhaltigkeit und Erfolgskontrolle. im Schutzwald. Wegleitung für Pflegemassnahmen in Wäldern mit. Schutzfunktion, Vollzug Umwelt. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft, Bern, 564 S. Sustainability and monitoring in protection forests (Nachhaltigkeit und Erfolgskontrolle im Schutzwald, NaiS), BAFU, 2005 | Cat. 3, HCV1, 2, 3, 4, 6 |
| 21 | Imesch N., Stadler B., Bolliger M., Schneider O. 2015: Biodiversität im Wald: Ziele und Massnahmen. Vollzugshilfe zur Erhaltung und Förderung. der biologischen Vielfalt im Schweizer Wald. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Bern. Umwelt-Vollzug Nr. 1503: 186 S. Biodiversity in the forest: targets and measures (Biodiversität im Wald: Ziele und Massnahmen), BAFU, 2015 | Cat. 3, HCV1, 2, 3, 4, 6 |
| 22 | Intact forest landscape, method, http://intactforests.org/method.html (16.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV2 |
| 23a | Worldwide governance indicators, table for Switzerland, World Bank, http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports (22.11.2016) | Cat. 3 |
| 23b | Worldwide governance indicators, diagram for Switzerland, World Bank, http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports (22.11.2016) | Cat. 3 |
| 24 | Forest fire danger – Federal office for the environment FOEN, http://www.waldbrandgefahr.ch (23.11.2016) | HCV4 |
| 25 | Koordinationsstelle BDM 2014: Biodiversitätsmonitoring Schweiz. BDM. Beschreibung der Methoden und Indikatoren. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Bern. Umwelt-Wissen Nr. 1410: 104 S. Biodiversitätsmonitoring Schweiz, BAFU 2014 | HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 26 | Albin Schmidhauser und Franz Schmithüsen. Entwicklung der Finanzierung einer multifunktionalen Waldbewirtschaftung in den Forstbetrieben öffentlicher Waldeigentümer im schweizerischen Alpenraum. Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Forstwesen 150(1999) 11: 416-428. Development of subsidising for a multi-functional forest management in public resource management units in the Swiss Alps, Entwicklung der Finanzierung einer multifunktionalen Waldbewirtschaftung in den Forstbetrieben öffentlicher Waldeigentümer im schweizerischen Alpenraum, ETH Zürich, 2002 | Cat. 3 |
| 27 | Swiss Information System Biodiversity (SIB), http://www.sib.admin.ch/de/index.html (23.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 28 | Biodiversity in the Swiss forest (Biodiversität im Schweizer Wald) http://www.bafu.admin.ch/biodiversitaet/13721/14385/14693/index.html?lang=de (24.11.2016) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 29 | UNESCO World heritage commission, http://www.unesco.ch/wie/kultur/welterbe/ (24.11.2016) | HCV6 |
| 30 | Federal inventory of historical transit routes (Bundesinventar historischer Transportwege, IVS); http://www.ivs.admin.ch/ (24.11.2016) | HCV6 |
| 31 | Swiss data center for national species, http://www.infospecies.ch/de/ (24.11.2016) | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 32 | FOEN (ed.), 2014: Switzerland's Fifth National Report under the Con-vention on Biological Diversity. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. 132 pp. Switzerland's fifth national report under the Convention on biological diversity, FOEN and DETEC, 2014 | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3 |
| 33 | Guido Fuchs. FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Switzerland. Evaluation of risks in relation to the procurement of uncertified timber from Swiss forests, Version 2009 (unpublished) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 2, 3, 4 |
| 34 | Karl Büchel. National FSC forest standard, draft 1, 26.4.2016 (unpublished) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

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| 35 | Karl Büchel. Concept for HCV in Switzerland, 16.11.2016, SDG Switzerland, draft (unpublished) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 36 | Karl Büchel. Management planning, revision and monitoring, SDG Switzerland, 28.07.2016, draft (unpublished) | Cat. 3, HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 37 | Centralised National Risk Assessment – Switzerland, Category 1, 4 & 5, FSC IC, 12.07.2016, draft (unpublished) | Cat. 3 |
| 38 | BDM (E10 indicator). Data sources: Swiss National Forest Inventory NFI, special analyses of surveys made in 1993/95 and 2004/06. 150109UU. Special analysis of the survey made in 2009/13 (NFI4b) by Fabrizio Cioldi (19.02.2015). Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL. Status: 2015 Basic data form biodiversity monitoring Switzerland, deadwood, FOEN, 2015 | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 39 | BDM (Indikator E9). Datenquelle: Schweizerisches Landesforstinventar LFI. Spezialauswertung der Erhebungen 1983-85, 1993-95 und 2004-06. 26122008UU. Spezialauswertung der Erhebung 2009/13 (LFI4b). Fabrizio Cioldi, 19.02.2015. Eidgenössische Forschungsanstalt für Wald, Schnee und Landschaft WSL. CH-8903 Birmensdorf. Stand: 2015 Basic data form biodiversity monitoring Switzerland, regeneration, FOEN, 2015 | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 40 | BAFU (Hrsg.) 2014. Waldreservate in der Schweiz. Bericht über den Stand Ende 2012. 26 S. Forest reserves in Switzerland, FOEN, 2012 | HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 41 | Annual increment, NFI, 2015 http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 42 | Annual yield, NFI, 2015 http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 43 | Forest area, forest property, NFI, 2014 http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 44 | Forest area, increment between 1983-2013, NFI, 2015 http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 45 | Road network length (only forest roads), NFI, 2015 http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3, HCV2 |
| 46 | Map, dispersal of deadwood, NFI, 2016 http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 47 | Map, forest reserves, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV1, 3, 4, 6 |
| 48 | Map, groundwater protection zones, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV4, 5 |
| 49 | Map, historic transit rout with national importance, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV6 |
| 50 | Map, inventory of landscapes and natural monuments of national importance, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV6 |
| 51 | Map, mire landscapes, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 52 | Map, protection forest, FOEN, 2016, annex map 4 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV4 |
| 53 | Map, plant types in the forest, Canton Aargau, 2016 https://www.ag.ch/app/agisviewer4/v1/agisviewer.html (07.12.2017) | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 54 | Map, water and migrant bird reserves, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV3, 4 |
| 55 | Map, wildlife network system, FOEN, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV3, 4 |
| 56 | Annex, map 1, intact forest landscape, 2016 http://intactforests.org/world.webmap.html (07.12.2017) | HCV2 |
| 57 | Annex, map 2, network of ecosystems, 2016 https://map.geo.admin.ch (07.12.2017) | HCV1, 3, 4 |
| 58 | NFI, forest area by forest function divided by forest area http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 59 | NFI, forest area: ownership http://www.lfi.ch/index-en.php (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |

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| 60 | Situation of the Swiss biodiversity, BUWAL, 2015 https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/themen/biodiversitaet/fachinformationen/zustand-der-biodiversitaet-in-der-schweiz.html (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 61 | Swiss Strategy for biodiversity, BUWAL, 2016 https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/themen/biodiversitaet/fachinformationen/massnahmen-zur-erhaltung-und-foerderung-der-biodiversitaet/strategie-biodiversitaet-schweiz-und-aktionsplan.html (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 62 | Rigling, A., Schaffer, H.P. (Eds.) 2015: Waldbericht 2015. Zustand und Nutzung des Schweizer Waldes. Bundesamt für Umwelt, Bern, Eidg. Forschungsanstalt WSL, Birmensdorf. 144 S. Forest report 2015, BUWAL, WSL 2015 | HCV1, 3 |
| 63 | Rita Bütler, Markus Bolliger, Brigitte Commarmot. Die Suche nach altem Wald in der Schweiz. Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Forstwesen 166 (2015) 2: 67–74 The search for old-growth forests in Switzerland, 2015 | HCV2, 3, 6 |
| 64 | Amt für Umwelt Kanton Solothurn (Hrsg.). Ausscheidung von Grundwasserschutzzonen, Musterreglement und Leitfaden, 2014. 61 S. Sample regulations for well protection area, canton Solothurn, 2014 | HCV4, 5 |
| 65 | United Nations publication. Resource Kit on indigenous peoples' issues, UN 2008 | HCV5 |
| 66 | National Targets, CBD, https://www.cbd.int/countries/targets/?country=ch (07.12.2017) | Cat. 3 |
| 67 | BONFILS, P.; BOLLIGER, M. (Red.) 2003: Wälder von besonderem genetischem Interesse (BGI-Wälder). Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft, BUWAL, Bern. 60 S. Forests of genetically interests, BUWAL 2003 | HCV3 |
| 68 | Nobis Michael, 2008: Invasive Neophyten auch im Wald? Zeitschrift Wald und Holz 8/2008 Invasive species in the forest, 01.08.2008 | HCV1 |
| 69 | Southern Europe: The Alps of northern Italy, southern France, Switzerland, and Slovenia https://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/pa0501 (07.12.2017) | HCV2 |
| 70 | Sociocultural Swiss forest monitoring, BAFU, 2010, https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/themen/wald/fachinformationen/waldzustand-und-waldfunktionen/bevoelkerungsumfrage---waldmonitoring-soziokulturell--wamos-.html (20.05.2017) | HCV6 |
| 71 | Convention on Biological Diversity, https://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=ch | HCV3 |
| 72 | Fischer M. et al. (2015): Zustand der Biodiversität in der Schweiz 2014. Hrsg.: Forum Biodiversität Schweiz et al., Bern. Situation of biodiversity in Switzerland | HCV3 |

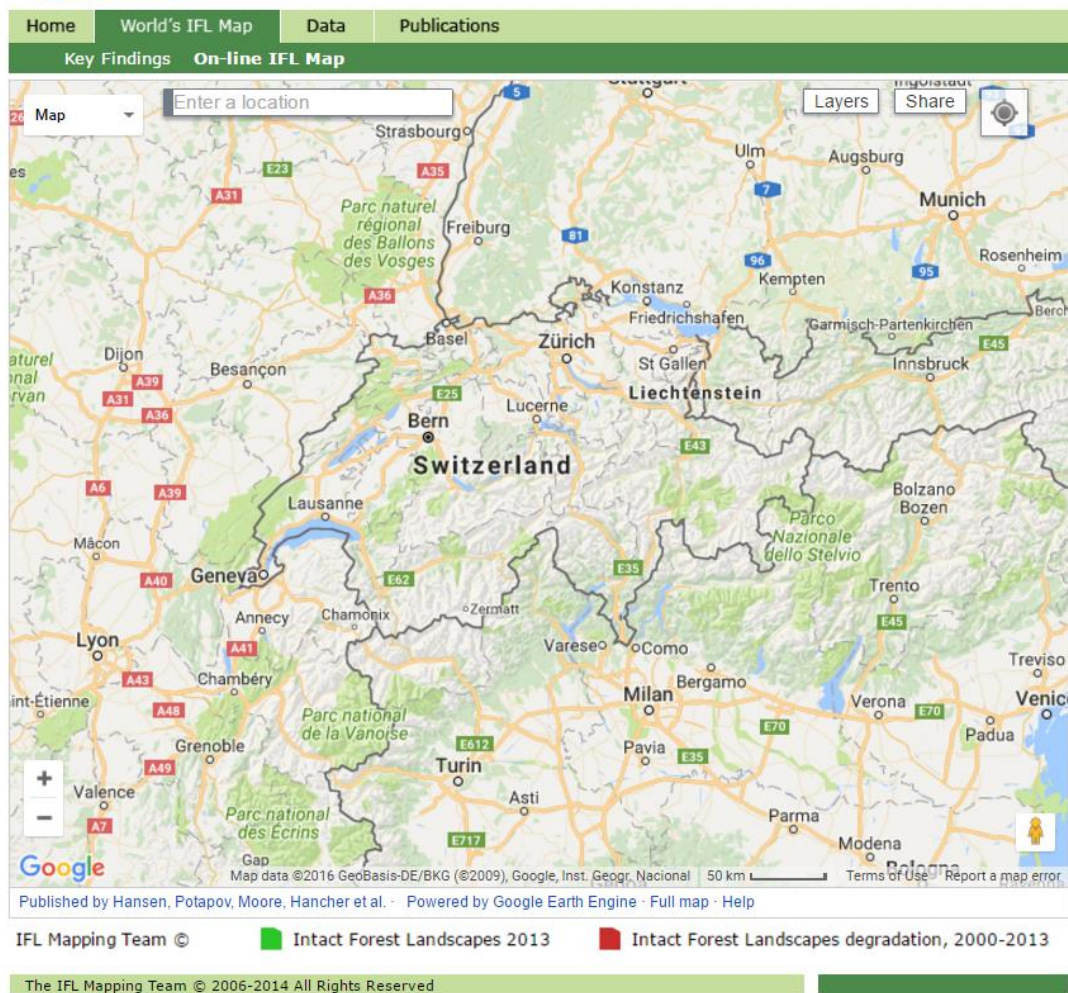
Abbreviation

| | |
|-------------|---|
| BAFU | Bundesamt für Umwelt → FOEN (English) |
| DETEC | Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications |
| EEA | European Environmental Agency |
| FOEN | Federal Office for the Environment → BAFU (German) |
| HCV | High conservation value |
| NaiS NFI | Nachhaltigkeit und Erfolgskontrolle im Schutzwald, Sustainability and monitoring in protection forests National Forest Inventory |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| RMU | Resource Management Unit |
| SSB | Swiss Strategy for Biodiversity |
| WaG WaV | Waldgesetz, Federal Act on Forest Verordnung zum Waldgesetz, Ordinance on Forest |

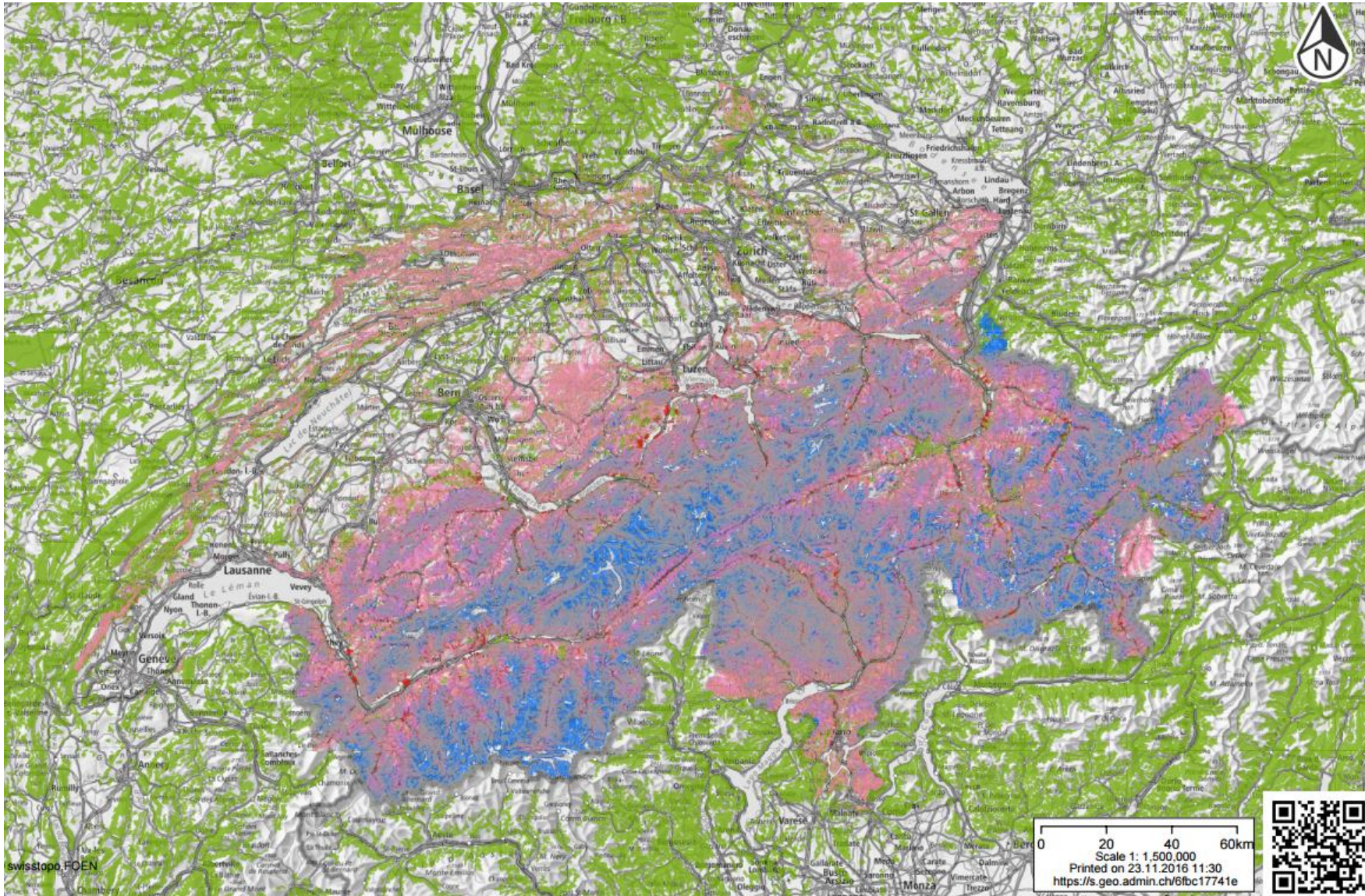
Annex: Maps of relevant issues mentioned in this report



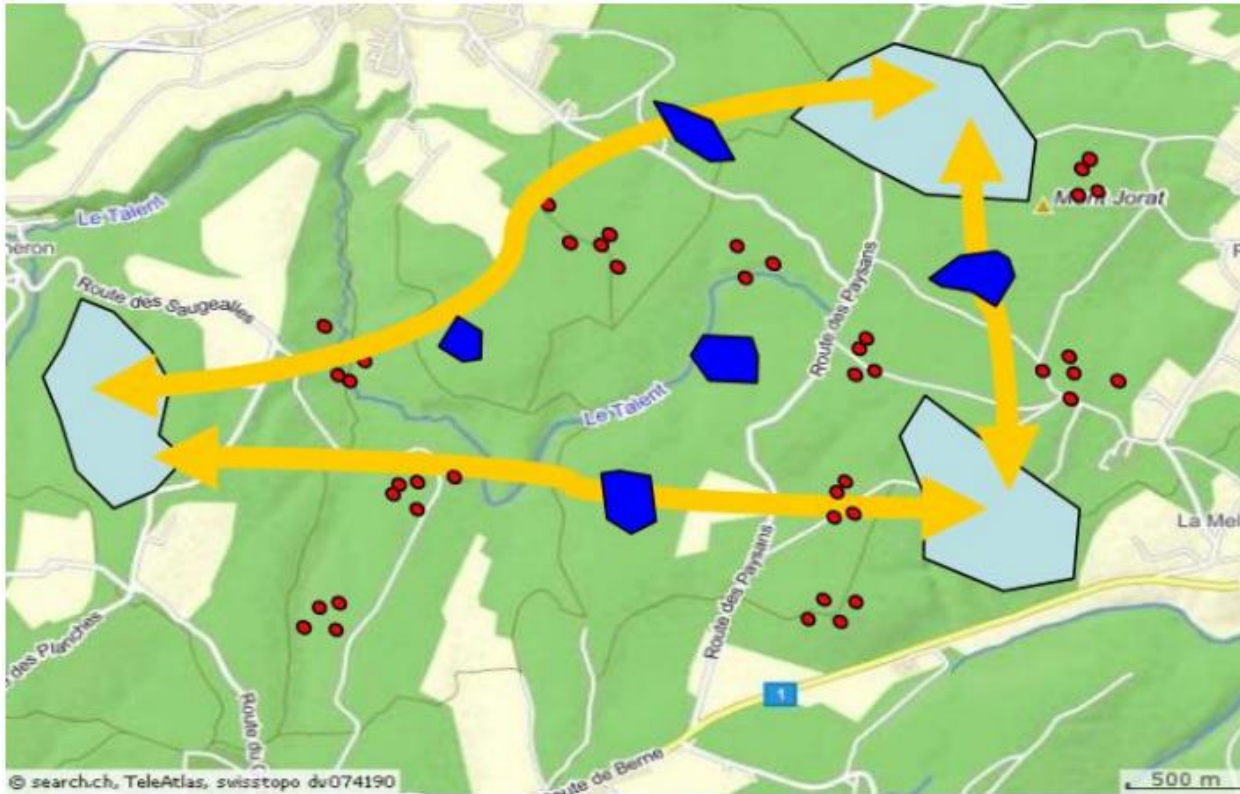
Intact Forest Landscapes



Map 1: Forest map of Switzerland, showing that no intact forest landscapes are present, <http://intactforests.org/world.webmap.html> (16.11.2016)



Map 2: Protection forest mapped by FOEN, <https://map.geo.admin.ch> (23.11.2016)



Map 3: Example showing how habitat connectivity works. Light blue areas: forest reserves, dark blue: old tree stands, red dots: valuable trees for biodiversity, yellow arrows: connecting corridors.

Controlled wood category 4: Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use

Risk assessment

| Indicator | Source of information | Functional scale | Risk designation and determination |
|-----------|---|------------------|---|
| 4.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Law (WaG 921.0) since 1876, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19910255/201307010000/921.0.pdf WaG, Art. 1–4 and Art 5.1: Clearing (conversion) is prohibited WaG, Art. 5.2, Art. 7: Restrictions for exception, permission for clearing WaG Art 6. (Exemption) • National Forest Enactment (WaV 921.01) since 1891, version from 1991: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19920310/201503010000/921.01.pdf WaV, Art. 4–11: (Clearing procedure) WaV, Art. 7: Decree of Conversion (Rodungsentscheid) • Transparency International (2017): Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016. URL: http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016, visited 20 April 2017 • World Bank (2016): Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014. URL: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports, visited 19 May 2016 <p>Brändli, U (2010): Waldzunahme in der Schweiz – gestern und morgen. Waldwissen.net – Informationen für die Forstpraxis. Verändert, Stand: 23 December 2010. URL:</p> | - | <p>Content of law</p> <p>Deforestation is prohibited under the terms of the Forest Act of 4 October 1991 (ForA; SR 921.0). Exceptions may be granted if the applicants prove that important reasons exist for the deforestation – with these outweighing the interests of forest conservation – and other conditions are also met. This is possible only through compensation with planting of new forest within the region.</p> <p>Section 1 of the WaV specifies the procedure for approval for conversion activities and the reasons for which conversion of natural forests may be allowed. These are: infrastructure development, road and dam construction and other national/State infrastructure. No natural forest may be converted for agricultural uses. For mining (for chalk and gravel only), it is possible to obtain temporary approval to convert forest; after which the forest must be restored in situ. The legislation does not cover conversion to plantation purpose.</p> <p>Under WaV the decree of conversion (Rodungsentscheid) states that a land clearance permit is required for conversion. This is allowed by the Act and specifies the procedures for the application and approval of these activities by the forest office (Federal Government or Cantons). The application must describe activities to avoid or minimise environmental disturbance. For mining activities in particular, rehabilitation activities are required after mining ceases.</p> <p>The Federal Office keeps statistics of approvals authorized by the Federal Government and the Cantons. The Cantons provide the Federal Office with the requisite information.</p> <p>In circumstances where the area to be cut is larger than 5000 m², or if it is situated in more than one Canton/ State, permission must be sought from the Federal Government. Permission for conversion is issued and controlled by the State forest department. The decision has to be made public. Stakeholders have the right to make an appeal against this decision and a dispute resolution process has to be in place.</p> |

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| | <p>http://www.waldwissen.net/technik/land_raum/wsl_waldzunahme_schweiz/index_DE, visited 8 June 2016</p> <p>http://www.bafu.admin.ch/wald/01198/01201/?lang=de BAFU (2016): Jahrbuch Wald und Holz 2016. Available at: https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/themen/wald/publikationen-studien/publikationen/jahrbuch-wald-und-holz-2016.html, visited 22 June 2017</p> | | <p>In accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 3 of the Forest Ordinance of 30 November 1992 (ForO; SR 921.01), BAFU issues guidelines on the content of deforestation applications. This implementation guide includes the deforestation application form, as well as information about the associated process, compensation measures for deforestation and further information relating to current deforestation policy. The implementation guide is primarily aimed at the relevant Cantonal offices and the leading federal authorities but is also intended for use by applicants and the initiators of projects that affect forest areas.</p> <p>Replacement measures for the protection of nature and landscape are implemented, and in these cases areas afforested have to correspond to the nature value, which is why the areas afforested can be larger than the original area converted. (BAFU 2016)</p> <p>Is the law enforced?</p> <p>In 2016 Switzerland had a CPI of 86 (above the threshold of 50) and, according to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators – on a scale of -2,5 to 2,5 in 2014 – received a score of 2,13 for Government Effectiveness, 2,02 on Rule of Law and 2,19 on Control of Corruption, indicating the country has low corruption levels and a high degree of legal compliance. This is supported by the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (2011) with a rank of 8.8. out of 10, indicating a very low level of corruption relating to the issuing of permits. There are no reports of corruption in connection with the forest sector, and governance and enforcement are considered reliable with on-site follow-up control.</p> <p>Furthermore, Switzerland is densely populated and the public have access to the public forest. Forest officials regularly control the forest and thus there is a high degree of scrutiny of the forests through the presence of both the public and the authorities. The forest sector in Switzerland is small and it is therefore unlikely that illegal conversion would occur without it being detected.</p> <p>There is no evidence indicating that the legislation is not enforced. The applicable legislation is considered to be enforced and conversion is not considered to an issue in Switzerland.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Is it possible to conclude that the spatial threshold (0.02% or 5000 ha) is met?</p> <p>Conversion under the scope of this category and indicator is prohibited by the legislation listed. Where conversion is allowed in special circumstances, compensation is achieved through the establishment of new forest. Over the whole of Switzerland, concessions/ permits to cut forest in 2015, forest conversion amounted to 169 ha forest distributed between 382 permits. The average conversion per year is about 156 ha. Areas converted are mainly infrastructure, mining/production of raw material and waste disposal plants. 71% of the areas converted the latest 10 years are being afforested on the same spot, 20% is afforested in a same area, while 2% is afforested in a different area. The areas afforested correspond to the total number of conversion allowed.</p> <p>The data for Switzerland indicate that forest cover is increasing at a rate of 0.36% annually, especially in the hilly areas. The total Swiss forest area has risen 8% from 1985 to 2006 (Brändli 2010; BAFU 2013). While this does include plantations, natural expansion is dominant.</p> <p>There are minor possibilities for conversion without restoring forest, but this is considered to only take place on very limited scale and the legislation is considered sufficient to ensure no conversion takes place above the threshold of this indicator.</p> <p>Risk designation Low risk thresholds are met (2) Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers laws that prevent conversion (to the outcome required by the indicator) AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms that the law is enforced ('low risk'); AND (3) Other available evidence does not challenge a 'low risk' designation.</p> |
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Recommended control measures

N/A

Controlled wood category 5: Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

Risk assessment

| Indicator | Sources of information | Functional scale | Risk designation and determination |
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| 5.1 | <p>The Swiss Federal Council (2015): Bundesrat calls for an extension of the GM moratorium, 18 December 2015. Website: https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-60062.html, visited 20 May 2016</p> <p>GMO-Free Europe (2016): GMO News Related to Switzerland. Website: http://www.gmo-free-regions.org/gmo-free-regions/switzerland.html, visited 20 May 2016</p> | - | <p>Low risk</p> <p>The cultivation of genetically modified organisms is prohibited in Switzerland through a moratorium on genetic engineering. An exception is made only for research purposes. After two extensions by the parliament, the moratorium is supposed to end in December 2017. At the end of 2015, however, the Federal Council announced a further extension of the moratorium for another five years until 2021, about which the Parliament has to take a decision.</p> <p>(1) GMO use is illegal according to applicable legislation of the area under assessment AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms that applicable legislation is enforced ('low risk'),</p> <p>(2) There is no commercial use of GM tree species in the area under assessment, AND</p> <p>(3) Other available evidence does not challenge 'low risk' designation.</p> |

| GMO Context Question | Answer | Sources of Information (list sources if different types of information, such as reports, laws, regulations, articles, web pages news articles etc.). |
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| 1 Is there any legislation covering GMO (trees)? | Yes, In Switzerland a moratorium concerning genetically modified organisms rules the use of GM plants. The moratorium is based on a public request that was accepted by votes in 2005 and lasting until 2017 – and has subsequently been prolonged until 2021. | Bundesgesetz über die Gentechnik im Ausserhumanbereich (Gentechnikgesetz, GTG) vom 21. März 2003 (Stand am 1. Juni 2014).: https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/19996136/index.html |
| 2 Does applicable legislation for the area under assessment include a ban for commercial use of GMO (trees)? | Yes | |
| 3 Is there evidence of unauthorized use of GM trees? | No | GMO-Free Europe (2016): GMO News Related to Switzerland. Website: http://www.gmo-free-regions.org/gmo-free-regions/switzerland.html , visited 20 May 2016 |
| 4 Is there any commercial use of GM trees in the country or region? | No | GMO-Free Europe (2016): GMO News Related to Switzerland. Website: http://www.gmo-free-regions.org/gmo-free-regions/switzerland.html , visited 20 May 2016 |
| 5 Are there any trials of GM trees in the country or region? | Only scientific trials | GMO-Free Europe (2016): GMO News Related to Switzerland. Website: http://www.gmo-free-regions.org/gmo-free-regions/switzerland.html , visited 20 May 2016 |
| 6 Are licenses required for commercial use of GM trees? | No. GMO trees are not allowed, therefore no licences are issued | |
| 7 Are there any licenses issued for GM trees relevant for the area under assessment? (If so, in what regions, for what species and to which entities?) | No | |
| 8 What GM 'species' are used? | None | |
| 9 Can it be clearly determined in which MUs the GM trees are used? | N/A. There are none present in any MU. | |

Recommended control measures

N/A