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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SWITZERLAND

A GUIDE



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FOREWORD

Sustainable development has been on everyone's lips ever since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992. However, there is still far too little knowledge generally of the underlying concept of sustainable development. There is thus a continuing need to explain what sustainable development really means, and to promote dialogue in the political arena and with stakeholders from business, education and civil society.

The objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 («Rio+20») is to renew the political commitment to sustainable development world-wide. The conference will focus on two specific themes: the development of a «green economy» in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The «Decade of Education for Sustainable Development» (DESD), which runs from 2005 to 2014, is the vehicle by which another objective is to be achieved. Its intention is to integrate the concept of sustainable development into all levels of the education system. This includes both formal education during compulsory schooling and in higher education, and the wide arena of informal education such as training courses or events. The DESD will thus lay the foundations for a sustainable society.

The present publication provides an overview of the concept of sustainable development, and shows how it is being implemented in Switzerland. It is intended to be used as a guide to this complex field. The internet links that are given provide further information for a more in-depth treatment of the individual topics. This will allow all interested parties to participate in the debate and contribute to sustainable development in their own environments in the future.

We invite everyone who has an interest in sustainable development for private or professional reasons to use this guide to obtain a quick overview and as a starting point for further reading and action.

Dr. Maria Lezzi, Director, Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)

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AT GLOBAL LEVEL

POPULATION AND SOCIETY

The world's population will rise to around 9.6 billion by 2050. The majority of these people will be living in huge metropolises in developing countries. The number of potential migrants will also increase still further in the wake not only of global population growth and persistent economic disparities between rich and poor countries, but also conflict and environment-related shifts (climate change). The worldwide fight against poverty also continues. Between 1990 and 2005, the percentage of people in developing countries who survive on less than one dollar a day could be cut from around 46 to 27 %. However, because of population growth, the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty has hardly diminished. In addition, the distribution of wealth is becoming increasingly inequitable, with rising numbers of extremely rich and extremely poor people.

ECONOMY

Competition is increasing between business locations. The euro and debt crises have revealed deep structural deficits, which has put competitiveness under even greater pressure. While nation states are losing influence, multinational companies and international economic institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are gaining power and credence. The division of labour is also becoming more and more international. Economically advanced countries are developing into «knowledge societies» whose prosperity is based on the accumulation of knowledge and the deployment of new information and communication technologies. Indus-

trial production, on the other hand, is increasingly being transferred to developing countries and emerging economies.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The greatest global environmental problems of the 21st century are climate change and the growing frequency of natural disasters, the lack of fresh water, threats to biodiversity, polluted seas and coastlines, the rapid loss of productive land, and chemical, genetic engineering and nuclear risks as the result of our production methods and our consumer behaviour. Owing to rising consumer demand in the north, but also in rapidly developing countries such as China and India, the pressure on natural resources continues to grow. The level of urgency is underlined by the figures on climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global greenhouse gas emissions would have to be cut to half of their 1990 level by 2050 to keep the rise in temperature below 2°C and avoid catastrophic implications for human life. Industrialized nations must make even greater cuts, reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by between 80 and 95 % of their 1990 level by 2050. The IPCC estimates that we have only until 2020 to act to avoid the far-reaching and irreversible effects of climate change.

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SUMMARY

As the 21st century progresses, there is an ever clearer need at the global level for development to be redirected into alternative, more sustainable paths.

IN SWITZERLAND

POPULATION AND SOCIETY

The demographic challenge facing Switzerland is caused by both the growth and the ageing of the population. At present there are around 33 retired people for every 100 earners; by 2050 this figure will increase to around 61 per 100 earners. Reforms in the social insurance system will put pressure on the relationship between the generations. A growing and ageing society also impacts on other areas such as the labour market, mobility and housing. On the basis of Swiss immigration policy it can be assumed that future immigration will continue to come mainly from the

EU. However, immigration from non-European countries is also likely to remain, so integration policy will continue to be of great importance.

Owing to greater competitive pressures, workers from a poor educational background or who are otherwise disadvantaged are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the demands of the labour market. The integration of young people with poor qualifications will become increasingly important. Groups especially affected by poverty are the long-term unemployed, people on low incomes (working poor), single-parent families and households with large numbers of children.

ECONOMY

To sustain material prosperity, the Confederation, cantons and municipalities make efforts to improve the general conditions for economic growth. These frequently touch on issues of major importance for sustainable development. For example, ever-increasing pressures to compete affect services previously provided by the state, such as postal networks, railways, telecommunications, power and water supplies, and healthcare provision. Social institutions such as mandatory pension provision or the public education system are undergoing reform, while elements which rebalance social disequilibria are challenged by the promotion of individual solutions.

NATURAL RESOURCES

In Switzerland, the mountain regions are particularly sensitive to the impact of climate change, and the incidence of natural hazards which might threaten regional infrastructures is expected to grow. A variety of forecasts predict that a substantial proportion of Swiss glaciers will disappear over the next 50 years because of global warming. Negative impacts on water supplies and on hydropower (electricity generation) are also to be anticipated. The reorganization of power generation in Switzerland following the decision by the Swiss parliament and Federal Council to close the country's nuclear power stations, and the attendant expansion of renewable energies, will pose major challenges to nature and the landscape. Biodiversity in Switzerland is also threatened as a result of intensive land use by agriculture, by infrastructure systems and by other buildings.

THE POSITION OF SWITZERLAND IN THE WORLD

Switzerland is one of the most highly globalized countries in the world, which is why challenges at the global level are becoming increasingly important for Switzerland. National challenges, too, must increasingly be addressed within an international context. Switzerland earns every second franc abroad and manages almost a third of the world's internationally invested wealth. Moreover, with its levels of production and consumption, it uses about three times the natural resources that are available in the country itself. Such a high level of interdependence entails a commensurate responsibility for global sustainable development.

DEFINITION AND CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



BASIC CONCEPT

THE BRUNDTLAND DEFINITION

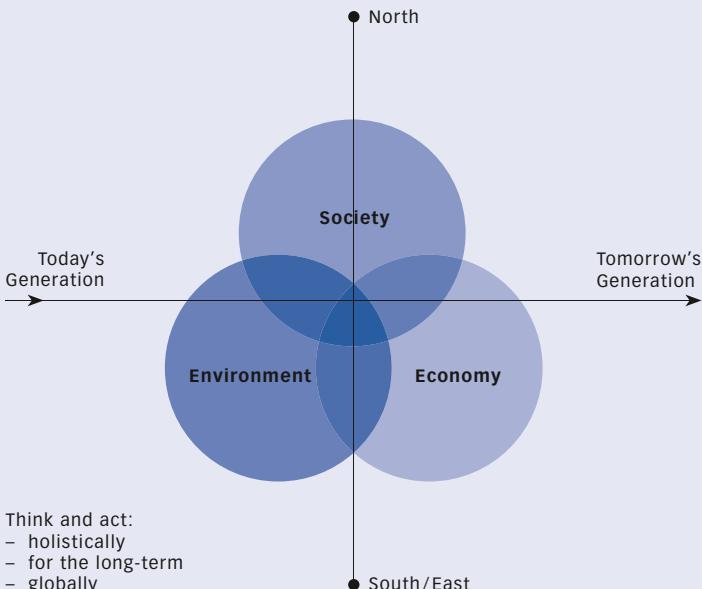
In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) agreed the following definition of sustainable development:

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«Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs».

Sustainable development has become a widely accepted term since the Rio summit in 1992. Two key tenets are central to an understanding of sustainable development: the recognition that the essential needs of all humans must be satisfied, and the concept of the limited capacity of the global ecosystem.

The three-dimensional model



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Sustainable development is often depicted schematically using three circles for the target dimensions of the environment, economy and society, to which are added the time and north-south dimensions. The diagram illustrates the following three major aspects:

- **Holistic view of environment, economy and society:** Economic, social and environmental processes are interlinked and have a reciprocal effect on each other. Public and private agents alike cannot be permitted to act one-dimensionally and in isolation. Instead, such actions must take into account the interplay between the three dimensions.

- **Solidarity with future generations:**

The overuse of resources and habitats or legacy debts limit the development of future generations. Development is only sustainable if it takes account of and does not compromise the needs of future generations (intergenerational solidarity).

- **Solidarity within the current generation:**

The stable development of the earth in the long term is only possible if all humans are granted the same rights to use existing resources (intragenerational solidarity).

The three-dimensional model is a simplified representation of sustainable development. Cultural and institutional aspects also play an important role in tackling and implementing the necessary changes in the political arena.

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The concepts of the «green economy» and «green growth» which have emerged in recent years explore component elements of sustainable development such as resource and energy efficiency. They specifically address the overlaps between economic and environmental issues, in addition to certain social factors. These concepts thus represent important, complementary sub-aspects of the broad field of sustainable development, but are no substitute for it in themselves.

HOW SWITZERLAND INTERPRETS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL CRITERIA

In its Sustainable Development Strategy, the Federal Council sets out 15 sustainability criteria for Switzerland derived from the three target dimensions. These relatively general criteria are fleshed out further in various projects, for instance in the 45 MONET principles (cf. p. 72) or the 35 target areas of the «Cercle Indicateurs» (cf. p. 52).

**The 15 sustainability criteria of the Sustainable Development Strategy
({«Federal Council Criteria»})**

Environment	Economy	Society
Preserve natural areas and biodiversity	Safeguard income and employment and increase in line with needs, taking equitable social and spatial distribution into account	Protect and promote the health and security of citizens in the widest sense
Limit the consumption of renewable resources to below the level of regeneration or natural occurrence	At least preserve productive capital, based on social and human capital, and improve its quality	Guarantee education and thus foster the development and identity of the individual
Limit the consumption of non-renewable resources to below the development potential of renewable resources	Improve the competitiveness and innovativeness of the economy	Foster culture and preserve and develop the values of civil society and resources in the sense of social capital
Reduce to safe levels the burden on the natural environment and humanity resulting from emissions or pollutants	Allow market mechanisms (prices) to be the primary drivers of the economy, taking relevant scarcity factors and external costs into account	Guarantee the same rights and legal status for all, in particular equality for men and women, equal opportunities for and the protection of minorities, and the recognition of human rights
Reduce the impact of environmental disasters and only accept risks of accidents where no lasting damage will be created to future generations in the event of a worst-case scenario	Manage public money only in ways that are not at the expense of future generations	Promote both intragenerational and intergenerational solidarity, also globally

«WEAK SUSTAINABILITY PLUS»

Complementing the three-dimensional model, another fundamental pillar of Swiss sustainability policy is the capital stock model. It is based on the idea of three types of capital stock, namely environmental, economic and social. Sustainability capital consists of the sum of the three capital stocks:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{K sustainability} = \\ \text{K environment} + \text{K economy} + \text{K society} \end{aligned}$$

The question of how far environmental, economic and social capital can be substituted for each other is addressed by the concepts of «strong» and «weak» sustainability. Strong sustainability requires that none of the three individual types of capital should be diminished in the long term, while weak sustainability imposes this condition only for the aggregate capital stock. «Weak» sustainability permits the consumption of environmental capital, for example, as long as it is «compensated for» by an increase in economic or social capital.

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The Federal Council advocates an intermediate position between strong and weak sustainability. In the literature, this is also termed «weak sustainability plus». Limited substitution of the capital stocks is therefore permissible provided that none of the types of capital falls below certain critical limits. These critical limits – such as environmental standards relevant to health (air pollution) or guaranteed human rights – represent non-negotiable minimum requirements.

HANDLING CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES

Sustainable development is not a harmonious concept. Given the wide variety of economic, social and environmental issues involved, conflicts of objectives may arise. The challenge of sustainable development is to create a balance between the sometimes conflicting objectives and interests of the three dimensions. Conflicting objectives must be addressed internationally and locally through fair and democratic processes. The underlying common political goal is thus to identify optimization potential and synergies so that conflicting objectives both between and within the three dimensions of sustainability can be overcome.

The following principles are to be observed:

- Decisions should be taken in such a way that in the medium to long term no single sustainability dimension is systematically disadvantaged to the benefit of the other two.
 - In balancing the interests of the environment, economy and society, non-negotiable minimum requirements must be observed in all three areas.
 - When pursuing the national strategy it must be ensured that environmental burdens and social problems are not simply shifted abroad.
- www.are.admin.ch/sustainabledevelopment
 > Understanding of Sustainability

INTERNATIONAL MILESTONES

1972: «LIMITS TO GROWTH»

The «Limits to Growth» report on the situation of humanity, commissioned by the Club of Rome, kicked off the debate on sustainable development. The report posited that unlimited physical growth is not possible in the finite system that is the earth.

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1972: UN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT, STOCKHOLM

The conference concluded that the preservation of natural resources is essential if a sustained improvement in living conditions is to be achieved. The Stockholm Declaration may be regarded as the foundation stone of the policy that would come to be known as «sustainable development».

1987: THE BRUNDTLAND REPORT

The «Our Common Future» report published by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Report) stated that global environmental problems were attributable primarily to the enormous poverty of the South and non-sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the North. It called for a strategy that unites environment and development. It also defined the term «sustainable development» as we understand it today.

1992: UN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, RIO DE JANEIRO

This is where the idea and concept of sustainable development became known worldwide. Environmental conservation and social and economic

development are all accorded equal weight. For the first time, states were called upon to develop sustainability strategies. The participants signed two legally binding conventions (Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity), and three agreements that are not binding in international law (Agenda 21, Rio Declaration, Statement of Forest Principles).

1994: AALBORG CHARTER

The Charter was adopted by participants at the European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in the Danish city of Aalborg. It set out the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level. The signatories to the Charter pledged to initiate a local Agenda 21 process and to develop a sustainability action plan. Ten years later, the «Aalborg +10 Commitments» reaffirmed the shared vision of a sustainable development of cities and towns in the long term.

1997: UN CONFERENCE EARTH SUMMIT+5, NEW YORK

Little progress had been recorded since 1992. Social injustice, poverty and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the release of toxic substances into the atmosphere and solid waste continued to rise. A programme of work to implement Agenda 21 in the following five years was agreed. The first national sustainability strategies were presented, including that of Switzerland.

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2000: UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The UN General Assembly adopted eight measurable goals that were to be attained by 2015: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; universal primary education; gender equality and the empowerment of women; the reduction of child mortality; improved maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other serious diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and the creation of a global partnership for development.

2001: EUROPEAN UNION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

In its strategy, the European Council clearly states the need to decouple economic growth from resource use. The strategy was renewed in 2006. The guiding principles of the 2006 strategy are the promotion and

protection of fundamental rights; intragenerational and intergenerational equity; open and democratic society; involvement of citizens, businesses and social partners; policy coherence and integration; use of best available knowledge; and the implementation of the precautionary and «polluter pays» principles.

2001: MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT (MA)

In a wide-ranging study, the United Nations commissioned a systematic review of the status of 24 global key ecosystems. The findings of the assessment, published in 2005, make it clear that the earth is in a state of degradation: 60 percent, or 15 out of 24, of the ecosystems examined were found to be in a state of advanced degradation.

2002: UN WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, JOHANNESBURG

The key topics here were social justice, dialogue between cultures, health and development. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to Agenda 21, to the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development, and to the Millennium Development Goals. The «Johannesburg Declaration», a political document setting out obligations and proposals for the implementation of sustainable development, was published along with the non-legally-binding «Johannesburg Plan of Implementation». Partnership initiatives between business, non-governmental organizations and civil society were intended to contribute towards achieving the objectives.

2005: UN WORLD SUMMIT M+5, NEW YORK

The review of the interim results achieved by the international community towards implementing the Millennium Goals clarified the priorities for sustainable development. The principle tasks are to fight poverty, to ensure peace and security, and to uphold human rights. These tasks require a strengthening of global governance, that is to say institutional reforms within the UN.

2005: PARIS DECLARATION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

In the Paris Declaration, over 90 nations committed themselves to common principles for effective aid in the following key areas: ownership of their development policies by the governments of recipient countries;

harmonization of donor practices; focus on agreed shared goals; and the reporting of quantifiable results.

2005: UN DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 2005–2014

In view of the importance of education in creating the foundations for sustainability-oriented human activity, the UN launched a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and appointed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be the lead agency.

2011: THE OECD «GREEN GROWTH» STRATEGY

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) developed the «green growth» approach. In the context of the Green Growth Strategy, the OECD Council of Ministers adopted a series of recommendations for member states with regard to how they might use suitable policy instruments to achieve economic growth with more efficient resource use. This might, for example, involve the creation of a system of ecological true-cost pricing, or by promoting innovation in specific areas.

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2011: UNEP GREEN ECONOMY REPORT

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been pursuing a similar approach since 2008 with its «Green Economy Initiative». This calls for public and private investment to be directed into less environmentally harmful production methods. In addition to reducing the burden placed on the natural world, this «green» investment is intended to promote employment and help to fight poverty.

2012: UN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (``RIO+20``)

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development takes place in Rio de Janeiro 20 years after the UN Conference on Environment and Development of 1992. The aim is to renew global political commitment to the concept of sustainable development. The implementation of the blueprint for sustainable development is to be analysed and the prospects for the future identified. The principal themes of the Conference are a «green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty

eradication» and the «institutional framework for sustainable development».

KEY DOCUMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (RIO DECLARATION), 1992

The Rio Declaration sets out 27 fundamental principles of sustainable development. Its primary assertion is that, in the long term, economic progress is possible only in tandem with environmental conservation and social solidarity. This can be realized if states worldwide enter into a new and equitable partnership involving governments, the population and key stakeholders in society. The states must sign up to international agreements to protect the environment. The Rio Declaration enshrines the following key principles:

- Priority is given to combating poverty and addressing needs in developing countries (principles 5 and 6)
- The principle of shared, but differentiated, responsibilities, which requires above all that rich industrialized nations undertake special efforts to meet the challenges of sustainable development (principle 7)
- The emphasis on the positive interplay between an open, non-discriminatory system of international trade and sustainable development (principle 12)
- The precautionary principle that calls upon states to adopt measures to protect the environment even if there is a lack of full scientific certainty (principle 15)
- The principle that the polluter should pay for any ensuing damage to the environment (principle 16)

► See Appendix

AGENDA 21, 1992

In addition to the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 represents the core agreement of the Rio Earth Summit. It takes the form of a global action plan addressing all areas of sustainable development. Although the action plan was designed for implementation by nation states, all other political levels are also called upon to act within the spirit of its objectives. Since many global problems have solutions at the local level, chapter 28 of the document is addressed to local authorities, who are likewise urged to draw up a programme for sustainable development.

The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 constitute signed declarations of intent and, as such, are not legally binding.

Agenda 21 contains 40 chapters:

1. Preamble to Agenda 21
2. International cooperation
3. Combating poverty
4. Changing consumption patterns
5. Demographic dynamics and sustainability
6. Protecting and promoting human health conditions
7. Promoting sustainable human settlement development
8. Integrating environment and development in decision-making
9. Protection of the atmosphere
10. Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources
11. Combating deforestation
12. Combating desertification and drought
13. Sustainable mountain development
14. Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development
15. Conservation of biological diversity
16. Environmentally sound management of biotechnology
17. Protection of the oceans
18. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources
19. Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals
20. Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
21. Environmentally sound management of solid wastes
22. Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes
23. Preamble to the chapters on strengthening the role of major groups
24. Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development
25. Children and youth in sustainable development
26. Recognizing and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities
27. Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations
28. Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21
29. Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions

30. Strengthening the role of business and industry
31. Scientific and technical community
32. Strengthening the role of farmers
33. Financial resources and mechanisms
34. Transfer of environmentally sound technology
35. Science for sustainable development
36. Promoting education, public awareness and training
37. National mechanisms and international cooperation
38. International institutional arrangements
39. International legal instruments and mechanisms
40. Information for decision-making

► www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm

JOHANNESBURG PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION (JPOI), 2002

The JPOI is a non-legally-binding plan which reaffirms the aims of Agenda 21 and sets out a comprehensive programme for its further implementation. The Plan of Implementation contains the following eleven chapters:

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- I. Introduction
- II. Poverty eradication
- III. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production
- IV. Protection and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development
- V. Sustainable development in a globalizing world
- VI. Health and sustainable development
- VII. Sustainable development of small island developing states
- VIII. Sustainable development for Africa
- IX. Other regional initiatives
- X. Means of implementation
- XI. Institutional framework for sustainable development

► www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIToc.htm

AALBORG COMMITMENTS, 2004

The Aalborg Charter, which has now been signed by over 2500 cities, municipalities and regions of Europe, constitutes a declaration of intent to promote sustainability at the local level. Ten years on, the Aalborg Commitments defined the goals in greater detail. The Commitments are divided into ten chapters:

1. Governance (more directly democratic decision-making processes)
2. Local management towards sustainability
3. Natural common goods
4. Responsible consumption and lifestyle choices
5. Planning and design
6. Better mobility, less traffic
7. Local action for health
8. Vibrant and sustainable local economy
9. Social equity and justice
10. Local to global

- www aalborgplus10.dk

KEY INTERNATIONAL BODIES

The **United Nations** (UN) is the principal initiator of sustainable development at the international level. The conventions concluded under its aegis provide a general framework for sustainability activities worldwide. Various UN organizations and programmes are engaged in sustainability projects: the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) headquartered in Nairobi (Kenya), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. Special mention should be made of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), which has supported and monitored the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) to date. «Rio+20» will decide if any changes are to be made in this regard.

- www.un.org/en/development/desa/index.html

The **World Trade Organization** (WTO), headquartered in Geneva, promotes the liberalization of international trade with the aim of creating free trade internationally. From the point of view of sustainability, the advantages and disadvantages of free trade can be divided into two categories: on the one hand the interplay between the development of poor nations and combating poverty, and on the other hand the relationships between trade and the environment.

- ▶ www.wto.org

As an association of industrialized nations, the Paris-based **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development** (OECD) is a major player in sustainability policy-making. By communicating scientific principles and recommendations, it promotes political dialogue between industrialized countries. This includes dialogue on sustainable development. With its 2011 «Green Growth» strategy, the OECD proposed (market-based) instruments by which to integrate ecological principles into economic policy. Its work programme in the area of sustainable development includes issues such as reducing environmentally harmful subsidies, strengthening market-economy instruments (including eco-taxes), and the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation and the sustainable use of resources.

- ▶ www.oecd.org > Topics > Sustainable development

In the **European Union** (EU), sustainable development is one of the overarching goals that has a bearing on all its policies and their implementation. The EU recommends that its Member States develop national sustainability strategies. The majority of Member States have since responded to this call. The European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) provides a forum for an in-depth exchange of information and experience aimed at driving improvements and further development. Switzerland plays a full role in this network.

- ▶ www.sd-network.eu



By signing the final documents of the UN Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Switzerland undertook to formulate sustainable policies and to institute the corresponding measures. Following the Conference, the Federal Council set up the Interdepartmental Rio Committee (IDARio), subsequently renamed the Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC). The Committee is responsible for coordinating the sustainability activities of around 30 federal agencies.

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The revision of the Federal Constitution in 1999 saw the explicit enshrinement of sustainable development in the Swiss constitution. As a result, sustainable development is a tenet to which the Swiss Confederation and cantons are now bound by law. However, since no follow-up legislation has yet been enacted at federal level which sets out the obligations of sustainable development in detail, the primary function of the constitutional provisions is as a vision to guide future action.

Articles of the Swiss Federal Constitution relating to sustainable development

Art. 2 Purpose [of the Confederation]

- ² It shall promote the common welfare, the sustainable development, the inner cohesion, and the cultural diversity of the country.
- ⁴ It shall strive to secure the long-term preservation of natural resources, and to promote a just and peaceful international order.

Art. 54 Foreign Relations

² The Confederation shall strive to preserve the independence of Switzerland and its welfare; it shall, in particular, contribute to alleviate need and poverty in the world, and to promote respect for human rights, democracy, the peaceful coexistence of nations, and the preservation of natural resources.

Art. 73 Sustainable Development

The Confederation and the Cantons shall strive to establish a durable equilibrium between nature, in particular its capacity to renew itself, and its use by man.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

BACKGROUND AND REMIT

The Federal Council responded early on to the Agenda 21 call to draw up a national sustainability strategy. In response to «Earth Summit +5», an initial strategy entitled «Sustainable Development in Switzerland» was drawn up and adopted in 1997. A second, follow-up strategy was issued in 2002 in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The third Sustainability Strategy was adopted in early 2008 – this time not in an international context, but in line with the legislative period that began at that time. In 2009, the Federal Council formally declared the Sustainability Strategy to be a sub-strategy within the legislative planning framework. With the 2012–2015 Strategy, the Federal Council underscored its commitment to sustainable development in conjunction with the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 («Rio+20»).

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FIVE GUIDELINES

The Federal Council sets out its interpretation of sustainable development with the help of the following guidelines:

1. Fulfilling our responsibility towards the future

Satisfying the needs of today's generations must not be at the expense of future generations.

2. Giving equal consideration to the three target dimensions of sustainable development

Policy pursues the three objectives of environmental responsibility, economic performance and social solidarity using an holistic approach. It strives to optimize the balance between the three and ensures that interests are weighed up fairly where conflicts remain.

3. Integrating sustainable development into all policy areas

Sustainable development must be integrated holistically into all sectoral policies.

4. Increasing coordination between policy areas and improving coherence

The sustainable development strategy is to be implemented across the boundaries of all departments and federal agencies.

5. Achieving sustainable development on the basis of partnership

The Confederation, cantons, cities and municipal authorities, as well as stakeholders from the private sector and civil society, are all to be included.

KEY CHALLENGES

To flesh out the above guidelines, the Sustainable Development Strategy includes an Action Plan covering a wide range of action areas and measures. The action plan sets out how the Federal Council intends to achieve these sustainability objectives.

1. CLIMATE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

For Switzerland, the consequences of climate change include extreme rain and snowfall and thus also flooding and mudslides, as well as more frequent heatwaves and droughts. What is needed are not only reductions in emissions, but also adaptive measures to manage the consequences of climate change.

2. ENERGY

A sustainable approach to energy means meeting the needs of business and society with rational energy use and much lower resource consumption. Renewable sources of energy should be used as much as possible.

3. SUSTAINABLE SPATIAL PLANNING

Space-related processes are highly relevant to sustainable development. Spatial planning must ensure the proper spatial framework conditions for business, efficient infrastructures, economical land use and the protection of natural habitats.

4. ECONOMY, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Continued efforts to improve the competitiveness of Switzerland will be made while at the same time intensifying the debate about a more sustainable economic policy. The priority from the point of view of the social dimension is the provision of basic infrastructures. Incentives and a suitable framework will further stimulate modernization on an environmentally sound basis.

5. USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Insufficient progress has been made with decoupling resource use from economic growth. Natural resources are coming under increasing pressure from development and modernization processes in business, transport, technology and tourism. Climate conservation, the preservation of biodiversity, protecting water and soil, and clean air, are all priority areas here.

6. SOCIAL COHESION, DEMOGRAPHICS AND MIGRATION

There are many developments which place social cohesion under strain. The state should create the right conditions under which to promote equality of opportunity and participation in the social and cultural life of the nation. Phenomena such as inequitable income distribution, poverty, fear of the possible consequences of regular and irregular migration and changes in family structures can be countered by means of a more coordinated social policy.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH

Ensuring the physical health and psychological well-being of the population is important in improving quality of life. The environment is a major influencing factor here. The rising costs of healthcare represent a burden on and risk factor for economic development.

8. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Sustainable development faces the challenge of growing global economic and social inequality, as well as shifts in dependencies between North and South. These are often accompanied by excessive resource consumption. The international community is called upon firmly to establish and enforce the «polluter pays» principle, and to lay down standards for intergenerational fairness. Equitable access to social and economic resources and good conditions for innovation, both of which support global sustainable development and bring about the corresponding changes in the behaviours of all concerned, are essential if we are to manage the developmental and environmental challenges that confront us.

9. PUBLIC BUDGETS

Of fundamental importance are sound finances, with sufficient flexibility for financial policy to fulfil the relevant governmental responsibilities. An undesirable redistribution of prosperity between different generations, where costs incurred now are deferred to later, must be avoided. To focus financial policy more closely on sustainable development, incentives for a more economical use of resources must be put in place.

10. EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Knowledge is a crucial factor in a country's ability to withstand mounting international competitive pressures. Knowledge is also important in understanding the interrelationships between society, politics, the economy and the natural environment. In the education, research and technology sector, therefore, there is a need for a better quality of education, a greater openness to outside influences, improved intercultural skills and lifelong learning.

- www.are.admin.ch/sds

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL



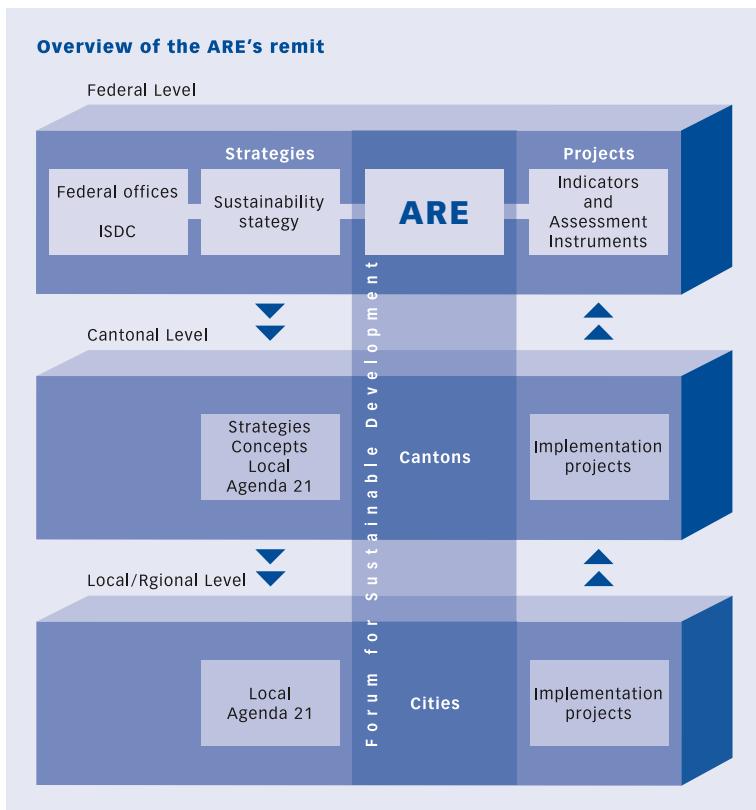
FEDERAL OFFICE FOR SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT (ARE)

The ARE is the federal government's coordination platform for sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Section within the ARE is the federal government's knowledge centre for questions relating to sustainability. The aim is to integrate sustainable development across all policy areas.

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In addition to its lead department role for sustainable development, the ARE is also responsible for spatial planning and overall traffic and transport issues. As a result, it is able directly to exercise its influence in favour of sustainable development in Switzerland in these two areas. However, specific sustainability issues relating to individual policy fall within the purview of the responsible federal administrative units.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/sustainabledevelopment



INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (ISDC)

Federal agencies that formulate policies and undertake activities relevant to sustainable development sit on the ISDC. Approximately 30 agencies are represented on the ISDC. The main aims of the Committee are the development and harmonization of Confederation policy as it relates to sustainable development, together with the coordination of activities in this area. Under the leadership of the ARE, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development and

Cooperation (SDC) together make up the ISDC leadership body. These offices hold the vice-chairmanship of the Committee on a rotating basis. Whoever holds the vice-chairmanship also leads the international activities of the ISDC, namely Swiss participation in the relevant United Nations bodies and processes.

SELECTED MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE ISDC AND THEIR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (FOEN)

As a centre of environmental expertise, the FOEN is the competent office for the environmental dimension of sustainable development and is responsible for ensuring the long-term preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, and for protecting the population from excessive environmental stresses and natural hazards. The cornerstones of environmental strategy are economic principles such as the polluter-pays principle, market economy instruments and efficient environmental policy measures.

- ▶ www.bafu.admin.ch

SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SDC)

The SDC is the Swiss agency for international development cooperation. Its main focus is on the alleviation of global poverty and on equal opportunities. Its work concentrates on achieving the Millennium Goals for the reduction of poverty, the management of systemic security risks in areas of crisis and conflict, the preservation of natural resources, and globalization that takes due account of sustainable development.

- ▶ www.deza.admin.ch

SWISS FEDERAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SFOPH)

The SFOPH is committed to promoting health, which is a vital precondition for sustainable development. Social conditions and the state of the environment have a direct influence on the health of the nation, which is thus in turn greatly dependent on the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

- ▶ www.bag.admin.ch

FEDERAL OFFICE FOR AGRICULTURE (SFOA)

The SFOA is the Confederation's centre of competence for agricultural issues. It is committed to the sustainable, market-oriented and socially acceptable development of Swiss agriculture. Agricultural policies are aimed at ensuring the provision of adequate food for the population, preserving natural resources and productive agricultural land, and maintaining a decentralized settlement pattern throughout the country.

- ▶ www.blw.admin.ch

SWISS FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (SFSO)

The SFSO is the office responsible for measuring sustainable development in Switzerland. It provides a database of sustainable development indicators, and is also involved in developing and applying sustainability indicators for cantons and cities.

- ▶ www.monet.admin.ch

STATE SECRETARIAT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (SECO)

SECO is the federal government's centre of expertise for economic policy issues. At the international level, it supports economic development co-operation, as well as the sustainable integration of developing countries and emerging economies into the global economy. At national level also, SECO takes account of both environmental and social aspects, examples of which are to be found in the growth strategy for Switzerland as a tourist destination, and in regional policy.

- ▶ www.seco.admin.ch

SWISS FEDERAL OFFICE OF ENERGY (SFOE)

The SFOE is concerned with issues of energy supply and energy usage. It creates the necessary conditions for sufficient, crisis-proof, economical and sustainable energy provision. It is also committed to efficient energy usage, to raising the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources, and to reducing CO₂ emissions. In addition, the SFOE promotes and coordinates national energy research, and supports the establishment of new markets for sustainable energy generation and usage.

- ▶ www.bfe.admin.ch
- ▶ www.energieschweiz.ch

FEDERAL HOUSING OFFICE (FHO)

The FHO is the federal agency which deals with the field of sustainable housing and building. Owing to the considerable amounts of material and energy they consume, along with their long lifecycles, buildings have an enormous impact on humans and their environment. With its «Housing and Sustainability» («Wohnen und Nachhaltigkeit») website, the FHO fosters knowledge-sharing in this area.

- ▶ www.wohnen-nachhaltigkeit.ch

FEDERAL OFFICE FOR BUILDINGS AND LOGISTICS (SFBL)

The SFBL is the federal government's central procurement office for goods and services for civilian purposes. Sustainability criteria play an important part not only where buildings are concerned, but also in all other areas. Over 60 % of annual paper needs are met by recycled products, and international eco-certificates are required as standard. Among its other services, the SFBL offers recommendations on sustainable procurement, and publishes an environmental report every two years as part of the federal administration's RUMBA resource and environmental management programme.

- ▶ [> Nachhaltigkeit](http://www.bbl.admin.ch)
- ▶ www.rumba.admin.ch

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The Sustainable Development Forum serves as a platform for the introduction and implementation of sustainable development at the level of the cantons, regions, cities, and municipalities. It aims to promote experience-sharing and drive forward common implementation projects. The forum is tasked in particular with initiating follow-up activities to the Federal Council's Sustainable Development Strategy at the level of the cantons, regions, cities and municipalities, such as canton sustainability strategies or Local Agenda 21, for example.

The Forum was set up at the initiative of the Federal Office for Spatial Development, the Swiss Conference of Directors of Building, Planning and Environmental Protection (Schweizerische Bau-, Planungs- und Umweltdirektoren-Konferenz BPUK), and the Association of Swiss Cities (Schweizerischer Städteverband SSV). The Swiss Association of Local Authorities (Schweizerischer Gemeindeverband SGV) subsequently joined as a partner. Since many problems in our country can only be solved if there is close cooperation between the three levels of the Confederation, the forum offers new perspectives for the implementation of sustainable development.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/forumne

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE SWITZERLAND

Sustainable Development Dialogue Switzerland serves as a platform for networking and political dialogue in connection with sustainable development in Switzerland. It addresses representatives from the political, business and scientific spheres in Switzerland, as well as umbrella associations. Each of its annual events shines the spotlight on a current political or social issue.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/dialog

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CANTONS AND MUNICIPALITIES



LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY PROCESSES

The cantons, regions, cities and municipalities play a key role when it comes to the implementation of sustainable development. Following the principle of «think globally, act locally», engagement on a local level is vital. Local sustainability processes such as Local Agenda 21, for example, are intended to ensure that sustainable development is integrated in existing local political processes.

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Swiss communities face great challenges in both rural and urban areas. Problems such as an increasingly ageing population, the integration of immigrant sections of the community, the challenges of climate change and urban sprawl are set to intensify over the coming decades. The task is to maintain or improve quality of life in the long term, without compromising development opportunities for future generations. Municipal authorities must therefore identify their strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies that support sustainable development processes.

THE ROLE OF THE CANTONS

According to the Swiss constitution, not only the Confederation but also the cantons are called upon to promote sustainable development. Since under the Swiss federal system many areas that are important for sustainable development are located at cantonal level, the cantons play a key role in the implementation of sustainable development.

Every canton appoints an office responsible for sustainable development. However, the importance attached to sustainable development and the level to which it is codified in law, as well as its implementation, varies

from canton to canton. The following instruments and approaches exist at the cantonal level:

- Anchoring of sustainable development in the cantonal constitution or in legislation;
- Anchoring of sustainable development in the cantonal structural plan;
- Sustainable development as a focal point of law-making guidelines;
- Cantonal sustainable development strategy or Agenda 21 as an action plan;
- Anchoring in policy-making;
- Support for sustainable development in the municipalities;
- Applying and further developing sustainability assessment instruments within cantonal government.

Sixteen cantons currently have official sustainability processes which follow the integrated approaches described above. Certain cantons also implement sustainable development via their sectoral policies, independently of their integral LA 21 programmes. Examples here include the areas of business promotion, spatial planning, sustainable construction, energy and public procurement. Sustainable development should be applied to as many areas as possible, and considered right from the initial stages of policy-making and projects onwards. The aim is for full integration on the political agenda.

- www.are.admin.ch/prozesse

SHAPING A SUSTAINABILITY PROCESS

PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Observance of the fundamental principles of sustainable development is essential for implementation. These principles are derived from the Aalborg Commitments. The central quality criteria are:

- An integrated approach to social policy, the environment and the economy;
- Adaptation to the local situation while taking the global view into account;
- A long-term perspective.

ONGOING PROCESS OF OPTIMIZATION

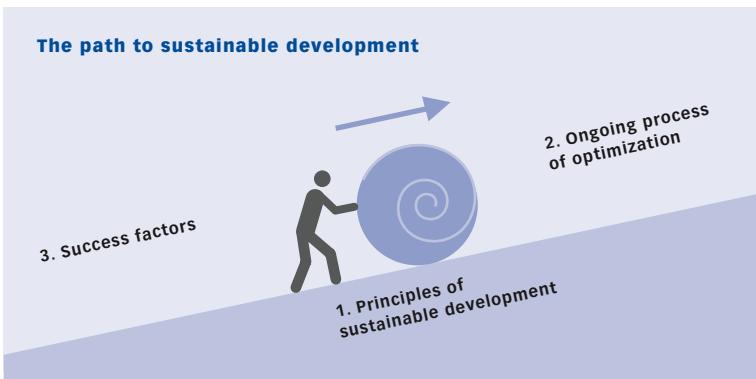
A sustainability process is not simply a one-off action plan, but is an ongoing process of learning and optimization. The most important stages of this process include:

- Political commitment from the authorities;
- Definition of clear structures and responsibilities;
- Identification of short, medium and long-term goals. These are based on a stock-taking exercise conducted on an economic, social and environmental level;
- Definition, realization and monitoring of a coherent action plan;
- Evaluation of the process and renewed stock-take.

SUCCESS FACTORS

The success of a sustainability process is closely allied to certain factors. It is necessary to:

- Harmonize the sometimes contradictory objectives of, and the resulting conflicts between, the economic, social and environmental dimensions;
- Set up interdisciplinary structures and processes that overcome the divisions between the various administrative bodies;
- Include both public and private stakeholders as well as citizens in the implementation of processes – if possible as early as the project stage – in order to elicit their support.



BENEFITS OF A SUSTAINABILITY PROCESS

The integration of sustainable development in public administration facilitates the following, in particular:

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- The canton or municipality can present an image that is fit for the future – and synonymous with quality of life. This also has an economic impact in that it helps to attract both new residents and companies to set up new businesses;
- An improvement in the functioning of the administration through a more cross-departmental rather than segmented approach. The various policies thus gain in coherence and transparency, and human and financial resources can be deployed more efficiently according to clear priorities;
- Better communication, in that trust and dialogue between politicians, officials and citizens can be engendered or intensified. The public then has the opportunity to voice its opinions outside of elections and referenda.

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF PARTNERSHIP

Sustainable development is not solely the responsibility of the Confederation or of other state institutions. Alongside the Confederation, cantons, municipalities and cities, other stakeholders in society such as non-governmental organizations, interest groups from business and science, as well as trade unions and churches are called upon to grasp the initiative, participate in the debate and develop their own activities.

The involvement of the population is crucial to the implementation of a sustainability process. Thanks to its democratic traditions, this is relatively simple to achieve in Switzerland. For a project to succeed with the participative involvement of the population, and to avoid frustration among the people concerned, the following points above all must be clarified:

- Have the requirements for a participative process been met?
- What are the objectives?
- What participative methods will be used?
- What stakeholders should be involved?

► www.equiterre.ch

THE SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND

The number of cantons and municipalities displaying a commitment to sustainable development has risen steadily since the early 1990s. By the end of 2011, 16 of the 26 cantons had drawn up the corresponding strategies and instruments, or were publishing regular sustainability reports.

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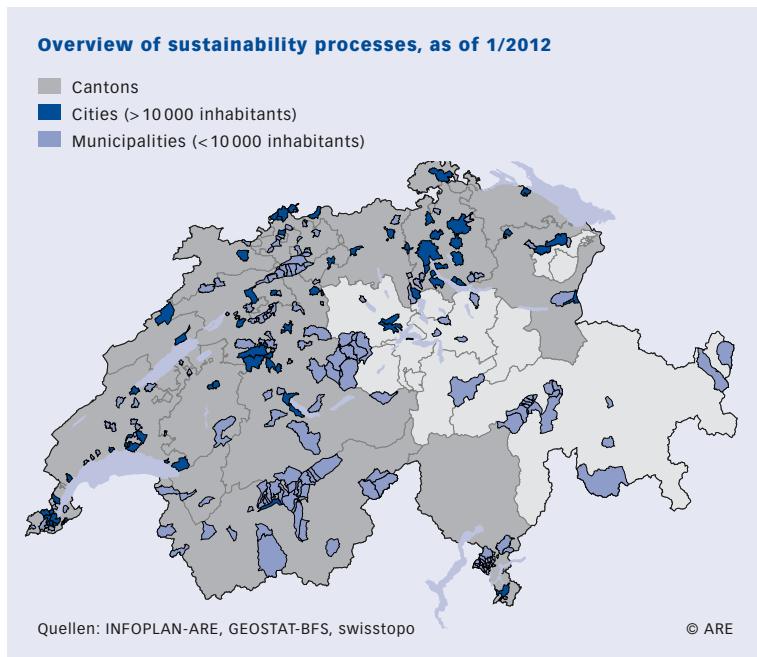
By the autumn of 2011, 218 municipalities were running official sustainability processes in accordance with Local Agenda 21. More than a third of the Swiss population lives in a municipality that is actively pursuing sustainable development. The majority of these people live in cities and agglomerations. The country's eight biggest cities play a particularly important role. Their Local Agenda 21 processes concentrate specifically on energy, transport and mobility, spatial planning, communications and nature and the countryside.

In rural areas too, the number of municipalities that have integrated sustainable development as a guiding principle of local policy has more than doubled. In population terms, these rural municipalities cover only 5.5 % of the total population. In terms of the land area they cover, however, these rural municipalities are of major importance to tourism, agriculture, and Switzerland's forests and countryside.

More and more small municipalities in rural areas are joining together to tackle sustainable development as part of a regional Agenda 21, for ex-

ample, or to manage together parks of national importance. Cooperative projects exist in the fields of spatial development, agriculture, boosting regional products, and ecotourism, for instance. A national database regularly classifies the processes initiated in the cantons and municipalities, and reports on progress made to date.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/prozesse



«ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS»

In the Swiss Alps, 95 municipalities are involved in sustainable development projects as part of the «Alliance in the Alps» community network. This network brings together a total of over 300 local authorities across the Alps from France to Slovenia and is aimed at the specific, project-based implementation of the Alpine Convention's sustainable development objectives. The exchange of experiences and knowledge amongst the communities constitutes an important element in the shaping of sustainable community development.

- ▶ www.alpenallianz.org
- ▶ www.alpconv.org

ENERGY CITIES

Energy is a key area of sustainable development. It can be integrated and addressed as a theme in a Local Agenda 21 programme. The local authorities which have come together under the «Energy City» label form a network that helps to launch sustainable development processes using the «Faktor 21» instrument.

- ▶ www.energiestadt.ch

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«Faktor 21» facilitates a stock-take and measurement of activities planned and undertaken by municipalities in relation to sustainable development. The municipality draws up a profile of its strengths and weaknesses and formulates suggestions for improvement, such as new issues that could be tackled from the perspective of sustainable development, or new stakeholders who should be involved in the process. This balance sheet, presented as a concise «sustainability declaration», enables a municipality to embark on a sustainability process and set itself appropriate goals. «Faktor 21» was developed especially for local authorities by SwissEnergy and is based on experience gained with the «Energy City» label.

- ▶ www.energiestadt.ch/d/faktor21.php

SUPPORT FOR STAKEHOLDERS AT LOCAL LEVEL

As well as providing financial support, the Confederation supports projects from cantons, municipalities and the population by providing information about sustainable development, as well as project support. A database of information on all cantonal and municipal sustainability processes is available on the internet. You will also find a directory of best-practice examples in areas such as public procurement, education, nutrition, business promotion and tourism. The «Sustainable Neighbourhoods» («Nachhaltige Quartierentwicklung») programme run by the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) and the Federal Office of Energy (FOE) helps municipalities to shape sustainable neighbourhoods using the «Sustainable Neighbourhoods by Sméo» instrument.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/foerderprogramm
- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/gutebeispiele
- ▶ www.nachhaltige-quartiere.ch
- ▶ www.nachhaltigequartierebysmeo.ch



SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

Enterprises can support sustainable development in their day-to-day operations by striving to obtain the greatest added social and environmental value when choosing their production processes and products. One example are retailers which, without being required to do so by law, voluntarily support fair trade goods, i.e. goods from developing countries that are produced without exploiting local labour and that bring positive benefits for the socioeconomic and environmental development of the country of origin.

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STANDARDS

Various standards and guidelines in support of sustainable development have been developed in the private sector. These are usually self-regulating measures and therefore have no direct force in law. Here are a few examples:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

In 1996 the ISO 14001 standard introduced globally applicable environmental management criteria (EMS) which were renewed in 2004. Organizations which meet these criteria and gain certification demonstrate that they have integrated environmentally sound practices in their processes, thus engendering trust among customers, suppliers, employees, public agencies, investors and society at large. The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the European Union's more detailed version of this. It

likewise enables organizations to evaluate, communicate and improve their environmental performance.

- ▶ www.iso.org

SOCIAL MANAGEMENT

The SA 8000 standard (Standard for Social Accountability) has been in existence since 1998. It was developed by a non-governmental organization, the Council for Economic Priorities. SA 8000 seeks to encourage the observance of minimum social standards by manufacturing companies. SA 8000 forbids, for example, child labour and forced labour, along with discrimination based on race, gender or religion, while calling for freedom of assembly, the right to form trade unions and engage in collective bargaining, as well as guaranteed compensation sufficient to meet basic needs.

- ▶ www.sa-intl.org

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

Corporate governance and corporate social, including environmental, responsibility in general are also important for sustainable development. This means companies must be socially responsible in the way that they are organized and managed. In the wider sense, it also encompasses the fair and transparent relationships of an enterprise with other interested parties or «stakeholders». The latter include employees, state institutions, investors, customers and suppliers. The International Organization for Standardization has developed a standard for the socially responsible behaviour of companies in the form of ISO 26000.

- ▶ www.iso.org

GLOBAL COMPACT

The UN Global Compact is an initiative that embraces all dimensions of sustainable development at the global level and is aimed primarily at large multinational enterprises. It contains ten principles relating to human rights, labour, the environment and measures against corruption. The Global Compact is based on self-declaration and the voluntary commitment of the companies themselves.

- ▶ www.unglobalcompact.org

GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

More and more companies are reshaping their external communications in accordance with the principles of sustainability by publishing sustainability reports covering the three dimensions of environment, economy and society. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) provides an international framework specifying a set of criteria for sustainability reporting. Furthermore, the «Sector Supplements» set out additional indicators that are specific to individual sectors.

- ▶ www.globalreporting.org

IMPLEMENTATION IN SWITZERLAND

Swiss companies were among the earliest pioneers of private-sector commitment to sustainability. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), which is now based in Geneva, was established in 1991 with prominent Swiss involvement. With national business associations such as the «Öbu – Netzwerk für nachhaltiges Wirtschaften» network for environmentally-aware management, or the swisscleantech association, Switzerland has a number of committed and professional organizations which support and strengthen private sector efforts towards sustainability. In 2010, 2575 companies in Switzerland were certified under the ISO 14001 environmental standard, out of a total of over 250 000 world-wide. Most major Swiss firms are participants in the United Nations Global Compact (GC). Many Swiss companies are committed to sustainable products and production processes. For example, the country's biggest retailers are also the biggest promoters of special-label products in Switzerland. They also require improvements in working conditions from their foreign suppliers, and frequently demand that they satisfy the SA 8000 standard.

- ▶ www.oebu.ch
- ▶ www.proofit.ch
- ▶ www.swisscleantech.ch
- ▶ www.wbcsd.org



The central role played by the education sector in sustainable development is underscored by both Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Education is crucial in fostering values that acknowledge sustainability and in better enabling people to tackle sustainability issues. Education at all levels should be geared to sustainable development and should instil appropriate attitudes, skills and codes of behaviour, along with a sense of ethical responsibility.

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The United Nations therefore proclaimed a «Decade of Education for Sustainable Development» to run from 2005 to 2014 and charged UNESCO with its implementation. The decade is intended both to establish education as the foundation for a sustainable society, and to integrate sustainable development into all levels of the education system. The four most important areas to be addressed are:

- **Promoting and improving basic education** in conjunction with the «Education for All» programme and UNESCO's «United Nations Literacy Decade». Education is recognized as the prerequisite and primary agent of transformation towards sustainable development.
- **The reorientation of existing education programmes to include sustainability education** in the form of holistic, interdisciplinary access that takes account of special cultural and regional aspects. Sustainability education should, wherever possible, be integrated in existing systems. The primary aim is to promote knowledge, skills, lifestyles and values that enable a sustainable future. Key issues are human rights, sustainable production and sustainable consumption,

equal rights for men and women, intercultural understanding, health education and the protection of the environment etc.

- **Developing public awareness and understanding of sustainability**, i.e. strengthening an understanding of the interrelationships between the different aspects of sustainable development in society, and enabling individuals to take responsibility for a sustainable future.
- **Providing training** in the various sectors of the economy. Training programmes will ensure that all sectors of the workforce have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their work in a sustainable manner.

In Europe, the strategy on education for sustainability adopted in 2005 by the UN Economic Commission for Europe is particularly important. It aims to:

- Ensure that political, regulatory and organizational frameworks support education for sustainability;
- Equip teachers with the skills necessary to include sustainable development in their lessons;
- Ensure the accessibility of appropriate tools and materials for sustainability education;
- Promote research and development in the area of education for sustainability; and
- Strengthen cooperation with respect to sustainability education at all levels.

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In Switzerland, the Swiss Coordinating Conference for Education for Sustainable Development (Schweizerische Koordinationskonferenz Bildung für Nachhaltige Entwicklung, SK BNE), which comprises the Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (Erziehungsdirektorenkonferenz) and various federal agencies, takes the view in its position paper for the Decade that education for sustainability should convey knowledge, understanding, specific skills and abilities. In particular it should cover the following:

- Knowledge of how the three target dimensions of sustainable development interrelate;

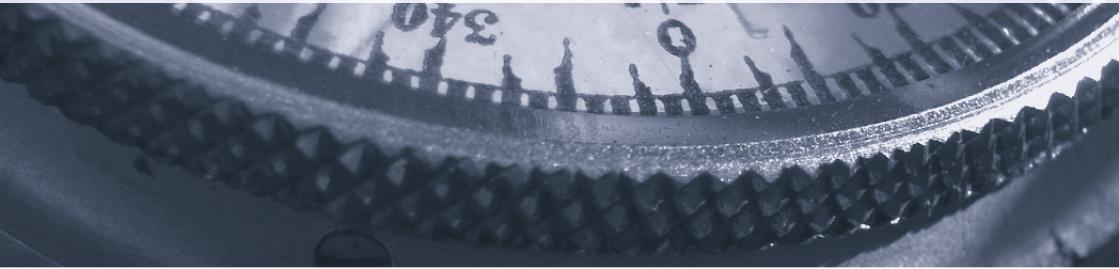
- How to weigh up all the factors involved where there are areas of tension between environmental, social and economic processes;
- Systemic thinking and action;
- Critical thinking and the capacity for self-reflection;
- How to deal with a wide variety of perspectives and conflicting objectives;
- Citizenship and the ability to participate;
- Empathy and solidarity;
- Vision and creativity.

These objectives are being implemented in an action plan.

- ▶ Swiss Coordinating Conference for Education for Sustainable Development, SK BNE (Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education) and the federal government www.edk.ch/dyn/12097.php
- ▶ Swiss UNESCO Commission www.dekade.ch
- ▶ Stiftung Umweltbildung (Swiss foundation for environmental education) www.umweltbildung.ch
- ▶ Foundation for Education and Development www.globaleducation.ch

Switzerland is using the global «Education for Sustainable Development» decade from 2005–2014 to integrate sustainable development into the curricula of the country's individual language regions, into teacher training, and into the quality programmes for schools.

MEASURING AND ASSESSING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



In order to evaluate whether development is sustainable or not, indicators have been devised to analyse the current situation, along with a sustainability assessment procedure for assessing projects and initiatives.

INDICATOR SYSTEMS

WHY DO WE NEED INDICATORS?

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If sustainability is to be pursued systematically, we need to take regular snapshots to track how things are moving forward. Where are we now, what progress has been made and what is still to do? This requires an appropriate set of metrics.

Sustainability indicators fulfil a number of different purposes. They can:

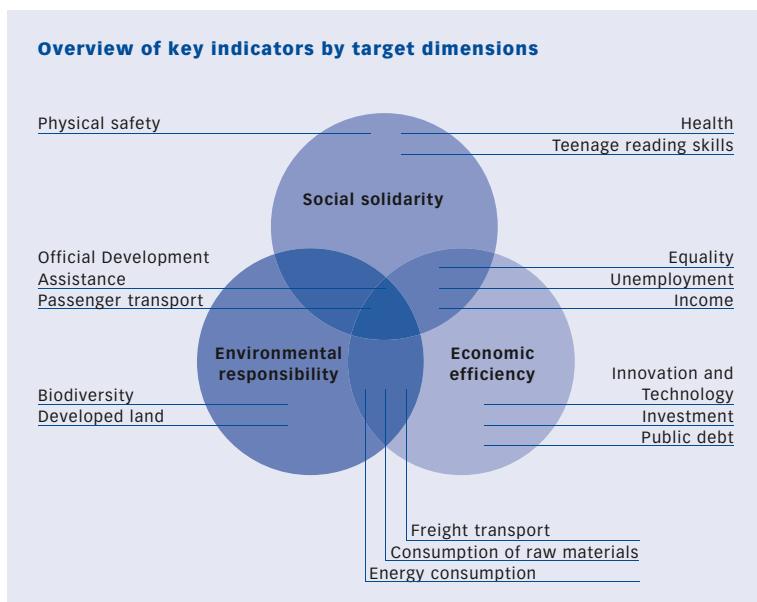
- Measure the **current status** of sustainability as well as indicate **trends** over time and **identify** areas for action (monitoring);
- **Enable comparisons** (benchmarking) and, as a result of the ensuing competition, motivate people to step up efforts to achieve the goals with additional action;
- **Initiate** a **debate** between stakeholders in society about the goals and the direction of sustainable development;
- **Inform** the public and political decision-makers about relevant developments and thus enable potential problems to be identified at an early stage.

ASSESSMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL: THE MONET SYSTEM

Drawing on around 75 indicators, the MONET indicator system (the acronym derives from the German for «monitoring sustainable development») permits regular reporting on sustainable development in Switzerland. MONET was established jointly by the SFSO, ARE, FOEN and the SDC. The main features and trends are shown in simplified form by 16 key indicators. The basic elements (structure, reference framework and a large proportion of the indicators) of the MONET system are designed so that they can also be used to monitor emerging sociopolitical concerns. This is becoming increasingly important in areas such as the «green economy», for example. The indicators also incorporate a large number of recommendations from the «Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress» (Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report) and the «GDP and Beyond» initiative from the European Commission. The indicators are available on a central database held by the SFSO.

- ▶ www.monet.admin.ch

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The 16 key MONET indicators	
Meeting needs – how well do we live?	
Health is improving	+
Incomes are not rising	=
Violent crime is on the rise	-
The unemployment situation is getting worse	-
Fairness – how well are resources distributed?	
Public development aid is increasing	+
The wage gap between men and women is gradually narrowing	+
Preservation of resources – what are we leaving behind for our children?	
Teenage reading skills increase	+
The debt ratio is back to its 1992 level following a rise	=
The investment to GDP ratio is about the same	=
More people are working in science and technology	+
The populations of breeding birds grow	+
Developed land is encroaching upon the landscape	-
Decoupling – how efficiently are we using our natural resources?	
Freight transport is growing faster than the economy	-
Public transport accounts for an increasing share of travel	+
Per capita final consumption of energy is decreasing	+
Materials consumption is falling in relation to GDP	+
Key:	Evaluation of development since 1990
 Positive (towards greater sustainability)	
 Negative (towards lesser sustainability)	
 Neutral	

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CITIES AND CANTONS: CORE INDICATORS (``CERCLE INDICATEURS``)

The Cercle Indicateurs is a forum of various Swiss cities and cantons dedicated to measuring the sustainability of their development. A set of sustainability indicators was defined for the cantons and another for the cities. The primary function of these core indicators is to provide a means of assessing the current situation as regards sustainable development, as well as how it changes over time, from a strategic policy perspective. Since there are no absolute measures of sustainable development, only a comparison makes it possible to judge how sustainable a canton or a city is. Around 30 indicators facilitate a comparison of the situation along the time line (monitoring) as well as benchmarking between various cities

and cantons. The core indicators are also an ideal way of informing the public about the findings.

- www.are.admin.ch/cercleindicateurs

Overview of the target areas of Cercle Indicateurs											
Environment			Economy			Society					
En1	Biodiversity		Ec1	Incomes		S1	Noise/quality of life				
En2	Nature and countryside		Ec2	Cost of living		S2	Mobility				
En3	Energy quality		Ec3	Labour market		S3	Health				
En4	Energy consumption		Ec4	Investment		S4	Security				
En5	Climate		Ec5	True cost		S5	Income/wealth distribution				
En6	Raw materials consumption		Ec6	Resource efficiency		S6	Participation				
En7	Water management		Ec7	Innovation		S7	Arts and leisure				
En8	Water quality		Ec8	Economic structure		S8	Education				
En9	Land usage		Ec9	Know-how		S9	Social security				
En10	Soil quality		Ec10	Public-sector budget		S10	Integration				
En11	Air quality		Ec11	Taxes		S11	Equal opportunities				
			Ec12	Output		S12	Pan-regional solidarity				

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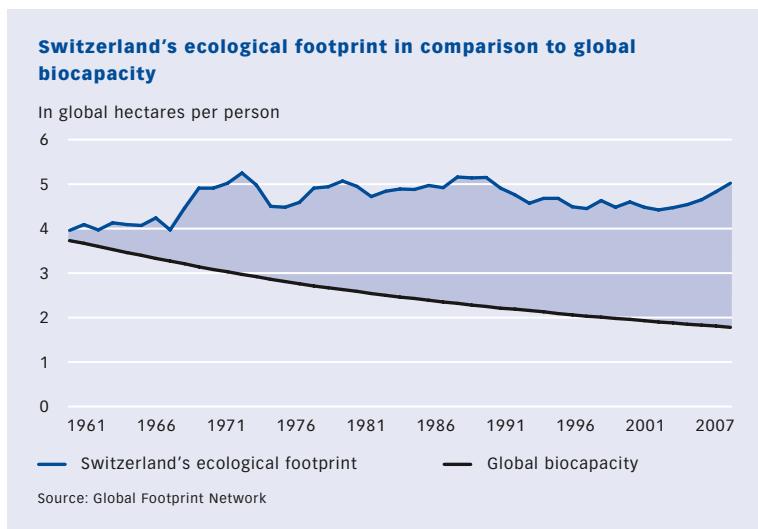
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

The ecological footprint is an international indicator used to measure resource consumption. The method uses the magnitude of uses of and stresses on natural capital to calculate the area that would be required to provide these resources in a sustainable manner. The result – the ecological footprint of a region, a country or of the world as a whole – is expressed in a measure of area called the «global hectare». Furthermore, the method also calculates «biocapacity», which is the ability of the environment to produce raw materials and break down pollutants. However, the method does not provide a comprehensive assessment of sustainable development as it does not take account of the degree to which the needs of the population are being met.

Switzerland's ecological footprint currently measures 5.0 global hectares per capita, whereas global biocapacity is just 1.8 global hectares per capita. This means that the population of Switzerland is using about three times the volume of natural resources that is sustainable in the

long run. The main cause of this is energy consumption: energy accounts for almost two-thirds of the Swiss footprint, making it much more important than all other factors. Use of cropland, forest and green space are also important, together accounting for 32 percent of the total footprint. Land use for urban areas is of less significance to the ecological footprint, although the impact of settlement development on mobility and energy consumption is measured through the energy component of the footprint.

- ▶ www.footprintnetwork.org
- ▶ www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/21/03/01.html



SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Sustainability assessments are aids to decision-making and action in the case of projects having a relevant impact on more than one dimension of sustainable development. Conflicts of objectives and interests are nearly always involved, so an holistic assessment and balancing of the interests are necessary if the optimum solution is to be found. In particular, this is vitally important for projects with a long-term impact and significant financial consequences.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS

In its Sustainable Development Strategy, the Federal Council determined that a sustainability assessment must be conducted in particular in the case of new and important projects of a legislative, planning/conceptual or building nature that are relevant to sustainability. Sustainability assessments are intended to enable political projects and undertakings to be assessed at an early stage, and if necessary optimized, from the point of view of sustainable development. The core of the methodology is a systematic identification of the impacts of a political project, both direct and indirect, desired and undesired. The expected impacts are made transparent through their objective evaluation. The methodology is also intended as a means of developing suggestions for improvement and optimization, and of introducing additional options. The «Guidelines for Federal Agencies and Other Interested Parties» («Leitfaden für Bundesstellen und weitere Interessierte») describe a nine-stage process and, to make the work easier, provide an Excel tool which can be used examine in outline terms the relevance of a project from the sustainable development perspective, and to assess its impacts.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/nhb

Overview of the Confederation's sustainability assessment procedure

A Preliminary work

A1 Describe initiative

A2 Conduct relevance analysis

A3 Determine study design

B Impact analysis

B1 Explain impact model

B2 Determine impacts

B3 Overall impact summary

C Conclusions

C1 Identify optimisation potential

C2 Identify need for further work

C3 Address implementation issues

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APPLICATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS

The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) now uses the sustainability assessment methodology, and it included a comprehensive report on this for the first time in its 2005 Agriculture Report. The focal points of its sustainability assessment are the three areas of resources, efficiency and fairness. Sustainability assessments are also applied to the ongoing refinement of agricultural policy (Agricultural Policy 2011).

The Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) had a sustainability assessment drawn up of the partial revisions of the Spatial Planning Act (Raumplanungsgesetz) in 2010 and 2012 to show how the new legislative proposals would impact positively or negatively on the three dimensions (economy, environment and society), and which (economic) stakeholders would be most affected.

Systematic assessment procedures based on the concept of sustainable development are already being used at the project level in particular in relation to transport policy and planning. In Switzerland, sustainability assessments have been put in place for both the railway and road infrastructures in the form of the assessment systems «Sustainability indicators for highway infrastructure projects» (Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für Strasseninfrastrukturprojekte NISTRA) in the Swiss Federal Roads Authority, and «Sustainability indicators for railway infrastructure projects» (Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für Bahninfrastrukturprojekte NIBA) at the Federal Office of Transport.

In 2010/2011 the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), working alongside the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and consulting with experts from the cantons concerned and the National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (NAGRA) drew up a methodology for a cross-cantonal socioeconomic and environmental impact study to be applied to the search for potential sites for deep geological repositories for radioactive waste. The aim of the methodology is to identify economic, environmental and social impacts as early and as objectively as possible, to counter any negative developments and draw up possible compensation programmes, as well as to make the most of opportunities to create a positive response to siting projects.

- ▶ [Further applications at the federal level: www.are.admin.ch/sa](http://www.are.admin.ch/sa)

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS IN CANTONS AND MUNICIPALITIES

It is also possible to assess all types of project at the local level. Around 30 corresponding instruments or methods currently exist in Switzerland. The ARE has issued guidelines entitled «Assessing Project Sustainability at Cantonal and Municipal Level» («Nachhaltigkeitsbeurteilung von Projekten auf der Ebene der Kantone und Gemeinden»). The guidelines are the product of a working group composed of some 30 representatives of Switzerland's cantons and municipalities, as well as other experts. They set out the benefits of assessment, and explains in detail how the sustainability assessment process can be initiated. The guidelines also help the administrations concerned choose the right assessment tool for them.

- ▶ www.are.admin.ch/nhblokal

One typical instrument is the «Bern Sustainability Compass», of which there are a number of variants. A project is evaluated on the basis of given environmental, economic and social criteria. The result is output in the form of a profile of strengths and weaknesses which both gives an indication of the optimization potential for the project and permits an overall score to be calculated in relation to sustainable development.

- ▶ www.be.ch/kompass

Example of an assessment using the Bern Sustainability Compass

Sustainability Compass: Evaluation

Project:



Project supports sustainable development!

Sustainability Dimension	Target area	not sustainable		sustainable	
		-2	-1	0	1
ENVIRONMENT	Water management				
	Water quality				
	Land usage				
	Soil quality				
	Consumption of raw materials: Volume				
	Consumption of raw materials: Recycled materials				
	Quality of materials				
	Biodiversity				
	Undeveloped areas				
	Air quality				
	Climate				
	Energy consumption				
	Energy quality				
ECONOMY	Incomes				
	Cost of living				
	Labour market				
	Investment: New Investment				
	Investment: Maintaining value				
	Promotion of business				
	True costs				
	Resource efficiency				
	Economic structure				
	Taxes				
	Public-sector budget: Expenditure				
	Public-sector budget: Income				
	Know-how				
SOCIETY	Innovation				
	Quality of countryside				
	Quality of housing				
	Quality of settlements				
	Shopping facilities				
	Mobility				
	Health				
	Security				
	Participation				
	Integration				
	Community				
	Income/wealth distribution				
	Equal opportunities				
	Pan-regional solidarity				
	Leisure				
	Arts				
	Education				
	Social security				



HOW SUSTAINABLE IS SWITZERLAND?

One of the most important things revealed by MONET sustainability monitoring is that sustainable development initiatives do actually exist in the majority of areas. That said, counter-trends can also be observed:

1. Improvements have been achieved in some areas over recent years, but these have been offset again by other, negative effects. One example is the improved energy efficiency achieved in the production of goods and services. However, positive findings about improved energy efficiency in the Swiss economy are clouded by an increase in energy consumption overall.
2. Further ambivalence is to be found in the fact that Switzerland is more or less on the path to sustainability where national aspects are concerned, but is less sustainable in its behaviour with respect to globally relevant aspects. Throughout Switzerland, air and water quality are improving all the time, but CO₂ emissions – which are important for the global climate system – have only stabilized. As a result of structural change in the economy and the outsourcing of industrial production, Switzerland now shifts abroad much of the environmental pollution for which it is responsible.
3. A third finding concerns fairness between generations. There is much evidence to suggest that the relatively positive assessment of the current situation will be at the cost of future generations. While many Swiss people today experience high levels of satisfaction with their jobs and lives, 17 % of young people lack the basic literacy skills that are important for their lives ahead.

Finally, it must be emphasized that Switzerland is far from being sustainable in absolute terms. Its ecological footprint is a clear illustration of this. The footprint reminds us that Switzerland consumes about three times the environmental benefits and resources that are sustainable long-term from the global perspective.

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE

Rapidly rising expectations in countries in the southern hemisphere, and in middle-income countries in particular, intensify conflicts relating to environmental goods and resources. It is becoming ever more urgent for countries such as Switzerland to reduce their consumption.

Globalization has brought in its wake environmental problems, greater migration flows, more intense competition between business locations, while only slow progress has been made in the establishment of a multilateral system of checks and balances (governance). The longer this continues, the greater will be the national and international challenges we face ahead in tackling issues of sustainable development.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Additional efforts across the whole political spectrum, at both a national and international level, are urgently required to boost sustainable development. Also fundamental is the shift from compartmentalized thinking and action towards a multidisciplinary approach that unites a variety of perspectives. Procurement policies at a federal, cantonal and municipal level represent an important instrument in this regard as, thanks to the large volumes it purchases, the public purse can set a good example by helping certain sustainable products break through onto the market.

- ▶ www.igoeb.ch
- ▶ www.ecobau.ch

The main aims for the future are:

- Combat global warming and prepare adaptation to climate change;
- Ensure equitable access to social and economic resources (especially income, education, health);

- Integrate all sections of the Swiss population and foster solidarity with poorer countries;
- Reduce consumption of natural resources (especially energy);
- Limit the qualitative and quantitative degradation of the environment.

EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every human being and every organization can make decisions that benefit sustainable development in their day-to-day lives. One example of this is mobility, where public and non-motorized transport are much more sustainable than individual motorized transport or flying. Another example is investment. Many banks are now offering sustainable investment funds. These funds contain only the shares of companies that meet social, environmental and economic criteria. Investing in one of these funds marks a move towards sustainability, without having to forego a return on investment.

Companies can also set up sustainable procurement channels – and communicate this publicly, in a regularly published sustainability report for instance. Finally, individuals can also choose to shop sustainably. There are various labels on the Swiss market designed to make the choice easier. The following pages provide an overview of the most important labels. To avoid advertising for the labels of private companies, these have not been included in the list.

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- ▶ www.labelinfo.ch
- ▶ www.nachhaltigleben.ch

FOOD

The Swiss «bud» or «Knospe» label certifies that the product has been produced organically in Switzerland.

- ▶ www.bio-suisse.ch



The demeter label indicates products from certified dynamic organic farms committed to sustainable management with their own specialist training, social justice, and transparent price-setting.

- ▶ www.demeter.ch



The Pro Specie Rara foundation label denotes products and businesses which support the preservation of traditional heritage plants and endangered farm animals.

- ▶ www.prospecierara.ch



The Max Havelaar label stands for economic development, social justice and environmental protection.

- ▶ www.maxhavelaar.ch



The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) label certifies that a product has been obtained through environmentally responsible fishing practices and does not contribute to the problem of overfishing.

- ▶ www.msc.org



RESTAURANTS AND TOURISM

The Fourchette Verte label is awarded to restaurants that offer a healthy balanced daily menu and do not sell alcoholic drinks at low prices.

- ▶ www.fourchetteverte.ch



The Goût Mieux label is awarded to restaurants that offer a minimum range of organic products daily, source their products from environmentally and socially just production, and attach particular importance to freshly-prepared meals which reflect regional and seasonal specialities.

- ▶ www.goutmieux.ch

The ibex label designates hotels that incorporate sustainable development in their management.

- ▶ www.steinbock-label.ch



ENERGY AND MOBILITY

The «energy city» («EnergieStadt») label launched by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy defines a quality standard for the energy policy of municipalities.

- ▶ www.energiestadt.ch



The Energy label («energieEtikette») provides information about the energy consumption of electrical appliances and vehicles. It categorizes these into various energy efficiency classes from A to G, with A (green) being the most efficient and G (red) being the least efficient. In the case of cars, the label indicates fuel consumption, CO₂ emissions and energy efficiency.



- ▶ www.energieetikette.ch

The naturemade label is used to designate two quality levels in the electricity market: naturemade basic stands for electricity generated from renewable sources.



- ▶ www.naturemade.ch

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naturemade star designates green electricity which satisfies strict criteria as proof of its added environmental value.



- ▶ www.naturemade.ch

BUILDING AND HOUSING

In the construction sector, the Minergie standard guarantees rational energy consumption, the use of renewable energies and a reduction in pollutants. To qualify for the Minergie-Eco standard, a building must satisfy additional requirements in respect of health and ecological construction, such as the use of local raw materials.



- ▶ www.minergie.ch

The natureplus label is awarded in Europe to environmentally friendly, healthy and functional building products and furniture.



- ▶ www.natureplus.org

The FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) label certifies wood and timber products from sustainably managed forests.



- ▶ www.fsc-schweiz.ch

The STEP label indicates fair trade handmade carpets produced in an environmentally sound manner.



- ▶ www.label-step.org

ABBREVIATIONS

ARE	Federal Office for Spatial Development
BPUK	Swiss Conference of Directors of Building, Planning and Environmental Protection (Schweizerische Bau-, Planungs- und Umweltdirektorenkonferenz)
EDK	Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (Schweizerische Konferenz der kantonalen Erziehungsdirektoren)
ESDN	European Sustainable Development Network
EU	European Union
FDFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
FEDRO	Swiss Federal Roads Authority
FHO	Federal Housing Office
FOAG	Federal Office for Agriculture
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment
FOT	Federal Office of Transport
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISDC	Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee
LA21	Local Agenda 21
MONET	Sustainable Development Monitoring System from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (Monitoring der Nachhaltigen Entwicklung)
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy
SFBL	Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics
SFOE	Swiss Federal Office of Energy
SFOPH	Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
SFSO	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
SGV	Swiss Association of Local Authorities (Schweizerischer Gemeindeverband)
SK BNE	Swiss Coordinating Conference for Education and Sustainable Development (Schweizerische Koordinationskonferenz Bildung für Nachhaltige Entwicklung)
SSV	Association of Swiss Cities (Schweizerischer Städteverband)
UN	United Nations

UNCSD United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WBCSD World Business Council for Sustainable Development

RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (RIO DECLARATION)

PREAMBLE

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, reaffirming the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and seeking to build upon it, with the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of societies and people, working towards international agreements which respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system, recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home, proclaims that:

PRINCIPLE 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

PRINCIPLE 2

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States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

PRINCIPLE 3

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

PRINCIPLE 4

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

PRINCIPLE 5

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

PRINCIPLE 6

The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.

PRINCIPLE 7

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

PRINCIPLE 8

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

PRINCIPLE 9

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.

PRINCIPLE 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

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PRINCIPLE 11

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.

PRINCIPLE 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing trans-

boundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

PRINCIPLE 13

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

PRINCIPLE 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

PRINCIPLE 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

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PRINCIPLE 16

National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

PRINCIPLE 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

PRINCIPLE 18

States shall immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help States so afflicted.

PRINCIPLE 19

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant adverse transboundary environmental effect and shall consult with those States at an early stage and in good faith.

PRINCIPLE 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

PRINCIPLE 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

PRINCIPLE 22

Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

PRINCIPLE 23

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.

PRINCIPLE 24

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.

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PRINCIPLE 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

PRINCIPLE 26

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

PRINCIPLE 27

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.

PRINCIPLES OF THE MONET INDICATOR SYSTEM FOR MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SWITZERLAND (ABRIDGED)

Social solidarity

General principle	1a	Ensuring human rights	Each member of society has a right to the dignity of human life and to the free development of their personality. Democracy, legal stability and cultural diversity are guaranteed.
	1b	Limited individual freedom	The limits of individual development are set where the human dignity of other contemporary individuals or of future generations is compromised.
Objective living conditions	2a	Meeting needs	The basic needs of the population must be met over the long term.
	2b	Promoting health	Human health should be protected and promoted.
	2c	Fighting poverty	The dignity of human life requires freedom from poverty. Needy members of society shall benefit from solidarity in accordance with their needs.
Subjective living conditions	3a	Satisfaction and happiness	Possibilities for present and future generations to find satisfaction and happiness in life should be maintained and promoted.
	3b	Development that takes well-being into account	Socioeconomic and environmental change must not be achieved at the cost of the physical and psychological well-being of the individual.
Fairness of distribution, equality of opportunity	4a	Ban on discrimination	No-one shall be discriminated against on the basis of any external or internal characteristic.
	4b	Equal opportunities and fair distribution of wealth	Each member of society should have the same rights and opportunities. Society should strive to achieve a more just distribution of resources.
	4c	Integration of the less fortunate	The integration of disadvantaged groups of the population and regions into economic, social, cultural and political life should be promoted.

Strengthening of social cohesion	5a	Intercultural and interpersonal understanding	In recognition of the fact that the proper functioning and survival ability of society are substantially based upon the solidarity of its members, exchange and understanding between individuals and groups should be promoted.
	5b	Social and political participation	Social and political participation should be promoted.
International solidarity	6a	Development cooperation	Equitable development should be promoted world-wide, for example by reducing inequalities at the global level. The focus is on eradicating poverty.
	6b	Promoting peace and democracy	Peaceful coexistence of peoples and nations, respect for human rights and democracy should be promoted.
Development and maintenance of human capital	7a	Development of human capital	Collective knowledge and sociocultural heritage should be maintained and increased over the long term.
	7b	Access to information and freedom of opinion	There should be no restriction to the flow of information. Free formation and expression of opinion must be guaranteed.
	7c	Encouraging learning	The ability to absorb and process information should be promoted.
	7d	Child-friendly environment	Children and young people in particular should be able to live in an open, motivating and future-oriented environment.

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Economic efficiency

General principle	8	Economic order in favour of the communal good	Economic activity should effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the individual and of society. The economic framework should be shaped in such a manner that it promotes personal initiative, thus putting self interest to the service of the common good and ensuring the welfare of the present and future population.
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Economic system	9a	Market as economic order	Goods allocation should primarily be by free market means. If the market fails or for goods that are primarily in the public interest (merit goods), intervention in the free market is justified.
	9b	Genuine costs and principle of polluter pays	Prices should reflect the scarcity and depletions of natural resources and sinks and include external costs. The «polluter pays» principle should be applied consistently (with the exception of merit goods).
	9c	Market intervention that conforms to the system	In the event of intervention in the market, market economy tools should be chosen above all others.
Efficiency and competitive- ness	10a	Promotion of economic efficiency	The economic efficiency of a society and its productive, social and human capital must be at least maintained over time. The aim should not merely be to bring about an increase in quantity, but instead to ensure a constant improvement in quality.
	10b	Economic order that favours innovation and competition	The framework of the market system should be shaped in such a manner that innovation is encouraged and functional markets are maintained or improved. Competitiveness and locational quality should be maintained and promoted.
	10c	Promotion of research	Research and development activities which support sustainable development should be promoted.
	10d	Limited public debt	Public-sector debt must be incurred only to the extent that it does not jeopardize the capability of future generations to meet individual and social needs.
Flexibility and stability	11a	Predictability of changes in the system	The framework of the market system should be shaped in such a manner that a long-term outlook is worthwhile and the social change necessary to adapt to future requirements is facilitated. New measures should be foreseeable.
	11b	Socially compatible rate of change	The rapidity or slowness of changes in the framework of the economic system must not jeopardize social peace.

Production and consumption of goods and services	12a 12b 12c	Ecologically acceptable production Ecologically and socially acceptable consumption Transparent business reporting for consumers	Environmental impact and risks emanating from production plants should be minimized, while energy and material flows should be optimized. Consumption of goods and services should be as environmentally compatible and socially just as possible. Within and outside manufacturing companies information should be made available that serves to ensure sustainable development and consumption, e.g. through environmental management systems.
Employment	13	Employment that is morally worthwhile and provides a decent living	The economic system should ensure that anyone desiring gainful employment is able to find meaningful work to support themselves.
International trade	14a	Environmentally and socially acceptable world trade	The multilateral trading system should take into account the need for careful management of natural resources and promote technologies that ensure efficient use of environmental resources and social justice.
	14b	World trade from which all parties can profit	The multilateral trading system should assist in ensuring that one nation's individual and social needs are met without consequently compromising the ability of other nations to meet their own needs.

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Ecological responsibility

General principle	15a	Preservation of natural resources	The natural foundations of life should be maintained over the long term and existing damage should be remedied.
	15b	Preservation of biodiversity	The dynamic diversity of nature must be preserved.
Consumption of resources	16a	Limits for consumption of renewable resources	Consumption of renewable resources should be kept below the regeneration threshold.
	16b	Limits for consumption of non-renewable resources	Consumption of non-renewable resources should be kept below the development potential for renewable resources.

Materials and wastes	17a	Limits for degradable waste and toxins	Pollution of the environment with degradable waste and pollutants should be minimized. Contamination should on no account exceed the absorption capacity of the ecosystem.
	17b	Avoidance of non-degradable toxins	The emission of non-degradable pollutants into the environment should be prevented wherever possible.
Risks	18a	Ecological compensation	Any impairment to nature should be offset such that biodiversity is maintained and the quality and continuity of the ecosystem are ensured.
	18b	Minimization of ecological risks	Accident risks with wide-ranging impact upon humans and the biosphere are permissible only insofar as, even in the worst case scenario, they do not cause any permanent damage for a subsequent generation.
	18c	Caution in the case of uncertainty	Severe or irreversible environmental damage should be prevented, even if the scientific community is not absolutely certain of the actual risk.
Rate of change	19	Taking into consideration the time needed for natural processes	The rate of anthropogenic intervention in nature must be in balance with the tempo of the natural processes of relevance to the environment's capacity to respond and regenerate.
Natural and agricultural landscape	20	Acceptable natural and agricultural landscapes	Development of the natural habitat of humans must be guided by the concept of human rights. Human dignity requires a favourable natural and agricultural landscape.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ▶ For further reading on sustainable development see
www.are.admin.ch/sustainabledevelopment > Bibliography

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