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**Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung ARE**  
**Internationales**



alpenkonvention • convention alpine  
convenzione delle alpi • alpska konvencija

# Compliance Report 2019

## Implementation of the Alpine Convention and Its Protocols in Switzerland

Courtesy translation

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## ***Explanatory notes for filling in the questionnaire***

The questions to be answered are highlighted in grey. Multiple choice questions should be answered by checking the option(s) provided exclusively. Additional explanations on the respective choices are not required. Certain questions allow additional elaborate answers related to a particular topic in addition to a selection of responses due to region-specific or municipality-specific characteristics. Please answer the questions as accurately as possible. Should you have difficulties when answering a question, please elaborate on the problem(s) you may have encountered under “Additional Comments”.

The answers to the questionnaire are supposed to provide a comprehensive overview on the state of the implementation of the Alpine Convention and its protocols.

The wording of the questionnaire is based on the terminology of the Alpine Convention and its protocols. The questions do not change the nature of obligations of the contracting parties imposed on them by the Alpine Convention and its protocols.

Confidential information contained in any answer provided by a contracting party should be specified as such.

The questionnaire is designed with due consideration of a particular surveyed contracting party’s territory-specific and Alpine-region-specific attributes. The term “Alpine region” is to be considered as defined by Article 1 of the Framework Convention of the Alpine Convention.

Each surveyed contracting party is referred to as “State” in the questionnaire. Particular labelling of the European Union was refrained from in interest of simplification. Hence, the term “State” also applies for the European Union for the purpose of the questionnaire.

## **Abbreviations**

Following abbreviations are used:

AC	Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention)
Mountain Farming Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Mountain Farming (1991)
Mountain Forests Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Mountain Forests (1991)
Soil Conservation Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Soil Conservation (1991)
Energy Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Energy (1991)
Nature Protection Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation (1991)
Spatial Planning Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (1991)
Tourism Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Tourism (1991)
Transport Protocol	Protocol of the Alpine Convention on Transport (1991)

### *Information on the Source and Drafting of the Report*

Name of contracting party:	Swiss Confederation
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Report submission date	27.07.2020

Name of authorities/organisations/institutions involved (e.g. NGOs, municipalities, regional authorities, research institutes)
Government offices contributing to the report: Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)

## Section 1: General Section

**Note: All contracting parties of the AC are required to answer the questions included in the General Section.**

State the dates on which the protocols of the AC your State is implementing have been ratified and have come into force respectively. (Please state each date according to the following example: 01. January 2003)		
Name of the protocol	Ratified <sup>1</sup> on	In force since
Spatial Planning Protocol		
Soil Conservation Protocol		
Nature Protection Protocol		
Mountain Farming Protocol		
Mountain Forests Protocol		
Tourism Protocol		
Transport Protocol		
Energy Protocol		
Protocol on the Settlement of Litigation		

Should certain protocols not have been ratified <sup>2</sup> yet, state the reason(s) why and, if possible, provide an estimated timeframe within which the ratification of additional protocols is expected.
On 29 September 2010, a majority of members of the Swiss National Council (lower house of the federal parliament) blocked the ratification of the protocols (of which the Spatial Planning Protocol, the Transport Protocol and the Social Conservation Protocol were ascribed the most importance) of the Alpine Convention contrary to an appeal issued by the Swiss Federal Council (federal government).

<sup>1</sup> Or adopted or approved.

<sup>2</sup> Or adopted or approved.

## *A. Introductory Remarks*

1. What percentage (%) of the territory of your State is part of the Alpine region?	60 %
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2. What is the gross domestic product (GDP) of your State in the Alpine region?	668.6 billion CHF
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3. What percentage (%) of the gross domestic product (GDP) of your entire State does the GDP generated within the confines of the Alpine region represent?	30.3 %
<u>Note: The number refers to the entire surface area of all cantons within the Alpine perimeter.</u>	

4. What is the role of the Alpine Convention and its protocols in your State?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a State in the heart of the Alps, Switzerland has an active interest in collaborating with the other contracting parties, represented by the Alpine States and the EU.</li> <li>• Switzerland promotes cross-border and transnational exchange and international cooperation, directed towards joint problem solving within the Alpine region. The State maintains and nurtures these endeavours even beyond the scope of the Alpine Convention, particularly by participating in Interreg programmes and the EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).</li> <li>• Switzerland considers the Alpine Convention as an instrument for a sustainable and integrated development of the living and economic space of the common mountain region.</li> <li>• We regard the setting of common minimum standards as paramount for establishing universally applicable aids for environmental and climate protection as well as compatible spatial planning, transport, and tourism schemes.</li> <li>• Provisions of the protocols represent means of support for the State when it comes to devising policies in fields such as environment, forests and forestry, agriculture, and (especially) transport. For example, efforts of the Swiss Confederation to shift the transport of goods to rail (e.g. the Heavy Vehicle Charge - HVC, the Gotthard and Lötschberg Base Tunnels, the 4-metre corridor) set a precedent for other contracting parties to make strides towards fulfilling what is considered as one the essential aims of the Transport Protocol.</li> <li>• Switzerland acknowledges and appreciates the Alpine Convention as a facilitator of a determined, goal-oriented, and coordinated joint approach of all Alpine States towards tackling climate change.</li> <li>• The natural and cultural space namely constitutes a significant asset for its inhabitants. The</li> </ul>

Alpine Convention helps to preserve and cultivate natural and cultural space for the benefit of future generations.

- Furthermore, the Alpine Convention makes it possible to become aware of “new” problems and issues related to natural space highlighted by the scientific sphere as soon as they arise and to compare, to observe, and to treat topics such as “Soil Conservation”; “Land Use”; “Biodiversity”; and “Climate Protection” based on common denominators.

5. Have there ever been any judicial or administrative decisions adopted with reference to the Alpine Convention and its protocols (or obligations contained therein, which (may) have become enshrined in the legal regulations of your country) in your State?

Yes

No

x

If you answered “Yes”, please list the legal field(s) in which such decisions were adopted and provide some examples of the decisions made.

6. Provide a brief summary of what has been undertaken already and what is planned for the further implementation of the objectives of the Alpine Convention and its protocols, in effect in your State?

(You may also elaborate on other activities related to the Alpine Convention on one hand but go beyond its obligations and commitments on the other; or reflect on activities and programmes, which promote the objectives of the Alpine Convention outside of your State.)

- The objectives are legally implemented through the execution of sectoral policies.
- One such policy, in effect since 1 January 2008, is the aptly named New Regional Policy (NRP), through which the federal government and the cantons have been focusing on the nationwide development of mountain, rural, and border regions. The two main objectives of the NRP are: 1) to provide financial support to initiatives and projects, aimed towards initiating innovations, generating added value, and raising the level of competitiveness in a particular region; and 2) to stimulate the development of the regional agriculture, forestry, energy sector, education, and healthcare industry. Additionally, the NRP also foresees the funding of European territorial cooperation programmes (incl. Interreg). The aim of the policy is to maintain decentralized population settlement in Switzerland and reduce regional disparities. The policy framework is based on multi-year programmes that focus on specific funding priorities and subsidy content. The current programme was set for the period between 2016 and 2023.
- Maintenance and development of the railway infrastructure financed by the Rail Infrastructure Fund (BIF) since 1 January 2016. A maximum of 2/3 of net proceeds generated from the per-



formance related heavy vehicle charge (HVC). Strategic expansion of the railway infrastructure supported by the Financing and Upgrading Switzerland's Railway Structure (FABI) initiative on the cantonal (regional transport) and federal (long-distance and freight transport) level.

- The Swiss Landscape Concept (LKS, 2020) is a federal planning instrument defining the frame for a coherent and quality-based development of Swiss landscapes. The overall orientation for a coherent federal landscape policy is specified in the strategic objectives and in the landscape quality objectives. Both are binding on the authorities. Spatial planning principles and thematic objectives specify these for the individual sectoral policies of the federal government.
- The Biodiversity Switzerland Strategy (2012) and the Biodiversity Action Plan (since 6 September 2017). Promoting biodiversity and embedding it in sectoral policies.
- Energy Act (since 4 September 2013) revised for the purpose of expanding renewable energy sources and decommissioning nuclear power plants. Particular focus is placed on the balancing of interests regarding the generation of energy (hydropower and wind power) from the point of view of water protection, landmark protection, and landscape protection.
- Model project initiative "Sustainable Spatial Development": A cross-sectoral cooperation initiative focused on inward urban development, open spaces and leisure, appropriate housing, economic development in cross-cantonal spaces, and natural resources and the potential conflicts arising from their use. 32 new projects have been selected at the end of 2019.
- Collaboration with research institutions, treating Alpine-specific topics.

#### Additional comments:

The content and the central elements of the respective protocols of the Alpine Convention are taken very seriously. They are also practically implemented in policies despite the protocols not having had been ratified. Switzerland holds the cooperation with its neighbouring states in high regard.

## ***B. General Obligations of the Alpine Convention***

### **I. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. a AC – General Obligations in the field of “Population and Culture”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. a AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas:

a) population and culture – the objective is to respect, preserve and promote the cultural and social independence of the indigenous population and to guarantee the basis for their living standards, in particular environmentally sound settlement and economic development, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Alpine and extra-Alpine populations.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. a AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA)
- Federal Act on the Promotion of Culture
- Federal Act on the National Languages and Understanding between the Linguistic Communities (LangA)
- Federal Act on Radio and Television (RTVA)
- Federal Act on Regional Policy
- The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)
- The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)

2. What measures are in place for respecting, preserving and promoting the cultural and social independence of the indigenous Alpine population?

- “*Der Bund kann kulturelle Anlässe durchführen oder sich an deren Organisation und Finanzierung beteiligen*” (Eng. The federation can organize and finance cultural events). In: Federal Act on the Promotion of Culture (KHG, No. 442.1); As of 1 January 2017.
- The Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia (since 1939). The council is under supervision of the Swiss Federal Council. Its tasks and collaborative activities with the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) have been regulated with the Federal Act on the Promotion of Culture (KHG) and a relevant strategic agreement on objectives since 2012.
- Article 50 of the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter referred to as “Federal Constitution”) guarantees the autonomy of the communes and takes the special posi-

tion of the cities and urban areas as well as the mountain regions into account.

- Promotion of language and culture (teaching aids, literature, film, song, theatre, publications, translations, scientific research etc.)
- Promotion of digital and print media (radio and TV, news agencies).

3. What measures are in place for guaranteeing the basis for the living standards of the indigenous Alpine population, in particular for environmentally sound settlement and economic development?

- According to Article 2 of the Federal Constitution, the Swiss Confederation shall promote the common welfare, sustainable development, internal cohesion and cultural diversity of the country and is committed to the long-term preservation of natural resources.
- Article 73 of the Federal Constitution stipulates that the Confederation and the cantons shall endeavour to achieve a balanced and sustainable relationship between nature and its capacity to renew itself.
- Article 75 of the Federal Constitution defines the aims and principles of spatial planning and the national land survey, which is the responsibility of the Confederation. These principles serve to ensure appropriate and economic use of the land and its properly ordered settlement.
- Article 103 of the Federal Constitution provides the Confederation with the authority to support regions of the country that are under economic threat (N. B. This concerns mountain regions in particular).
- Article 104 of the Federal Constitution stipulates that Agriculture shall facilitate decentralized population settlement within the State. This article is oriented primarily towards settlement in peripheral areas and mountain valleys.
- Instruments of various sectoral policies, particularly in the fields of environment, agriculture, and forestry as well as instruments for securing the provision of public goods (energy, transport, communication, education and vocational training, technology promotion, and welfare policy) contribute to the preservation of the natural and economic resources of the mountain population.
- The second phase of the New Regional Policy (NRP) programme (2016-2024). The NRP represents a means for the federal government and the cantons for promoting nationwide regional economic development of mountain, rural, and border regions.
- The 2018 Davos Declaration ("Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe"), which highlights the central role of culture in our built environment together with other European Ministers of Culture.

4. What measures are in place for promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between Alpine and extra-Alpine populations?

Various public events and promotion of public participation processes.

Additional comments:

## **II. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. b AC – General Obligations in the field of “Spatial Planning”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. b AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

b) spatial planning – the objective is to ensure the economic and rational use of land and the sound, harmonious development of the whole region, particular emphasis being placed on natural hazards, the avoidance of under and overuse and the conservation or rehabilitation of natural habitats by means of a thorough clarification and evaluation of land-use requirements, foresighted integral planning and coordination of the measures taken.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. b AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Revised Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA) and the Ordinance on Spatial Planning (also referred to as “SPA 1”) since 1 May 2014. The objective of the revision is to facilitate compact urban development, to enhance the use of disused areas in building zones, and to reduce oversized building zones. The act was revised under due consideration of building zones corresponding to predicted demand requirements for an upcoming period of approximately 15 years. Oversized zones must be reduced. However, additional building zones may be established in cases of rising population numbers or an increasing demand for the construction of new economic (business) infrastructure.
- The SPA provision on construction outside building zones amended on 23 December 2011 states: Widening the possibilities of demolition and reconstruction as well as expansion of buildings, used for agricultural purposes in 1972: the law explicitly states that any changes to the exterior appearance for the purposes of residential use or energetic renovation (modernisation) respectively must be incorporated with due consideration for the features of the landscape in order for the architecture to blend into its surroundings as harmoniously as possible.
- Federal Act on Second Homes (SHA); As of 20 March 2015: The purpose of the law is to limit the construction of new second homes. Each commune is required to draw up an inventory of

homes each year. In communes, in which the proportion of second homes exceeds 20 percent, no building permits may be granted for new second homes.

- 2019: State of the implementation of “SPA 1” in cantons as of 1 May 2019: According to Article 38, paragraph 5 of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA), new building zones may not be created in cantons unless they have appropriate compensation procedures in accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning, adopted on 22 June 1979 (SPA; SR 700). Furthermore, new building zones may not be created in cantons, which have not amended their structure plans in accordance with the revised SPA or submitted it for approval by the Federal Council.
- Concepts and sectoral plans according to Article 13 of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA): The concepts highlight the approaches of the Confederation towards adjusting its objectives and activities with regard to the fulfilment of tasks that may heavily affect both space and the environment. Therefore, federal authorities have defined a binding framework for downstream procedures and decision-making. The core concepts are the Swiss Wind Power Concept (2017) as well as the Concept for Shifting the Transport of Goods to Rail (2017, and the Swiss Landscape Concept (LKS – adopted by the Federal Council on 27.5.2020).

2. Are there any plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively set in place that contain guidelines for sustainable development and spatial planning for contiguous areas?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “No”, how is this issue treated otherwise? If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- The Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (ParkO) and the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA).
- The Swiss Spatial Development Concept: A reference framework and a decision-making tool for future spatial development activities in Switzerland. It represents the first ever Swiss strategy document on spatial development, jointly devised and supported throughout all levels of state. The concept focuses predominately on transregional areas of action (instead of administrative boundaries).
- The Federal Agglomeration Policy and publications on the topic of “coherent spatial development”.
- Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019 (the Swiss contribution towards achieving the United Nations’ global 2030 Agenda).
- Supra-cantonal coordinating bodies: Conference of the Heads of Cantonal Planning

(KPK), Conference of the Cantonal Directors of civil engineering, spatial planning and environment (BPUK) and the Spatial Planning Council (ROR)
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3. Do spatial planning agendas, programmes, or other measures for ensuring economic and rational use of land and facilitating a sound, harmonious development of the whole region feature the following?	Yes	No
A thorough clarification and evaluation of land-use requirements	X	
Foresighted integral planning	X	
Coordination of the measures taken	X	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.		
<p>The mentioned aspects play key roles throughout the process of devising:</p> <p>a) federal concepts and sectoral plans.</p> <p>b) cantonal structure plans (which are approved by the federal government).</p> <p>Important planning guidelines (for the federal as well as the cantonal level) – for example for balancing interests and coordinating activities that could potentially have a heavy impact on space – are outlined in the Ordinance on Spatial Planning (RPV/ “SPA 1”).</p>		

4. Are spatial planning activities in border areas undertaken as joint and collaborative efforts between neighbouring contracting parties?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, during which planning phase and on which government level?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During all phases and on all government levels. The program on agglomeration traffic shall be mentioned in particular: Consolidation of transport-related issues and residential development in urban areas, especially in cross-border areas (e.g. Basel, Geneva, Mendrisiotto, St. Gallen-Bodensee, Werdenberg-Liechtenstein, Kreuzlingen-Konstanz). The federal government has financially supported three generations of programmes since 2009. The Federal Council passed the third and current generation in 2018. Since 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018 the programme on agglomeration traffic has become a permanent instrument with ensured financing.</li> <li>• Switzerland is a contributing member of various international territorial cooperation programmes, bodies and strategies: Interreg A and B, Alpine Convention, and the EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).</li> <li>• Art. 7 par. 3 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA): Border cantons shall seek collaboration with the regional authorities of the neighbouring country insofar as their activities may have cross-</li> </ul>			

border impact.

5. Are there special programmes in place, dedicated to the protection against natural hazards (particularly floods, rockfalls avalanches, mudflows) in the Alpine regions?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Programmes in the field of natural hazards (e.g. avalanche and flood protection, earthquake prevention, protection forest care) that are implemented at various levels. The federal government supports the cantons with the development of base strategies and the execution of targeted measures. These measures, however, are not limited exclusively to the perimeter of the Alpine Convention. Nevertheless, it should be noted that cantons located within the perimeter of the Alpine Convention are particularly active in this matter. Following programmes are in place at the federal level:

- Hazard maps: Hazard maps are maps that highlight areas in Switzerland (settlements and traffic (transport) routes) that are affected by or are vulnerable to a particular hazard and to what extent. A specific project lead to hazard maps becoming available for the entire territory of the State in 2017. Since then, hazard maps have become an integral part of cantonal land-use plans.
- The “Natural Hazard Risk Management” strategy, updated in 2018: The strategy represents the principal guideline for integral risk management, risk-based spatial planning, and consolidating other relevant Swiss strategies, particularly strategies concerning spatial planning and the environment.
- The Federal Council’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Switzerland: The first part of the strategy (drafted in 2012) contains objectives and principles for climate change adaptation measures on the federal level, identifies fields of action for nine (9) sectors, and outlines cross-sectoral challenges. The second part consists of an action plan (for the period 2014-2019) for achieving the set out adaptation goals and managing the accompanying challenges. The Federal Council adopted the action plan on 9 April 2014.
- Municipalities and cantons carry the primary responsibility for protection against natural hazards. by drafting local programmes and developing concrete measures, aligned with the strategic objectives prioritized by the federal government.
- Earthquake prevention measures according to the Federal Coordination Office for Earthquake Protection Report (2005).
- SilvaProtect-CH: A protection forest information system that acts as the basis for a

standardised delimitation of protection forests for cantons.

- Register of Natural Hazard Events StorMe: The central Swiss database for the registering, monitoring, and managing of natural hazard events of the following kinds: floods, soil slipping (erosion), falls, and landslides.
- Central Swiss Register of Protection Systems (in the works as a collaboration effort between the federal government and the cantons).

Additional comments:

### **III. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. c AC – General Obligations in the field of “Prevention of Air Pollution”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. c AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

c) prevention of air pollution – the objective is to drastically reduce the emission of pollutants and pollution problems in the Alpine region, together with inputs of harmful substances from outside the region, to a level which is not harmful to man, animals and plants.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. c AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (EPA)
- Various Acts under the classification number 814.31 – Air Pollution Reduction Measures: Concerning vehicles engaged in road transport, aviation, and shipping.
- Federal Act on the Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (641.71; As of 23 December 2011) and the corresponding Ordinance.
- Ordinance on Air Pollution Control (OAPC).
- Ordinance on the Incentive Tax on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCV).
- Ordinance on the Incentive Tax on “Extra-Light Heating Oil” with a Sulfur Content of More Than 0.1% (HELV).
- Ordinance on Incentive Taxation of Petrol and Diesel with a Sulphur Content of More than 0.001% (BDSV).



- Article 84 of the Federal Constitution – Alpine transit traffic.

2. Have specific measures been taken to drastically reduce the emission of pollutants and pollution problems in the Alpine region to a level, which is not harmful to man, animals and plants?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Cantonal action plans for prevention of air pollution: According to the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment and the Ordinance on Air Pollution Control, all cantons are required to adopt an action plan with air pollution control measures whenever excessive air pollution is expected or it has been established as a fact, either caused by heavy traffic or due to emissions emanating from stationary installations. The action plan has to feature a description of all emission sources responsible for excessive immissions and a catalogue of measures for the reduction or prevention thereof. The action plan also has to feature a quantification of individual measures and deadlines for their introduction and implementation.

3. Have specific measures been taken to reduce inputs of harmful substances from outside of the region to a level, which is not harmful to man, animals and plants?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Emission control measures in accordance with the Ordinance on Air Pollution Control (OAPC) as well as with the relevant European emission standards (EU emission regulations). The Ordinance on Air Pollution Control (OAPC) is principally enforced by the cantons.

Additional comments:

The Federal Act on the Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions is currently in overall revision.

#### IV. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. d AC – General Obligations in the field of “Soil Conservation”

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. d AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

d) soil conservation – the objective is to reduce quantitative and qualitative soil damage, in particular by applying agricultural and forestry methods which do not harm the soil, through minimum interference with soil and land, control of erosion and the restriction of soil sealing.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. d AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (EPA).
- Ordinance on Soil Protection (VBBo).
- Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA).
- Federal Act on Forest.
- Ordinance on Forest (ForO).
- Federal Act on Agriculture.

2. Is the concept of “minimum interference with soil and land” promoted properly?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- The partial revision of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA), which came into force on 1 May 2014, was conducted in order to control the future use of land: Oversized building zones are being reduced and construction land reserves utilized more properly.
- The National Research Programme NRP 68: The National Research Programme "Sustainable Use of Soil as a Resource" (NRP 68) is establishing a basis for political decision-making which takes into account both the ecological and the economic services of soil. NRP 68 aims to improve our knowledge about the quality of soils, develop tools for their assessment and elaborate strategies for their sustainable use.
- In the summer of 2019, the Competence Center Soil (KOBO) was established, which is operated jointly by the Federal Offices for Spatial Development, Environment and Agriculture and further processes the findings from NRP 68. KOBO's central aims are the standardisa-

tion and further development of survey and analysis methods for soil properties and the definition of technical standards for soil mapping.

- The national "Soil Strategy Switzerland" was adopted on 8.5.2020. The soil strategy aims to ensure that soils remain fertile and can continue to perform their services for society and the economy in the future.
- Revised Crop Rotation Plan (FFF, 2014) The main objective of the Crop Rotation Plan (FFF) is to secure a sufficient supply of food for the entire State during periods of severe shortages of resources. At the same time, the Crop Rotation Plan (FFF) contributes to the materialisation of the basic concerns emanating from relevant spatial planning policies, such as preserving biodiversity, conserving natural resources such as air and water, or retaining green areas between urban settlements. Furthermore, the plan also greatly contributes to endeavours towards protection against natural hazards and landscape conservation. The Crop Rotation Plan was updated as of 8.5.2020.

### 3. Is soil sealing restricted?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.

The Crop Rotation Plan (FFF) and the Federal Act on Forest impose minimum standards and requirements for the control and restriction of soil sealing. The Ordinance on Spatial Planning ("SPA 1") dictates inward soil sealing and calls for oversized building areas to be zoned.

### 4. Are agricultural and forestry methods, which do not harm the soil, promoted properly?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.

- The soil protection module of Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Agriculture (2013), compiled by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG). Soil represents the production base for agriculture and forestry and thus must be protected and preserved through targeted agricultural and forestry-related activities.
- The federal government promotes conservation tillage, especially the following kinds thereof: "no-tillage" (no-till farming), strip tillage, and mulch tillage. Special ecological services and measures are subsidized (rewarded) with ecological direct payments.
- Erosion control and soil conservation measures are a mandatory requirement for direct payments (according to Art. 16 and 17 of the Federal Ordinance on Direct Payments to Agriculture; detailed provisions attached).

5. Are any measures for erosion control in place?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Article 6 of the Ordinance on Soil Protection (VBBo): Legal obligation to prevent soil erosion during terrain modification and land management procedures by means of erosion-limiting construction and agricultural techniques, crop rotation, and sound agricultural land arrangement concepts.			
Additional comments:			

## V. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. e AC – General Obligations in the field of “Water Management”

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. e AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

e) water management – the objective is to preserve or re-establish healthy water systems, in particular by keeping lakes and rivers free of pollution, by applying natural hydraulic engineering techniques and by using water power, which serves the interests of both the indigenous population and the environment alike.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. e AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Act on the Protection of Waters (WPA).</li> <li>• Waters Protection Ordinance (WPO).</li> <li>• Federal Act on Water Engineering.</li> <li>• Ordinance on Water Engineering (WBV).</li> <li>• Ordinance on the Compensation of Losses in Hydropower Use (VAEW).</li> <li>• Federal Act on the Use of Hydropower (WRG).</li> <li>• Ordinance on the Use of Hydropower (WRV).</li> <li>• Federal Act on Water Retaining Facilities (Water Retaining Facilities Act -WRAF), adopted on 1 October 2010.</li> </ul>

- Water Retaining Facilities Ordinance (WRFO), adopted on 17 October 2012.
- Various Acts under the classification number 814.2 – Protection of Waters.
- Articles 73 and 76 of the Federal Constitution (Federal Acts and Ordinances based thereon).

2. Are appropriate measures – including comprehensive waste disposal measures – for keeping lakes and rivers free of pollution in place?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Since 2005, 97 % of the Swiss population is connected to sewage treatment plants or systems. The degree of protection is gradually increased with additional upgrades of existing sewage treatment plants focused on decreasing the levels of trace elements. Springs (source of groundwater), on the other hand, are protected with protection zones, which are designated around wells and basins, the ground filters of which provide natural protection from pollution. Various prohibitions against the use of water contaminants, particularly durable substances.
- Agri-environmental measures, such as adequate manure pits for storing farmyard manure during the winter, when the fertilization of soil would be ineffective.

3. Do regulations exist and are proper measures taken in order to protect the sources of drinking water?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Regulations according to the Waters Protection Act and provisions set in cantonal land-use plans.
- Art. 705 – 707 - Swiss Civil Code (ZGB): Protection of springs (groundwater) and wells from direct damage.

4. Does your State apply natural hydraulic engineering techniques?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Federal Act on Water Engineering. The act focuses mainly on the harmful effects of wa-

ter. Art. 3: “The cantons shall ensure flood control through the maintenance of water bodies and through regional development measures.”

- Art. 4, 6, and 7 - Water Engineering Act;
- Art. 37 and 38 - Waters Protection Act;
- Art. 7 and 9 - Fisheries Act; and
- Art. 21 – Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage calls for natural courses of water to be preserved wherever possible during or restored and rehabilitated after interventions in bodies of water. The current legislation largely prevents any harmful interventions in bodies of water.

5. Are the interests of the indigenous population taken into account during the decision-making processes?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Integral water management (e.g. SPARE Pilot Project in Lower Engadine; 2015-2018).
- „Water Agenda 21“ (since 2008) – an association uniting research institutions, water special interest groups, environmental organizations, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), and the Federal Office of Energy (SFOE).
- Various population groups are allowed to provide several inputs regarding their respective interests during the issuing processes for licenses and planning permits for hydropower use. Procedures for issuing planning permits for water engineering projects (according to cantonal law) and the delimitation of groundwater protection zones also foresee mechanisms for filing objections and appeals.

6. Are there any regulations and incentives for facilitating environmentally friendly (compatible) use of hydroelectric power?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Laws and regulations on the ecological use of hydroelectric power. Provisions on environmentally friendly use of hydropower: Compliance with the minimum residual flow requirements, construction of fish ladders, restoration or replacement measures for the fields of agriculture and landscape protection etc.
- Incentives for environmentally-friendly (compatible) use of hydropower: The federal

government partially subsidizes remediation measures in cases of water abstraction from watercourses, located in inventory-listed natural areas and habitats.

- Permits for the use of hydropower are granted based on comprehensive investigations and examinations of the ecological aspect of the scheduled types of utilization. Incentives for environmentally-friendly use of hydropower are issued privately, based on valid “Green Electricity” certifications (“Naturmade” etc.). Incentives for environmentally-friendly use of hydropower are issued privately, based on valid “Green Electricity” certifications (“Naturmade” etc.).

Additional comments:

## **VI. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. f AC – General Obligations in the field of “Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. f AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

f) nature protection and landscape conservation – the objective is to protect, conserve and, where necessary, rehabilitate the natural environment and the countryside, so that ecosystems are able to function, animal and plants species, including their habitats, are preserved, nature’s capacity for regeneration and sustained productivity is maintained, and the variety, uniqueness and beauty of nature and the countryside as a whole are preserved on a permanent basis.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. f AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Article 78 of the Federal Constitution (Federal Acts and Ordinances thereon).
- Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA).
- Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) and Ordinance on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heirtage (NCHO).
- Ordinance on the Federal Inventory of Landscapes, Natural Sites, and Monuments of National Importance (VBLN).
- Federal Act on the Swiss National Park in Graubünden
- Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (ParkO), adopted on 7 November 2007.
- Ordinance on the Protection of Dry Meadows and Pastures of National Importance (Dry

<p>Meadows and Pastures Ordinance – TwwV), adopted on 13 January 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various paragraphs from other acts concerning the construction of roads, settlements, aerial cableways, high-voltage systems, water use etc.</li> <li>• Cantonal legislation, if this is stipulated according to the division of competences under Article 78 of the Federal Constitution or if the federal legislation (NHG) provides the scope for action.</li> </ul>
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2. Which of the following measures have been taken in order to protect, conserve and, where necessary, rehabilitate the natural environment and the countryside? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Restoration of natural and semi-natural landscape features, biotopes, ecosystems, and landscapes, traditionally cultivated by man to the greatest degree possible.	X
Targeted utilisation of promotion and support measures for agricultural, forestry-related and other users of lands.	X
Establishment of areas, in which nature and landscape protection are more important than other other goods.	X
Establishing habitat networks (habitat connectivity)	X
Other	X
Describe the adopted measures.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Swiss Landscape Conservation Concept: Landscape (Protection) Concept: The Federal Council approved the Swiss Landscape Concept (LKS) in 1997. According to Article 13 of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning, the LKS defines space-relevant federal sectoral policy objectives, binding for the authorities. Furthermore, the LKS also defines additional objectives and measures, binding for the authorities that concern space-related federal sectoral policies for the fields of biodiversity and landscape. The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) has started to update the Swiss Landscape Concept (LKS) in March 2018.</li> <li>• Direct payments to farmers: Subsidies for agriculture promote the preservation of farmland and guarantee the highest possible degree of comprehensive cultivation of (Alpine) farming areas. The objective of targeted direct payments for agriculture is to harness the increasing forestation of Alpine grassland. Subsidies for the preservation of biodiversity are aimed at promoting and protecting indigenous (natural) species, the diversity of natural habitats, and the connectivity of areas of biodiversity. Subsidies for preservation of the quality of land and landscape are aimed at promoting landscape diversity throughout the State as well as promoting, protecting, and developing attractive landscapes, which also bear high significance as potential leisure areas both for the local population as well as from the tourism aspect. The funds</li> </ul>	



for the promotion of particular activities are designated to specific projects. The cantons and the federal government collaborate on devising joint concepts of measures and consider the needs of the regions throughout the process. The federal government provides 90% of the funding.

- Points two (2) and four (4) are implemented through instruments and measures of sectoral policies; particularly the sectoral policy for agriculture (ecological direct payments); and also based on the legislation concerning nature conservation (Art. 18b and 18c of the Federal Act on the protection of nature and cultural heritage..
- The responsibility for point three (3) rests with the cantons, particularly in the scope of landscape protection.
- Other: The Swiss Foundation for Landscape Conservation dedicated to the preservation of landscapes, traditionally cultivated by man.

3. Which of the following measures have been taken in order to preserve animal and plants species, including their habitats? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)

Adoption of regulations, which sanction audits of measures and projects that could potentially cause severe or irreversible harm to animals and plants.	X
Prohibitions (bans) and rules concerning avoidable causes for disturbance or impairment of wildlife or plant habitats.	X
Establishment of national parks and/or other protected areas.	X
Establishment of preservation zones and quiet areas for wildlife and plants.	X
Renaturalisation of impaired habitats.	X
Bans on extraction and trade of protected wildlife and plant species.	X
Reintroduction of indigenous species.	X
Prohibitions on introducing (wildlife and plant) species that were not previously present naturally in regions concerned for a verifiable historic period.	X
Assessment of potential risks prior to the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.	X
Other	
Describe the adopted measures.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2017). The measures contained in the Biodiversity Action Plan promote biodiversity directly (creation of ecological infrastructure, support for species), build bridges between federal biodiversity policy and other</li> </ul>	

policy areas (e.g. agriculture, spatial planning, transport, economic development), and are geared towards raising awareness among decision-makers and the public about the importance of biodiversity as a central pillar of life.

- Various measures are in compliance with other remits, for example measures in areas of action such as natural hydraulic engineering and revitalisation of bodies of water, or in the field of wildlife and gamekeeping (hunting legislation).
- Provisions of the Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (ParkO) supported by Articles 23 and 26 of Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage, adopted on 1 July 1966.

Additional comments:

## **VII. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. g AC – General Obligations in the field of “Mountain Farming”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. g AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

g) mountain farming – the objective is, in the public interest, to maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated by man and to preserve and promote a system of farming which suits local conditions and is environmentally compatible, taking into account the less favourable economic conditions “.

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. g AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Federal Act on Agriculture (LwG): Articles 1 (“Aim”), 2 (“Federal measures”), and 4 (“Difficult production and living conditions”).
- Ordinance on the Promotion of the Quality and Sustainability of Agriculture and Food-Related Industries (QuNaV, 2013).
- Ordinance on the Use of the Terms «Mountain» and «Alp» for Agricultural Products and Foods Produced From Them (Mountain and Alp Ordinance, BAIV).

2. What measures are in place for maintaining the management of land, traditionally cultivated by man?

- Direct payments secure ongoing management.
- Individual and collective structural improvement measures.

3. Which of the following measures have been taken in order to preserve and promote a system of farming, which suits local conditions and is environmentally compatible, taking into account less favourable production conditions? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)

Providing support to farms, ensuring a minimum of agricultural activity in extreme locations	X
Promoting livestock farming suited to local conditions and to the available land	X
Promoting traditional livestock farming and the traditional diversity of livestock breeds	X
Promoting and supporting the preservation of the diversity of cultivated crops	X
Supporting campaigns for marketing generic mountain farming products and preserving the quality of the distinguishing characteristics of such products	X
Promoting the inception and development of additional sources of income in areas, where such action is needed in order to sustain traditional agriculture	X
Enabling access to services necessary for overcoming adverse conditions in mountain regions.	X
Other	

Describe the adopted measures.

- Article 4 of the Federal Act on Agriculture states: “Difficult production and living conditions, in particular in mountain and upland areas, must be adequately taken into account in the application of this Act.”
- Ordinance on the Direct Payments to Agriculture (Direct Payment Ordinance, DZV) in combination with the Proof of Ecological Performance (ÖLN) standard: Direct payments are granted to applicants under the condition that their entire farming operation complies with the requirements mandated by the Proof of Ecological Performance (ÖLN) standard (Art. 11 Direct Payment Ordinance; DZV).
- Sales promotion/Licensing/Merchandising: Register of protected designations of origin (GUB/AOC) and protected geographical indications (GGA/IGP).
- Structural improvements: Improvement of living and economic conditions in mountain regions for individual and collective agricultural endeavours.

- Livestock diversity: Registered breeds of horses, hogs, sheep and goats.
- Agricultural schools offer extracurricular specialist courses in addition to their regular education and further education programmes.

Additional comments:

## VIII. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. h AC – General Obligations in the field of “Mountain Forests”

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. h AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

h) mountain forests – the objective is to preserve, reinforce and restore the role of forests, in particular their protective role, by improving the resistance of forest ecosystems mainly by applying natural forestry techniques and preventing any utilization detrimental to forests, taking into account the less favourable economic conditions in the Alpine region.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. h AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

Article 38, paragraph 5 of the Federal Act on Forest (ForA).

2. Which of the following measures have been taken in order to improve the resistance of forest ecosystems through applying natural forestry techniques? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)

Application of natural forest regeneration procedures	X
Implementation/maintenance of a properly structured multi-level inventory of tree species that suit local conditions	X
Considering protection as paramount	X
Implementation of projects focused on protection forests and protection forest improvement	X
Designation of natural forest reserves	X

Other	
Describe the adopted measures.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource policy and the Wood Action Plan (2017-2020): A contribution to a sustainable forest and climate policy. “The aim of the Wood Resource Policy is to ensure that wood from Swiss forests is supplied, processed and used in a way that is sustainable and resource-efficient.”</li> <li>• Research programme Forests and Climate Change (2009-2018): The research programme “Forests and Climate Change” was launched by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) in 2009 and completed in 2018. The work conducted in the scope of the programme lead to a solid base for assessing the progress of climate change, predicting its effects on forest growth, and devising measures for mitigating its potentially harmful consequences in Switzerland.</li> <li>• Other points are principally enforced by the cantons. Regulation according to the Federal Act on Forest.</li> </ul>	

3. Have specific measures been taken in order to prevent any utilization detrimental to forests by also considering the less favourable economic conditions in the Alpine region?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Policy 2020: On 31 August 2011, the Federal Council adopted a national Forest Policy strategy for adjusting the different and often diverging interests of the community concerned. The definitive statutes have been in effect since 1 January 2017.</li> <li>• The Federal Act on Forest prohibits any kind of use detrimental to forests that does not constitute deforestation as defined in Article 4 of the same act (Art. 16 par. 1).</li> </ul>			

Additional comments:
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## IX. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. i AC – General Obligations in the field of “Tourism and Recreation”

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. i AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

i) tourism and recreation – the objective is, by restricting activities harmful to the environment, to harmonize tourism and recreational activities with ecological and social requirements, in particular by setting aside quiet areas.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. i AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.
There are no tourism-specific regulations. However, the field is governed indirectly by statutory provisions featured in the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) (Paragraph 3 in particular), the Spatial Planning Act (SPA), the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment, the Noise Abatement Ordinance (NAO) and the Federal Act on Aviation (LFG).

2. Which of the following measures have been taken in order to restrict activities, harmful to the environment? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Measures for limiting individual motorised traffic.	X
Restrictions imposed on terrain adjustments for the purposes of developing and maintaining ski slopes.	X
Bans on motor sport activities.	X
Restriction of motor sport activities to designated zones.	X
Bans on light-sport aircraft landing outside of designated landing areas.	
Restricted permission for light-sport aircraft landing outside of designated landing areas.	X
Promotion of initiatives for improving access to tourist locations and tourist centres via public transport.	X
Other	
Describe the adopted measures.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local regulations (community-level), e.g. car-free health resorts.</li><li>• Remote mountain airfields.</li></ul>	

- Promotion of public transport on the federal and cantonal level.

3. Are social requirements being fulfilled in the scope of the development of (additional) tourism and recreational activities?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.

- Federalism and autonomy, granted to municipalities guarantee the right of the local population to participate in planning and decision-making.
- Balanced distribution of airfields throughout the Alpine region. The air traffic network is outlined in the relevant sectoral plan based on the Ordinance on Aviation Infrastructure (VIL).

4. Has the ecological aspect been considered throughout process of designating quiet areas, where tourism activities do not take place?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please list the criteria for their designation as well as the size and location of existing quiet areas.

- Protection of Moors: Art 78 par. 5 of the Federal Constitution: “Moors and wetlands of special beauty and national importance shall be preserved. No buildings may be built on them and no changes may be made to the land, except for the construction of facilities that serve the protection of the moors or wetlands or their continued use for agricultural purposes.”
- Quiet zones and wildlife preserves: Quiet zones and wildlife preserves: 1. The Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Hunting Act, JSG). Art. 7 par. 4 states: “The cantons are responsible for sufficiently protecting wild mammals and birds from disturbance.” 2. The Federal Act on Forest (Forest Act – ForA). Art. 14 par. 2 lit. a states: “Where necessary for the conservation of the forest or other public interests, such as the protection of wild flora and fauna, the cantons shall: a) restrict accessibility to certain forest areas; b) subject the staging of major events in the forest to obtaining a permit.” 3. The Ordinance on Federal Hunting Reserves (VEJ). Art. 5 par. 1 lit b. states: Wildlife must not be disturbed, displaced or elicited from protected areas. Lit. g. states: Skiing is banned outside of specifically marked slopes, routes, and tracks. Art. 7 par. 4 states: The Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo) describes the federal hunting reserves and outlines routes permitted for use for winter sport purposes in specific ski-themed national maps.
- National parks (and partially nature parks): New provisions are featured in the Federal Act on

the Swiss National Park in Graubünden and the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA).

- Assessment of mountain airfields in the Sectoral Aviation Infrastructure Plan (SIL) – Part III B6a (Mountain Landing Sites – GLP), adopted on 21 October 2015. A decrease in the total number of mountain airfields (landing sites) to 40, which is the result of weighing interests between nature protection objectives, landscape protection objectives, and wildlife protection objectives on one side and flight training requirement and purposes on the other.

Additional comments:

## **X. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. j AC – General Obligations in the field of “Transport”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. j AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

j) transport – the objective is to reduce the volume and dangers of inter-Alpine and trans-Alpine traffic to a level which is not harmful to humans, animals and plants and their habitats, by switching more traffic, in particular freight traffic, to the railways in particular by providing appropriate infrastructure and incentives complying with market principles, without discrimination on grounds of nationality.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. j AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Article 84 of the Federal Constitution – Alpine transit traffic: 1) The Confederation shall protect the Alpine region from the negative effects of transit traffic. It shall limit the nuisance caused by transit traffic to a level that is not harmful to people, animals and plants or their habitats 2) Transalpine goods traffic shall be transported from border to border by rail. The Federal Council shall take the measures required. Exceptions are permitted only if there is no alternative. They must be specified in detail in a federal act. 3) The capacity of the transit routes in the Alpine region may not be increased. This does not apply to by-pass roads that reduce the level of transit traffic in towns and villages.
- Article 85 of the Federal Constitution – Heavy vehicle charge: 1) The Confederation may levy a capacity or mileage-related charge on heavy vehicle traffic where such traffic creates public costs that are not covered by other charges or taxes. 2) The net revenue from the charge shall be used to cover the costs incurred in connection with overland



transport. 3) The Cantons are entitled to a share of the net revenue. In the assessment of the shares allocated, the particular consequences that levying the charge have for mountainous and remote regions shall be taken into account.

- Federal Act on the Construction of the Swiss Alpine Railway Transversal (Alpine Transit Act - AtraG).
- Federal Act on the Distance-related Heavy Vehicle Charge (Heavy Vehicle Charge Act - SVAG).
- Federal Act on Shifting the Transalpine Freight Transport from Road to Rail (Freight Transport Shift Act - GVVG).
- Federal Act on Aviation (LFG).
- Ordinance on Aviation Infrastructure (VIL).
- Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA).
- Federal Act on the Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub> Act).
- Noise Abatement Ordinance (LSV).

2. Are any measures in place in order to reduce the volume and dangers of inter-Alpine and trans-Alpine traffic?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.

- A stricter Emissions Directive in the scope of the Energy Strategy 2050: Similar to the European Union, Switzerland adopted its own set of CO<sub>2</sub> emission rules for new passenger cars in 2012. Since 2015, emissions from cars registered for the first time may not exceed the level of 130 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre. Beginning in 2020, this standard will be lowered further to 95 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre. In addition, new CO<sub>2</sub> emission rules will be established for delivery vehicles and articulated lorries, which will not be allowed to exceed a target average emissions limit of 147 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre.
- Freight Transport Shift Act (GVVG) Performance-related Heavy Vehicle Charge (HVC).
- Alpine Transit Act (AtraG).
- Expansion of the railway infrastructure, Transalpine axis NRLA: the Lötschberg, Gotthard and Ceneri Base Tunnels

3. Are there any measures in place for reducing emissions caused by Inner-Alpine traffic?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples. Refer to existing case studies that allow qualitative statements.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restriction of mountain airfields</li> <li>• The Performance related Heavy Vehicle Charge (HVC, has been levied in Switzerland since 1 January 2001. The HVC applies to heavy-goods vehicles with a permissible laden weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes and is calculated on the basis of three criteria: a) number of kilometres covered on Swiss territory; b) permissible laden weight of vehicle; and c) vehicle emissions. The HVC is based on the “polluter pays” principle and covers the external costs of air pollution, noise pollution etc. Is to be revised in 2021.</li> <li>• Federal Act on the Reduction of CO2 Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>-Act)</li> </ul>			

4. Have any specific measures, adjusted to the topography of Alps, been taken in order to decrease the levels of noise caused by traffic?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) Noise Abatement Programme: The entire fleet of the SBB’s passenger carriages and freight wagons has undergone comprehensive noise-mitigating refurbishment before the end of 2016. As of now, approximately 372 kilometres of noise barriers have been erected and over 70.000 soundproof windows fitted in densely populated areas along the tracks. Follow-up measures foresee the adoption of mandatory emission limit values for freight wagons owned by both domestic and foreign companies. An additional supplementary noise abatement package planned by the SBB covers further noise reduction measures along the tracks, petitioning for funds for the acquisition and operation of “quiet” freight wagons, and an increase in departmental research activities targeted towards the abatement of railway noise.</li> <li>• Noise abatement along the Network of National Roads: Until 2015, approximately 90 % of the national road network has been upgraded with special noise abatement measures. A major part of the rest was restructured until the end of 2018. Due to increasing traffic, the Federal Roads Office (FEDRO) – the authority responsible for this field – expects additional investments in noise abatement measures to the amount of 1.3 billion CHF until they year of 2030.</li> <li>• Noise abatements are also carried out systematically at cantonal level.</li> </ul>			

5. Have appropriate infrastructural measures been taken in order to shift more traffic, in particular freight traffic, to the railways?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new Railway Transversal – NRLA: The existing railway infrastructure will undergo a ground-breaking modernisation with the new transalpine (north-south) axis, also referred to as NRLA. The project will be completed gradually. The Lötschberg Base Tunnel (opened in 2007), the Gotthard Base Tunnel (opened in 2016), and the emerging Ceneri Base Tunnel (scheduled to be opened in 2020) represent the main parts of the NRLA.</li> <li>• The 4-metre corridor and terminals: Expansion works on the Lötschberg-Simplon-Axis are already ongoing. The profiles of the new Gotthard Base Tunnel and the emerging Ceneri Base Tunnel fit the requirements. Certain obstacles along the northern and the southern access route still represent slight hindrances. The Federal Council and the Federal Assembly have reached a joint decision to eliminate these hindrances by establishing an additional, open 4-metre corridor along the Gotthard-Axis. The federal government also endorses the expansion of terminals.</li> <li>• The Financing and Upgrading Switzerland’s Railway Structure (FABI) initiative: Amended and adapted federal acts and ordinances have been in force since 2016. Various expansion steps until 2025 (to the amount of approx. 6.4 billion CHF) as well as an additional expansion phase until 2035, which is currently discussed by the Federal Assembly. The estimated cost of the project proposed by the Federal Council is 11.9 billion CHF.</li> <li>• The Freight Transport Shift Act (GVVG) and flanking measures: These measures focus both on road traffic (increased monitoring of road traffic regulations, directing heavy vehicle traffic) and railway traffic (government subsidies for cheaper route prices for railway heavy goods traffic, commissioning of additional offers for combined traffic, government funding of freight terminals etc.)</li> </ul>			

6. Have appropriate incentives, complying which market principles, been provided in order to switch more traffic, in particular freight traffic, to the railways?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures for an active modal shift policy: Route prices are supposed to decrease further and long freight trains are scheduled to be granted a special discount. As a consequence railway transport should become less expensive, which would allow additional capacities to become</li> </ul>			

available. Additionally, operating contributions for combined traffic operators will be paid beyond 2023. Furthermore, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) is discussing the possibility of increasing the performance related heavy vehicle charge (HVC) beginning in 2021.

- Flanking measures: Traffic shift efforts are promoted and reinforced through operational funding and investment aids for unaccompanied combined transport and rolling highways.

Additional comments:

## **XI. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. h AC – General Obligations in the field of “Energy”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. k AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

k) energy – the objective is to introduce methods for the production, distribution and use of energy which preserve the countryside and are environmentally compatible, and to promote energy-saving measures.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. k AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Energy Act (EnG; in force since 1 January 2018) and Energy Ordinance: Article 7: To supply energy in an environmentally compatible manner means to handle natural resources responsibly, to use renewable energy sources (particularly hydroelectric power), and to commit to the goal of limiting harmful and undesirable impacts on humans and the environment to the smallest degree possible.
- Article 89 of the Federal Constitution (Federal Acts and Ordinances based thereon).
- Article 16 of the Federal Electricity Supply Act (EleG).
- Section 3 of the Waters Protection Act (WPA).
- Article 22 of the Federal Act on the Use of Hydropower (WRG).
- Article 44 of the Nuclear Energy Act (NEA).
- Articles 3 and 24 of the Federal Act on Pipeline Systems for the Transport of Liquid or Gas Fuel (RLG).

- Articles 5, 7 and 22 of the Ordinance on Pipeline Systems for the Transport of Liquid or Gas Fuel (RLV).
- Article 7 of the Ordinance on High-voltage Systems.
- Article 7 of the Ordinance on Low-voltage Systems.
- Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA).
- Concept on Wind Power.

2. What measures has your State taken in order to introduce methods for the production, distribution and use of energy, which also preserve the countryside and are environmentally compatible?

- Article 12 of the Energy Act: 2. Construction of new infrastructure for the use of renewable energy sources is strictly prohibited in biotopes (in accordance with Article 18a of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA)) and water and migratory bird reserves (in accordance with Article 11 of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (JSG)) of national importance. 3. Departures from abiding to the “undiminished preservation” principle can be taken into consideration if a potential project concerns a specific inventory-listed property (in accordance with Article 5 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA)).
- Concept on Wind Power (2017). It specifies how federal interests are to be taken into account in the planning of wind energy plants and identifies possible areas with potential for the use of wind energy.
- The „EnergieSchweiz “energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme.
- Cantonal measures.

3. Have specific measures been taken in order to reduce energy consumption and increase the level of energy efficiency?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- The federal and cantonal buildings programme: The Swiss federal and cantonal buildings programme began in 2010. Since then it has been promoting the energy-efficient renovation of buildings and investment in renewable energies, waste heat recovery, and the optimisation of building services technology. The CO<sub>2</sub>-Act provides the legal basis for the buildings programme. The CO<sub>2</sub>-levy on combustible fuels is enshrined in this legislation. Since 2010, one

third of the proceeds from the CO<sub>2</sub>-levy have been earmarked for the buildings programme. A maximum of 450 million CHF from the CO<sub>2</sub>-levy may be used annually for the buildings programme and the promotion of geothermal energy.

- Competitive Calls for Tenders for Efficiency Measures (Art. 32, Energy Act – EnG): The Federal Council commissions competitive calls for tenders for efficiency measures, particularly for measures for: a) promoting efficient and economical use of electricity in buildings, facilities, companies, and vehicles; b) reducing conversion losses of electrical systems for power generation and distribution; c) facilitating the use of otherwise unusable waste heat for power generation.
- Measures featured in Section 8 – Energy Act (EnG): Economical and efficient use of energy. Concerns facilities, vehicles, equipment, devices, appliances, buildings, and companies.
- All decisions to implement national, cantonal, and local energy policies are adopted in accordance with the procedures referred to in Article 3 of the Energy Act (EnG). Recommended power consumption values are scheduled to be adopted for the very first time in history. The initial benchmark period will be set for the years between 2020 and 2035. 1) The goal is to lower the average general energy consumption per person per year by 16% until 2020 and by 43% until 2035; 2) and to lower the average power consumption per person per year by 3% until 2020 and by 13% until 2035 compared to the levels registered for the year 2000.
- Tax deductions (3 periods) for more energy-efficient new buildings (incl. demolition costs of old structures).
- The „EnergieSchweiz“ energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme.

4. Are any measures for paying attention to cost transparency in place?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- The Swiss Water Fee System (current regulation valid until 2024).
- The Swiss Carbon Tax (CO<sub>2</sub>-levy).

5. Does your State promote the environmentally-friendly use of renewable energy sources?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please list which renewable energy sources and explain how.

- The Energy Act sets guide values for the expansion of systems for electricity production from renewable energies for the period 2020-2035. All relevant measures must be in accordance

with this provision.

- **Feed-in Remuneration Scheme:** Compensation for electricity, generated from renewable energies, fed into the grid. Operators of installations for generating electricity from water (small power plants), solar radiation, wind, geothermal sources or biomass have been eligible to apply for cost-covering feed-in remuneration since 2009. The feed-in compensation funds are generated from the grid surcharge for green energy. The funding scheme will be imposed with a time limit: New installations can still become eligible for subsidizing until the end of 2022. From then on, installations for generating electricity from renewable energies will be funded based on a “one-off remuneration fee” scheme. In this way, the federal government aspires to meet the increasing demand for subsidies.
- **One-off Feed-in Remuneration for Photovoltaic Systems (Article 25, Energy Act – EnG):** According to Article 24, paragraph 1, litera a., the amount of the one-off feed-in tariff for photovoltaic (PV) installations may correspond to maximum 30% of the total relevant costs invested in the construction and installation of a fully-operational reference plant.
- **Investment contributions:** Investment contributions for photovoltaic (PV) installations, hydropower plants, and biomass facilities starting on 1 January 2013. Operators applying the following technologies for generating electricity from renewable energies are eligible to apply for investment contributions: (Art. 24, Energy Act – EnG): photovoltaics (>30 kW), hydropower (installed capacity between 1 and 10 MW (60%) and above 10 MW (40%); exceptions for plants with less than 1 MW (e. g. existing plants with a capacity above 300 KW) installed capacity may apply — Art. 26 Energy Act – EnG) and biomass (Art. 27, Energy Act – EnG). “One-off remuneration fee” funding will be accessible until 2030.
- Various grants and programmes for promoting the use of renewable energies (e.g. “EnergieSchweiz”).
- Cantonal measures.

Additional comments:

## **XII. Art. 2 par. 2 lit. 1 AC – General Obligations in the field of “Waste Management”**

Art. 2 par. 2 lit. 1 AC states:

“(2) In order to achieve the objective referred to in paragraph 1, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures in particular in the following areas: [...]

l) waste management – the objective is to develop a system of waste collection, utilization and disposal which meets the special topographic, geological and climatic requirements of the Alpine region, paying particular attention to waste avoidance.”

1. List the laws and regulations that implement the guidelines of Art. 2 par. 2 lit. 1 AC. Should no laws or regulations of such kind exist in your State, elaborate why.

- Ordinance on the Avoidance and Disposal of Waste (ADWO; in effect since 1 January 2016): Art. 1 Objective: The ordinance “...aims to: a) protect people, animals, plants and their biological communities, waters, the soil and the air from harmful effects or nuisances caused by waste; b) to limit environmental pollution by waste through precautionary measures; c) to encourage the sustainable use of natural raw materials through the environmentally sustainable recovery of waste.”
- Ordinance on the Movement of Wastes (VeVA; 2005): The ordinance “[...] applies to the avoidance and disposal of waste and to the construction and operation of waste disposal facilities.”
- Various additional ordinances on avoidance and recovering of drinks packaging, special waste, electronic waste, and animal by-products as well as regulations on waste disposal fees.
- Art. 30, 31, and 32 of the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (EPA).

2. How is waste disposed of in remote Alpine areas?

- Waste is disposed of in these areas the same way as in all other regions of the State. In mountain areas, waste disposal is undertaken based on a so-called “mountain principle” – the inhabitants discard and separate their waste at local waste collection and recycling points.
- Sites for the disposal of waste materials, particularly landfills, must be coordinated with other location-related interests and designated in cantonal structure plans. The location and structure of landfills must adhere to the requirements specified in Annex 2 of the Ordinance on the Avoidance and Disposal of Waste (ADWO). The same provisions apply for both Alpine and easily accessible areas.



## ***C. Universal Obligations of the Alpine Convention and Its Protocols***

### **Consideration of the objectives of all fields, listed in Art. 2 par. 2 AC**

1. Are policies of all fields, featured in Art. 2 par. 2 AC, considered with regard to actions concerning the following special areas?	Yes	No
Population and Culture	X	
Spatial Planning	X	
Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation	X	
Water Management	X	
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation	X	
Mountain Farming	X	
Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	
Energy	X	
Waste Management	X	
Please describe some exemplary cases.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ban on the use of sludge as a waste management measure for soil protection purposes.</li> <li>• Waste management fulfils the objectives of the AC but is not regulated with a particular focus on the Alpine region as stipulated under lit. 1.</li> <li>• Corrosion protection measures are reinforced by air pollution control measures for the purpose of soil protection.</li> </ul>		

### **Cooperation between the contracting parties**

2. Have cross-border and transnational exchange and international cooperation activities concerning the following special areas been reinforced and broadened from a territorial and technical standpoint?	Yes	No
Population and Culture	X	
Spatial Planning	X	

Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation	X	
Water Management	X	
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation	X	
Mountain Farming	X	
Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	
Energy	X	
Waste Management	x	

3. Have lingering barriers, hindering international cooperation between regional administrations and authorities in the Alpine region in the past been removed?			
Yes	x	No	

4. Are approaches towards finding solutions for common problems based on international cooperation activities promoted at the most suitable territorial level?			
Yes	x	No	

5. Is stronger international cooperation between the relevant competent bodies being encouraged and promoted?			
Yes	x	No	

6. Are local and regional authorities, when they are unable to implement measures because they are a matter of national or international competence, given the opportunity to effectively represent the interests of the population?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant regulations and state their content.			
Articles 55 and 56 of the Federal Constitution (BV) regulate the participation of the cantons in foreign policy decisions and the relations between the cantons and foreign states.			

### Participation of regional authorities

7. Has the best level of coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional authorities directly concerned been defined so as to encourage solidarity of responsibility, in particular to exploit and develop synergies when applying policies; relevant for each of the special areas mentioned below; and implementing measures under them?	Yes	No
Population and Culture	X	
Spatial Planning	X	
Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation	X	
Water Management	X	
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation	X	
Mountain Farming	X	
Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	
Energy	X	
Waste Management	X	

8. Are the regional and local authorities directly concerned parties to the various stages of preparing and implementing policies and measures for the special areas mentioned below within the framework of their competence, within the existing institutional framework?	Yes	No
Population and Culture	X	
Spatial Planning	X	
Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation	X	
Water Management	X	
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation	X	
Mountain Farming	X	

Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	
Energy	X	
Waste Management	X	

**Additional comments:**

For a general overview, see Paragraph B.I.1. Laws and regulations for the special areas of soil conservation, mountain forests, nature protection and landscape conservation, and waste management are enforced by cantons, which take the needs and requirements of municipalities into account when making decisions. The Swiss federal legislation stipulates that all parties concerned must be included in the legislative process (through hearings, consultations etc.).

**Art. 3 AC – Research activities, scientific assessments, and systematic monitoring**

9. Is research and systematic observation relevant to improving the understanding of the relationship between the special areas mentioned below and the environment in the Alps being conducted in accordance with Art. 3 AC?	Yes	No
Population and Culture	X	
Spatial Planning	X	
Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation	X	
Water Management	X	
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation	X	
Mountain Farming	X	
Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	
Energy	X	
Waste Management	X	

10. Have common or mutually complementing programmes for systematic observation concerning the special areas mentioned below been established in co-operation with other contracting parties?	Yes	No
Population and Culture		X
Spatial Planning	X	
Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation		X
Water Management		X
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation		X
Mountain Farming	X	
Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	
Energy		X
Waste Management		X

11. Are the national results of the research and systematic observation concerning the special areas mentioned below included in a common permanent observation and information system?	Yes	No
Population and Culture	X	
Spatial Planning	X	
Prevention of Air Pollution	X	
Soil Conservation	X	
Water Management	X	
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation	X	
Mountain Farming	X	
Mountain Forests	X	
Tourism and Recreation	X	
Transport	X	

Energy	X	
Waste Management		X

12. Provide details on collaborations concerning research activities and systematic monitoring.

Should one or several protocols of the AC be in effect in your State, please elaborate on how national research activities and systematic monitoring comply with the guidelines of the relevant protocol(s)?

Current examples:

- National Soil Monitoring Network (NABO)
- The “Landscape Monitoring Switzerland” programme (LABES)
- Spatial Planning: Monitoring Sustainable Development (MONET), Monitoring Urban Space, Monitoring Rural Space, Monitoring Building Outside Building Zones, Landscape Under Pressure
- Water Management: Annual water balance for large catchments; Hydrological Atlas of Switzerland: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), University of Bern; Ecological state of watercourses (data collected by means of a modular stepwise procedure).
- Biodiversity Monitoring (BDM)

#### **Art. 4 AC - Legal, scientific, economic, and technical cooperation and exchange of information**

13. Is the exchange of legal, scientific, economic, and technical information – paramount for the Alpine Convention – between the contracting parties promoted and facilitated?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Comprehensive information on the topic of environment is published on the websites of various federal offices, responsible for the special areas, treated by the Protocols of the Alpine Convention (Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE), Federal Office of Culture (FOC), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) etc.)

14. Are the other contracting parties regularly informed about planned legal or economic measures, which are expected to have particular effects on the Alpine region or parts thereof, in

order to give the utmost consideration to cross-border and regional requirements?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
See featured answers about the implementation of other Protocols.			

15. Are the other contracting parties regularly informed in an appropriate manner about the results of research, monitoring and actions that may potentially have particular effects on the Alpine region or parts thereof?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
In case of particular installations, plants, and systems, which may have cross-border effects, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) is applied. Switzerland is a contracting party to the Espoo Convention and has also ratified in.			

16. Are the other contracting parties regularly informing your State in an appropriate manner about the results of research, monitoring and actions that may potentially have particular effects on the Alpine region or parts thereof?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples. If the answers is “No”, please elaborate on the case(s), in which your State was not informed and state: a) the name of the contracting party that did not fulfil its obligation in the relevant case(s); and b) the approximate timeline during which the project(s) in question was/were implemented.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular information exchanges are taking place in the scope of steering committees established through bilateral agreements with Germany and Italy regarding the special area of transport. The objective of this exchange is a mutual coordination of infrastructural projects.</li> <li>• In cases of common energy facilities (located at border rivers; Émosson Dam storage power station), exchanges of information are part of the cooperation activities between the parties concerned.</li> </ul>			
17. Is your State co-operating with other national governmental and/or non-governmental organisation on fulfilling the obligations, imposed on the contracting parties by the Alpine Convention and its protocols?			

Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please mark the relevant special areas. (Please check the appropriate option(s).)			
Population and Culture			X
Spatial Planning			X
Prevention of Air Pollution			X
Soil Conservation			X
Water Management			X
Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation			X
Mountain Farming			X
Mountain Forests			X
Tourism and Recreation			X
Transport			X
Energy			X
Waste Management			X
If your State is co-operating with other national governmental and/or non-governmental organisations, please list the organisations concerned and state the purpose and scope of cooperation.			
<p>As a contracting party, Switzerland participates in all bodies of the Alpine Convention. Hence, it maintains contacts with various national governmental and/or non-governmental organisations of other contracting parties as well as with regional and local authorities. Switzerland supports the activities of the “Alliance in the Alps” Community Network, the objective of which is the implementation of the Alpine Convention. In addition, Switzerland collaborates closely with the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR; an official observer of the Alpine Convention) and several NGOs (e.g. CIPRA).</p>			

#### **Art. 4 AC – Informing the public about research activities and systematic monitoring**

18. Is the the public informed about research activities and systematic monitoring on a regular basis?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. State the details.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The federal offices – such as the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), the</li> </ul>			



Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), or the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) – provide access to the results of studies they had commissioned for free via their respective websites (pages in German also contain links to versions in French, Italian, and English):

(<https://www.are.admin.ch/are/de/home/medien-und-publikationen/publikationen.html>)

(<https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/dokumentation/publikationen.html>)

(<https://pubdb.bfe.admin.ch/de/suche>)

- The ARAMIS information system contains information regarding research projects, partially or fully funded by the Swiss Federal Government (the main page in German also contains links to versions in French and English):  
<https://www.aramis.admin.ch/?Sprache=de-CH>
- Government-supported research institutions such as the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) also provide the public with access to their findings free of charge.
- Documents with field-relevant research findings can also be accessed via websites maintained by competent cantonal authorities.

Note: In recognition of the Federal Government's Open Government Data (OGD) strategy and the principle of public access, Art. 4 is generally respected.

19. Are research and monitoring data treated confidentially and is access to such data limited in accordance with the relevant regulations?

Yes	x	No	
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20. Are appropriate measures in place for the purpose of sharing information with the public?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Activities focused on providing information and educating the public on environmental issues undertaken by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).
- Informing the public about special topics (natural hazards, avalanche awareness etc.).
- Workshops and information events organized at federal and cantonal levels.

### Decisions of the Alpine Conference

21. Provide information on the implementation of decisions adopted and identified as obligatory by the Alpine Conference in your State.

The bodies and institutions concerned by or involved in the work and decisions of the Alpine Convention are informed.

## ***D. Supplementary Questions***

### **Difficulties in implementing the AC**

**Note: In case of difficulties in implementing a particular Protocol of the Alpine Convention, the contracting parties may refer to answers to the relevant question in the Special Section of this Compliance Report.**

1. Has your state encountered or is it still encountering difficulties in implementing the objectives of the Alpine Convention?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
The implementation of the objectives of the Alpine Convention proceeds very well since most of its provisions are compatible with the Swiss federal and cantonal legislation. General questions regarding the execution of national and cantonal laws and regulations are not connected to the Alpine Convention.			

### **Problems with completing the survey**

2. Have you encountered any problems when filling in the questionnaire? This question refers to all (general and special) parts and sections of the questionnaire,			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples. Do you have any improvement suggestions?			
The questionnaire is very detailed and provides enough space for elaborate answers at the same time. Some questions either repeat themselves or are similar a high degree. This could be adjusted. Contrary to an in-depth review, this elaboration virtually cannot be amended.			
Hence, in view of an increasing amount of declarations and topics related to the Alpine Convention, we would like to take the opportunity to call particular attention to the advantages of compliance reports based on in-depth reviews. Firstly, such reports paint a much clearer picture (regarding specific content) of the situation in a particular State. Secondly, they also enable a meaningful international comparison, from which examples of good practice can be deduced and potentially applied by other contracting parties.			

## Section 2: Special Section Regarding the Special Objectives of the Protocols

**Note:** The questions in the Special Section are mandatory only for the contracting parties, for which the Protocols are binding under international law. The order of the surveyed protocols corresponds to the order of special areas as listed according to Art. 2 par. 2 AC.

### *A. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (Adopted on 20 December 1994)*

#### **Art. 4 Spatial Planning Protocol – International cooperation**

1. Is greater international cooperation pursued between the respective competent institutions, particularly when drawing up territorial plans and/or programmes for spatial planning and sustainable development (in accordance with Article 8 of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol), at a national and regional level?

Yes	x	No	
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2. Is your State pursuing greater international cooperation between the respective competent institutions when defining sectoral plans of territorial relevance?

Yes	x	No	
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3. Is this cooperation primarily aimed at coordinating territorial planning with economic development and environmental requirements in the border areas?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. Provide concrete examples.

- Interreg Programmes A and B
- Agglomeraton programmes
- EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Arge Alp (Association of Alpine Regions)
- The Community Network "Alliance in the Alps"

4. Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).

Bilateral agreement	X
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Multilateral agreement	X
Financial support	
Education/training	
Joint projects	X
Other	
If you checked “Yes” under “Other”, please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.	
Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.	
Common projects and exchanges of experiences: Facilitates the establishment of sustainable networks, active throughout the entire Alpine region and across borders. Exchanges of experiences make it possible to learn and profit from innovative solutions, implemented by other contracting parties and to adapt them to the conditions and requirements prevalent in one’s own sphere.	

## Art. 6 Spatial Planning Protocol - Coordination of the sector policies

5. Are instruments for coordinating sector policies in order to promote the sustainable development of the Alpine territory and its regions in place?			
Yes	x	No	

  

6. Are existing instruments suitable for preventing the risks of unilateral utilization of space connected to single-sector economies?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art. 8 lit. a of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA): “Each canton shall prepare a structure plan, which shall define the following as a minimum: how the canton aims to develop in spatial terms.”</li> <li>Art. 14 par. 1 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA): “Land use plans govern the permissible use of land. “</li> <li>Federalism and democracy guarantee the right of the population concerned to participate in planning and decision-making in different ways. Unilateral utilization of space is thus highly unlikely in this context, since all potential kinds and forms of land-use require-</li> </ul>			

ments must always be taken into account.

## Art. 8 Spatial Planning Protocol – Spatial plans and/or programmes and sustainable development

7. Please answer the following questions by checking either „Yes“ or „No“.	Yes	No
Are there any plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively set in place that contain guidelines for sustainable development and spatial planning for contiguous areas?	X	
Are plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively for the entire Alpine territory defined by the competent local and regional authorities?	X	
Are bordering territorial authorities included in the process of defining relevant plans and/or programmes, possibly at a cross-border level?	X	
Are plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively coordinated between the various territorial levels?	X	
Is the preparation and implementation of plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively based on surveys and preliminary studies, by which the characteristics of the territory in question are defined?	X	
Are the needs and demands of the defining characteristics of a territory in question considered and met during the preparation and implementation of plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively based on surveys and preliminary studies?	X	
Are the plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively reviewed on a regular basis?	X	

8. If the relevant plans and/or programmes are subject to regular reviews, how frequently are these reviews conducted and what are reasons for a review to performed?

- Art. 9 par. 3 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA): “As a rule, structure plans shall be comprehensively reviewed every ten years and, if necessary, revised.”
- The cantons are responsible for outlining and determining the review procedures and reviewing the structure plans (usually every 10 years).

**Art. 9 Spatial Planning Protocol – Contents of spatial and sustainable development plans and/or programmes**

9. Do the plans and/or spatial planning programmes or sustainable development programmes respectively include the following at the most appropriate territorial level and taking account of the specific territorial conditions?	Yes	No
<u>Regional economic development:</u>		
Measures for ensuring that there is a sufficient level of employment for the local population and that there are the means and services necessary for economic, social and cultural development and to ensure equal opportunities	X	
measures for encouraging economic diversification in order to remove structural failings and the risk of unilateral utilization of space connected to single-sector economies	X	
measures for reinforcing the cooperation between farming and forestry economies, tourism and manufacturing, particularly through the combination of work creation activities	X	
<u>Rural areas:</u>		
Reserving lands for agriculture, forestry and pasture farming	X	
Defining measures for the maintenance and development of mountain agriculture and forestry	X	
Conservation and reclaiming of territories of major ecological and cultural value	X	
Determining the areas and installations necessary for leisure activities, complying with other uses of land	X	
Determining the areas subject to natural hazards, where building of structures and installations should be avoided as much as possible.	X	
<u>Urbanised areas:</u>		
Proper and contained delimiting of the areas for urbanising, and also measures for ensuring that the areas so defined are actually built upon	X	
Reserving the lands necessary for economic and cultural activities, for supply services, and also for leisure activities	X	
Determining the areas subject to natural hazards, where building of structures and installations should be avoided as much as possible.	X	

Conservation and creation of green areas in the town centres and suburban areas for leisure time	X	
Limiting of holiday homes	X	
Urbanisation directed and concentrated along the routes served by transport infrastructures and/or continuing on from the existing constructions	X	
Conservation of the characteristic urban sites	X	
Conservation and restoration of the characteristic architectural heritage	X	
<u>Protection of nature and the landscape:</u>		
Delimiting of the areas for protecting nature and the landscape, and also for safeguarding the water courses and other vital natural resources	X	
Delimiting of tranquil areas (quiet zones) and areas, in which construction of buildings and infrastructures is restrained or prohibited, as are other damaging activities	X	
<u>Transport:</u>		
Measures for improving regional and super-regional connections	X	
Measures for encouraging the use of means of transport compatible with the environment	X	
Measures for reinforcing the coordination and cooperation between the various means of transport	X	
Measures for limiting traffic, which may also include limitations for motorised traffic	X	
Measures for improving the offer of public transport for the local population and visitors	X	

Additional comments to question 9:

- Art. 9 is predominantly implemented through the application of cantonal structure plans. The concrete content of these structure plans is regulated by cantonal law. However, the cantons must abide to the planning principles of the federal government.
- Content, related to transport is regulated by coordinating bodies (e.g. regional transport planning authorities and transport conferences) at superordinate planning levels.
- Future use-related developments that could potentially have a heavy impact on space are outlined in cantonal structure plans, assessed by the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), and approved and adopted by the Federal Council. Strategies, defined in structure



plans are implemented in the land-use plans.

- Funding measures for mountain agriculture and forestry are intertwined with other support mechanisms (e.g. direct payments, ecological compensation) rather than spatial planning mechanisms.
- Measures related to questions under points 8 and 9 are in existence but the implementation thereof does not always lead to desired results.

## Art. 10 Spatial Planning Protocol - Compatibility of the projects

10. Have the conditions necessary for examining the direct and indirect impacts of both public and private projects that could significantly and lastingly undermine nature, the landscape, the architectural heritage, and the territory been established?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.

- The direct impacts of projects are identified and implemented in the scope of environmental impact assessments. Not all endeavours require an environmental impact assessment (UVP). Indirect impacts are subject to environmental impact assessments only if they are connected to a concrete and demonstrable context (e.g. air, noise, water resources, impairment of habitats that require special protection) Also see Art. 18 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA).
- Art. 47 of the Ordinance on Spatial Planning stipulates that reports must be submitted to the cantonal approval authority.

11. Are the living conditions of the local population, particularly of its interests in relation to economic, social and cultural development taken into account during such examinations?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.

- Any party concerned may contest any pending construction project. All construction plans must be made public and all objections, appeals, and suggestions must be considered within a specified period of time.
- The Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) acts as a consulting body for cantons for the field of “Sustainable Development”.

12. Are the results of examinations of the direct and indirect impacts of both public and private projects taken into account when deciding on authorising or implementing projects?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
The environmental impact report represents a prerequisite for granting/obtaining permits for construction projects.			

13. Has your State promptly informed other contracting parties – especially neighbouring countries – about projects potentially being linked to repercussions on their spatial planning, their sustainable development endeavours, and on their environmental conditions? (In this regard, “having had been promptly informed” means to have received information in reasonable time that permitted examination and facilitated a clear point of view that could be included in and influential for the decision-making process.)			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the case(s), in which your State was informed by other contracting parties promptly. In addition, please also state if and how a possibly provided point of view (statement) had been taken into consideration.			
Article 7 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA): “Border cantons shall seek collaboration with the regional authorities of the neighbouring country insofar as their activities may have cross-border impact.” However, there is no binding obligation in this regard. The federal government does not have an overview.			
Examples from cantons:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects from the agglomeration programmes Basel, Geneva, and the Rhine Valley.</li> <li>• Wiese Landscape Park, Basel</li> <li>• Biosphere Val Müstair (Regional Nature Park, landscape protection, and biodiversity)</li> </ul>			

14. Have other contracting parties promptly informed your State about a project potentially being linked to repercussions on spatial planning, sustainable development and on the environmental conditions of your State? (In this regard, “having had been promptly informed” means to have received information in reasonable time that permitted examination and facilitated a clear point of view that could be included in and influential for the decision-making process.)					
Yes	x	Not always		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide an example. If the answers is “No” or “Not always”, please elaborate on the case(s), in which your State was not informed and state: a) the name of the contracting party that did not fulfil its obligation in the relevant case(s); and b) the approxi-					

mate timeline during which the project(s) in question was/were implemented.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRLA steering committees and the AlpTransit lines reconciliation.</li> <li>• Hydropower (international treaties).</li> </ul>			

**Art. 11 Spatial Planning Protocol - Use of resources, services of general interest, natural obstacles to production and limitations on the use of resources**

15. Were examinations conducted on to what extent it would be possible; in compliance with the respective national laws; to ascribe market prices to the users of Alpine resources that include the cost of making these resources available in their economic value?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please elaborate on the results.			
Establishment of a water fee for promoting the use hydroelectric plants.			

16. Were examinations conducted on to what extent it would be possible; in compliance with the respective national laws; to compensate (remunerate) the services provided in the general interest?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please elaborate on the results.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensations (remunerations) are paid for services provided in the general interest in the field of agriculture and to a certain extent for services provided in the general interest in field of forestry as well.</li> <li>• For the field of hydropower use, the Swiss legislation foresees compensation payments for losses, generated due to abstaining from the use of hydropower in favour of protecting landscapes of national importance.</li> </ul>			

17. Were examinations conducted on to what extent it would be possible; in compliance with the respective national laws; to provide a fair compensation for the economic activities, particularly in the areas of agriculture and forestry that are disadvantaged by the natural difficulties of production?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please elaborate on the findings.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with the Federal Act on Forest (ForA), managers of protection forests are</li> </ul>			

<p>eligible for compensation payments if the activities they had performed are part of a project which had been approved by both the authorized canton and the federal government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with the Federal Act on Agriculture, ecological direct payments (graduated payments per hectare and livestock unit) are determined based on the characteristics of the relevant production zones.</li> </ul>
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18. Were examinations conducted on to what extent it would be possible; in compliance with the respective national laws; to ensure a provide a fair compensation (remuneration), defined by means of legal regulations or contracts, for the further limitations compatible with obtaining an economic exploitation commensurate with the environment of the potential natural territory?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the findings.			
The implementation of measures in accordance with the objectives of Spatial Planning Protocol will not lead to any considerable limitations.			

## Art. 12 Spatial Planning Protocol - Economic and financial measures

19. Was possibility to support a sustainable development of the Alpine territory – an objective pursued by this Protocol – through economic and financial measures examined?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the results.			
Resource and load balancing between the cantons. Serves the purpose of mitigating negative effects in disadvantaged areas. The objective of the the principle of resource balancing is to provide cantons with below-average levels of own resources with sufficient freely accessible financial means. The unduly burdens that particular cantons are subject to either due to their population structure or due to their function as centres are alleviated through socio-demographic load balancing (SLA). On the other hand, the heavy burdens that particular cantons are subject to due to their altitude, the steepness of the terrain, or due to a specific settlement structure are alleviated through geographically-topographic load balancing (GLA)			

20. Was the possibility examined, to what extent a sustainable development of the Alpine territory could be supported by means of re-directing policies for traditional sectors and rational usage of the existing incentives?			
Yes	x	No	

If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the findings.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct payment system for the field of agriculture (adjusted annually).</li> <li>• Balancing of finances and loads between the cantons.</li> <li>• New Regional Policy (NRP) - second implementation phase (2016-2024)</li> </ul>			

21. Was the possibility examined, to what extent a sustainable development of the Alpine territory could be supported by providing aid to cross-border projects?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the findings.			
Participation to Interreg A and B, and to the EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).			

22. Has the (potential) impact of economic and financial provisions on the environment and the territory been examined?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, are measures, compatible with environmental protection principles and sustainable development objectives, assigned priority status?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

### Art. 13 Spatial Planning Protocol – Further Measures

23. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

### Difficulties in implementing the Spatial Planning Protocol

24. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Spatial Planning Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?			
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Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
The Spatial Planning Protocol has not been ratified by Switzerland.			

### Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures

25. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!
Particularly regulations regarding crop rotation and second homes appear to have provided impetus to the decrease of land use and towards stimulating internal (inner) development. The effects of the Federal Act on Second Homes (SHA) are currently under review.

Additional comments:
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## ***B. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Soil Conservation (Adopted on 16 October 1998)***

### **Art. 2 Soil Conservation Protocol - Fundamental Obligations**

1. If there is a risk of serious and sustained damage to the functionality of soils, are protective aspects, as a matter of principle, given priority over aspects of utilisation?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, how is this ensured? List the relevant laws and regulations.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 34 of the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (EPA): Limitations and restrictions regarding the use of chemically impacted soil.</li> <li>• Protection of Moors according to Art. 78 par. 5 of the Federal Constitution (BV)</li> <li>• Soil protection on construction sites</li> </ul>			

2. Was the possibility of supporting actions for soil conservation in the Alpine region (targeted by this Protocol) through fiscal and/or financial measures examined?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the results.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 49 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) is considered as the base for promoting basic and continuing education and training of personnel entrusted with soil-</li> </ul>			

related duties, and for commissioning or supporting soil-related research studies and technology assessments. Furthermore, contributions can be geared towards the elaboration of cantonal enforcement mechanisms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To a certain degree, fiscal and financial measures were also examined in the scope of the agricultural direct payment scheme (via the Proof of Ecological Performance (ÖLN) standard).</li> </ul>

3. Are measures, compatible with soil conservation and with the objectives of a prudent and environmentally sound utilisation of soils granted special support?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
See answer to question 2.			

#### **Art. 5 Soil Conservation Protocol – International Cooperation**

4. In which of the following areas is international cooperation between the relevant competent institutions supported and promoted?	
Drawing up soil registers	
Soil monitoring	x
Designation and monitoring of protected and impaired areas	
Designation and monitoring of danger zones	
Provision and harmonisation of databases	
Coordination of Alpine specific-soil conservation research	
Mutual reporting	

5. Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).	
Bilateral agreement	
Multilateral agreement	
Financial support	
Education/training	x
Joint projects	

Other	
If you checked “Yes” under “Other”, please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bilateral and multilateral exchange of information (study visits, conference papers, distribution and exchange of scientific treatises).</li> </ul>	
Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange of information and research. Problems emanating from soil protection must be tackled on a national level and do not provide much opportunity for cross-border collaboration.</li> </ul>	

### Art. 6 Soil Conservation Protocol - Designation of Protected Areas

6. Are soils worthy of protection included in the designation of protected areas?			
Yes	x	No	
Are soil and rock formations, which have particularly characteristic features or a particular significance for the documentation of Earth's history preserved specifically?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Documented in the Federal Inventory of Landscapes, Natural Sites, and Monuments of National Importance (BLN), which currently contains 162 individual entries. Three sites are inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List: among them, the Glarus Overthrust in the Tectonic Arena Sardona (since 2008).			

### Art. 7 Soil Conservation Protocol - Economical and Prudent Use of Soils

7. Are matters regarding soil conservation, especially the economical use of soil and land, taken into account when drawing up and implementing plans and/or programmes?			
Yes	x	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to Art. 1 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA), “The Confederation, cantons and communes shall ensure that the land is used economically [...]” This provision is scrutinized thorough by the federal government during cantonal structure plan approval procedures. However, the provision is not always implemented satisfactorily.</li> <li>The Crop Rotation Plan (FFF): In addition to securing a sufficient supply of food for the entire State during periods of severe shortages of resources, the Crop Rotation Plan (FFF) also contributes to other important spatial planning policies (e.g. preserving biodi-</li> </ul>			



versity, ecosystem services, retaining green areas between urban settlements, landscape protection). The minimum area of arable land, designated for crop rotation for the entire State of Switzerland is set at 438.460 ha. The total area was divided among cantons based on territory size and their natural-spatial and climatic conditions. Each canton is obliged to ensure that its share of FFF is secured at all times.

8. Is the development of human settlements kept within existing boundaries in order to limit settlement growth outside of these boundaries?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant laws and regulations and/or procedures.

- Art. 1 par. 2 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) as of 2014: “By means of spatial and regional planning measures, [the Confederation, cantons and communes] shall in particular support efforts to ... promote inward settlement development, while ensuring an appropriate quality of housing ...” and to “... create compact settlements ...”.
- Art. 3 of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA) – Planning principles: “Settlements must be arranged according to the needs of their inhabitants and their expansion must be limited.”
- Art. 15 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA): “Building zones must be defined in such a manner that they meet the anticipated needs for the following 15 years.”
- Model project 2014-2018: Seven (7) pilot projects geared towards testing inward settlement development methods and approaches for tackling various challenges.
- Principles of the agglomeration traffic programme.

9. Is soil conservation and the scarcity of space in the Alpine region be taken into account within the framework of the national procedures when assessing the spatial and environmental compatibility of large-scale projects in the domains of trade and industry, construction and infrastructure (especially in the transport, energy and tourism sectors)?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant laws and regulations and/or procedures.

Art. 3 of the Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA) – planning principles for structural and land use plans.

10. Are disused or impaired soils, especially landfills, slag heaps, infrastructures, or ski runs being either restored to their original state or re-cultivated where natural conditions allow it?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant laws and regulations and/or procedures.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinance on the Remediation of Polluted Sites (CSO): Impaired soils must be restored if they represent a hazard to the environment.</li> <li>• Article 6 of the Ordinance on Soil Protection (VBBo)</li> </ul>			

### **Art. 8 Soil Conservation Protocol - Economical Use and Prudent Extraction of Mineral Resources**

11. Are mineral sources used economically and extracted prudently?			
Yes	x	No	

12. Is preference given to the utilisation of substitute materials in order to preserve mineral sources?			
Yes	x	No	

13. Are recycling options being applied and developed further in order to preserve mineral sources?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list the materials and substances that are added to the recycling or to the re-utilization process respectively.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral construction waste</li> <li>• Compost instead of peat</li> </ul>			

14. Are appropriate measures taken in order to reduce impairments of other soil functions when extracting, processing, and utilising mineral resources?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
Gradual extraction under strict re-cultivation conditions			

15. Is extraction of mineral resources foregone in areas, which are particularly important for the protection of soil functions and in areas, which are specifically designated as sources of drinking water?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. List the relevant laws and regulations.			
Art. 44 and Annex 4 of the Federal Waters Protection Act (WPA).			

### Art. 9 Soil Conservation Protocol - Conservation of Soils in Wetlands and Moors

16. Are high moors (bogs) and lowland moors (bogs) being preserved?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinance on the Protection of Raised and Transitional Bogs of National Importance.</li> <li>• Ordinance on the Protection of Fens of National Importance.</li> </ul> <p><u>Note:</u> The federal government and the cantons revised the list and status of moors, bogs, and fens of national importance between 2012 and 2017. The Federal Council approved the revision on 29 September 2017. It has been in force since 1 November 2017.</p>			

17. Is peat extracted?			
Yes	In very small amounts	No	

18. Are there concrete plans in place to discontinue the use of peat?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<p>The Federal Council’s Peat Exit Plan (since 2012). A two-phase approach to implementing a complete peat phase-out. It gives priority to the implementation of voluntary measures for the reduction of peat use such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Replacement of peat with compost</li> <li>- Prohibition of peat extraction from protected areas (moors)</li> <li>- Raising awareness among the public</li> <li>- Voluntary abstention from the use of peat by gardeners and major distributors.</li> </ul>			

19. Are drainage schemes in wetlands and moors limited to the upkeep of existing networks unless there are sound reasons for exceptions?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, what constitutes a sound reason for allowing drainage schemes in wetlands and moors?			
Please refer to question 21 for details regarding permitted uses.			

20. Are remedial measures conducted?			
Yes	x	No	

21. Are moor soils utilised?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
Follow uses and forms of utilization of moor soils are permitted under the prerequisite that the typical characteristics of moors must not to be impaired:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural use and forestry</li> <li>• Maintenance and restructuring of legally constructed buildings and installations</li> <li>• Measures for protecting the public from natural hazard events</li> </ul>			

#### **Art. 10 & 11 Soil Conservation Protocol - Designation and Management of Endangered Areas and of Alpine Areas Threatened by Erosion**

22. Have appropriate maps of Alpine areas – which are endangered by geological, hydrogeological, and hydrological risks, in particular by land movement (mass slides, mudslides, landslides), avalanches and floods – been drawn up in order to register such areas?			
Yes	x	No	
Are danger zones designated when necessary?			
Yes	x	No	
Are seismic risks considered and highlighted?			
Yes	x	No	
<u>Note:</u> Risk and natural hazard maps are maintained and made accessible by all cantons. The status regarding the latest content of hazard maps and the implementation thereof in communal			

land-use plans is monitored and managed by cantons and municipalities. Natural hazard events of the following kinds are focused on particularly: floods, soil slipping (erosion), falls, and landslides. The current shares of risk areas are mapped with regard to the individual natural hazards they are vulnerable to: landslides - 98%; floods - 97%; falls 92%; soil slipping - 92%.

23. Are Alpine areas, threatened by extensive erosion on the basis of comparable criteria for quantifying soil erosion, mapped and registered whenever this is necessary for the protection of material goods?

Yes	x	No	
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Which authorities/institutions store and manage the maps?

The competent cantonal authorities.

24. Are the engineering techniques used in endangered areas as compatible with nature as possible?

Yes	x	No	
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25. Are local and traditional building materials, which suit the local countryside used in endangered areas?

Yes	x	No	
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26. Are appropriate silvicultural measures taken for the protection and preservation of endangered areas?

Yes	x	No	
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27. Are areas damaged by erosion and land movement being rehabilitated when this is necessary for the protection of human beings and material goods?

Yes	x	No	
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28. Are measures to control water erosion as well as measures to reduce surface run-off supported by hydraulic, engineering, and silvicultural techniques that have minimal environmental impact?

Yes	x	No	
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## Art. 12 Soil Conservation Protocol - Agriculture, Pasture Farming and Forestry

29. Is legislation in place that mandates the use of sound practices – adapted to suit local conditions – in agriculture, pasture farming, and forestry in order to ensure protection against erosion and harmful soil compaction?

Yes	x	No	
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30. Have shared standards for sound expert practices for the use of fertilisers, herbicides, and pesticides on agricultural land, pastures, and forest land been elaborated and implemented together with other contracting parties?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Sustainable use and risk reduction according to the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG): The following principle applies: Chemical control measures are permitted only if precautionary and non-chemical measures do not guarantee sufficient protection from harmful organisms. However, non-chemical measures are to be prioritized for such purposes under the condition that they are accessible, effective, and economically viable.
- Enforcement aids concerning the protection of: surface waters and biotopes; groundwater; bees; cultures.
- Fact sheets concerning among other things: the protection of bees from agricultural pesticides and the reduction of the drift and run-off of pesticides in field and vegetable farming.
- Participation in the OECD Working Group on Pesticides (WGP)

31. Is the use of light agricultural machinery for the purpose of preventing soil compaction encouraged?

Yes	x	No	
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32. Which of the following agents/substances are used on Alpine arable land and pastures? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)

Mineral fertilisers	(No N-containing mineral fertilisers)	x
Synthetic pesticides	(only herbicides)	x
Sludge		

If any or all of the agents/substances have been used, has their use decreased during the reporting period?			
Yes	x	No	

### Art. 13 Soil Conservation Protocol - Silvicultural and Other Measures

33. Are mountain forests, which offer a high degree of protection to their own location, or above all to human settlements, transport infrastructures, crop lands and similar areas being preserved in their original locations?			
Yes	x	No	

34. Is the protective function of mountain forests given priority and is the silvicultural management of mountain forests geared towards preserving this function?			
Yes	x	No	

35. Are forests used and maintained in such a way that soil erosion and harmful soil compaction are avoided?			
Yes	x	No	

36. Are the applied silvicultural measures adapted to local conditions and is natural forest rejuvenation promoted as a means of preserving the protective function of forests?			
Yes	x	No	

### Art. 14 Soil Conservation Protocol - Effects of Tourism Infrastructures

37. Have permits for the construction and levelling of ski runs in forests with a protective function ever been granted?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is "Yes", were the permits granted with the provision that compensatory action was to be taken?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is "Yes", please list examples of permits granted and highlight the compensatory			

actions they were based on?

38. Have permits ever been granted for the construction and levelling of ski runs in fragile areas?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

39. Has the use of chemical and biological additives for the grooming of ski runs been permitted after the Soil Conservation Protocol entered into force?			
Yes	x	No	
Has proof of the ecological harmlessness of the chemical and biological additives applied been furnished?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please name the institution(s), which provided proof of the ecological harmlessness of the chemical and biological additives applied.			
Self-regulations established and observed by manufacturers or importers (exception: products containing GMOs that must be approved by federal authorities).			

40. Has significant damage to soils and vegetation been detected in ski runs areas?			
Yes		No	x <sup>1</sup>
If the answer is “Yes”, have remedial measures been taken at the earliest possible point in time?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide examples of damage detected and remedial measures taken.			
<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, certain damages are unavoidable when it comes to establishing and maintaining ski runs. In Switzerland, large-surface ski runs are planned, established, and maintained principally by pedology experts. This precautionary principle is the core of a policy for preventing significant damage.			



## Art. 15 & 16 Soil Conservation Protocol - Limiting Inputs of Harmful Substances and Environmentally Compatible Utilisation of Gritting Materials

41. What preventive action has been taken in order to minimise inputs of harmful substances into the soils through water, air, waste, and other substances, harmful to the environment?

- Licensing of pesticides by the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG): The effectiveness of pesticides as well as potential risks for humans, animals, and the environment that emanate from them are tested and assessed in the scope of a comprehensive approval and licensing procedure. Pesticides are approved and licensed for distribution and use only after it has been thoroughly established that they don't cause any harmful effects on humans, animals, and the environment.
- Emission control measures and limit values for air pollution control, water protection, waste management, and treatment of environmentally hazardous substances.
- Ban on the use sludge as fertilizer
- Ban on environmentally hazardous substances in products for public use

42. Have binding technical regulations been issued to provide for checks, carry out research programmes, and engage in educational work for the purpose of avoiding soil contamination when using dangerous substances?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.

See answer to question 41.

- Guidelines on processing polluted discharge in water
- Product market surveillance
- The „Pesticide Alternatives for Weed Control“ information campaign etc.
- For enforcement aids, see answer to question 30.
- The ChloroNet network

43. Has the use of gritting salt been permitted for slippage-preventing purposes after the Soil Conservation Protocol entered into force?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is "Yes", are there plans to replace it with less contaminating materials such as gravel and sand?

Yes		No	x
Please provide details.			
A slight rise has been observed in the trend of using gritting salt in spite of the application of upgraded variable rate technologies (VRT) and large annual fluctuations. Binding regulations for the use of thawing agents and de-icing products are featured in Annex 2.7 of the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem).			

#### **Art. 17 Soil Conservation Protocol - Contaminated Soils, Environmental Liabilities, Waste Management Concepts**

44. Are there any known case of existing environmental liabilities and suspicious landfills?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, have they been surveyed and documented in an environmental liabilities register?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answers is “Yes”, which authorities/institutions store and manage the environmental liabilities registers?			
Cantonal and federal offices. All locations, which are either considered as environmental liabilities or are exposed to them, are listed and categorized in public environmental liabilities registers. Approximately two-thirds of studies concerned with the state of affairs have been completed until recently (Target: completion of all ongoing studies until 2025).			

45. If cases of environmental liabilities and suspicious landfills exist, has the condition of such areas been analysed and has the hazard potential thereof been assessed using methods, comparable to methods applied by other contracting parties?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list the methods and States, which use comparable approaches.			
Risk-based assessment, comparable to the methodological approaches applied by Germany and Austria.			

46. Have waste management concepts been drawn up and implemented for the purpose of avoiding soil contamination and to ensure the environmentally compatible pretreatment, treatment, and disposal of waste and residual materials?			
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Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list and outline the concept(s).			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 4 of the Ordinance on the Avoidance and the Disposal of Waste (ADWO): “The cantons shall each draw up a waste management plan for their territory. It shall include in particular: a. measures to avoid waste; b. measures to recover waste; c. the number of facilities required to dispose of municipal waste and other types of waste that the cantons are responsible for disposing of; d. the landfill volume required and the locations of landfills (landfill plan); e. the required catchment areas. Landfill plans have to be adapted every five (5) years. The strategies and objectives of the concepts; with reference to measures and environmentally compatible treatment; are principally implemented and enforced by the cantons. In this regard, the cantons must uphold federal law.</li> <li>Compulsory registration of waste, intended to be used as fertilizer</li> <li>Sludge ban (2003)</li> <li>Quality standards for compost</li> </ul>			

47. Have permanent monitoring areas been established in the Alpine region and have they been integrated in an Alpine-wide soil monitoring network?			
Yes	x	No	

48. Are national soil monitoring programmes coordinated with the environmental monitoring programmes for air, water, flora, and fauna?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
Yes, through research and studies. Certain topics require specifically adapted measurement networks, which are scheduled to be included in the next phase of the National Soil Monitoring Network (NABO).			

#### **Art. 18 Soil Conservation Protocol – Further measures**

49. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

- Enforcement aids and technical standards for soil-conserving construction
- Training of pedological site supporters
- Fact sheets concerning special use of soil (e.g. archaeology; golf courses; major events in the rural area).

### Difficulties in implementing the Soil Conservation Protocol

50. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Soil Conservation Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?

Yes		No	x
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

The Soil Conservation Protocol has not been ratified by Switzerland.

### Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures

51. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!

- The content of the Soil Soil Conservation Protocol is sufficiently and appropriately covered by the Swiss legislation for many of the relevant areas and fields. The implementation of the Protocol’s content is ongoing at the cantonal level. However, shortage of staff and financial constraints hinder progress in this regard. Furthermore, soil protection is not privy to the same amount of public support as, for example, the protection of waters or nature.
- Additional challenges arise when it comes to facilitating decreased land use and limiting inputs of harmful substances. Still, measures such as pedological site support, various prohibitions on harmful substances, and site remediation have turned out to be a success.

Additional comments:

Switzerland does not have an Alpine-specific soil protection concept. The federal and cantonal legislation for the field of soil protection does not particularly distinguish between mountain regions and lowlands. However, different priorities are set for Alpine cantons.

## ***C. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation (Adopted on 20 December 1994)***

### **Art. 3 Nature Protection Protocol - International cooperation**

1. In which of the following fields is international cooperation between the relevant competent institutions supported and promoted? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Mapping	
Designation, maintenance, and monitoring of protected areas and other natural and cultural landscape elements, worthy of protection	x
Connectivity of biotopes	x
Establishment of landscape planning concepts and programs/schemes	
Prevention/balancing impairments undermining nature and landscape	
Systematic monitoring of nature and landscape	
Research	
Establishing comparable criteria and compatible measures for the protection of wildlife and plants as well as for the preservation of their diversity and habitats.	x

2. Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).	
Bilateral agreement	
Multilateral agreement	x
Financial support	
Education/training	
Joint projects	x
Other	x
If you checked “Yes” under “Other”, please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.	
Professional exchange, exchanges of experiences	

Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological connectivity is a key topic in this field: International cooperation in research and recognition of ecologically valuable areas (e.g. the AlpBioNet2030 Interreg project) and the linking thereof beyond administrative borders.</li> <li>• Close and constructive cooperation is also taking place in various fields at the top international treaties level (Emerald Network areas). The same applies for professional bilateral contacts between institutions and authorities.</li> <li>• At intermediary levels, the territoriality principle plays the main role with regard to Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation. However, exceptions apply in cases of potential direct cross-border project implementations (e.g. as in the case of the rejected establishment of the cross-border national park Locarnese).</li> </ul>

3. Have transboundary protected areas (TBPA) been established?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schaffhausen Regional Nature Park (SH and Germany); established in 2018.</li> <li>• The cross-border “Parco Nazionale Locarnese” national park project was filed and discussed, until it was finally rejected via public vote in 2018.</li> </ul> <p><u>Note:</u> Two new formal bases have been established for this kind of cooperation. The Federal Council had signed an international treaty with the Italian government as part of the preparation for the “Parco Nazionale Locarnese” national park project in February 2018. Furthermore, the Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (ParkO) (ParkO) had been amended for this purpose. As of 1 April 2018, the following addendum applies for National Parks (Art. 16, Lit. 3<sup>bis</sup>): “Part of the core zone may lie in a neighbouring foreign country provided half of the minimum area is located in Switzerland and the other requirements of this Article for the core zone are met.”</p>			

4. Does your State coordinate the framework conditions for adopting limitations to the uses for the purposes of this Protocol’s objectives with other contracting parties?					
Yes		No	x	Not relevant	
Please provide details.					

## Art. 6 Nature Protection Protocol - Inventories

**Note: Providing an answer to the following question is mandatory only if the relevant Protocol has been in effect in your State for more than three (3) years.**

5. Has the situation concerning conserving nature and the landscape been reported with regard to the in relation to the matters listed in Annex I of this Protocol? Name the inventory as well as the respective dates of its first compilation and its last revision		
Materials inventoried according to Annex I	Inventory	Date of compilation/last revision
“1. Condition of the wild plant and animal species and their biotopes”		2010
“2. Protected areas (area sizes, percentage of the total territory, protective aim, protective functions, uses, structure of uses, ownership conditions)”		Priority list of species and habitats (2019)
“3. Organising nature protection and landscape conservation (structure, remits/actions, staff, and financial resources)”		
“4. Legal bases (for the respective levels of authority)”		
“5. Actions for nature conservation (general overview)”		
“6. Education and public information (institutions/voluntary work)”		
“7. Conclusions, recommendations for measures”		

## Art. 7 Nature Protection Protocol - Landscape planning

**Note: Providing answers to the following questions concerning Art. 7 is mandatory only if the relevant Protocol has been in effect in your State for more than five (5) years.**

6. Have models, programmes and/or plans, which outline the requirements and measures for achieving the objectives of nature protection and landscape conservation in the Alpine territory, been established?			
Yes	x	No	
Please provide details.			
The are no laws in Switzerland that would allow for the Alpine region to be treated separately in terms of Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation. However, certain objects can be specified for the Alpine space (or parts thereof) provided that they have been generally regionalized.			

7. Should models, programmes and/or plans be in the preparation stage, is the completed version or are the completed versions respectively scheduled to feature the following elements?	
a) Presentation of the current situation of nature and landscape and its evaluation	x
b) Presentation of the condition of nature and landscape being aimed for, as well as the measures necessary for its achievement, specifically:	x
- general measures for protection, management, and development,	x
- measures for protecting, managing, and developing certain parts of nature and landscape, and	x (only general)
- measures for protecting and managing wildlife and plants.	x

## Art. 8 Nature Protection Protocol - Planning

8. Are spatial planning and landscape planning endeavours coordinated?	
Yes, to a significant extent	x
Yes, to a small significant extent	
No	
Briefly describe the situation.	
Landscape is recognized as a spatial planning element. As such, it explicitly mentioned in spatial planning principles and objectives. The implementation of the Protocol's content is ongoing in various forms as well as with different degree of effectiveness at the cantonal level.	



## Art. 9 Nature Protection Protocol – Actions on nature and landscape

9. Are prerequisites in place for assessing the direct and indirect effects on the natural balance and the landscape structure in cases of potential measures and projects – whether private or public – that could significantly and lastingly undermine nature and landscape?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, what kind(s) of projects have to be subject to assessments?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental impact assessment (UVP) in accordance with Art. 9 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).</li> <li>• All projects subject to approval must be in accordance with the entire federal legislation. A competent granting authority at the appropriate state administration level shall conduct assessments and evaluations of measures and projects.</li> </ul>			

10. Are the results of assessments of (public or private) measures and projects that could significantly and lastingly undermine nature and landscape considered when authorising and/or constructing such projects?			
Yes	x	No	

11. Are the results of assessments of such (public or private) measures and projects considered in order to assure that any avoidable impairment does not occur?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. List the relevant laws and regulations.			
The legislation regulates the protective effect of the individual regulations (prohibition, possible exceptions; balancing of interests; degree of discretion through criteria, etc.)			

12. Does the relevant national legislation foresee mandatory nature protection and landscape conservation measures for offsetting unavoidable impairments?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples. List the relevant laws and regulations.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For biotopes of national importance, provided that impairments are permissible due to the need for changes, replacements, or adaptations (Art. 18a of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) and relevant implementing ordinances).</li> </ul>			

- For protected habitats and habitats, worthy of protection (Art. 18, par 1bis and 1ter of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA)).
- For objects listed in federal inventories of sites of national importance (Art. 5 ff NHCA), particularly objects, documented in the Federal Inventory of Landscapes, Natural Sites, and Monuments of National Importance (BLN) and objects, documented in the Federal Inventory of Swiss Heritage Sites (ISOS) according to Art. 6, par. 1 NHCA.

13. Are impairments that cannot be compensated allowed?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please explain under what circumstances. List the relevant laws and regulations.

- Impairments of habitats of national importance are excluded (see Answer a. to Question 12). In other cases, assessments and evaluations are conducted based on the interests of the parties concerned. However, no regulations nor examples of legal practice exist regarding the question of granting permissions for impairments that cannot be compensated. For cases regarding Answer c. to Question 12, very high demands are imposed on utilization interests of national importance that must be fulfilled on order for any kind of action to be permitted.
- Compensations are not prescribed by law. However, they must be deemed “appropriate” and can be issued in a form different from an irreversibly impaired value.

#### Art. 10 Nature Protection Protocol - Basic protection

14. Are measures for reducing the environmental impact and impairments undermining nature and landscape in place?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Art. 2 and 3 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA).

15. How are the interests of the indigenous population taken into account in measures for reducing the environmental impact and impairments undermining nature and landscape?

Based on the weighing of interests, the discretionary power of the competent authorities, and the division of tasks between the Federal Government and the Canton(s) (and further between region(s) and municipality/municipalities).

16. Are measures for preserving and, to the extent necessary, restoring special structural, natural and near-natural elements of the landscapes, biotopes, ecosystems, and traditional rural landscapes in place?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Examples:

- Art. 18 par. 1 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHG)
- Financial support for appropriate projects
- Art. 4 of the Water Engineering Act

17. Are appropriate agreements with the owners or managers of land – used either for agriculture or forestry – in place for the purpose of nature and landscape conservation and for protecting, preserving, and managing near-natural biotopes worthy of protection?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

- Art. 18 par. 1 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA)
- Establishment of natural forest reserves in accordance with the Forest Act
- Ecological direct payments in accordance with the Federal Act on Agriculture

18. Are there control instruments, borrowed from the market economy, in place such as incentives and financial compensation in order to facilitate correct and appropriate agricultural and forestry exploitation of land?

- Subsidies in accordance with Art. 38 of the Forest Act
- Agricultural direct payments

19. Are incentives and measures for supporting the agriculture and forestry (as well as other types of appropriate exploitation of the territory) applied to achieve the objectives of this Protocol?

Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Agriculture-specific legislation, for example additional contributions to direct payments for the quality of ecological compensation areas and the connecting thereof.			

#### Art. 11 Nature Protection Protocol - Protected areas

20. Which of the following measures have been adopted during the course of the reporting period? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Existing protected areas were preserved and maintained according to their status	x
New protected areas were established	x
Existing protected area were extended	x
Should the situation remained unchanged, please list the most current details (name of the protected area; national “protection status” category or IUCN category; the EU Flora-Fauna-Habitat Directive or the EU Conservation of Wild Birds Directive; geographic location; size, zoning; date of establishment/extension).	
15 new Regional Nature Parks (Name, Area, Municipalities, Population, Establishment), compatible with IUCN categories V / VI.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNESCO Biosphere Entlebuch LU; 394 km<sup>2</sup>; 7; 17,800; 2008</li> <li>- Regional Nature Park Thal SO; 139 km<sup>2</sup>; 9; 14,800; 2010</li> <li>- Biosphere Val Müstair GR; 199 km<sup>2</sup>; 1; 1,500; 2011</li> <li>- Binntal Landscape Park VS; 181 km<sup>2</sup>; 5; 1,200; 2012</li> <li>- Chasseral Regional Park BE/NE; 388 km<sup>2</sup>; 21; 38,600; 2012</li> <li>- Diemtigtal Nature Park BE; 136 km<sup>2</sup>; 2; 2,300; 2012</li> <li>- Ela Nature Park GR; 548 km<sup>2</sup>; 6; 5,300; 2012</li> <li>- Gantrisch Nature Park BE/FR; 404 km<sup>2</sup>; 22; 37,100; 2012</li> <li>- Regional Park Gruyère Pays-d’Enhaut FR/VD; 503 km<sup>2</sup>; 13; 14,400; 2012</li> <li>- Jurapark Aargau AG/SO; 241 km<sup>2</sup>; 28; 41,200; 2012</li> <li>- Beverin Nature Park GR; 412 km<sup>2</sup>; 11; 3,100; 2013</li> <li>- Doubs Nature Park JU/NE/BE; 294 km<sup>2</sup>; 16; 14,300; 2013</li> <li>- Jura Vaudois Nature Park VD; 531 km<sup>2</sup>; 30; 34,800; 2013</li> </ul>	

- Pfyn-Finges Nature Park VS; 277 km<sup>2</sup>; 12; 11,200; 2013
- Schaffhausen Regional Nature Park SH and Germany; 209 km<sup>2</sup>; 15; 20,100; 2018

Source (in German):

[https://www.parks.swiss/ressourcen/pdf\\_dokumente/05\\_ueber\\_das\\_netzwerk/publikationen/de/2019/2019\\_panorama\\_de\\_web.pdf](https://www.parks.swiss/ressourcen/pdf_dokumente/05_ueber_das_netzwerk/publikationen/de/2019/2019_panorama_de_web.pdf)

- 37 Emerald Network areas (As of 2014)

21. What measures have been taken in order to avoid the impairment and destruction of protected Alpine areas (within your State or in the territory of any of the other contracting parties)?

No specific measures. Alpine areas are protected based on relevant laws and regulations.

22. Have the endeavours of establishing and managing national parks received support?

Yes, to a significant extent

Yes, to a small significant extent

x

No

Please provide details.

Revision of the Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (ParkO) and revision of Paragraph 3b of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHG). "Parks of National Importance".

23. Have preservation zones and quiet areas for wildlife and plants been established where wildlife and plants are prioritized over other interests?

Yes

x

No

Please provide details.

Preservation zones and quiet areas can be established either by the federal government, the cantons, or by municipalities.

There Swiss Alps are home to 42 federal hunting reserves; several nationally protected biotopes (meadows, moors, bogs, and fends), Ramsar sites, and Emerald Network areas; forest reserves and nature parks (see answer to question 20); the Swiss National Park; as well as a vast number of cantonal protected areas and quiet zones. The protection of wildlife and plants is prioritized in all of the areas listed.

24. Have compensation terms for special services provided by the local population in compliance with national law been reviewed properly?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, what was the outcome of the review and have any measures had to be taken as a consequence?			
Art. 18c par. 2 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA): Regular reviews of compensation terms either concern special services, with regard to which compensation constitutes a contractual obligation or special services, which must be compensated because they were provided “per special request”. Other cases are not known.			

### Art. 12 Nature Protection Protocol - Ecological network

25. Have measures been taken for creating a national network of protected areas, biotopes, and other environmental assets, either protected or acknowledged as worthy of protection?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Establishment of a national ecological network (REN) as a foundation and its conceptual consolidation with the Pan-European ecological network Réseau écologique paneuropéen (REP). The implementation proceeds based on existing instruments (spatial planning instruments; designation of protected areas; ecological compensation schemes for agriculture and forestry; networking concepts).			

26. Have measures been taken for creating a cross-border network of protected areas, biotopes, and other environmental assets, either protected or acknowledged as worthy of protection?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Adaptation (amendment) of the Ordinance on Parks of National Importance (ParkO) (in force as of 1 April 2018) regarding the establishment of transboundary protected areas (TBPA). For additional insight, see answer to question 25.			

27. Have proper steps been taken in order to harmonize objectives and measures for cross-border protected areas?			
Yes	x	No	

If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Bilateral discussions/exchange	x
Multilateral discussions/exchange	
Project-related harmonization of objectives and measures	x
Other	
Please provide details.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International treaty with Italy regarding the unrealised “Parco Nazionale Locarnese” national park project.</li> <li>• The AlpBioNet2030 Interreg project: Researching the potential for establishing cross-border networks of protected areas.</li> </ul>	

### Art. 13 Nature Protection Protocol – Protection of types of biotopes

28. Have measures, necessary to ensure the lasting preservation of natural or near-natural biotopes of a sufficient size and with territorial distribution in accordance with their functions been adopted?			
Yes	x	No	
Please provide details.			
Art. 18a of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA) – Sites of national importance (raised bogs and fens, meadows, dry meadows, and pastures) and related implementation ordinances; general fall-back provision of Art. 18 Abs., par. 1bis NHCA.			

29. Are campaigns for re-naturalising impaired habitats being promoted?			
Yes	x	No	
Please provide details.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 18a of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA): Development of sites of national importance – generally in the scope of of cantonal development projects and ecological compensation schemes (Art. 18b and 18c NHCA).</li> <li>• Also in the scope of several Interreg-projects.</li> </ul>			

**Note: Providing an answer to the following question is mandatory only if the relevant Protocol has been in effect in your State for more than two (2) years.**

30. Have types of biotopes (of sufficient sizes and with territorial distribution in accordance with their functions), which require measures necessary to ensure the lasting preservation of their natural or near-natural character been named (indicated) for the purpose of preparing valid common lists of biotope types for the entire Alpine territory?			
Yes*		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, when were the types of biotopes named?			
The name of the habitats that require special protection as set in Art 18. Par 1bis of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NHCA) and in Art. 14 par. 3 of the Ordinance on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHO) applies for the entire country and features mountain-specific habitats as well. Types of biotopes are determined based on particular indicators and partially based on qualified decisions made by cantons (Art. 14 par. 4 NCHO). The list is part of Annex I of the Ordinance on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHO).			

\*The list of the indicated biotope types is to be attached.

#### **Art. 14 Nature Protection Protocol - Protection of the species**

31. Have measures, appropriate for preserving the indigenous animal and plant species, with their specific diversity and in sufficient populations (with particular focus on ensuring that they have sufficiently large habitats) been pursued?			
Yes	x	No	
Please provide details.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection and establishment of protected areas</li> <li>• Protection by law and legal provisions on the use of species: Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA); provisions related to waterfowl and migratory birds; provisions related to moors, bogs, and fens; provisions related to meadows; Ordinance on the Protection of Amphibian Spawning Sites of National Importance (AlgV); Ordinance on the Protection of Species (Aschv).</li> </ul>			

**Note: Providing an answer to the following question is mandatory only if the relevant Protocol has been in effect in your State for more than two (2) years.**

32. Have species that require special protection measures (due to being specifically threatened) been indicated for the purpose of preparing valid lists for the entire Alpine territory?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, when did this occur?			



### Art. 15 Nature Protection Protocol – Prohibition on removal or trading

33. Are laws and regulations in place that prohibit the following?	Yes	No
The capture, possession, injuring, and killing of certain animal species, and disturbing them particularly during their periods of reproduction, growth, and wintering	X	
Destruction, removal, or collecting of eggs coming from nature	X	
Possession, offering, purchase, or sale of specimens of certain animal species, or parts of them, taken from nature	X	
Gathering, collecting, cutting, disinterring, or uprooting of certain plants or parts thereof from their natural position	X	
Possession, offering, purchase, or sale of specimens of certain plants, or parts thereof, taken from nature	X	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples. Please list the relevant laws and regulations.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 19 and 20 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA);</li> <li>• Art. 2, 9, and 17 of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Hunting Act, JSG)</li> <li>• Protected wildlife and plants are highlighted explicitly in various ordinance (e.g. annexes of the Ordinance on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHO)).</li> <li>• Federal Act on the Trade in Protected Animal and Plant Species (BGCITES): Legal framework for monitoring and control for the purpose of preventing the trade in protected animals and plant species.</li> </ul>		

**Note: Providing an answer to the following question is mandatory only if the relevant Protocol has been in effect in your State for more than two (2) years.**

34. Have specific species of animals and plants been assigned protective measures in accordance with Art. 15 par. 1 and Art. 15 par. 2 of the Nature Protection Protocol?			
Yes*	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, when did this occur?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relevant list of wildlife and plant species as well as types of landscape is featured in annexes 2, 3, and 4 to the Ordinance on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>			

(NCHO).

- Art. 2 and 9 of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Hunting Act, JSG): Authorisation requirements (Art. 9, JSG)
- Enforcement aid of the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) referred to as the “Red List” of endangered wildlife and animal species in Switzerland. The document features 18 editions to various classes and categories.

\* The list of the indicated animal and plant species is to be attached.

35. Have bans on extraction and trade of protected wildlife and plant species been imposed in accordance with Art. 15 of the Nature Protection Protocol and do they contain potential exceptions?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Art. 22 par. 1 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA)

36. Have the terms “period of reproduction”; “period of growth”; and “period of wintering” listed in Art. 15 par. 1 Nature Protection Protocol been defined accordingly?

Yes		No	X
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. Please state the definitions.

37. Have additional terms, which could potentially lead to problems with scientific interpretations, been elaborated?

Yes		No	X
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain what terms have been defined additionally and how?

#### **Art. 16 Nature Protection Protocol – Reintroduction of indigenous species**

38. Does your State promote the reintroducing and distribution of wild, indigenous animal and plant species and also subspecies, breeds, and ecotypes in accordance with the prerequisites of Art. 16 par. 1 of the Nature Protection Protocol?

Yes	x	No	
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Please provide details.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Switzerland focuses on two important instruments for protecting and promoting animals and plants according to Art. 18 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA): the Species Promotion Concept ("Konzept Artenförderung Schweiz") and the List of National Priority Species. The Swiss Species Promotion Concept was devised by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) in 2012. It represents the foundation for the implementation Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in the field of preserving indigenous wild (national priority) species. The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) organizes the implementation of measures with individual partners in the scope of its competences. The FOEN further supports cantonal measures and measures of third parties concerned with programmatic connections to the fields nature and landscape protection, forest biodiversity, and water with federal funding.</li> <li>Various programmes for reintroducing species (the lynx, the bearded vulture, the ibex, the osprey) as well as project concerning plants and seeds. There are no projects for settling bears in Switzerland. However, a management concept for the presence of bears is in place.</li> </ul>	

39. Has scientific knowledge been applied for reintroducing and distributing such species?			
Yes	X	No	
Please provide details.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview at <a href="http://www.kora.ch">www.kora.ch</a></li> <li>Ibex: Research on the genetic variability of the Swiss colonies.</li> <li>Generally, all developments are monitored.</li> </ul>			

40. Has the development of reintroduced animal and plant species been controlled and, if required, regulated?					
Yes	x	No		Not applicable	

#### Art. 17 Nature Protection Protocol - Prohibition on introducing species

41. Have national laws and regulations been adopted in order to assure that no wild animal or plant species are introduced into a region that were not previously present naturally for a verifiable historic period?			
Yes	X	No	

If the answer is “Yes”, do these provisions include exceptions?					
Yes	x	No		Not applicable	
Please list the existing laws and regulations, relevant for this field and the provisions that include exceptions.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 23 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA): Authorisation requirements</li> <li>• Art. 8 of the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Free-living Mammals and Birds (JSV): Ban on introducing non-indigenous animal species</li> </ul>					

### Art. 18 Nature Protection Protocol – Release of Genetically Modified Organisms

42. Are laws and regulations in place to ensure that genetically modified organisms are only released into the environment when, on the basis of a formal evaluation, such release would not lead to any risk for man and the environment?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples. If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant provisions and state their content.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food, produced from or containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) must be approved and labelled accordingly.</li> <li>• The cultivation of GMOs and their use as seeds, pesticides, or fertilizer is banned in Switzerland. However, GMOs are currently still allowed to be used as animal fodder.</li> <li>• The following provisions govern their (non-)use: Ordinance on the Handling of Organisms in the Environment (RO, SR 814.911) and the Federal Act on Non-Human Gene Technology (GTA, SR 814.91) – particularly articles 6 to 9 (material requirements), 11 and 12 (formal requirements), and 16 and 17 (special provisions regarding product flow segregation and labelling respectively).</li> </ul>			

### Art. 19 Nature Protection Protocol – Further Measures

43. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

### Difficulties in implementing the Nature Protection Protocol

44. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Nature Protection Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
No applicable data or information in this regard as the Nature Protection Protocol has not been ratified by Switzerland.			

### Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures

45. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific data are available for the Alpine region. Biodiversity Monitoring (BDM) allows certain Alpine-specific statements regarding selected indicators. Additionally, success checks and performance reviews of biotope inventories are regularly conducted in the Alpine space. Monitoring and performance reviews make it possible to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of measures within the systemic boundaries of the implemented programmes. Certain programmes have been taking place within highly detailed scopes for over two decades.</li> <li>It can generally be stated that the statutory measures are effective. However, common implementation problems cannot be ruled out completely. The increasing degree of intensity of the utilization of space and the conflicts connected thereto quite negatively affect the progress of the diversity of species, habitats, and landscapes throughout the Alpine space.</li> </ul>

Additional comments:

### ***D. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Mountain Farming (Adopted on 20 December 1994)***

#### **Art. 4 Mountain Farming Protocol – Role of farmers**

1. Is the essential role played by farmers in conservation of nature and the countryside, today and tomorrow, by virtue of their multiple functions, recognised?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
Constitutional obligation according to Art. 104 par. 3 of the Federal Constitution (BV):			

“The Confederation shall organise measures in such a manner that the agricultural sector fulfils its multi-functional duties.” Thus, the government recognizes the contributions of farmers as individual providers of services as well as their role as providers of community services by supporting them with public funding.

2. Are farmers included in the processes of making decisions and adopting measures for mountain regions?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.

Professional farmers’ associations and agricultural trade associations are regularly consulted on pending statutory decisions (adoptions and amendments of acts and implementation ordinances) and thus included in the decision-making process. Also see Art. 147 of the Federal Constitution (BV) – Consultation procedure: “The Cantons, the political parties and interested groups shall be invited to express their views when preparing important legislation or other projects of substantial impact as well as in relation to significant international treaties.”

## Art. 6 Mountain Farming Protocol - International cooperation

3. Which of the following activities are conducted in the scope of international cooperation in the field of mountain farming? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)

Joint evaluations of the development of agricultural policy	x
Reciprocal consultation before adopting any major decision on agricultural policy, for the purposes of implementation of this Protocol	
Implementation of the objectives and measures laid down by this Protocol by means of cross-border cooperation between all the competent authorities, particularly regional administrations and local authorities	x
Encouraging international cooperation between research and training institutes	x
Encouraging international cooperation between agricultural and environmental organisations	
Encouraging joint initiatives	x
Encouraging international cooperation between the media	
Encouraging exchanges of knowledge and experience	

4. Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).	
Bilateral agreement	X
Multilateral agreement	
Financial support	X
Education/training	X
Joint projects	X
Other	X
If you checked under "Other", please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conferences, seminars, symposiums, forums etc., organised and hosted by agricultural schools, agricultural counselling services, vocational colleges, university institutes, as well as professional and trade associations.</li> <li>Many events are organized as part of various Interreg projects.</li> </ul>	
Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects and exchanges: Focused on the interests of participants, who are dealing with very specific questions and topics.</li> </ul>	

#### **Art. 7 Mountain Farming Protocol – Encouragement of mountain farming**

5. Which of the following measures for encouraging mountain farming listed below have been implemented? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	Yes	No
Differentiated agricultural policy measures at all levels, in accordance with the different local conditions	X	
Encouraging mountain farming by taking local natural handicaps into account	X	
Providing special support to farms, ensuring a minimum of agricultural activity in extreme locations	X	
Providing appropriate compensation (remuneration) for contributions, which mountain farming makes to the conservation and maintenance of nature and the countryside and to the prevention of natural risks in the general interest and in the framework of contractual agreements linked to identified projects and services going beyond the general obligations.	X	
Please provide additional information, if several of the above-mentioned measures have been implemented by your State.		

### Principle:

The Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW) maintains a detailed register of agricultural production (Agricultural Production Cadastre) in accordance with Article 4 of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA). The difficult production and living conditions in mountain and hill regions are thus given due consideration. The Agricultural Production Cadastre divides farmland (alps, mountain areas, and valleys) into zones. Mountain areas and valleys respectively are divided into four (4) zones.

### Measures for encouraging mountain farming include:

- Direct payments
- Structural improvements (incl. complementary social measures)
- Production and sales

### Direct payments (for mountain and hill areas exclusively):

- Art. 74 of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Subsidies for livestock farming under less favourable production conditions.
- Art. 75 of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Steep-slope farming subsidies, general subsidies, and subsidies for vine cultivation on steep and terraced slopes.
- Art. 77 of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Summer alp grazing subsidies.

### Structural improvements:

- Art. 87 par. 2 of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Improvement of living and economic conditions in mountain regions for individual and collective agricultural endeavours.
- Art. 93ff of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Subsidies (à-fonds-perdu) with contributions by the cantons (financial strength). Higher subsidy rates apply for mountain areas.
- Art. 105ff of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Investment loans without interest. Special regulations apply for mountain and hill areas with less favourable conditions for farming or a lower population density.

### Production and sales:

- Art. 14 par. 1 Bst c of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): Labelling: Requirements for the labelling of agricultural products coming from mountain areas.



## Art. 8 Mountain Farming Protocol - Land use and countryside

6. Are the specific conditions in mountain areas taken into account in the context of spatial planning, zoning, reorganising, and improving land use and are the related activities conducted in coherence with the principle of respecting nature and the countryside?			
Yes	x	No	
Please provide details.			
<p><u>Spatial Planning</u>: The cantons are responsible for the organization of their respective territories. They are required to draw up cantonal structure plans, which have to feature principle guidelines for the spatial development of the territory under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, cantons have to identify areas that are most suitable for farming as well as areas that are beautiful, valuable, appropriate for leisure, and suitable to be natural bases of livelihood, but are also threatened by natural hazards or other kinds of potentially harmful effects. Structure plans are legally binding. They are revised every 10 years and must be approved by the Federal Council, which determines the framework conditions (concepts and sectoral plans; e.g. The Crop Rotation Plan (FFF)).</p> <p><u>Zoning</u>: Implemented and enforced by the cantons in the scope of spatial planning. Cantons are required to draw up structure plans and determine all forms of permissible use of land therein. Structure plans distinguish between three kinds of zones: building zones, agricultural zones, and protection zones.</p> <p><u>Reorganising and improving land use</u>: Art. 87 par. 1 Bst d of the Federal Act on Agriculture (LwG): Structural improvements must contribute to the fulfilment of ecological and spatial planning objectives. Extensive interventions (comprehensive meliorations) must serve the purpose of protection. Special ecological services are subsidized (rewarded) with ecological direct payments.</p>			

7. Is land necessary for farming, which suits local conditions and is environmentally compatible designated and made available in order for mountain farming to fulfil its multiple tasks?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please list the criteria for designating land, appropriate for mountain farming?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 3 par. 2 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA): Main principle of the Spatial Planning Act: To preserve the landscape. The main priority is to preserve enough land, suitable for farming.</li> <li>• The Crop Rotation Plan (in accordance with Art. 3 and Art. 15 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA)): The amended act and the revised ordinance with stricter criteria for applying the Crop Rotation Plan (Art. 30) have been in force since 1 May 2014. The minimum ar-</li> </ul>			

ea of arable land, designated for crop rotation for the entire State of Switzerland is set at 438.460 ha. The total area was divided among cantons based on territory size and the quality of farmland soil. The cantons are responsible for upholding the above mentioned standard.

- Cantonal structure plans: Agricultural land is exempt from spatial planning (see answer to question 6).

8. Is the conservation, restoration, and use of the traditional components of the countryside (woodland, wooded boundaries, hedges, thickets, wet, dry or low-yield pasture and Alpine pastures) ensured?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

Principle:

Recipients of direct payments must designate at least 7% of their cropland as a ecological compensation area (as required by the Proof of Ecological Performance (ÖLN) standard).

Ecological compensation areas that contain traditional components of the countryside are awarded special support within the scope of the ecological direct payments scheme. Establishing connectivity between such areas for quality improvement purposes is promoted as well. The protection of dry meadows and pastures is facilitated mainly through management contracts in accordance with the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA). As a rule, the valuable mown areas are also registered as ecological compensation areas in accordance with the Direct Payment Ordinance (DZV). Such coordination of payments by the agricultural and nature protection sector respectively guarantees financial compensation for at times very costly extensive farming endeavours.

Improvement of land use:

Payments are granted for measures for nature and landscape enhancement (appreciation) or measures, directed towards fulfilling the provisions of environmental law (ecological compensation funding; subsidies for the construction/replacement of dry walls; financial support for the revitalization of bodies of water or for promoting the establishment of biotope networks). Soil improvements based on special ecological measures can lead to an increase in payments (bonus).

9. Are special measures taken for the conservation of traditional farm buildings and rural architecture and for further use of traditional building materials and methods?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landmark protection: Financial and technical support, provided that the structures/installations concerned must be conserved according to cantonal landmark protection provisions and that they are listed in a relevant inventory. Regulations for this field differ from canton to canton. In general, financial support is only granted for value-preserving interventions. The amount of subsidies for landmark conservation depends on the nature of a particular measure (funding can be granted for up to 100 percent of the costs).</li> </ul> <p>Sustainable conservation of sites is governed by a number of laws and regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art. 3 par. 2 of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) The landscape must be preserved. Settlements, buildings, and installations must be embedded into it carefully.</li> <li>Art. 1 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) – Aim: Heritage landscapes and sites of local character, historical sites, and the country’s natural and cultural monuments shall be carefully managed and protected, and their preservation and upkeep shall be promoted. The following inventories determine the protection of landscapes and sites: The Federal Inventory of Landscapes, Natural Sites, and Monuments of National Importance (VBLN) and the Federal Inventory of Swiss Heritage Sites (ISOS).</li> <li>Cantonal Planning and Building Acts (PBG): Cantonal PBGs contain so-called “general clauses on aesthetics”. These clauses either introduce bans on defacement and impairment or refer to integration requirements.</li> <li>Cantonal legislation for the protection of land and structures of national (cantonal) significance. These acts also contain provisions on the protection of local and national landscapes.</li> <li>Local Building and Zoning Regulations: Most building and zoning regulations of Swiss municipalities contain either general or concrete clauses on aesthetics.</li> </ul>			

**Art. 9 Mountain Farming Protocol – Nature-friendly farming methods — Typical produce**

10. Have necessary measures been adopted to promote employment and wider use of nature-friendly extensive farming methods in mountain areas characteristic of the area, and to protect and promote typical farm produce, farmed with distinctive, unique, nature-friendly production
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methods limited to the locality?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list and describe the measures adopted.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural improvements &amp; direct payments: The Direct Payment Ordinance (as of November 2018) that stipulates subsidies agriculture, biodiversity, preservation of the quality of land and landscape, and production systems. Designations of origin are protected according to Art. 16 of the Federal Act on Agriculture. Regulations also exist for the labelling of special production methods.</li> <li>• Vocational and continuing education in the field of agriculture qualifies framers for sustainably producing ecological farming and trains them in land management methods that are likewise extensive and natural. Additional support is provided by agricultural counselling services, which offer individual counselling and courses to interested farmers.</li> <li>• Protection of typical farm produce: The register of protected designations of origin (PDO) and protected geographical indications (PGI) enables the protection of geographical names and traditional designations (names) of farm produce, the quality and main characteristics of which are determined by their geographical origin. If a designation (name) is protected, it may only be used by producers from an appropriately defined geographical area. Farmers of such produce must abide to a strict set of rules and obligations. Regulations pertinent to this field enable mutual recognition of quality products between Switzerland and the EU.</li> </ul>			

11. Have necessary measures been adopted based on common criteria (determined in collaboration with other contracting parties) to promote employment and wider use of nature-friendly extensive farming methods in mountain areas characteristic of the area, and to protect and promote typical farm produce, farmed with distinctive, unique, nature-friendly production methods limited to the locality?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list and describe the relevant criteria.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of protected designations of origin (PDO) and protected geographical indications (PGI).</li> <li>• Various initiatives (e.g. 100% Val Poschiavo, Pro Montagna, Pro Specie Rara)</li> </ul>			

**Art. 10 Mountain Farming Protocol - Livestock farming suited to local conditions and genetic diversity**

12. What measures have been taken in order to maintain livestock farming, including traditional domestic animal husbandry with its characteristic variety of species and typical produce in a manner suited to local conditions, suited to available land, and compatible with the environment?

- The Swiss Biodiversity Action Plan (as of 2017). Measures featured in the Biodiversity Action Plan directly promote biodiversity (through the establishment of ecological infrastructure and promotion of the diversity of species) and thus build a bridge between the federal biodiversity policy and other policies, relevant for fields such as agriculture, spatial planning, transport, and economic development. The process is congruent with the Rio Biodiversity Convention (Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.
- The Ordinance on the Promotion of Animal Keeping and Animal Breeding (TZV) stipulates general animal protection measures and contains special provisions for protecting and preserving indigenous Swiss breeds. Concrete suggestions and measures for preserving the diversity of breeds are outlined in the Swiss Concept for the Preservation of the Diversity of Livestock Breeds ("Konzept zur Erhaltung der Rassenvielfalt bei den landwirtschaftlichen Nutztieren").
- With approximately 90 registered breeds of cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, and goats, Switzerland prides itself with enormously diverse livestock. However, only 24 breeds are either indigenously Swiss or have been assimilated by having had been bred in Switzerland constantly for at least 50 years. The noted breeds have adapted to the topographical and environmental conditions perfectly and are tightly connected to the traditions of the country.

13. Are the necessary farming, pasture, and forestry facilities suitably maintained?

Yes	X	No	
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14. Is balance being kept between forage areas (pastures) and livestock in the context of suitable extensive grassland farming?

Yes	X	No	
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15. Have measures been adopted to maintain traditional livestock farming and the traditional diversity of livestock breeds and crops, particularly in the field of agricultural research and advisory services?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list and describe the measures adopted. Please also highlight potential results emanating from possible research and activities of advisory services.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW) is the main authority for devising regulations and licensing breeding companies and associations; for preserving the diversity of livestock breeds; for managing tariff quotas for imports of animals; for exporting breeding animals; and for setting criteria regarding annual grants and contributions.</li> <li>• Annual grants and contributions are awarded for animal breeding measures; performance tests and results of the assessments of the genetic value of the animals concerned; for projects focused on the preservation of the diversity of indigenous breeds; for the export of cattle, horses, sheep, and goats; as well as for sustainable exploitation of domestic sheep’s wool.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.blw.admin.ch/imperia/md/content/tierzucht/tz-bericht2003_d.pdf">http://www.blw.admin.ch/imperia/md/content/tierzucht/tz-bericht2003_d.pdf</a></p>			

#### Art. 11 Mountain Farming Protocol – Promotion and marketing

16. Have measures, necessary to create conditions conducive to the marketing of mountain farming products been adopted?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
See answer to question 10 - “Typical farm produce”			

17. Are activities for promoting and marketing mountain farming products conducted based on highlighting guarantees of origin and of quality, allowing the protection of producers and consumers alike?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples and list possible brand names as well as the dates of the registration (introduction) thereof.			
<p>A list of registered brands and pending registration applications (published in German) can be found under the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://www.blw.admin.ch/blw/de/home/instrumente/kennzeichnung/ursprungsbezeichnungen-und-geografische-angaben.html">https://www.blw.admin.ch/blw/de/home/instrumente/kennzeichnung/ursprungsbezeichnungen-und-geografische-angaben.html</a></p>			

## Art. 12 Mountain Farming Protocol – Limitation of production

18. Have requirements, specific for mountain areas and for farming, which suits local conditions and is environmentally compatible been taken into account in potential cases of limiting agricultural production?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art. 4 par. 1 of the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA): “Difficult production and living conditions, in particular in mountain and upland areas, must be adequately taken into account in the application of this Act.”</li><li>• When the milk quota was introduced for individual farms in 1980, alternatives to dairy products began to be subsidized in mountain areas. The instruments supporting this measure are additional quotas for alternatives and breeding agreements. Farmers were thus motivated to engage in animal breeding, particularly in areas, where the conditions were not beneficial for economically viable dairy production and products.</li></ul>			

## Art. 13 Mountain Farming Protocol - Complementary nature of farming and forestry

19. Is forestry, compatible with nature encouraged both as an additional source of revenue for farms as well as a sideline activity for farm workers?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<p>The federal government aspires to establish synergies between all potential kinds and forms of land-use requirements and give due consideration to the forest as an ecosystem at the same time. The government promotes forest conservation, forest use, wildlife, and endeavours for protection against natural hazards. The national and regional focal points for the preservation of biological diversity in forests are defined and recognized. The Biodiversity Policy is based on the following three tools: 1) Sustainable (“near-natural”) silviculture; 2) Targeted measures for preserving and promoting biological diversity; and 3) Facilitating natural development in natural forest reserves and other protected areas.</p>			

20. Are the protective, productive, and recreational as well as the environmental and biogenetic functions of forests considered in relation to farmland; are the specific local conditions taken into account; and are the listed functions compatible with the specific characteristics of the countryside?			
Yes	x	No	

If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The protective, productive, and recreational functions are determined by the Federal Act on Forest (Forest Act – ForA). Each of the functions is prioritized separately depending on a particular location and its specific forest-related demands. The federal government strives towards establishing a balance between the three functions.</li> <li>• The focus of the federal Forest Policy lies on stable protection forests and the preservation of the biological diversity.</li> </ul>			

21. Are grassland farming and the game population regulated for the purpose of avoiding any intolerable damage to forests and crops?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. List the relevant laws and regulations.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following kinds of land are not considered as pasturable: Forests (with the exception of traditional forest pastures, such as the so-called wooded pastures in the Swiss Jura or non-steep larch forests of the Inner-Alpine region that do not fulfil a protective function and are not vulnerable to erosion).</li> <li>• Grassland farming and summer alp grazing is governed by the Cantons. In case of ecological problems, special farming plans have to be drawn up aimed at securing sustainable farming and management of land.</li> <li>• Art. 27 par. 2 of the Federal Act on Forest (ForA): The cantons “...shall regulate wild animal populations in such a way that forest conservation, in particular natural regeneration with tree species suited to the location, is guaranteed without protective measures. Where this is not possible, they undertake measures to prevent damage caused by wild animals.”</li> </ul>			

#### Art. 14 Mountain Farming Protocol - Additional sources of income

22. Is the traditional importance of family farms in mountain farming recognised in order to support family farms as an economic activity, whether principal, secondary, or sideline, and are the creation and development of additional sources of income in mountain areas by abiding to the principle of preserving nature and the country side encouraged, particularly on the initiative and in favour of the local population itself, notably in sectors linked to agriculture, such as forestry, tourism and crafts?			
Yes	x	No	
Please provide details to and examples of such encouragement.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional and subsidiary earning possibilities are important for farming enterprises as they</li> </ul>			



represent an added value and enable them to secure their income. Loans should be granted for example for introducing a new agricultural business segment within a production niche or for introducing additional activities that are compatible with the main agriculture-specific endeavour (e.g. agrotourism, craft processing of local raw materials, opening a repair shop for agricultural machinery).

- Many agricultural schools and vocational colleges also provide special courses in supplementary skills and activities, compatible to farming, with which farmers could earn an additional income. Such special courses convey theoretical and practical content related to: forest and wood; craftsmanship and culture (tradition); construction and agricultural engineering; practical learning on a farm etc.

#### **Art. 15 Mountain Farming Protocol - Improvement of living and working conditions**

23. Which of the following measures have been adopted in order to encourage reinforcement and improvement of the quality of the services indispensable in order to overcome the unfavourable conditions faced by farm and forestry workers in mountain areas, and in order to link improvement of their living and working conditions to economic and social development in other fields and in other parts of the Alpine region?

Improvement of traffic connections	X
Construction and restructuring of housing and farm buildings	X
Purchase and maintenance of technical installations and equipment	X
Other	

Describe the measures adopted.

- Ordinance on Structural Improvements in Agriculture (SVV)
- Housing and farm buildings: Subsidies (à-fonds-perdu) and investment loans without interest are granted in accordance with the Federal Act on Agriculture (AgricA). Additional financial aids can also be accessed by non-farming families for the purpose of building residential dwellings (Swiss Federal Act on the Improvement of Living Conditions in Mountain Regions).
- Purchase, maintenance, and repair of technical installations and equipment: Investment loans for communal structures and facilities for processing, storing, and marketing local (regional) agricultural products as well as investment loans for the purchase of farming equipment and vehicles.

## Art. 16 Mountain Farming Protocol – Further measures

24. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Individuals employed in the agricultural sector and self-employed farmers are eligible for allowances according to the Federal Act on Family Allowances in Agriculture (FLG), which entered into force on 1st January 1953. Individuals employed in the agricultural sector are granted child allowances and household allowances. Small farmers are eligible for child allowances only. Self-employed alp shepherds and caretakers as well as individuals, who are taking up farming as a supplementary source of income can also apply for child allowances. The eligibility for allowances according to the Federal Act on Family Allowances in Agriculture (FLG) is determined based on an income limit.			

## Difficulties in implementing the Mountain Farming Protocol

25. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Mountain Farming Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
The Mountain Farming Protocol has not been ratified by Switzerland.			

## Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures

26. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!	
Agricultural policy measures are evaluated constantly, based on research conducted by competent Swiss Federal Institutes. Studies and results are published at <a href="https://www.aramis.admin.ch/">https://www.aramis.admin.ch/</a> .	

### Additional comments:

The Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW) publishes annual reports on the economic, environmental, and social effects of the most recent agricultural policy. Agricultural policy and agricultural services (with particular focus on mountain regions) are observed from the standpoint of sustainability (the following report is published in German): <https://www.agrarbericht.ch/de>

## ***E. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Mountain Forests (Adopted on 27 February 1996)***

### **Art. 1 Mountain Forests Protocol – Objectives**

1. Which of the following measures to preserve the mountain forests as a near-natural habitats and, whenever necessary, to develop them or increase their extent and improve their stability have been adopted?	Yes	No
Methods of natural reforestation	X	
Forests are groomed as well-structured units developed in stages, with tree types suited to their location.	X	
The forest reproduction material used is indigenous.	X	
Erosion and compacting of the soil is avoided by ensuring methods of use and collection that comply with the needs of nature.	X	
Additional comments:		

### **Art. 2 Mountain Forests Protocol – Taking account of the objectives in other policies**

2. Are the objectives of this Protocol also considered in other policies of your State and does this apply to any of the following areas?	Yes	No
<b>Air pollution</b> , which is to be gradually reduced to a level that is not harmful to the forest's ecosystems. This also relates to pollution occurring from cross-border transference of air pollutants.		X
<b>Populations of hoofed animals</b> , which are to be contained within limits permitting the natural reforestation of the mountains by indigenous trees, without having to take recourse to special protective measures.	X	
Measures for regulating <b>game animals</b> in cross-border areas aligned with the relevant measures taken by the neighbouring contracting parties.	X (partially)	
The <b>reintroduction of predators</b> is encouraged to an extent, appropriate for the general needs of the region, with particular focus on restoring a system of natural selection on the hoofed species and on protecting nature.	X	
The <b>safeguarding of mountain forests</b> so that they fulfil their functions is to have priority over forest pastures. <b>Forest pastures</b> are therefore to be limited or, if necessary, entirely eliminated, so as to: permit the renewal of forests suited to the locations; prevent damage to the soil; and, above all,	X	

preserve the forest's protective function.		
The <b>use of mountain forests for recreation</b> is to be managed and, where necessary, limited so as to not undermine the conservation and renewal of the forests. The needs of the forest's ecosystems must be taken into account in this regard.	X	
Increasing the <b>use of wood from forest plantations in a sustainable fashion</b> is to be promoted and encouraged, particularly due to the importance of sustainably using wood for the purposes of reinforcing the national economy and appropriately grooming existing forests.	X	
The <b>risk of forest fires</b> is to be prevented through appropriate precautionary measures and by means of an efficient fire-fighting system.	X	
Since it is not possible to apply natural methods for the conservation of the forests with the aim to guarantee that all the forest's functions preserved without the help of a suitably <b>qualified staff</b> , it must be ensured that the staff employed for such purposes is adequate with regard to number, knowledge, and expert skills.	X	
Additional comments:		

#### Art. 4 Mountain Forests Protocol - International cooperation

3. Which of the following activities are conducted in the scope of international cooperation? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Joint evaluations of the development of forestry policy	
Reciprocal consultation before adopting any major decision on policy, for the purposes of implementation of the relevant Protocol	
Implementation of the objectives and measures laid down by this Protocol by means of cross-border cooperation between all the competent authorities, particularly regional administrations and local authorities	
Encouraging international cooperation between research and training institutes	x
Encouraging international cooperation between forestry and environmental organisations	x
Encouraging joint initiatives	x
Encouraging international cooperation between the media	

Encouraging exchanges of knowledge and experience	x
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4. Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).	
Bilateral agreement	
Multilateral agreement	
Financial support	
Education/training	x
Joint projects	
Other	
If you checked "Yes" under "Other", please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.	

Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.
In addition to various kinds of exchange, cross-border reconciliation of forest areas could become a future point of particular interest in the scope of discussions on ecological connectivity.

### Art. 5 Mountain Forests Protocol – Foundations of plans

5. Has the groundwork necessary for plans, focused on fulfilling the objectives of this Protocol been completed?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", have the groundwork activities included a thorough reconnoitring of the sites and surveys on the functions of the forests, with particular focus on the protective functions?			
Yes	x	No	
Which authorized offices were responsible for completing the task(s) in question?			
The Forest Division of the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) as well as cantonal forest services.			

## Art. 6 Mountain Forests Protocol - Protective functions of the mountain forests

6. Is the protective function of mountain forests, which offer a high degree of protection to their own location, or above all to human settlements, transport infrastructures, crop lands, and similar areas considered as paramount?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", is the protective function of such forests also prioritized in the scope of the forest management activities undertaken?			
Yes	x	No	

7. Are mountain forests, which offer a high degree of protection to their own location, or above all to human settlements, transport infrastructures, crop lands and similar areas being preserved in their original locations?			
Yes	x	No	

8. Are projects, focused on protection forests and protection forest improvement also implemented in the mountain areas of the Alpine region of your State?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection forest care is undertaken by municipalities. It is subsidized by the federal government and the cantons. Enforcement aids for protection forest care are available as well.</li> <li>Furthermore, all protection forests were identified based on standardized methods in the scope of the "SilvaProtect-CH" project (until 2013). Natural hazards such as landslides, falls, mudslides, shallow landslides, and overbank sedimentation were modelled at the accuracy level of a hazard map for the entire State. In addition, the entire national area covered by protection forests was estimated based on the geodata used in the SilvaProtect-CH project.</li> </ul>			

9. Are the measures necessary for preserving mountain forests, which offer a high degree of protection to their own location, or above all to human settlements, transport infrastructures, crop lands and similar areas planned and implemented with technical expertise with respect to management plans and improvement plans of the forests that provide protective functions?			
Yes	x	No	

If the answer is “Yes”, are the objectives of conserving nature and the landscape also being taken into account within the scope of projects, focused on protection forests and protection forest improvement?			
Yes	x	No	

#### **Art. 7 Mountain Forests Protocol - Economic function of mountain forests**

10. Is proper action taken for mountain forests – where the economic function prevails and the regional economic situation makes it necessary – to ensure that the mountain forest economy can continue its role as a source of employment and income for the local community?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swiss mountain forests predominately fulfil a protective function.</li> <li>• Individual pilot projects are taking place, with which framework conditions for improving the income situation of the local population are supposed to be established.</li> </ul>			

11. Is reforestation applied using tree types suited to the sites?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
The Enforcement aid “Sustainability and Success Monitoring in Protection Forests” ( <i>Nachhaltigkeit und Erfolgskontrolle im Schutzwald</i> – NAIS) contains definitions of tree species compositions, adapted to local conditions for all types of sites.			

12. Is the economic use of the forests undertaken with care and attention to the soil and the forestry resources?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
It is a prerequisite for receiving federal subsidies.			

#### **Art. 8 Mountain Forests Protocol - Functions of a social and ecological character of mountain forests**

13. Considering that mountain forests have to provide important functions of a social and eco-			
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logical nature, have proper measures been adopted to ensure their effectiveness for water resources, climate balance, cleaning the air, and noise protection?			
Yes	X (partially)	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Partially. Between 2013 and 2017, the Federal Act on Forest was amended with several paragraphs, which regulate specific functions of forests (particularly with regard to protection; biological diversity; connectivity; and climate adaptation) and impose bans on clearcutting and potential other forms of utilization that would endanger the functions of forests or the management thereof. The regulations are binding for cantonal law. However, they do not concern mountain forests specifically.			

14. Considering that mountain forests have to provide important functions of a social and ecological nature, have proper measures been adopted to ensure their biological diversity?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

15. Considering that mountain forests have to provide important functions of a social and ecological nature, have proper measures been adopted for the public to enjoy nature and access the recreational functions of forests?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

#### **Art. 9 Mountain Forests Protocol – Access to the forests**

16. Have carefully planned and likewise executed actions been taken for the purposes of preventing damage to the forests and for their management and care with natural methods by taking the needs for the conservation of nature and the landscape into account?			
Yes	x	No	

#### **Art. 10 Mountain Forests Protocol – Natural forest reserves**

17. Have natural forest reserves been designated in a sufficient number and size, and have they been managed in a way that protects their natural dynamics for the purpose of research with the			
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intention of either generally suspending any form of forest exploitation or carefully adapting it to the purposes of each individual reserve?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, what share of the entire wooded area of your State is covered by natural forest reserves designated in the Alpine region?			See below
At the end of 2012, approximately 58.000 hectares (56% thereof covered by natural forest reserves) or 4.8% of the wooded area of Switzerland were designated as special forest reserves. The federal Forest Policy 2030 foresees an increase of this share to 10% of the entire wooded area of the country until the year 2030. No forestry-related actions are taking place in natural forest reserves in order for the forest to be able to redevelop naturally. On the other hand, targeted forestry-related actions are performed in special forest reserves in order to upgrade ecologically and environmentally valuable habitats and to protect (promote) endangered species.			

18. Do the areas, which were marked off as natural forest reserves, each contain a representative sample of, if possible, all the mountain forest ecosystems?			
Yes	X	No	

19. Is the indispensable protective function of such forest formations being preserved and maintained without exception?			
Yes		No	x
<u>Note:</u> Forest reserves should be provided with the means to develop naturally. Hence, any forestry-related actions therein should be kept at an absolute minimum.			

20. Is the designation of natural forest reserves within the confines of private forests based on individual long-term nature protection agreements?			
Yes	X	No	

21. Have the activities necessary for planning and defining cross-border natural forest reserves been undertaken in collaboration and cooperation with the neighbouring contracting parties and shall these activities continue to be undertaken in such manner in the future?			
Yes	X	No	

## Art. 11 Mountain Forests Protocol - Incentives and compensation

22. Are sufficient incentives for forestry-related activities, especially measures listed under articles 6 to 10 of the Mountain Forests Protocol, provided within the framework of the existing political and financial conditions and for the period necessary to ensure such services, with due consideration given to the unfavourable economic conditions of the Alpine territory and bearing in mind the services of the mountain forest economy?

Yes

x (to various degrees)

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please provide details (conditions for funding, kind(s) of funding, available financial means etc).

- The cantons are required to outline funding measures in their forest-related legislation in accordance with Art. 35 of the Federal Act on Forest (ForA). The federal government provides funding for measures for protection forests and forestry-related education. The cantons regulate funding-related issues individually.
- Example: Art. 26 – Nature and Level of Contributions for Funding (*Art und Höhe der Förderbeiträge*), Act on Forest of the Canton of Solothurn (as of 2014): Par. 3: The level (amount) of funding for protection structures is based on the degree of threat posed by natural hazards as well as on the costs and effectiveness of the envisaged measures. The amount of funding for protection forests is to be determined based on the size of the area that requires care, based on the kind of threat that is to be contained, and based on the effectiveness of the measures (to be) implemented. Par. 4: The amount of funding is not to exceed 70% of costs, eligible for subsidizing. Financial aids for public forest owners are to be determined based on their economic capacity.
- Wood construction (timber): According to the Act on Forest of the Canton of Solothurn, timber may be harvested only with proper permission (license). The removed wood capacities must be compensated accordingly. Should agricultural land become covered by forest, the wood may be removed to an extent in order accordance with the state of the agricultural area as it had been 30 years prior to the necessary intervention. The federal government supports the selling and exploitation of sustainably produced timber particularly through the funding of innovative projects. Funding is granted only if forest-preserving conditions are met.

23. Are forest owners entitled to compensation commensurate to the services provided if the services requested on the mountain forest economy exceed those of the obligations of current laws and their necessity is motivated on the basis of relevant projects?

Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Art. 38 of the Federal Act on Forest (ForA)			

24. Are instruments for financing incentive and compensation measures in place?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, does such funding also benefit individuals in addition to providing economic-political benefits for the entire population?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please describe the existing instruments for financing incentive and compensation measures.			
Subsidies, land exchange			

### Art. 12 Mountain Forests Protocol – Further Measures

25. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

### Difficulties in implementing the Mountain Forests Protocol

26. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Mountain Forests Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Not ratified			

### Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures

27. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!			
The measures are effective. The standardized national inventory of protection forests (composed			

within the scope of the SilvaProtect-CH project) represents an important base for systematic maintenance and care. Research and education programmes also contribute to prudent forest management.

Additional comments:

## ***F. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Tourism (Adopted on 16 October 1998)***

### **Art. 2 Tourism Protocol - International cooperation**

1. Is stronger international cooperation between relevant competent bodies in order to ensure, in particular, the development of cross-border areas by coordinating environmentally-friendly tourist and leisure activities encouraged?

Yes		No	x
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Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).

Bilateral agreement	
Multilateral agreement	
Financial support	
Education/training	
Joint projects	
Other	

If you checked “Yes” under “Other”, please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.

Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.

### **Art. 5 Tourism Protocol - Managing tourism**

2. Have guidelines, development programmes, and sectoral sustainable development plans, focused on fulfilling the objectives of this Protocol been prepared?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, have they also been implemented?			
Yes	X	No	
Have the preparation and implementation been undertaken at the most appropriate level?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, are the existing guidelines, development programmes, and sectoral plans making it possible to compare and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of planned developments in terms of:			Yes No
The socioeconomic consequences for the local population			X
The consequences for soil; water; the air; natural balances; and the countryside, taking into account specific ecological data, natural resources, and limitations to the ability of ecosystems to adapt			X
The consequences for public finances			X

3. Has extensive planning aimed at securing sustainable regional development been conducted with regard to existing tourism-specific, transport-specific, agriculture-specific, forestry-specific, and urban-settlement-specific land-use requirements?			
Yes	x	No	

4. Are environmental impact analyses conducted for the purposes of developing and constructing ski slopes?			
Yes	x	No	
Are laws in place that regulate this?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
The legislation mandates that environmental impact assessments must be conducted for the purposes of constructing ski slopes and developing new catchment areas as well as for larger tourism projects of other kinds.			

5. Have guidelines for a sustainable development of tourist destinations been adopted?			
Guidelines for the development of tourist destinations can be found in structure plans, development models, and local land-use plans.			

6. Has the local population been included in the process of developing such guidelines?			
Yes	X	No	

7. If guidelines, development programmes, and sectoral plans, focused on fulfilling the objectives of this Protocol exist, do they feature the following? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	
Development of environmentally-friendly tourism concepts and offers	X
Certification and eco label for tourism offers	X
Promotion and implementation of environmental management systems	X
Other	
Please provide additional information, if you have checked several of the options mentioned above.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of environmentally-friendly tourism (Innotour Programme for promoting innovation and cooperation in the field of tourism)</li> <li>• The Swiss Quality Label for tourist associations</li> <li>• Certain destinations (e.g. Zermatt, Saas Fee) rely on the Swiss “Energistadt” (Energy City) label and measures related thereto (renewable energies, smart grids etc.).</li> </ul>	

#### Art. 6 Tourism Protocol – Guidelines for developing tourism

8. Are issues such as the conservation of nature and the countryside included in tourism development plans?			
Yes	x (partially)	No	

9. Are projects, which enhance the countryside and are environmentally acceptable promoted?			
Yes	x	No	

10. Is the competitiveness of environmentally-friendly tourism in the Alps reinforced by a sustainable policy?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
Through regular promotion of tourism (Switzerland Tourism; the Swiss Society for Hotel Credit			

(SGH); Innotour; Regio Plus; New Regional Policy – NRP).

11. Are measures, aimed at promoting innovation and diversity in tourism prioritized?

Yes		No	x
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If the answer is “Yes”, please list the measures and provide concrete examples.

12. Have measures to ensure a balance between intensive and extensive forms of tourism in areas, attracting high numbers of tourists been taken?

Yes	x	No	
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13. Have the following requirements been met for the establishment of incentives for measures:

Yes	No
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<b>For intensive tourism:</b> the adaptation of existing tourist facilities and equipment to meet ecological requirements	X	
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<b>For intensive tourism:</b> the development of new facilities, conforming to the objectives of this Protocol	X	
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<b>For extensive tourism:</b> the continuation or development of environmentally-friendly tourism	X	
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<b>For extensive tourism:</b> the promotion of the natural and cultural heritage of tourist areas	X	
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## Art. 7 Tourism Protocol - Research on quality

14. Is the relevant policy of your State aimed at permanent and systematic research on the quality of tourism across the whole of the Alpine region by also taking the ecological requirements taken into account?

Yes	x	No	
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15. Is the exchange of experiences and the implementation of joint action plans in cooperation with other contracting parties aimed at pursuing qualitative improvements encouraged, particularly in any of the following are-

Yes	No
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as:		
Development of amenities in the countryside and natural areas		X
Urban development and architecture (new buildings and village restoration)	X	
Accommodation and range of tourist services	X	
Diversity in tourism for the Alpine region, promoting cultural activities in the various areas concerned	X	
Please list examples for the areas where you checked “Yes”.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban development and accommodation: Model project for better utilization of second homes in the Leventina District and the Blenio Valley (Bleniotal).</li> <li>• Construction: Developing sensible solutions for the landscape and sustainable construction in the Binn Valley (Binntal).</li> <li>• Various local and regional initiatives (Val Poschiavo, Saas Valley – Saastal).</li> </ul>		

#### **Art. 8 Tourism Protocol - Controlling tourist flows**

16. Have measures been adopted in order to control tourist flows, particularly in protected areas?			
Yes	x	No	

17. Have measures been adopted in order to control tourist flows outside of protected areas?			
Yes	x	No	

#### **Art. 9 Tourism Protocol - Natural limitations to development**

18. Are activities aimed at tourism development adapted to the specific environment and available resources of the area or region concerned?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
Through a limited use of spatial planning instruments in cases of tourism-specific development projects.			



19. Are projects, which are likely to have heavy impact on the environment, subject to prior assessment?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, are the results of such assessments taken into account when decisions are made?			
Yes	x	No	

#### **Art. 10 Tourism Protocol - Quiet areas**

20. Have designated quiet areas been established where no tourist facilities are to be developed?			
Yes	x	No	

#### **Art. 11 Tourism Protocol – Accommodation policy**

21. Are relevant accommodation policies taking account of how little space is available and is priority given to the following in their respective frameworks:	Yes	No
Commercial accommodation	X	
Restoring and using existing buildings	X	
Modernising and improving the quality of existing accommodation facilities	X	

#### **Art. 12 Tourism Protocol - Ski lifts**

22. Are national authorisation procedures for ski lifts mandated by a policy that goes beyond economic and safety needs, responding to ecological requirements and the countryside?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, through what instruments or laws and regulations respectively?			
The Federal Act on Ski Lifts and Cableways for the Transport of Persons (SebG), the Ordinance on the Licensing of Cableways (SebV), and by means of limiting provisions of the Spatial Planning Act (SPA), the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA), and the Environmental impact assessment (UVP) in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (UVPV).			

23. Do new authorisations and licences for operating ski lifts demand for old facilities to be dismantled and removed?
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Yes	x	No	
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24. Are new authorisations to operate ski lifts and concessions subject to the prerequisite that areas, which are no longer in use are to be returned to nature and that priority is to be given to plant species native to the area?

Yes	x	No	
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### Art. 13 Tourism Protocol - Tourist traffic and transport

25. Have measures to reduce dependence on motorised vehicles in tourist resorts been encouraged during the course of the reporting period?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.

Local measures: Car-free destinations (Saas Fee, Zermatt etc.); free local buses, particularly during high season (Lenzerheide, Lenk, Engelberg, Disentis, Flims); promotion of arrivals by public transport (Zermatt, Saas Fee, Arosa); cheaper or free public transport tickets included in hotel accommodation packages or through a special guest card.

26. Has individual motorised traffic been limited?

Yes	x	No	
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27. Are both private and public initiatives to improve access by public transport to resorts and tourist areas and to encourage tourists to use public transport services being promoted?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is "Yes", please explain how.

Several destinations; see answer to question 25.

### Art. 14 Tourism Protocol - Specific development techniques

28. Are the development, maintenance, and use of ski slopes conducted in a manner that corresponds to the principle of landscape preservation to the highest degree possible?

Yes	x	No	
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Are natural balances and biotope sensitivity taken into account during the development, maintenance,

nance, and use of ski slopes?			
Yes	x	No	

29. Is the use of artificial snow machines permitted?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, under what circumstances and based on what laws and regulations may artificial snow machines be used? Please explain the process of determining hydrological and environmental conditions for the use of artificial snow machines.			
The use of artificial snow machines and the process of determining the conditions for the use thereof are mandated by cantonal regulations.			

30. Are potential developments of areas that could affect the landscape restricted?			
Yes	x	No	

31. Are developed areas being predominately replanted with plant species native to the area?			
Yes	x	No	

#### Art. 15 Tourism Protocol - Sporting activities

32. Has a policy for controlling outdoor sporting activities, especially in protected areas been set in place?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiet zones (in particular forests) with limitations for various sports.</li> <li>• Stricter regulations for nature preserves.</li> </ul>			

33. Are motor sport activities restricted?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor sport activities are banned in the Swiss National Park as well as in nature discovery parks (Art. 17 par. 3 and Art. 23 par. 4 of the Ordinance on Parks of National Im-</li> </ul>			

portance (ParkO)).

- Bans on snowmobiles and ultralight aircraft as well as restrictions for motorized water sports.

## Art. 16 Tourism Protocol - Landing by air

34. Is landing by air outside of airfields for the purpose of sporting activities permitted?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain under what circumstances. List the places and local conditions where such activities are permitted and describe the extent, to which they are permitted. Please also state the regulations that govern landing by air outside of sport airfields.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain landing sites (GLP) are designated as landing sites outside of airfields without infrastructure. They are located at an altitude of at least 1,100 metres above sea level. They are used for flying training and practice purposes as well as for transporting tourists. Until the of 2019, two (2) mountain landing sites are scheduled to be abandoned. Thus, the maximum amount of mountain landing sites (GLP) will be limited to 40.</li> <li>• The regulations governing landing by air outside of airfields are featured in the Ordinance on Taking-off and Landing of Aircraft Outside of Airfields (Landing Ordinance – AuLaV).</li> <li>• Art. 8 of the Federal Act on Aviation (LFG)</li> <li>• Art. 54 of the Ordinance on Aviation Infrastructure (VIL)</li> </ul>			
<p><u>Note:</u> The question of how to resolve conflicts regarding nature protection and leisure sites as well as habitats of wildlife when it comes to mountain landing sites is omnipresent during all activities, related to the Sectoral Aviation Infrastructure Plan (SIL). Furthermore, the fundamental question of if and to what extent heli-skiing should stay permitted remains open for discussion. Another measure tightly linked to this emanates from the Landscape Concept Switzerland (LKS), according to which individual Alpine areas, predestined to be considered as quiet leisure spaces, must be designated as quiet zones in the Sectoral Aviation Infrastructure Plan (SIL).</p>			

## Art. 17 Tourism Protocol - Developing economically weak regions and local and regional authorities

35. Have solutions, adapted to the appropriate territorial level in order to promote a balanced development of economically weak regions been examined?			
Yes	x	No	

If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.
Through regional and tourism policies and the relevant instruments they contain.

### **Art. 18 Tourism Protocol - Staggering holidays**

36. Have measures been taken to spread out the demand for tourist resorts more effectively in terms of time and location?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, do these measures also include cooperation between States on staggering holidays and experimenting with extending holiday seasons?			
Yes		No	

37. What kinds of measures have been taken to spread out the demand for tourist resorts more effectively in terms of time and location?

### **Art. 19 Tourism Protocol - Encouraging innovation**

38. Are there incentives to encourage the implementation of the objectives of this Protocol in place?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA), New Regional Policy (NRP)			

39. Has the implementation of the Tourism Protocol stimulated innovations?
Potential tourism-specific innovations are not directly linked to the Tourism Protocol as it has not been ratified by Switzerland.

### **Art. 20 Tourism Protocol – Cooperation between tourism, agriculture, forestry and handicrafts**

40. Is cooperation between tourism, agriculture, forestry, and handicrafts supported?			
Yes	x	No	

Are combinations of activities, which generate employment in the context of sustainable development encouraged specifically?			
Yes	x	No	
If your State supports cooperation between tourism, agriculture, forestry, and handicrafts, please explain how.			
By means of the cross-sectoral Regional Policy and through regular promotion of tourism.			

#### **Art. 21 Tourism Protocol – Further measures**

41. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please list and describe the measures adopted.			

#### **Difficulties in implementing the Tourism Protocol**

42. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Tourism Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
The Tourism Protocol has not been ratified by Switzerland.			

#### **Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures**

43. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!			
Additional comments:			

## ***G. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Transport (Adopted on 31 October 2000)***

### **Art. 7 Transport Protocol - General transport-policy strategy**

1. Is rational, safe transport management in the scope of a balanced cross-border network promoted in order to ensure sustainability?			
Yes	x	No	

2. Which of the following measures geared towards promoting rational, safe transport management in the scope of a balanced cross-border network have been implemented?	Yes	No
Coordination between different carriers, modes, and types of transport and measures to encourage intermodality.	X	
Optimisation of the use of existing transport systems and infrastructures in the Alps through the use of electronic data transmission.	X	
Charges imposed on polluters for external and infrastructure costs in line with the damage (they) caused.	X	
Encouragement of the transfer of the carriage of passengers and goods to more environmentally-friendly means of transport and to an intermodal transport system by means of appropriate structural and regional planning measures.	X	
Identification and utilisation of opportunities for reducing traffic volume.	X	

3. Have necessary measures hitherto been implemented in order to establish the following?	Yes	No
Protection of communication routes against natural hazards	X	
Protection of persons and of the environment in areas particularly damaged by transport	X	
Gradual reduction of emissions of harmful substances and noise by all modes of transport by various means, including through the use of the best technologies available	X	
Greater transport safety	X	

## Art. 8 Transport Protocol - Evaluation and intergovernmental consultation procedure

4. Are the following measures being taken in the case of new, large-scale building works and major alterations or extensions of existing transport infrastructures?		Yes	No
Advisability studies		X	
Environmental impact assessments		X	
Risk analyses		X	
Other measures			X
If you checked "Yes" under "Other measures", please list and describe the action(s) taken.			
Please answer the following question if you checked "Yes" under any of the options listed above: Are the results of the conducted advisability studies, environmental impact assessments, and/or risk analyses evaluated in accordance with the objectives of the relevant Protocol?			
Yes	x	No	

5. Is the planning of transport infrastructure projects in the Alps conducted in a coordinated, concerted manner?			
Yes	x	No	

6. Are consultations with the other contracting parties concerned undertaken immediately after the results of relevant studies have been presented in the case of projects with a significant cross-border impact before they are to commence?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
The Gotthard Base Tunnel (opened in 2016; part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)), the Agglomeration Programmes since 2009 (e.g. Geneva, Mendrisiotto), and the 4-metre corridor along the Gotthard Axis (as part of the modal shift policy). Bilateral steering committees were established for many projects such as these (particularly for projects related to the Alpine transit and the expansion of the railway). These bodies are responsible for coordinating operational measures and planned infrastructure projects.			



7. Have other contracting parties promptly informed your State about undertaking a project with a potentially significant cross-border impact before commencing to implement concrete plans?					
Yes	x	Not always		No	
If the answers is “No” or “Not always”, please elaborate on the case(s), in which your State was not informed or consulted and state: a) the name of the contracting party that did not fulfil its obligation in the relevant case(s); and b) the approximate timeline during which the project(s) in question was/were implemented.					

8. Is the national transport policy playing a more and more integral part in the environmental management of undertakings in your State?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<p>Environmentally sound management of the transport element of companies is encouraged mainly through market incentives. The following measures are to be mentioned in this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Performance related heavy vehicle charge (HVC): a lower tariff class for vehicles belonging to the lower emissions category has significantly contributed to a surge in the renewal of vehicle fleets.</li> <li>- Market incentives (e.g. cheaper route prices, commissioning of additional offers for combined traffic), which were introduced in the scope of sector-related flanking measures, have significantly contributed to shifting freight transport from road to rail.</li> </ul>			

## Art. 9 Transport Protocol - Public transport

9. Are measures in place to encourage a sustainable creation and development of user-friendly, environmentally-adapted public transport systems?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agglomeration Programme (since 2009).</li> <li>• The Financing and Upgrading Switzerland’s Railway Structure (FABI) initiative (in force since 2016). The next expansion phase is scheduled to be completed in 2025.</li> <li>• The federal government and the cantons cover the unfunded regional transport costs. Furthermore, the federal government also covers the unfunded costs of combined traffic, the unfunded costs for the use of infrastructure, and investments in infrastructure (particularly for</li> </ul>			

maintenance and renovation purposes).

10. Has the creation and development of user-friendly, environmentally-adapted public transport systems contributed to the maintenance and improvement of the settlement pattern and the economic organisation of the Alpine region of your State as well as its attractiveness for recreation and leisure purposes in a sustainable manner?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is "Yes", please explain how.

Vast numbers of tourists travel to tourist destinations by public transport. Many renowned leisure destination, such as Zermatt, can only be accessed via suitable public transport means. The Zermatt example proves that a leisure destination can be competitive without being accessible via the public road system. A comprehensive public transport offer has also contributed to an evenly settled area.

#### Art. 10 Transport Protocol - Rail transport and shipping

11. Which of the following measures geared towards promoting the use of the particular suitability of the railways for meeting the requirements of long-distance transport and the use of the railway network for economic activity and tourism in the Alps have been implemented?	Yes	No
Improvement of the railway infrastructure by constructing and developing major transalpine railway routes, including connecting routes and suitable terminals	X	
Further optimisation and modernisation of railway undertakings, in particular for cross-border transport	X	
Measures, designed in particular to transfer the long-distance carriage of goods to rail and to further harmonise the transport-infrastructure user charges	X	
Inception of intermodal transport systems and further development of rail transport	X	
Further technical development of the entire railway infrastructure in order to increase its efficiency and decrease noise emissions at the same time	X	
Increased use of rail and the creation of user-friendly synergies between long-distance passenger transport, regional transport and local transport	X	

12. Are additional efforts to reduce the volume of transit goods carried by land and increase the use of shipping for such purposes encouraged?			
Yes		No	
If the answer is "Yes", please explain how.			
Not applicable			

### Art. 11 Transport Protocol - Road transport

13. Have any new, large-capacity roads for transalpine transport been constructed during the course of the reporting period?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
No: According to the Federal Act on Road Transit Traffic in the Alpine Region (STVG), the traffic capacity of transit roads must not be increased. This provision applies particularly to the construction of new roads.			

14. How have the prerequisites listed under Art. 11 par. 2 of the Transport Protocol been fulfilled in your State?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By creating additional public transport capacities with the realisation of new Railway Transversal (NRLA), through the Financing and Upgrading Switzerland's Railway Structure (FABI) initiative, and by means of the combined traffic funding programme. In this way, the need for transport capacities (according to Art. 11 par. 2, lit. b) is fulfilled without the construction of large-capacity Inner-Alpine roads.</li> <li>• Environmental impact assessment (UVP).</li> </ul>			

### Art. 12 Transport Protocol - Air transport

15. Have measures to reduce environmental damage caused by air transport, including aircraft noise as far as possible been implemented?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
The number of airfields and heliports (mountain landing sites (GLP) - limited to 40 in 2019) in the Alpine Space is defined in the Sectoral Aviation Infrastructure Plan (SIL). Threshold con-			

centration values for immissions are set for each airfield individually.

16. Is landing by air outside of airfields permitted?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please explain under what circumstances.

Special permission is required for outfield landings of aircraft at altitudes below 1,100 metres above sea level. On the other hand, aircraft landing is strictly prohibited outside of designated mountain landing sites (GLP) at altitudes above 1,100 metres above sea level.

17. Are limitations imposed on non-motorised air transport for leisure with regard to time and place for the purpose of protecting wild fauna?

Yes

x (partially)

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

The maximum number of mountain landing sites (GLP) was set at 40. The decision was based on a thorough inspection of mountain landing sites (GLP) in accordance with the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA), the Spatial Planning Act (SPA), and other acts, relevant for this field.

18. Have the public transport systems from airports on the fringes of the Alps to the various Alpine regions been improved for the purpose of satisfying the transport demand without causing further damage to the environment?

Yes

x

No

If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. Provide concrete examples.

The two largest Swiss airports in Zurich and Geneva are ideally connected to the Swiss mainline railway network of the Swiss Federal Railways (SBB). The majority of other airports are also connected to the public transport systems through bus lines.

19. Have any new airports been constructed or have existing airports in the Alps been subject to major extensions after the Transport Protocol entered into force?

Yes

x

No

Planned reconstruction of the Samedan Regional Airport (Engadin Airport) starting in 2021, which will particularly concern the buildings (hangars, arrival hall). No new runways.

### Art. 13 Transport Protocol - Tourist facilities

20. Has the transport-related impact of new tourist facilities been evaluated in accordance with the objectives of this Protocol?			
Yes	x	No	
Are evaluations or assessments of such kind mandated by existing laws and regulations?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant laws and regulations.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy of the federal government regarding new tourist facilities has been rather restrictive for several years. The mindset is directed towards modernizing ski slopes and ski resorts instead of constructing new ones. According to cantonal structure plans, construction of new tourist facilities is strictly forbidden in landscapes of special interest and value listed in the Federal Inventory of Landscapes, Natural Sites, and Monuments of National Importance (BLN) and in protected landscapes. Restrictions also apply for the construction of new tourist facilities in mountain areas.</li> <li>• A prerequisite for granting licences for cableways is that public transport companies are not supposed to be in competition and that it must be established prior to the project commencing that the planned cableway is easily accessible by various modes of transport. Furthermore, the licence application must feature a detailed summary of the effects of the project on railway-related buildings and structures, parking spaces, and access roads (Ordinance on the Licensing of Cableways – SebV).</li> </ul>			

  

21. Are precautionary or compensatory measures in place to fulfil the objectives of this or other Protocols concerned regarding the transport-related impact of new tourist facilities?			
Yes	x (see answer to question 29)	No	

  

22. Is public transport considered as a priority within the process of outlining and implementing plans for new tourist facilities?			
Yes	x	No	

  

23. Are the creation and maintenance of low-traffic and traffic-free areas, the exclusion of cars from certain tourist sites, and specific measures to encourage tourists not to arrive by car or use cars supported?			
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Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how. Please provide concrete examples as well.			
There are many car-free leisure destinations within the perimeter of the Alpine Convention (e.g. Braunwald, Mürren, Riederalp, Saas Fee, Stoos, Wengen und Zermatt). A significant share of guests visits these places due to their traffic-free character. Measures for limiting traffic – such as imposing restrictions on the use of motor vehicles – are adopted at cantonal and municipal level.			

#### Art. 14 Transport Protocol - Real costs

24. Is your State applying the “polluter pays” principle in order to influence the routing of transport by taking greater account of the real costs of the various transport modes, and to support the establishment and use of a system to calculate infrastructure costs and external costs?			
Yes	x	No	

25. Does your State have a functional system to calculate infrastructure costs and external costs in place?			
Yes	x	No	

26. Are other transport-specific charging systems in place to cover such real costs in an equitable manner?	
No	x
No, still in planning (early stages)	
No, still in planning (advanced stage)	
Yes	
Yes (implementation stage)	
If the answer is “Yes,” what are the characteristics of such charging systems and how do they work? Please provide details.	

#### Art. 15 Transport Protocol - Supply and use of transport infrastructure

27. Are the state, development, and use of or improvement in large-capacity transport infrastructure and transport systems, and the reduction in environmental damage recorded and updated
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periodically in a reference document, and is a uniform presentation used for this purpose?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, where is this reference document published?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Sectoral Plan for Transport adopted by the Federal Council.</li> <li>• Stations for measuring levels of pollution are located throughout the country for the purpose of reducing the impact on the environment.</li> <li>• The Freight Transport Shift Act (GVVG) and the corresponding Modal Shift Report.</li> </ul>			

28. If such a reference document is composed, does it represent the base for assessing the extent, to which the implementation measures applied have contributed to the achievement and further development of the objectives of the Alpine Convention and, in particular, this Protocol?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, what is the result of such an assessment?			

#### **Art. 16 Transport Protocol – Environmental quality objectives, standards and indicators**

29. Have quality objectives for the establishment of sustainable transport been set and implemented?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, under what conditions has this been undertaken and based on which laws and regulations?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ordinance on Air Pollution Control sets limit values for emissions and immissions of various pollutants.</li> <li>• The Noise Abatement Ordinance (NAO) imposes limits for external noise, caused by new and existing installations and machinery. Furthermore, the Noise Abatement Ordinance also regulates assessments of external noise emissions based on noise exposure limits.</li> <li>• Federal Act on the Reduction of CO2 Emissions: Since 2015, emissions from cars registered for the first time may not exceed the level of 130 grams of CO2 per kilometre. Beginning in 2020, this standard will be lowered further to 95 grams of CO2 per kilometre.</li> <li>• The Freight Transport Shift Act (GVVG) based on Art. 84 of the Federal Constitution (BV).</li> </ul>			

### Art. 17 Transport Protocol - Coordination and information

30. Have joint meetings been held with other contracting parties Contracting Parties in order to reach agreements prior to any major transport-policy decisions, in particular in order to incorporate them in a harmonised cross-border regional planning policy?			
Yes	X	No	
Are agreements and consolidation measures of such kind in place?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Bilateral agreements and steering committees, which coordinate the railway infrastructure development programmes (NRLA, the Lötschberg and Gotthard Base Tunnels).			

31. Have joint meetings been held with other contracting parties Contracting Parties in order to encourage exchanges of information on the implementation of this Protocol and to evaluate the impact of the measures taken?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Working Group (Alpine Convention)</li> <li>• The EUSALP Action Group 4 Mobility</li> <li>• The Zurich Process (“Declaration of Zurich”)</li> </ul>			

### Art. 6 Transport Protocol - Reinforced national regulations

32. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by the relevant Protocol?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
Article 84 of the Federal Constitution – Alpine transit traffic is in part even stricter than the Transport Protocol: 1) Protection the Alpine region from the negative effects of transit traffic; 2) Transalpine goods traffic is to transported from border to border by rail; 3) The capacity of the transit routes in the Alpine region may not be increased (cf. Traffic Shift Act)			



### Difficulties in implementing the Transport Protocol

33. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Transport Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?			
Yes		No	x
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			

### Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures

34. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!
The Freight Transport Shift Act (GVVG) with the aim of reducing transalpine traffic to 650.000 lorries per year. This goal was supposed to be achieved two years after the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel (December 2018) at the latest. At the end of 2018, approximately 950.000 lorry journeys had been registered.

Additional comments:

## ***H. Protocol of the Alpine Convention (1991) on Energy (Adopted on 16 October 1998)***

### **Art. 2 Energy Protocol – Basic commitments**

1. Is the use of renewable energy sources encouraged in the Alpine region encouraged in the scope of development programmes implemented jointly with other contracting parties?			
Yes		No	X (exception: hydroelectric power)

2. Are protected areas and their buffer zones, other protected and quiet zones, as well as areas of unspoilt nature and countryside being preserved; and are energy infrastructures optimised according to the different levels of vulnerability, tolerance, and the ongoing deterioration of the Alpine ecosystem?			
Yes	x	No	

3. Is your State cooperating with other contracting parties with a view to developing methods for taking better account of the true costs in the field of energy?			
Yes	x	No	

4. Is international cooperation between institutions, directly concerned with the problems linked to energy and the environment promoted, with the purpose of encouraging an agreement on the solutions to common problems?			
Yes	x	No	

5. Which of the following forms of cooperation are in place? Please check the appropriate option(s).	
Bilateral agreement	x
Multilateral agreement	
Financial support	
Education/training	
Joint projects	
Other	
If you checked "Yes" under "Other", please elaborate on the form(s) of cooperation taking place.	
Describe, which form(s) of cooperation work(s) best and explain why.	

### Art. 3 Energy Protocol - Conformity with international law and other policies

6. Is the Energy Protocol implemented in accordance with international legal standards, particularly those of the Alpine Convention and the Protocols drafted pursuant to it, and in accordance with current international agreements?			
<u>Note: not ratified</u>			
Yes		No	

## Art. 5 Energy Protocol - Energy saving and rational use

7. Are concepts to make energy use more environmentally friendly promoted, and are energy saving and rational energy use – particularly concerning production processes, public services and large hotel complexes, as well as facilities for transport and sport and leisure activities – considered as priorities in this regard?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
The „EnergieSchweiz“ energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme and various support mechanisms			

8. Have measures and regulations been adopted specifically for any of the following areas:	Yes	No
Improving insulation in buildings and the efficiency of heating systems	X	
Optimising the performance of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems	X	
Periodic monitoring and reduction (where necessary) of polluting emissions from thermal plants	X	
Saving energy through modern technological processes for energy use and conversion	X	
Individual calculation of the costs of heating and hot water	X	
Planning and promoting new buildings, which use low-energy technologies	X	
Promoting and implementing municipal or local energy and climate projects in accordance with measures provided for in Article 2, paragraph 1, litera c of the Energy Protocol	X	
Improving energy performance in buildings undergoing renovation and encouraging the use of environmentally-friendly heating systems	X	

## Art. 6 Energy Protocol - Renewable energy resources

9. Are renewable energy resources, which are environmentally friendly and do not harm the countryside promoted and used preferentially?			
Yes	x	No	

10. Which general instruments and measures (e.g. feed-in remunerations, subsidy programmes, research funding etc.) are implemented for expanding the use of renewable energies?

- Feed-in remuneration; one-off feed-in tariff; investment contributions for small and large hydropower plants as well as for biomass facilities; restoration of bodies of water (streams); reimbursement of the grid surcharge for green energy; geothermal energy research funding (data apply for the period 2018-2022).
- The „EnergieSchweiz“ energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme
- Model regulations of cantons for the field of Energy

11. Are the concepts featuring any of the following?	Yes	No
Promotion of the use of decentralised plants for the use of renewable energy sources such as water, the sun, and biomass	X	
Promotion of the use of renewable energy resources, even in combination with existing conventional supplies	X	
Promotion of energy, produced through the rational use of water and wood from sustainably managed mountain forests	X	

12. If the use of decentralised energy generation systems is promoted and encouraged, please describe how.

See answer to question 10.

13. Have the shares of the listed renewable energy sources, used for power, heat, or fuel generation increased, decreased, or remained the same for the three mentioned segments since the Energy Protocol entered into force? (Please check the appropriate option(s).) <u>Note: The information concerns the entire territory of the State</u>	Increase	No change	Decreased
Sun	X		
Biomass	X		
Water		X	
Wind	X		
Geothermal energy	X		

## Art. 7 Energy Protocol - Hydroelectric power

14. Are the ecological functions of watercourses and the integrity of the landscape maintained through appropriate measures, such as establishing minimum flows and implementing standards for the reduction of artificial fluctuations in water level; and is animal migration guaranteed both in the case of new hydroelectric plants and previously existing ones (where possible)?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
<p>The Waters Protection Act mandates that structures and constructions may be installed in and around watercourses only for the purposes of either artificially reinforcing or correcting them. Art. 37 par. 2: "The natural course of the body of water must wherever possible be preserved or restored. Waters and the space provided for waters must be developed in such a manner that: a. they provide habitat for diversified fauna and flora; b. the interactions between surface and underground waters are maintained to the greatest extent possible; c. vegetation suited to the location may grow on the banks." Regarding changes in water levels: Low-height water retaining facilities must not impair the vegetation that is dependent on the groundwater. The consideration obligation applies in such cases.</p>			

15. Are water resources in areas reserved for drinking water, conservation areas and their buffer zones, quiet zones, as well as in areas of unspoilt nature and countryside protected properly?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", what measures have been taken for this purpose?			
Art. 22 of the Federal Act on the Use of Hydropower (WRG) and Section 3 of the Waters Protection Act (WPA).			

16. Are incentives or provisions in place for the purpose of encouraging the reopening of decommissioned hydroelectric plants – in accordance with the provision under paragraph (1) on the protection of aquatic ecosystems and other related systems – rather than building new ones?			
Yes	x	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 22 of the Federal Act on the Use of Hydropower (WRG) and Section 3 of the Waters Protection Act (WPA)</li> <li>• The „EnergieSchweiz“ energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme</li> <li>• Target values outlined in the Energy Act (EnG) annex to the Power Supply Act (StromVG);</li> </ul>			

cantonal measures.

17. Has any research been conducted on how to encourage end-consumers of Alpine resources to pay market-related prices and how the local population could be fairly compensated for services supplied in the general interest?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the findings.

Cantons have the authority to levy a water fee.

### Art. 8 Energy Protocol - Energy from fossil fuels

18. Are the best available techniques applied in new thermal power stations, using fossil fuels to produce electricity or heat?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, is this approach governed by laws and regulations?

Yes		No	
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19. Are measures in place to limit emissions from existing plants in the Alpine region as far as possible through the use of appropriate technologies and/or fuel types?

Yes	X	No	
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What impact have the actions taken had on the emission volume? (Please check the appropriate option(s).)	Increased	No change	De-creased
			x

20. Have the technical and economic feasibility as well as the environmental compatibility of replacing fossil-fuel thermal plants with plants based on renewable energy sources been examined and tested through decentralised systems?

Yes		No	x
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If the answer is “Yes”, please elaborate on the findings.

21. Have appropriate measures been adopted for promoting cogeneration in order for energy to be used more rationally?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
The „EnergieSchweiz“ energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme			

22. Have emission and immission monitoring systems located in border regions been coordinated with and connected to similar systems, maintained by neighbouring contracting parties?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
Have been in operation for a long period of time			

#### **Art. 9 Energy Protocol - Nuclear energy**

23. Is a comprehensive exchange of information on plants and other nuclear installations which have, or could have, consequences for the Alpine region taking place within the framework of international conventions with the aim to ensure long-term protection of the health of the people, the flora and the fauna, and their biocoenosis, habitat, and mutual interactions?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
Bilateral committees.			

24. Have systems for monitoring environmental radioactivity been coordinated with and connected to similar systems, maintained by other contracting parties?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is "Yes", please provide concrete examples.			
Bilateral agreements with neighbouring States on early notification and assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or a radiological emergency.			

#### **Art. 10 Energy Protocol - Transport and energy distribution**

25. Are all existing infrastructures subject to rationalisation and optimisation with regard to the requirements for environmental protection and especially with regard to the need to preserve			
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very sensitive ecosystems and the landscape, and are steps to protect the local population and the Alpine environment taken at the same time where necessary?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA)</li> <li>• Federal Electricity Supply Act (Transmission Lines sectoral plan)</li> <li>• Environmental impact assessment (UVP) in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (UVPV).</li> <li>• Implemented and enforced principally by the cantons</li> </ul>			

26. Are measures being implemented to facilitate the use of pre-existing transmission lines and grids wherever possible?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please explain how.			
See answer to question 25.			

27. Is the importance of protected areas and their buffer zones, other protected and quiet zones, as well as areas of unspoilt nature, landscape, and birdlife taken into account particularly?			
Yes	X	No	
If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA)</li> <li>• Federal Electricity Supply Act (Transmission Lines sectoral plan)</li> <li>• Environmental impact assessment</li> <li>• Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) (Paragraph 1 - Federal tasks)</li> </ul>			

### **Art. 11 Energy Protocol - Renaturalisation and environmental engineering**

28. What are the conditions under which the restoration of aquatic locations and environments must be undertaken after the completion of public or private works in the energy field, which impact the Alpine environment and ecosystems? (Briefly describe the state of affairs and list the relevant laws and regulations.)
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- Articles 17 to 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance
- See answer to question 14 – remarks regarding the provisions of the Waters Protection Act.

## Art. 12 Energy Protocol - Environmental impact analysis

29. Are initial evaluations of the environmental impact of any planned power plant under Articles 7, 8, 9, and 10 of this Protocol and of possible substantial changes made to these plants conducted in accordance with national legislation and international conventions and agreements?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please list the relevant laws and regulations and summarize their content.

- Article 9 of the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment
- Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance: Types of plants and systems (nuclear power plants; thermal power stations; hydropower plants with a capacity of more than 3 MW; geothermal plants, refineries; pipelines; high-voltage transmission lines (overhead power lines); fuel storages etc.) and the procedures, relevant for each case are listed in the annex.

30. Are the relevant national laws and regulations containing provisions that mandate the implementation of the best available techniques for the purpose to eliminating or limiting the impact on the environment?

Yes	X	No	
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31. Is the decommissioning of disused and non-environmentally friendly plants envisaged as a possible approach towards eliminating or limiting the impact on the environment?

Yes	X	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, under what conditions has the above mentioned been undertaken and based on which laws and regulations?

- Art. 16 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) (Environmental impact assessment): “In urgent cases, the authorities must order improvements as a precautionary measure. In an emergency, they may order the shutdown of the installation.”
- Art. 3 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) calls on the Confederation and the cantons to impose conditions or requirements on the issue

of licences and authorisations for energy-generating and energy-supplying plants and systems. These licences and authorisations can be issued imposing such conditions or they can be denied..

- Art. 32b of the Federal Act on Pipeline Systems for the Transport of Liquid or Gas Fuel (RLG) stipulates that companies are to remove decommissioned pipelines if this is mandated by public interest and restore the locations, where they had been installed to their original state at their own cost.

32. Are the impacts on the Alpine environment and the territorial and socio-economic effects of the construction of new, large power plants or of significant increases in the capacity of the existing infrastructure respectively evaluated in accordance with Article 12 of this Protocol and are other contracting parties recognised the right to consultation at international level on projects of such kind with potential cross-border effects?

Yes	x	No	
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### Art. 13 Energy Protocol - Dialogue

33. Are consultation between contracting parties taking place prior to the start of any project, which may have cross-border effects?

Yes	x	No	
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34. Are contracting parties concerned given the opportunity to present their case in a timely fashion regarding projects, which may have cross-border effects?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, are the statements and opinions issued by the contracting parties involved taken into account when issuing permits?

Yes	x	No	
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35. Is there a legal framework in place for consultation and case presentation proceedings as well as procedures for taking statements and opinions of contracting parties involved into account when issuing permits?

Yes	x	No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples. List the relevant regulation(s).

The obligatory theoretical and practical legal framework is anchored in the Swiss federal legislation.

36. Have other contracting parties promptly informed and consulted with your State about undertaking a project in the field of “Energy” with a potentially significant cross-border impact before commencing to implement concrete plans?

Yes	x	Not always		No	
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If the answers is “No” or “Not always”, please elaborate on the case(s), in which your State was not informed or consulted and state: a) the name of the contracting party that did not fulfil its obligation in the relevant case(s); and b) the approximate timeline during which the project(s) in question was/were implemented.

#### Art. 14 Energy Protocol – Further action

37. Has further action been taken or have further measures been adopted compared to what has been envisaged by this Protocol?

Yes		No	X
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

#### Difficulties in implementing the Energy Protocol

38. Have you encountered any difficulties in implementing the Energy Protocol and/or are you still encountering them?

Yes		No	
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If the answer is “Yes”, please provide concrete examples.

No direct impact since the Energy Protocol has not been ratified by Switzerland. However, all existing measures have been implemented regardless. The „EnergieSchweiz“ energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy programme is subject to an annual assessment regarding its efficiency. Furthermore, all existing funding instruments for promoting the use of renewable energies are adapted and adjusted regularly.

### **Assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures**

39. Assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted!

Additional comments:
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