

Swiss Biodiversity Forum

The network of biodiversity experts

The Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted at the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, was followed by numerous projects to investigate biodiversity, its sustainable use and its conservation. However, the problems to be solved are complex, and human and financial resources scarce. In this situation, close collaboration and an intensive information exchange between scientists from every discipline, practitioners and the public are essential. As a consequence, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum established a network of biodiversity experts from a large array of disciplines. Scientists, practitioners and policy-makers as well as institutions working in the field of biodiversity are invited to take part in this lively knowledge exchange platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

Aims

Research advocacy

- We strengthen contacts within the Swiss biodiversity research community.
- We stimulate disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects on biodiversity.
- We facilitate the integration of Swiss biodiversity researchers into international programmes.

Knowledge transfer

- We promote the dissemination of research results on biological diversity to various target groups.
- We provide scientific support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- We synthesize scientific knowledge to be incorporated into a future biodiversity strategy for Switzerland.
- We prepare expert's reports upon request.
- We facilitate access to biodiversity information.

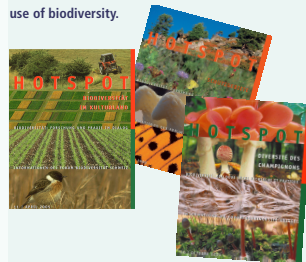
Communication, Education and Public Awareness

- We promote communication between researchers, policy-makers, stakeholders, conservation agencies, administrative authorities, and the public.
- Together with the natural history museums of Berne and Geneva and with the Botanical Garden Zurich the Biodiversity Forum will open an exhibition on biodiversity in Switzerland in 2006.

Publications

HOTSPOT

- This journal is published twice a year in German and in French. Its subscription is free of cost. It compiles new research insight into current topics and presents actors, organizations and publications concerned with the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.



Upcoming issues: Biodiversity in cultivated areas 1|2005 | Value of Biodiversity 12|2005 | Biodiversity Collections13|2006

Biodiversity in Switzerland

- This book describes the state of biodiversity in Switzerland, analyses causes for biodiversity losses and possible future trends. The book presents the scientific base for a national biodiversity strategy. It is available in French and in German. «Biodiversität in der Schweiz. Zustand, Erhaltung, Perspektiven», 2004. Baur et al., Forum Biodiversität Schweiz (Ed.), Haupt Verlag, Bern.



Visions in Biodiversity Research

- The implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity CBD requires a sound scientific base and thus an active role of the research community. In this document, published 2002, members of the Swiss Biodiversity Forum present their ideas for a new and integrative approach to biodiversity research.

Conferences

SWIFCOB Swiss Forum on Conservation Biology

- SWIFCOB is a yearly held conference on current issues in biodiversity conservation. It intends to facilitate the dialogue between researchers and practitioners. Researchers, conservation experts and students are invited to take part in this dialogue and to present their projects.

Services

■ ibs Information mailing and electronic database

With the ibs listserver information on biodiversity research results is regularly published and kept in the ibs database. Especially students are invited to disseminate their diploma and PhD thesis through ibs. Listserver subscription and access to its database is free at www.biodiversity.ch

■ www.biodiversity.ch

The website offers a comprehensive link list related to biodiversity research and conservation in Switzerland. It also contains the following databases, which can be accessed for free by everyone: News, Events, Research projects in Switzerland, ibs literature database, biodiversity collections in Switzerland MeDa-Collect.

Collaboration

- The Swiss Biodiversity Forum and its Board Members form the Swiss National Committee of DIVERSITAS, the international programme on biodiversity science.
- The Forum closely collaborates with the Biodiversity Management and Coordination Office MCO and with the Swiss Clearing House Mechanism CH-CHM Biodiversity
- The Swiss Biodiversity Forum is funded by the following institutions:
Swiss Academy of Sciences
Swiss Agency for Environment, Forest and Landscape SAEFL
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