



Biodiversity: status unsatisfactory, but positive developments

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Topics: Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Forum of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, together with over 50 experts, has compiled and recently published a report entitled 'Understanding and shaping biodiversity in Switzerland'. Several Eawag researchers contributed to the report, sharing their expertise in the publication.

The report notes that the state of biodiversity in Switzerland remains unsatisfactory. The main causes of the decline are intensive land use, environmental pollution, invasive species and climate change. More than a third of all species in Switzerland are endangered (35%) and species communities are becoming increasingly similar.

Individual elements of biodiversity are developing positively again

However, the decline in species diversity has slowed since the turn of the millennium and there are signs of positive developments in some areas. Nevertheless, the level remains low. In water bodies, for example, the state of biodiversity remains 'poor'. However, there are also species that are benefiting. In particular, populations of warm-loving, mobile and already common species are developing positively. In addition, several large animal species, such as beavers, have been able to repopulate areas from which they had disappeared

Targeted support measures are effective

The report shows that targeted support measures by the federal government, cantons, municipalities

and other committed parties are having an effect. However, in order for the overall state of biodiversity to improve, existing laws must be enforced more consistently, programmes expanded and better coordinated with other policy areas. It is also important to find common, workable solutions through dialogue between science, politics and society.

Cover picture: Report by the Biodiversity Forum of the Swiss Academy of Sciences
'Understanding and shaping biodiversity in Switzerland' (Source: scnat)

Related Links

«Gesamtschau Biodiversität: Zustand ungenügend, aber einzelne positive Entwicklungen seit 2010»

«Biodiversität in der Schweiz verstehen und gestalten. Zustand, Entwicklung und Lösungsansätze - Ergebnisse aus Forschung und Monitoring. Swiss Academies Reports 21 (1)»

Overview of biodiversity research at Eawag

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