

Eawag Seminar Invitation

Disentangling the determinants of biodiversity patterns

Speaker **Prof. Dr. Niklaus E. Zimmermann**, *Swiss Federal Institute for Forests, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Birmensdorf, Switzerland*

When **March 4, 16.00 – 17.00**

Where **Online via Zoom, contact seminars@eawag.ch for access details.**

Abstract Biodiversity is considered central for the provisioning of ecosystem services and nature's contribution to people. Yet, it is also a very imprecise term that has been defined in many different ways. A large number of theories have attempted to explain its variation along gradients, but none really satisfactorily explains biodiversity patterns in simple terms and in a universal manner. In my presentation, I highlight some of the reasons why it is so difficult to address the major drivers of biodiversity and I illustrate approaches to disentangle the determinants of biodiversity across time, space and environment. Arguably, this attempt will not cover all possible aspects and exclusively all determinants of diversity. Rather, it presents my personal view on how biodiversity and its main drivers can be studied at a range of scales and how hidden processes can be unraveled. I finish with some conclusions on where I see research gaps needed actions to move forward in biodiversity research.