



Item 2: Urban forests in context

Urban trees and the Swiss forest policy

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Legal basis: forest functions

Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation (Art. 77)
The Confederation shall ensure that the forests can fulfil their protective, economic and social functions.

Federal Forest Act
(Art. 28a)

The Confederation and the cantons shall take measures to ensure that the forest can fulfil its functions in a sustainable manner, even in the face of climate change.

Legal basis: forest definition

Federal Forest Act (Art. 2)

Forests are defined as all areas covered with forest trees or shrubs capable of performing forestry functions.

Isolated groups of trees or shrubs, hedges, alleys, gardens, parks and green areas, tree crops on bare ground intended for short-term use, as well as bushes and trees located on or in the immediate vicinity of dam facilities are not considered as forests.



Urban Forestry (UF)

FAO Definition 2016

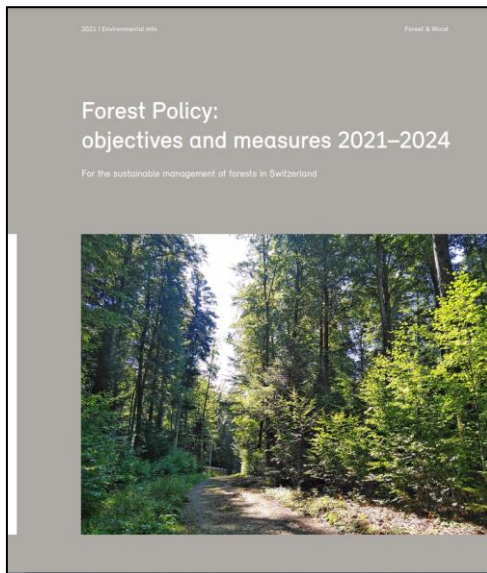


Urban forestry is an integrated, interdisciplinary, participatory and strategic approach to the planning and management of forests and trees in and around cities.



Swiss Forest Policy (SFP)

Strategic line 12.3



Cross-sectoral partnerships are strengthened and synergies with other policy and economic areas (at national and international levels) are developed



Swiss Forest Policy 2021-2024

(New measures)

- Elaboration of basic documents and examples of planning, management techniques and remuneration of leisure forests and **urban forestry**.
- Monetary valuation of the forest and **urban trees'** ecosystem services
- Technical and/or financial support for organisations that promote awareness of **urban forestry** and forest-friendly leisure activities



Synergies SFP and UF

The Federal Council's vision for the year 2030 in its **forest policy** is one of forests that are conserved in their extent and distribution and managed in such a way that they can fulfil **all their functions** in a sustainable and equivalent manner (multifunctionality).

Wood production

CO₂
sequestration

Protection against
natural hazards

Natural habitat

Filtration of
drinking water

Recreation



Synergies SFP and UF

Like forests, individual trees
provide ecosystem services.

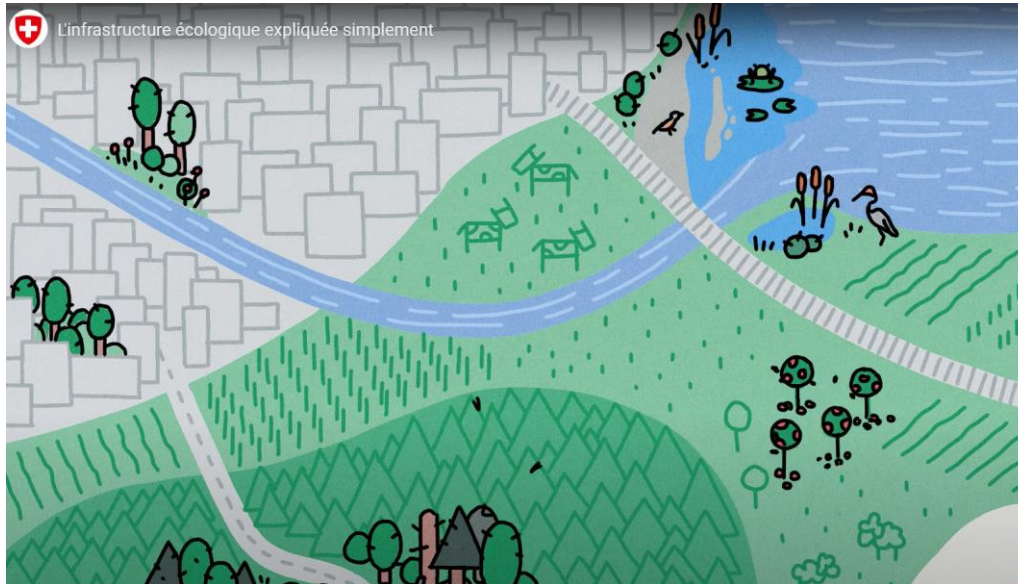


Synergies SFP and UF

To reduce the pressure on urban forests, it is important to have tree-lined recreation areas in the city.



Synergies SFP and UF



For biodiversity, it is important to create an ecological infrastructure from the city to the forest.



Synergies SFP and UF



Invasive species often conquer urban areas first and then forests. It is important to work with the urban areas to eliminate them before they reach the forests.



Actions of Switzerland in UF

- Integration into the 2021-2024 and subsequent measures of the Swiss Forestry Policy (2050 ISFW)
- Financial support for ArboCityNet (ACN) [ArboCityNet | Schweizer Netzwerk für Urban Forestry](#)
- Financial support for specific projects(i-tree [Pilotprogramm zur Anpassung an den Klimawandel \(admin.ch\) F.10 Stadtbäume angepasst managen \(admin.ch\)](#), CAS/MAS in UF, Trees in Cities Challenge (UNECE))
- Conduct of a measure (trees outside forests, UF+AF) linked to the Swiss Sustainable Development Strategy 2030
- Participation and financial support to EFUF
- Opening discussions with cantons (through the Committee of the Conference of Cantonal Forest Inspectors)



Thank you!

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