

Swiss Science Briefing

19 October 2022 – 17:30

**Monitoring causes and
consequences of
biodiversity change**

Mission of Switzerland to the EU
Place du Luxembourg 1, 1050 Brussels



Event Summary



Global biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems continue at an alarming speed despite ongoing counter-efforts on national, European and international levels. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service's (IPBES) [Global Assessment Report](#) on Biodiversity and the IPCC 2022 Climate Change [report](#) call for urgent action.

The EU is leading the ambition for a new global agreement on biodiversity, the [Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), to stop the loss and restore biodiversity of plants, animals and ecosystems. The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) is to set new goals and targets in December 2022. Under the [European Green Deal](#), the European Commission (EC) adopted its [EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#), which aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. The Strategy establishes targets to protect nature in the EU. As part of the Strategy, the EC presented a pioneering [proposal](#) for a nature restoration regulation in June 2022. In the [EU framework programme for Research and Innovation](#), the EC launched, among others, the [Biodiversa+](#) partnership, the Europa Biodiversity Observation Network ([EuropaBon](#)) and several relevant [EU Missions](#) (including Soil, and Climate Change Adaptation) to reach the goals on the European level.

Switzerland is intensively engaged at national, European, and international levels to combat Biodiversity loss. The [Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences](#), with their [Swiss Biodiversity Forum](#), are essential in strengthening biodiversity research. The Forum facilitates the cooperation of science, politics, economy and society. Our keynote speaker, Prof. Markus Fischer, is actively involved in [IPBES](#) as a member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and as a Co-chair of the Regional Assessment of Europe and Central Asia. He is also the chair of the [Swiss Biodiversity Forum](#). On the European level, Switzerland supports [Biodiversa+](#) through the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#).

In this context, this Science Briefing will discuss the causes and consequences of biodiversity change, focus on monitoring activities and assess where there is a need for future research and how collaborations under the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation can contribute to safeguarding biodiversity.

Event Agenda



From 17:00

Registration

17:30

Overview

Sarah Bühler, European Advisor for Research, SwissCore

17:35

Welcome

Rita Adam, Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU

17:45

Input presentation

Causes and consequences of biodiversity change: monitoring and knowledge gaps

Markus Fischer, Professor, Head of Section Plant Ecology and co-director of the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern

18:10

Panel discussion

moderated by **Eva Spehn**, Swiss Biodiversity Forum at the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Anne Teller, Senior Expert, Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

Hilde Eggermont, Chair and Coordinator of Biodiversa+ and Belgian Focal Point for the Intergovernmental Platform for IPBES

José Valdez, Task Leader WP 4, EuropaBon, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Halle-Jena-Leipzig

Markus Fischer, Professor, Head of Section Plant Ecology and co-director of the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern

19:15

Networking Apéro

Speakers

Markus Fischer, Professor, Head of Section Plant Ecology and co-director of the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern

Markus Fischer has been involved in [IPBES](#) very prominently as current member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, as Co-chair of the Regional Assessment of Europe and Central Asia, as scoping expert and member of the management committee of the IPBES Global Assessment and of the ongoing IPBES Assessment on Transformative Change, and he was among the experts developing the IPBES conceptual framework. As chair of the [Swiss Biodiversity Forum](#) he also served as member of the Swiss delegation at the IPBES founding meeting in Panama as well as several Plenary meetings of IPBES. Moreover, he participates in [Transloc](#), a project of the last ERA-Net Biodiversa.

Anne Teller, Senior Expert, Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

Anne Teller is a senior expert in the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission. She graduated as a Forest Engineer from the University of Brussels and completed her Master of Science in Forest and its relation to Land Management at Oxford University. Anne has more than thirty years' experience in European environmental policy. She has worked at regional, national, European and international level. Her specific domain of interest is the improvement of the knowledge and evidence base for environment policy. In 2020, Anne coordinated the first EU wide ecosystem assessment and the launch of the [EU Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#) to support biodiversity policy.

Hilde Eggermont, Chair and Coordinator of the Biodiversa+ and Belgian Focal Point for the IPBES

Hilde Eggermont, is a freshwater biologist by training (PhD, 2004). After 8 years of postdoctoral research at Ghent University, she was in 2012 appointed as Coordinator of the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#), a national science-policy interface for biodiversity. She is currently the Chair and Coordinator of [Biodiversa+](#) uniting 39 European and associated countries as part of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 to 'make the bridge between science, policy and practice'. She also acts as Belgian Focal Point for [IPBES](#). Additionally, she is an Advisory Board member of [EuropaBON](#) with which Biodiversa+ is closely collaborating for its biodiversity monitoring activities.

José Valdez, Task Leader WP4, EuropaBon, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Halle-Jena-Leipzig

José Valdez is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Biodiversity Conservation - BioCon lab in the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) at Halle-Jena-Leipzig. He is one of the Task Leaders of Work Package 4 in [EuropaBon](#). He obtained a PhD from the University of Newcastle in Australia in the area of Environmental and Life Sciences. His research has been featured in the New York Times, Scientific American, New Scientist, the BBC, the Scientist, science podcasts, YouTube, and various news outlets around the world.