

Who is the CPS/SKEW ?

Founded in 1991, the CPS/SKEW is a scientific commission of the Swiss Botanical Society.

Members comprise representatives from the Federal Office for the Environment **FOEN**, the Centre of the Swiss Floristic Network **ZDSF**, Botanical Gardens, university institutes, cantonal nature conservation authorities and the NGO Pro Natura Switzerland.

The present chair is Prof. Dr. Andreas Gigon (ETH Zurich) and the vice-chair is Dr. Catherine Lambelet (Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques Geneva).

Dr. Geert Kleijer (Agroscope ACW Changins-Wädenswil) is the coordinator between the CPS/SKEW and the Swiss Commission for the Conservation of Cultivated Plants **CPC/SKEK**.

Sibylla Rometsch and Monique Derron run the secretariat, which is funded mainly by the FOEN.

What are CPS/SKEW's activities ?

The CPS/SKEW promotes the conservation of rich and diverse plant life in Switzerland by preparing and implementing its own projects, elaborating recommendations, gathering and disseminating information, particularly pertaining to endangered species.

As a member of the PLANTA EUROPA Network, the commission is also involved in the conservation of the European flora.

Cooperation

The CPS/SKEW collaborates with the ZDSF as well as with public and private agencies responsible for nature conservation.

In addition the CPS/SKEW assigns external experts for specific plant conservation projects. Numerous professional and amateur botanists support the commission in its activities.

The CPS/SKEW is active in three areas

1. Conservation of endangered plant species

Our numerous endangered species must be preserved using specific conservation methods.

→ The CPS/SKEW maintains a database of ongoing projects.

2. Re-introduction of wild plants into their natural habitats

Re-introduction of endangered species but also of relatively common species must be undertaken very carefully in order to preserve the indigenous flora.

→ The CPS/SKEW offers ad hoc recommendations.

3. Control of invasive alien species (invasive neophytes)

Invasive alien species may become a danger to the indigenous biodiversity. Early detection is necessary in order to keep them under control.

→ The CPS/SKEW compiles information regarding invasive alien species and provides information materials (upon request).

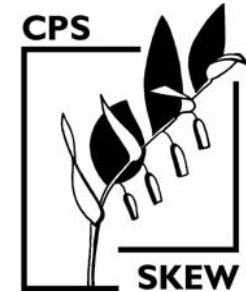
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Swiss Commission
for Wild Plant Conservation

Schweizerische Kommission
für die Erhaltung von Wildpflanzen

Commission suisse
pour la conservation des plantes sauvages

Commissione svizzera
per la conservazione delle piante selvatiche



Myosotis rehsteineri, a species endangered worldwide, now only to be found in Switzerland at Lake Constance

www.cps-skew.ch

Conservation of endangered species

www.cps-skew.ch/english/conservation_plans.htm

Data sheets on species conservation

From 1995 to 1998, studies on the distribution and level of threat of 40 European/worldwide endangered species present in Switzerland and – with the ZDSF - of 100 Swiss endangered species were undertaken.

→ Compilation of “Species conservation data sheets” for these 140 species in cooperation with the ZDSF-Publication FOEN 1999.



Typha minima
Endangered in Central Europe

Viola elatior
Endangered in Switzerland

Database for ongoing activities

Collection of all data regarding the ongoing actions for the conservation of the 140 priority species: distribution, action plans, In situ measures to be taken, Ex situ cultivation, publications.

Monitoring of endangered plants

Working out a concept for the monitoring of endangered plants. Field trials and preparation of a methodology for monitoring by volunteers.

Species conservation plans

Since 1995, initiation and assistance for the implementation of conservation plans. Since 2004, co-financing of specific projects (max. Fr. 4'000 per year and project).

Coordination and public relations work

The CPS/SKEW collects and disseminates information on the conservation of endangered plant species in Switzerland.

Re-introduction of wild flowers into nature

Recommendations for ex situ-culture and re-introduction of endangered plants

www.cps-skew.ch/english/recommendations_exsitu_reintroduction.htm

They give short instructions on the proper collection, propagation in botanical gardens and re-introduction into nature of plant material.

All measures taken to protect and re-introduce threatened species are supervised by experts and must be reported to the corresponding cantonal nature conservation authorities!

Examples of re-introductions:



Typha minima



Viola elatior

Recommendations for wild flower seed

www.cps-skew.ch/english/recommendations_seeds.htm

They also concern relatively common species and show how to avoid damaging our flora by collecting and using seeds from right locations. In addition to basic guidelines, they contain detailed lists of species and indicate which region of Switzerland the seeds should come from.



Verbascum nigrum



Scabiosa columbaria

Invasive alien species control

www.cps-skew.ch/english/info_invasive_plants.htm

Black List and Watch List

Compilation of lists of invasive alien plants (invasive neophytes*) in Switzerland:

* foreign species imported after the year 1500 in Switzerland and with invasive behaviour

Black List: Invasive alien species that must be strictly controlled

Watch List: Potential invasive alien species that must be monitored

Classification key

Elaboration of a decision chart enabling to decide whether or not an alien species should be included in one of the lists.

Two species currently on the Black List:



Impatiens glandulifera

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Information sheets

Compilation of information sheets with brief description of possible control measures as well as literature references and relevant websites; in addition distribution maps based on a joint survey from the ZDSF and the CPS/SKEW.

Report for the FOEN

Compilation of a report on the present situation and action plan regarding invasive alien species (invasive neophytes) in Switzerland.

Coordination and public relations work

The CPS/SKEW should become a practice-orientated, national focal point and play a crucial role concerning invasive alien species in Switzerland.