

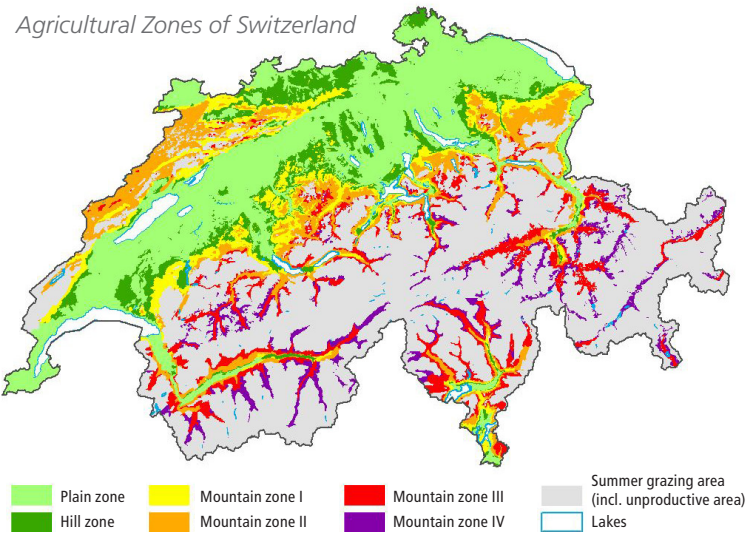
Summary

In 2008, the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN and the Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG formulated environmental targets for agriculture. Quantification and regionalisation are essential for the further fleshing out of these targets in the field of ‘Species and Habitats’. This document therefore proposes quantitative and qualitative target figures for the various agricultural zones and regions which were defined according to the potential distribution of the target and indicator species. To this end, in a first step, and bearing in mind the existing instruments such as e.g. the National Inventories and the Eco-Quality Ordinance, quality criteria were defined for areas and regions on the basis of the target and indicator species and habitats which, according to the FOEN and FOAG, are to be promoted. This quality will henceforth be called ‘Agriculture-Related Environmental Objectives Quality’, or ‘AEO Quality’ for short. In a second step, we estimated the size of the currently available share of AEO Quality areas in the various agricultural zones and in the five main regions (see figure and table). In a further step, target shares of AEO Quality areas were proposed (target share in table). These are based on case studies of networking projects and various already published studies. Whereas sufficient AEO Quality land is still available nowadays in mountain zones III and IV as well as in the summer pasturing area, there is a shortfall of AEO Quality land in the plain region and in mountain zones I and II. With the currently identified ecological compensation areas (ECA), the quantitative target shares fall only slightly short of being achieved. In order to remedy the qualitative shortcomings and achieve the proposed target shares, a tripling of the share of AEO Quality areas in these agricultural zones is required – especially for ecological compensation in arable farming. Moreover, in order to promote species diversity, specific support measures for target species and nationally high-priority indicator species are required in all regions. Key aspects of the habitats to be preserved and promoted are also given for 24 subregions, and examples of the target and indicator species for which they are important are given.

Estimated actual share and proposed target share (in per cent) of AEO Quality areas in the agricultural zones. (Green: Actual share corresponds to target share; Blue: Actual share is lower than target share)

	ECA 2010 with trees	Actual share	Target share
Plain zone	11.9	2.2–4.0	10 (8–12)
Hill zone	14.1	3.5–4.5	12 (10–14)
Mountain zone I	12.6	3.0–4.5	13 (12–15)
Mountain zone II	14.8	4.8–10	17 (15–20)
Mountain zone III	21.8	20–40	30 (20–40)
Mountain zone IV	33.4	40–50	45 (40–50)
Summer grazing area	–	40–60	50 (40–60)
Utilised Agricultural Area	14.6	6–10	16 (12–20)

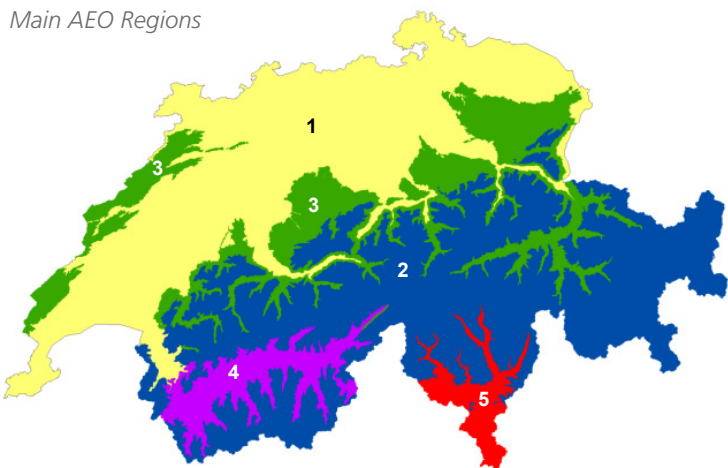
Agricultural Zones of Switzerland



Estimated actual share and proposed target share (in per cent) of AEO Quality areas in the main AEO regions. (Green: Actual share corresponds to target share; Blue: Actual share is lower than target share)

Region	Actual share	Target share
1 Swiss Central Plateau, low-lying areas of Jura Mts.	4–6	12 (10–14)
2 Alps	40–60	50 (40–60)
3 High western Jura Mts., low-lying areas in Alps	15–25	25 (20–30)
4 Low-lying areas Valais	25–40	35 (28–41)
5 South alpine fringe	13–22	22 (17–27)

Main AEO Regions



- 1 Swiss Central Plateau, low-lying areas of Jura Mts., Valley floors North alpine fringe
- 2 Alps
- 3 High areas of Jura Mts., low mountain areas of Alps
- 4 Low-lying areas Valais
- 5 South alpine fringe