

Payment for prevention of gravity natural hazards in Switzerland

Location

Country: Switzerland

Scale: National

Compensated /improved ecosystem services

Prevention of gravity natural hazards

(CICES Class: Buffering and attenuation of mass movement)

Management

The Swiss Confederation and Cantons pay the forest owners to manage forest in a way that they can best attenuate the risks of gravity natural hazards (avalanche, stones falls. ...).

A convention describes the measures that the forest owners can undertake attenuate the risks of gravity natural hazards. Confederation and Cantons (about 50% each) pay the forest owners to realize these measures. Each measure has a fixed price, the total amount of payments per year is limited to about 60 mio CHF/year (payments by the Confederation, not including the payments of the Cantons) for all forest owners in the country.

The legal basis for these payments are the Swiss Federal Act and Ordinance on Forests and the Swiss Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Mammals and Wild Birds.

Stakeholders

Sellers or service providers:

Forest owners: depending on the measures they realize, change in forest management practice can secure the service of prevention of gravity natural hazards. If they realize any measures of the convention, the service sellers (forest owners) provide the effort, change their habits, ways of working or make concessions.

Buyers and beneficiaries of services:

Regional (Cantons) and national (Confederation) governments are willing to pay for a safeguarded ecosystem service of prevention of gravity natural hazards furnished by forests.

Timeline

Establishment year: unknown

Time horizon: the convention is running at least until 2024

Status of PES: active scheme

Availability of economic data

No data available

References / Source of information

http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/fr/dokumente/recht/vollzugshilfen/fachspezifische_erlaeuterung_enzurprogrammvereinbarungimbereichun.pdf.download.pdf/fr_BAFU_UV_1817_HB_Programmvereinbarungen_bf_Teil_o.pdf in French, pages 197-211.