

Overview of the SwissCollNet activities

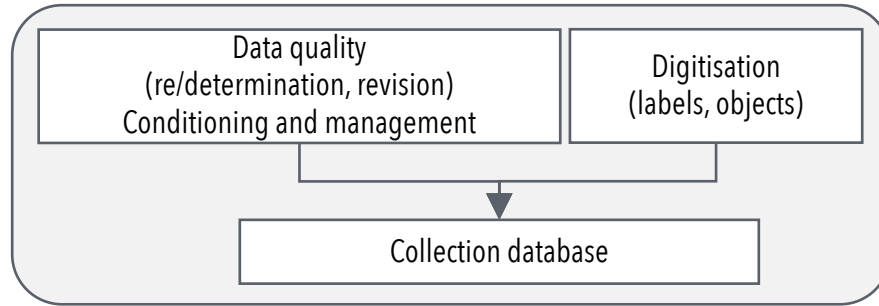
Pia Stieger
Head of SwissCollNet

Overall goals of SwissCollNet

Promote the scientific potential of Swiss natural history collections for scientific research, education and society and foster the development, maintenance and financial support of natural history collections

- Promote the management and curation of natural history collections in Switzerland
- Modernise and digitise natural history collections
- Unify physical and virtual access to biodiversity and geodiversity information;
- Provide new, linked and open access to the data associated;
- Create a platform to encourage and support the scientific use of the collections.

Overall goals of SwissCollNet



GBIF.org DiSSCo



RESEARCH
OUTREACH

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

FOR IMPROVED COLLECTIONS

Standards & guidelines
Infrastructures
Management systems
Training
Network

FOR A UNIFIED & OPEN ACCESS

Standards & guidelines
Infrastructure

THAT IS

- Aligned with international initiatives
- Recognised as a national research infrastructure
- Sustainable through the national collection strategy 25-35 & associated fundings

Activities of SwissCollNet

Individual projects

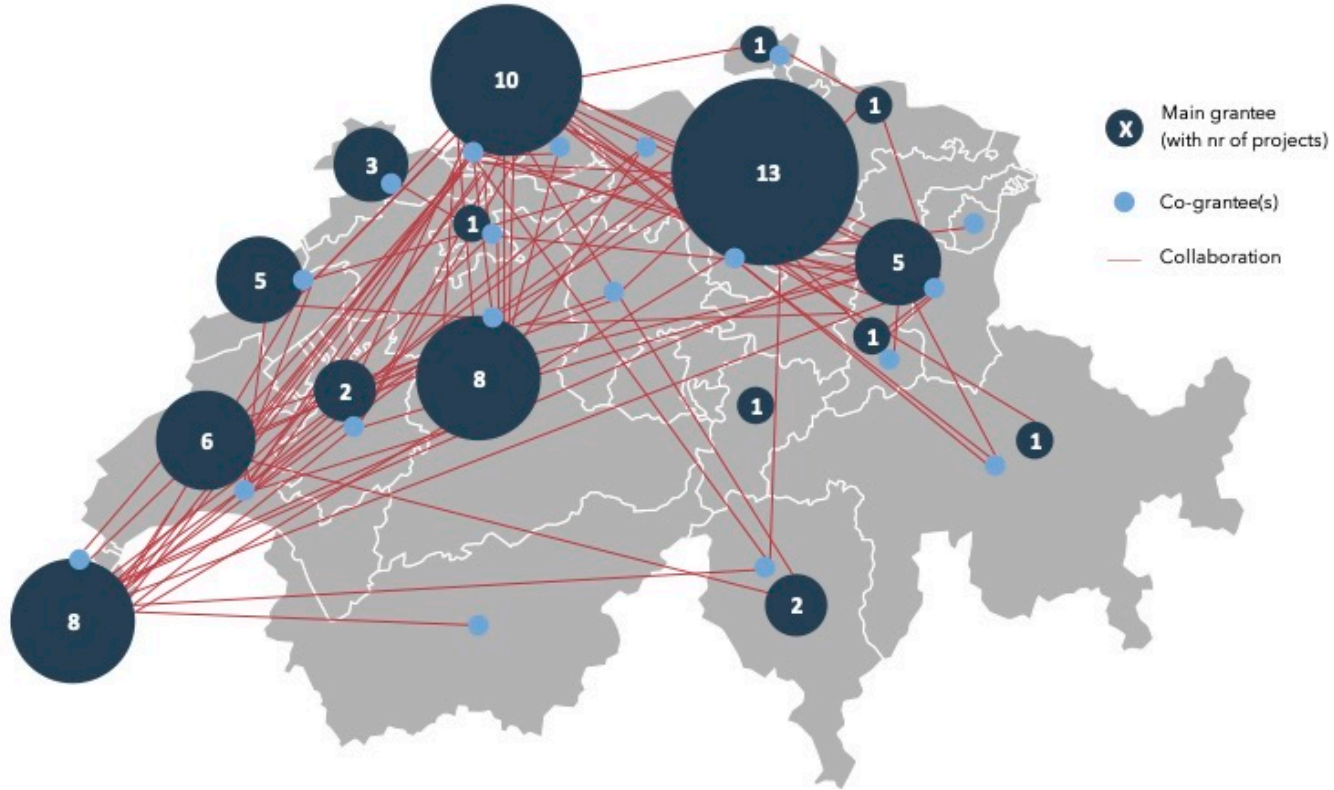
- 68 projects of which 41 collaborations
- 115 grantees and co-grantees
- 53 institutions from 21 cantons
- CHF 8'874'000 from SwissCollNet
- CHF 9'748'000 matching funds

Projects of the entire SwissCollNet network

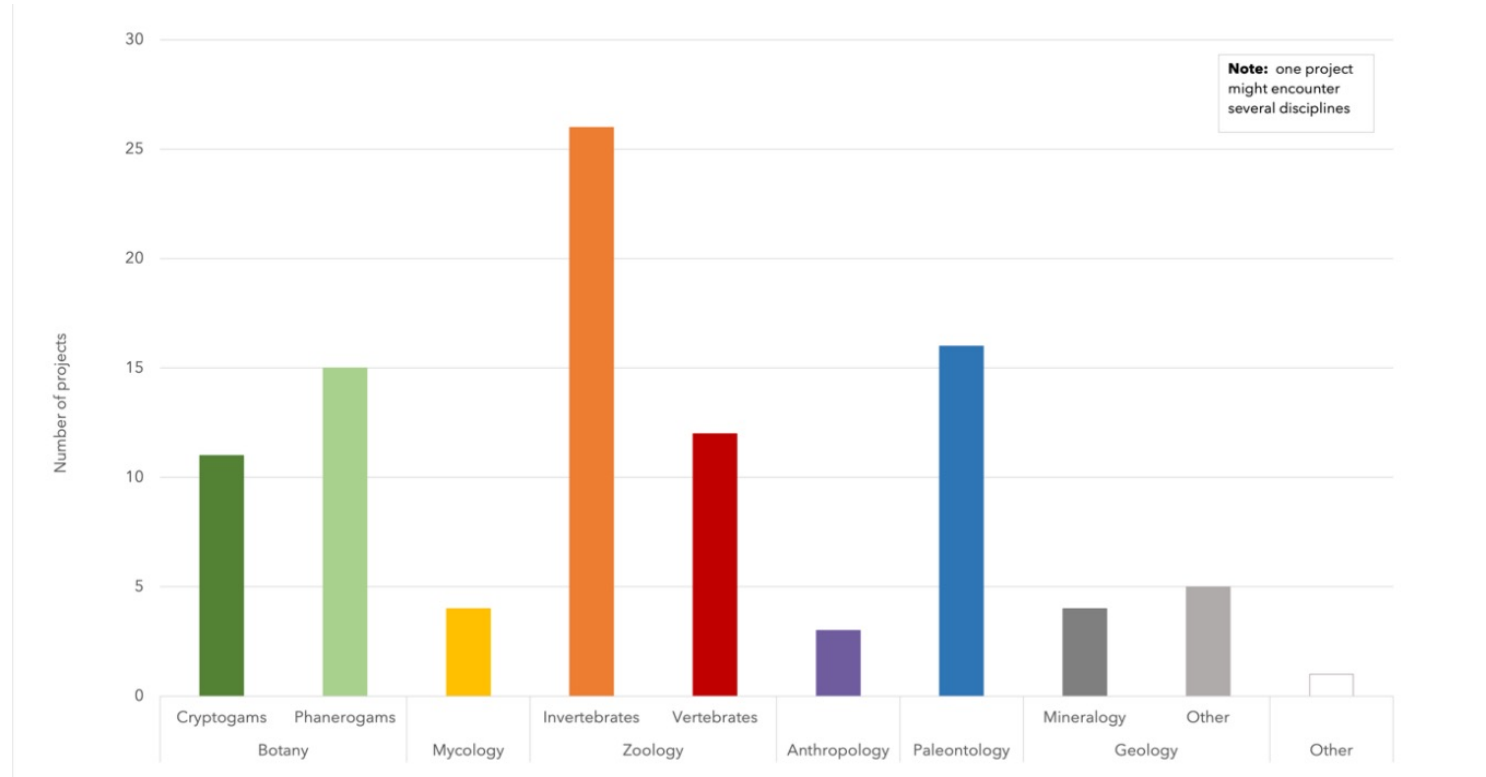
- Metadata of collections (collection survey)
- National data aggregation and display (SVNHC)
- Data models for Geosciences, Biosciences, Anthropology
- National strategy for Swiss natural history collections
- Network development and training
- International participation in DiSSCo
- Sustainability of network and IT-infrastructure

Individual projects – overview

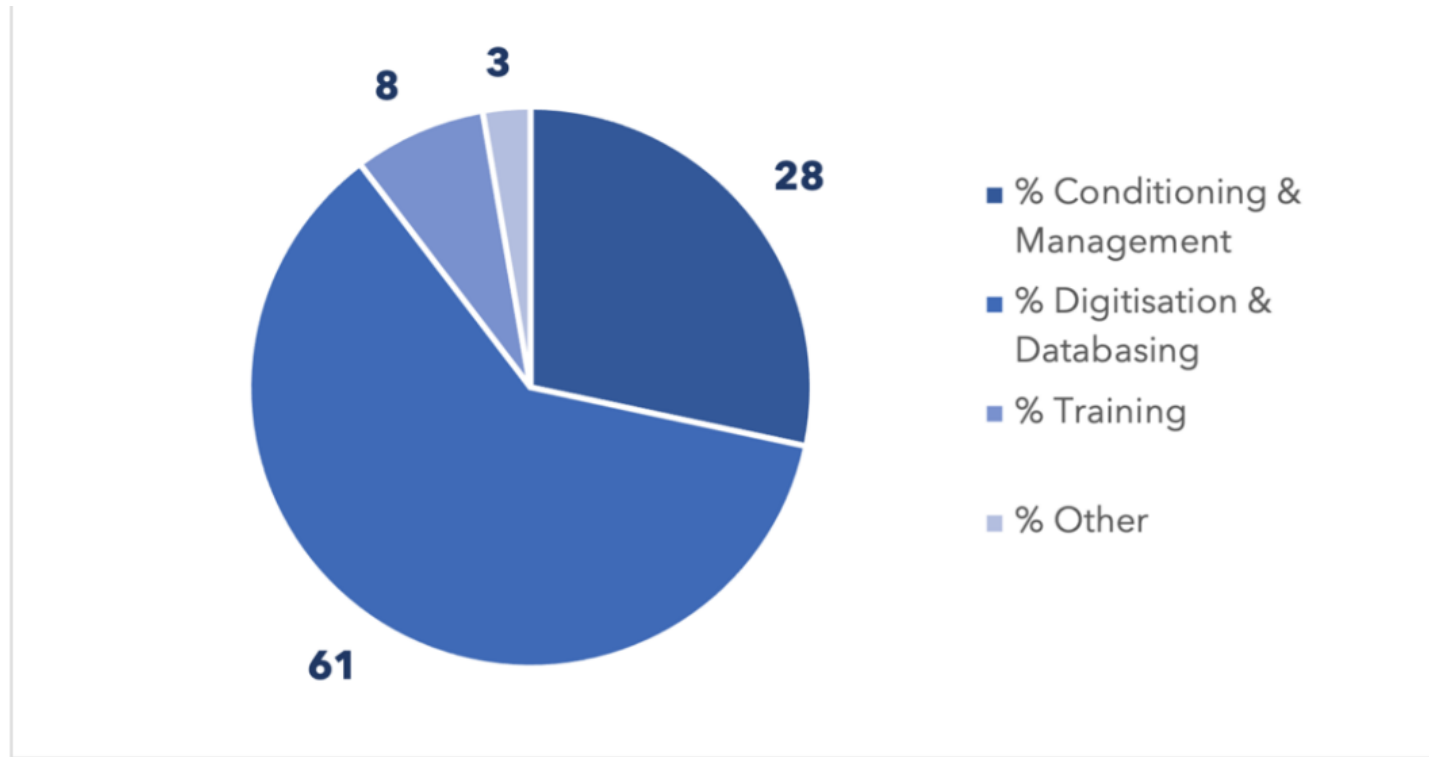
Network of collaborations



Distribution of disciplines



Investments in strategic endeavours



Projects of SwissCollNet network



Metadata of collections (collection survey)

Objectives

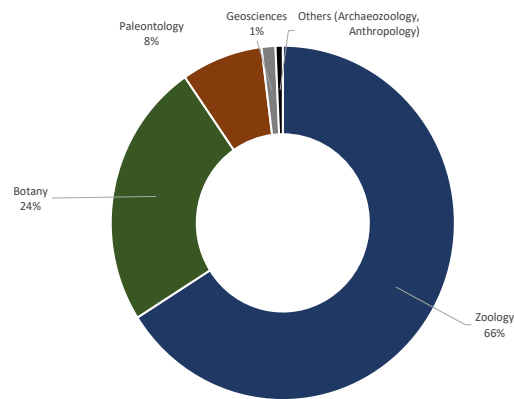
- providing international visibility and referencing for Swiss collections via [GRSciColl](#)
- approaching and monitoring collections that are being worked on within the framework of SwissCollNet projects
- Generating a catalogue of collections in public and non-profit institutions in Switzerland

Results

- 40 institutions have handed in a collection survey
- Metadata of over 44 Million objects divided in 250 units and 700 subunits
- 70% of objects can be assigned to a registered collection

Challenges

- Degree of documentation very variable, has to be checked and harmonised





National data aggregation and display (SVNHC)

Objectives

- Facilitate access to standardised natural history collection data (FAIR-principles)
- Information about NH-collections curated in Switzerland (SVNHC)
- Aggregation of detailed information about single specimens in national data nodes (international standards)
- Publication of specimen information on international platforms (GBIF, GeoCAsE..)
- Long-term sustainability of data infrastructure and know-how



National data aggregation and display (SVNHC)

Results

- Preparatory study by UAS-GR, build on existing infrastructures
- Collaboration with InfoSpecies for biological and palaeontological specimen data
- Collaboration with GeoCAsE for geological specimen data

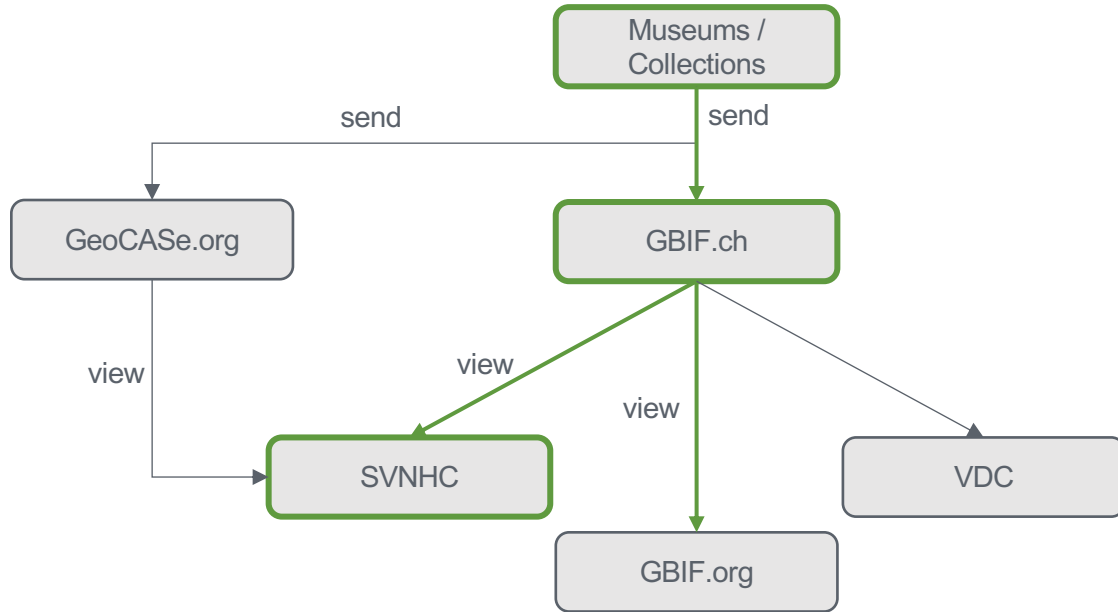
Challenges

- Common data models, standardisation of data registration
- Timeframe
- Long-term sustainability



National data aggregation and display (SVNHC)

Data flow and accessibility of data



Data models for Geosciences, Biosciences, Anthropology

Objectives

- Develop common and internationally compatible data models

Results

- Handbook
- Data management working groups for Geosciences, Biosciences, Anthropology
- Workshop today

Challenges

- International compatibility
- Implementation to reach standardisation of digital information



National strategy for natural history collections in Switzerland 2025-2035

Alice Cibois



Michelle Price



Detailed information this afternoon



Sustainability of network and IT-infrastructure

Objectives

- Long-term sustainability of a Swiss natural history collection network (organisational structure, funding)

Results

- Working group 'politics'
- Achievements of SwissCollNet (2021-2024)

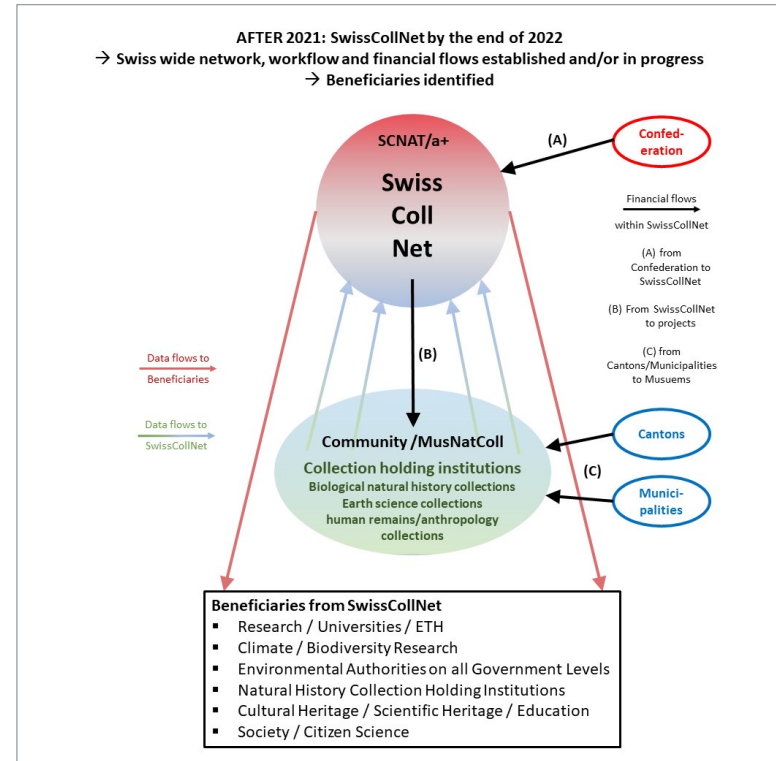
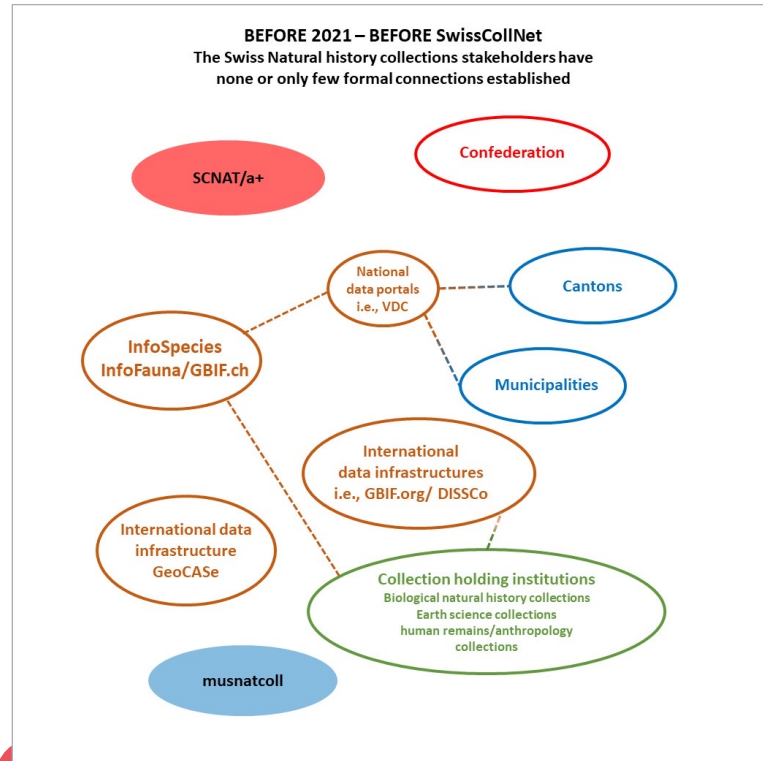
Challenges

- Federal versus cantonal/municipal responsibilities
- NH-collections somewhere between cultural and scientific good
- Unsatisfactory situation regarding laws to protect and sustain NH-collections in Switzerland



Sustainability of network and IT-infrastructure

Intermediate results



Thanks to.....



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(president) WSL



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Entire network of SwissCollNet

<https://swisscollnet.scnat.ch>

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