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**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**



**Science and Policy**  
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences  
**ProClim-**  
Forum for Climate and Global Change

## Organisation

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## Supported by

**National Centre for Climate Services NCCS**  
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**International conference**

**Adapting to climate change in practice:  
where are we today, what do we need for  
tomorrow?**

**7 – 8 June 2016**

**UniS, University of Berne, Switzerland**

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN  
ProClim- Forum for Climate and Global Change**

## Topic and objective

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Whilst the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions remains the most urgent concern, certain measures will also need to be implemented in order to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change on the economy, society and environment. Most Central European countries have developed their own adaptation strategies over the past few years, and it is now questions relating to the implementation of these strategies which are taking centre stage. How can regions, cities and municipalities reduce their climate-related risks and exploit any resulting opportunities? How can researchers, government departments and industry professionals work together successfully on the adaptation process? What underlying conditions will be required?

The aim of this international conference is to deliver the answers to these questions. The emphasis will be on concrete examples and experience gathered from the practical implementation of adaptation measures in Central Europe. Projects and measures will be presented and discussed in eight sessions focusing on different challenges. The framework is provided by several overarching topics, namely: strategies, governance approaches, forms of cooperation and knowledge transfer. In addition to the success factors for and barriers to adaptation, attention will also be paid to the needs of industry for long-term, sustainable solutions.

The event targets everybody who is involved in the practice of adaptation to climate change or who is working at any of the interfaces between science, administration and implementation. The exchange of knowledge and experience between participants and the expansion of networks are absolutely key to these issues, and such opportunities will be provided, in particular, by the interactive sessions and the Adaptation Marketplace.

### Adaptation Marketplace

The Adaptation Marketplace serves to promote dialogue between conference participants. Climate change adaptation activities which are currently being undertaken in practice can be presented for discussion here in the form of posters or other suitable formats.

## Tuesday, 7 June 2016 | morning

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09.30–10.00	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
10.00–10.10	<b>Welcome and introduction to conference</b> Christine Hofmann, Deputy Director, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN (CH)
10.10–10.30	<b>Adapting to what? Climate change and its effects in Central Europe</b> Marc Zebisch, European Academy of Bolzano (I)
10.30–10.40	<b>Quick survey: What do we need for successful adaptation?</b> Moderator: Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)
10.40–11.00	<b>Adapting to climate change in Europe: state of play, success factors and barriers</b> Andrea Prutsch & Wolfgang Lexer, Environment Agency Austria (A)
11.00–11.30	<b>Adaptation strategies: national – regional – local: practical implications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National: Switzerland, Roland Hohmann, FOEN (CH)</li><li>Regional: Upper Austria, Andreas Drack, Office of the State Government of Upper Austria (A)</li><li>Local: Stuttgart, Rainer Kapp, city of Stuttgart (D)</li></ul> Interviews and moderator: Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)
11.30–11.55	<b>Specific implementation of adaptation strategies as part of a sector policy: Switzerland's forests as a case in point</b> Rolf Manser, FOEN (CH)
11.55–12.00	<b>Overview of the afternoon: Adaptation Marketplace and parallel sessions</b> Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)
12.00–13.45	<b>Buffet lunch, Adaptation Marketplace</b>

## Tuesday, 7 June 2016 | afternoon

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### 13.45–15.45 **Parallel sessions: adaptation in practice – specific examples**

Session 1: Heat in the cities: problem-solving approaches in city planning and urban open space design  
Session 2: New challenges for civil protection services and emergency services  
Session 3: Supporting regions and municipalities: tools and decision-making aids for practical implementation  
Session 4: Joining forces for success! Cooperation and participation in regional and local adaptation processes

### 15.45–16.15 **Coffee break**

### 16.15–16.30 **Key findings of the parallel sessions: short interviews with the moderators**

Interviews: Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)

### 16.30–17.00 **How do we reconcile climate research and the practice of adaptation? Examples from the agricultural sector**

Jürg Fuhrer, Agroscope (CH)

### 17.00–18.30 **Buffet reception, Adaptation Marketplace**



## Wednesday, 8 June 2016

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### 08.45–08.50 **Introduction to the second day**

Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)

### 08.50–09.15 **How is knowledge transferred to those involved on the ground? Experiences and challenges for the successful transfer of knowledge**

Wolfgang Pfefferkorn, CIPRA International (FL)

### 09.15–11.15 **Parallel sessions: adaptation in practice – specific examples**

Session 5: Drought and the management of water resources  
Session 6: Promoting biodiversity: the challenges resulting from climate change  
Session 7: Risk-based land-use planning: a new approach to planning  
Session 8: From recognition to action: effectively communicating adaptation

### 11.15–11.45 **Coffee break**

### 11.45–12.00 **Key findings of the parallel sessions: short interviews with the moderators**

Interviews: Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)

### 12.00–13.00 **Final session: what is needed for sustainable adaptation? What contributions can science, politics, administration and industry make?**

Thomas Stocker, University of Berne (CH)  
Helmut Hojesky, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (A)  
Roland Hohmann, FOEN (CH)  
Fabian Dosch, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (D)  
Rainer Handlfinger, Municipality of Ober-Grafendorf (A)  
Myriam Steinemann, INFRAS (CH)  
Moderator: Adrian Aeschlimann, FOEN (CH)

### 13.00 **End of conference, packed lunch**

### 13.30–15.00 **Walking through Berne: city trees affected by climate change**

Tour by Stadtgrün Bern (city department for green spaces) and the School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences

## Parallel sessions: adaptation in practice – specific examples

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Eight two-hour sessions are dedicated to the practical management of specific challenges associated with climate change. In every session, representatives involved in practical implementation present specific projects, measures and activities for adapting to climate change (list of speakers to follow). In the interactive part of the sessions, participants will investigate the possibilities for communicating and developing these approaches, identify the success factors and barriers, and discuss the needs of practical implementation.

### Session 1 – German/French/English

#### Heat in cities: problem-solving approaches in urban planning and open space design

Moderator: Roman Dellsperger, moderat GmbH (CH)

Even now, the heat in cities and conurbations in summertime is already becoming overbearing. The increasing frequency of heat waves will make life even more difficult for people who live and work in cities. Some cities have carried out climate analyses to identify problem areas. The question that takes centre stage is how city planners can provide climate-adjusted open spaces and corridors of ventilation as well as a suitable green and blue infrastructure.

#### How can fresh air corridors help to cool inner-city neighbourhoods?

Dominik Piringner, City of Graz (A)

#### ACCLIMATASION A climate-adjusted urban development concept for Sion

Lionel Tudisco, City of Sion (CH)

#### Planning of urban open spaces as possible climate adaptation measure

Maya Kohte, State capital of Saarbrücken (D)

#### The role of rainwater management in combating urban heat islands

Luce Ponsar, Metropolis of Lyon (F)

### Session 2 – German

#### New challenges for civil protection and emergency services

Moderator: Stefan Brem, Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection FOCP (CH)

Climate change is expected to result in various types of extreme climatic events becoming even more intense and frequent. The emergency services will therefore be increasingly challenged by vegetation fires, drought, mudslides, floods and storms. Although the fire brigade and civilian ser-



vice are well equipped to carry out their original tasks, the additional risks pose new challenges. As the intervention teams do not have the knowledge they need to cope with these risks, the question is how the civil protection department and emergency services can adequately prepare themselves for these challenges.

#### Voluntary service in disaster management: how can the new challenges posed by climate change be met?

Maria Balas, Environment Agency (A)

#### Impact of heavy rainfall events on the Rhine-Main conurbation: planning approaches to hazard prevention

Thomas Kutschker, Fire Brigade Offenbach (D)

#### Adaptation to climate change by the fire brigade: projects and experiences from the Vorarlberg

Clemens Pfurtscheller, Fire Brigade Association Vorarlberg (A)

#### Findings from the course on climate adaptation and emergency services: deployment planning and practical applications

Joseph Amacker, Swiss Fire Brigade Association (CH)

### Session 3 – German

#### Supporting regions and municipalities: tools and decision-making aids for practical implementation

Moderator: Andreas Vetter, Federal Ministry for the Environment (D)

Municipalities, cities and regions are faced with the challenge of having to develop concepts for adapting to climate change and to implement suitable measures. For the most part, they only have limited personnel and financial resources for this undertaking. To support them, the competent authorities have developed a number of tools and decision-making aids such as guidelines, online tools and information platforms. But are these sufficient, and in what areas are there additional needs?

#### Climate check – adaptation tool for small communities in Bavaria

Helmut Theiler, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection (D)

#### Austria's communities amid climate change: what should be done? CC-ACT and FAMOUS projects

Andrea Prutsch, Environment Agency (A)

#### Supporting communal adaptation – forms of dialogue and tools used by the Environment Agency

Andreas Vetter, Environment Agency (D)

#### Regional development within the context of climate change: Surselva's climate toolbox

Sarah Achermann, seecon GmbH and Urs Giezendanner, Regiun Surselva (CH))



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#### Session 4 – German/English

##### **Joining forces for success! Cooperation and participation in regional and local adaptation processes**

Moderator: Wolfgang Pfefferkorn, CIPRA International (FL)

Climate change has implications for a wide range of contexts and stakeholders, and affects these at a variety of different levels. Sustainable adaptation is only possible if the political, administrative and business/industry sectors work closely together and the civil population is actively involved. How such cooperation and participation will be manifested will depend on each specific case. Approaches that are anchored in the regional or local communities at an early stage seem to promise the best long-term success.

##### **Managing climate adaptation: adaptation managers, officers or teams?**

Christian Henschke, University of Kassel (D)

##### **Regional players around the table: an adaptation strategy for the Grimsel area**

Stefan Schweizer, Oberland East Regional Conference (CH)

##### **Fit for the climate of the future: the role of municipalities. Experiences from the Must Quarter**

Rainer Handlfinger, Municipality of Ober-Grafendorf and Petra Schön, Climate Alliance of Lower Austria (A)

#### Session 5 – German/English

##### **Drought and the management of water resources**

Moderator: Bruno Schädler, University of Berne (CH)

Summer droughts and local water shortages are likely to occur more often in Central Europe in future. The objective of water resource management is to handle one-off cases of water shortage in the short term, as well as avoiding conflicts of interest in the long term. Forward planning, storage and the intelligent distribution of water should help to improve the security of water supply. What can be done in practice to manage this complex situation?

##### **Identification of risk areas requiring action to relieve drought**

Olivier Chaix, Integralia AG (CH)

##### **Resource-use conflicts – agriculture vs. water supply: regional solutions in North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony**

Wolf Merkel, IWW Rhenish-Westphalian Institute for Water Research, (D)

##### **Dealing with exceptional water shortages**

Christina Dübendorfer, Ernst Basler + Partner AG (CH)

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##### **isb.swissrivers.ch: The new internet platform for the irrigation of the Seeland-Broye region**

Frédéric Jordan, e-dric.ch (CH)

#### Session 6 – German

##### **Promoting biodiversity: challenges resulting from climate change**

Moderator: Gian-Reto Walther, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN (CH)

The effects of climate change on biodiversity are already visible today, for example in the way the seasons are shifting (spring blossoms and bird migration) and changes in the regional distribution of animals and plants. What are the consequences for species and habitat conservation? Only a few players in the field are studying this new topic. What are the appropriate ways to approach these issues, and what recommendations for action can we arrive at?



##### **Protecting the water resources in moorland biotopes of national importance**

Philippe Grosvernier, LIN'eco (CH)

##### **Strategic models for spatial development in the face of climate change:**

##### **Regional Grassland Biotope Association in Middle Hesse**

Simone Philippi, Hesse Regional Council (D)

##### **Adaptation to climate change with regard to biodiversity in the Canton of Aargau**

Norbert Kräuchi, Canton of Aargau (CH)

##### **Nature conservation amid climate change: examples in practice**

Martha Dunbar, CIPRA International (FL)

#### Session 7 – German

##### **Risk-based land-use planning: a new approach to planning**

Moderator: Thomas Egli, Egli Engineering (CH)

Risk-based land-use planning poses challenges for both spatial planners and natural hazard experts: how can urban development and concentration be managed so that the hazards in high-risk areas are acceptable in the long term? The initial findings made as a result of implementing new approaches to planning are now beginning to surface. These have to be expanded and developed further, with regard to

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the growing risks facing urban areas as a result of usage intensification, and in terms of climate-related changes in hazard potential.

**Conscious management of the risks posed by natural hazards – a matter of spatial planning in Switzerland?**

Roberto Loat, FOEN (CH)

**Risk-based spatial planning in Austria: current status of discussion and implementation**

Arthur Kanonier, Vienna University of Technology (A)

**Progress report on the interface between the planning of technical measures and risk-based spatial planning**

Armin Meier, Strittmatter & Partner AG (CH)

**How do I secure areas for flood corridors? Possible approaches to finding spatial planning solutions**

Christian Willi, Ernst Basler + Partner AG (CH)

**Session 8 – German/French/English**

**From recognition to action: successfully communicating adaptation**

Moderator: Maria Balas, Environment Agency Austria (A)

Adaptation to climate change is an unwieldy topic. The complexity, uncertainties and long time horizons make it difficult to communicate knowledge on this front. It is not sufficient simply to present information. Effective communication must create awareness, improve the ability to act, and motivate people to take action. Practical examples are used to discuss communication strategies, messages and formats that focus on specific target groups and identify the success factors.

**Communicating climate change: practical examples and experiences from Austria**

Andrea Prutsch, Environment Agency (A)

**Davos at +1.7 °C warmer: how can a video motivate people to take action?**

Veronika Stöckli, Bergwelten 21 (CH)

**Communicating how to deal with extreme events: approaches and success factors**

Romy Becker, adelphi (D)

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## Organisational matters

### Accommodation

B&B Am Pavillon: [www.ampavillon.ch](http://www.ampavillon.ch) (room rate: CHF 95 –100)

Hotel National: [www.nationalbern.ch](http://www.nationalbern.ch) (room rate: CHF 125 -150)

Hotel Innere Enge: [www.innere-enge.ch](http://www.innere-enge.ch) (room rate: CHF 228).

Hotel Bristol: [www.bristolbern.ch](http://www.bristolbern.ch) (for one night only, room rate: CHF 195).

Early reservation is recommended.

### Languages

Parts of the conference will be translated simultaneously. The following languages are offered:

Plenary sessions: German, French & English

Session 1 and 8: German, French & English

Session 4 and 5: German & English

Session 2, 3, 6, 7: German

### Costs and registration

The conference is free of charge. The conference is already fully booked. Interested persons can be put on the waiting list.

### Walking through Berne

In the context of the Swiss pilot program of adaptation to climate change, the project «Urban Green & Climate» conducted a number of studies on ecosystem services and climate-related vulnerability of the tree population of the city of Bern. The aim of the project was to create a basis for a climate-adapted management of trees. The short walk will give you a glance on the vitality of the trees, the selection of tree species and ecosystem services of the existing tree stands and potential new species; this will be illustrated at various locations around the university. The city walk is carried out by Stadtgrün Bern and the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL, in German, English and French.

## Getting there

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### Venue

UniS  
University of Berne  
Schanzeneckstrasse 1  
3012 Berne  
Switzerland

### Directions

#### By train:

Travelling by public transport is recommended. UniS is just a few minutes' walk from the main railway station in Berne.

When leaving the platform, take the "Welle" exit to the west of the station. The station exit is located close to the Stadtbachstrasse/Schanzenstrasse crossroads. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and follow the Schanzenstrasse uphill. After 5 minutes, take the left-hand turning to Schanzeneckstrasse, and the UniS building is immediately on your left (see map on the opposite page).

#### By car:

Travel by car is not recommended, as there are no parking spaces at UniS.

Cars can be left in the car park at the station for a fee ([www.bahnhofparking.ch](http://www.bahnhofparking.ch)). Take the lift to the Parkterrasse (Grosse Schanze). Go in a north-westerly direction and turn left into Hochschulstrasse. After 170 metres you come to Schanzenstrasse. Turn right and go uphill. After 5 minutes you will come to the turning to Schanzeneckstrasse, with the UniS building directly on your left after the turning.

