get nature positive

From Concrete to Biodiversity

Get Nature Positive – Certification Regulations

1. Objectives

The association Get Nature Positive (hereinafter referred to as GNP) protects and promotes biodiversity in Switzerland by initiating and supporting the creation of near-natural areas and by implementing projects and activities that motivate, activate and enable various stakeholders to design and maintain areas in a near-natural way.

2. Scope

GNP works exclusively with stakeholders in Switzerland. These regulations apply to the following stakeholders:

- 'Investors' are companies, private individuals or public authorities who wish to have their property or construction project certified by GNP.
- 'Project partners' are owners of nature projects who create and maintain new nature areas outside the site of the property or construction project.

3. Principles

- GNP makes it possible to partially or fully offset the biodiversity deficits of properties.
  - The sealed areas, which are permanently unavailable to nature, are offset by creating new nature areas. These nature areas can be created by GNP project partners or by the investors themselves.
  - For the green spaces on site, GNP requires a high ecological standard for «Get Nature Positive 30|30» and «Get Nature Positive Premium». The investor is responsible for achieving this standard.
- GNP enables investors to have their properties certified. Three different certificates are offered, depending on the initial situation and the level of ambition of the property: «Get Nature Positive 100» for properties with less than 10% green space, the entry-level certificate «Get Nature Positive 30|30», and the certificate with the highest level of ambition, «Get Nature Positive Premium», the latter two each for properties with at least 10% green space. All three certificates can be awarded to new buildings and existing properties.
- GNP does not certify new buildings whose construction destroyed particularly valuable habitats or endangered known populations of protected species, unless replacement measures were provided beforehand in agreement with the municipality and the canton. For «Get Nature Positive 30|30» and «Get Nature Positive Premium», a no-deterioration rule also applies to the green space (Chapter 6). Criteria and verification are governed by the Methodology Document (Annex 3).
- GNP's certification process is based on the "Framework for High Integrity Biodiversity Credits" of the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits www.iapbiocredits.org.
- The certificates are issued by an independent certification body.
- The certificates must not be used in a misleading way. They always apply to a specific property or site, but not to products or to a company as a whole.
- GNP reserves the right to decline cooperation with certain investors and project partners, stating its reasons.

4. Offsetting of sealed areas

- Full offsetting of a property's sealed areas is a basic requirement for obtaining the «Get Nature Positive 100» and «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificates. The «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate requires a partial offset of 30% of the sealed area.
- Sealed areas are offset by newly created nature areas. To account for the time new habitats need to develop, a time factor of 1.2 is applied. For «Get Nature Positive 100» and «Get Nature Positive Premium», the offset area therefore corresponds to 120% of the sealed area. For «Get Nature Positive 30|30», it corresponds to 36% of the total sealed area.
- According to the Federal Statistical Office, sealed areas include buildings (including greenhouses) as well as paved surfaces such as asphalt or concrete and artificially created gravel or stone surfaces without vegetation. The details of the area calculation are set out in the Methodology Document.
- If the offset rate required for the respective certificate is not achieved, no certificate can be applied for.

5. Requirements for nature projects

- Offsetting takes place through newly created nature areas (nature projects) in Switzerland, if possible in the same or a directly adjacent biogeographical region (division into 6 regions according to FOEN 2022). The exact location of the nature areas must be recorded (coordinates).
- GNP implements the nature projects together with local project partners. Fair cooperation on an equal footing with the project partners shall be ensured. Nature projects implemented by the investors themselves are also permitted.
- The minimum size of GNP nature projects is 5,000 m^2. Justified exceptions are possible. Very large properties can be offset with several nature areas. Conversely, several smaller properties can be offset with a joint nature project. There is no minimum size for nature projects implemented by investors.
- The ecological quality of the newly created nature areas is assessed on the basis of a scientific, expert-reviewed method (Biotope Type Mapping 2024 by Quadra GmbH). See Table 3 in the annex of the Methodology Document.
- Nature projects must meet the quality standard of ecological compensation (biotope value 4 to 6). In addition, all newly created nature areas must achieve a quality improvement of at least 1 biotope value.
- Ecologically meaningful habitats adapted to the site are created.
- Where appropriate, different habitats are created within one nature project.
- The nature projects shall contribute to better connectivity of habitats in the landscape.
- Isolated areas in settlement areas, areas in high mountain regions, projects on crop rotation areas that give rise to compensation requirements, projects requiring a permit but lacking one, etc. may be excluded by GNP.
- Nature projects comply with the principle of additionality. GNP shall bear at least 50 percent of the costs incurred for the enhancement. Any maintenance costs are not included in this calculation.
- The long-term existence of the nature areas is ensured by private-law contracts between GNP and the project partners and by regular monitoring. A contract term of 25 years is aimed for. Shorter terms are permissible in individual cases. For ex-post projects created in advance, the sealed areas shall be offset by means of certificates within 5 years.

6. Requirements for ecologically valuable surroundings

- With the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate, GNP aims to create an incentive to promote ecologically valuable green spaces in settlement areas. The «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate also requires a minimum ecological quality of the green space, albeit to a lesser extent than «Get Nature Positive Premium».
- The ecological quality of the green spaces is assessed using the method “Biotope Type Mapping 2024 by Quadra GmbH”. See Methodology Document in Annex 3.
- For certification with the «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate, a biotope value of 4 or higher must be achieved on at least 30% of the green space.
- For the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate, the average biotope value of the green space must be at least 3, and a biotope value of 4 or higher must be achieved on at least 30% of the green space.
- No-deterioration rule («30|30» and «Premium»): For new buildings and green space renovations, the target state of the green space shall not be worse than the initial state. If there are concrete indications of a significant loss of value, GNP may raise the minimum requirements.
- If properties do not meet the minimum requirements of the respective certificate, the investor must enhance the green space on site before certification.
- If GNP is involved in the planning at an early stage, GNP ensures that meaningful habitats adapted to the site are created. Where possible, different habitats should be created. In addition, attention should be paid to good connectivity with neighboring properties.
- The long-term existence of the enhanced green spaces is ensured by private-law contracts between GNP and the investors, by regular monitoring (see Chapter 13) and by the recertification process.

7. Obligations of investors

Investors are obliged:

- to conclude a private-law contract with GNP, see Annex 1.
- to grant GNP access to all project-relevant documents and to the property in order to calculate a detailed area balance and thus the certification fee.

In the case of a «Get Nature Positive 30|30» or «Get Nature Positive Premium» certification, investors are also obliged:

- to preserve and professionally maintain the green spaces agreed with GNP in the contract.
- to implement any measures required on the basis of the monitoring results.
- to grant GNP access to all project-relevant documents and to the property for the regular monitoring of the nature areas on site.

8. Obligations of project partners

Project partners are obliged:

- to conclude a private-law contract with GNP, see Annex 2.
- to grant GNP access to all project-relevant documents and to the nature areas during planning in order to review the planned nature areas.
- to implement the new nature areas agreed with GNP in the contract.
- after implementation of the new nature areas, to grant GNP access to all project-relevant documents and to the nature areas for the regular monitoring of the new nature areas.
- to implement any measures required by GNP on the basis of the monitoring results, see Annex 5.

9. Certification process

9.1 Certification process for the «Get Nature Positive 100» certificate

1. The GNP office ensures that the minimum requirements according to the Methodology Document are met (exclusion criteria, less than 10% green space, offsetting of 100% of the sealed area), calculates the area to be offset and, on this basis, the certification fees.
2. The certification body receives all documents:
   - Contract between GNP and the investor
   - Contracts between GNP and the relevant project partner(s)
   - Basic document with plans, plant lists, photos, etc. of the nature projects of the project partners and the investors
3. The certification body reviews the information provided for plausibility and, finally, the calculation of the area to be offset.
4. If the result is positive, the «Get Nature Positive 100» certificate is validated (digital signatures, logos of the certification body)
5. GNP hands over the certificate (paper and PDF), the GNP logos and other digital GNP communication materials to the investor.

9.2 Certification process for the «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate

1. The GNP office ensures that the minimum requirements according to the Methodology Document are met (exclusion criteria, no-deterioration rule, 30% of the green space with biotope value ≥ 4, offsetting of 30% of the sealed area) and calculates the certification fees.
2. The certification body receives all documents:
   - Contract between GNP and the investor
   - Contracts between GNP and the relevant project partner(s)
   - Basic document with plans, plant lists, photos, etc. of the nature projects of the project partners and the investors
   - Basic document for the assessment of the green space (target state; initial state if required).
3. The certification body reviews the information provided for plausibility and, finally, the calculation of the area to be offset and the assessment of the green space.
4. If the result is positive, the «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate is validated (digital signatures, logos of the certification body)
5. GNP hands over the certificate (paper and PDF), the GNP logos and other digital GNP communication materials to the investor.

9.3 Certification process for the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate

1. The GNP office ensures that the minimum requirements according to the Methodology Document are met (exclusion criteria, no-deterioration rule, Ø biotope value ≥ 3 and 30% of the green space with biotope value ≥ 4, offsetting of 100% of the sealed area) and calculates the certification fees.
2. The certification body receives all documents:
   - Certificate or documents required to check the plausibility of the offsetting of the sealed areas according to 9.1
   - Basic document with plans, aerial photographs, photos, calculations, plant lists, etc. documenting the green spaces (target state; initial state if required).
3. The certification body reviews the information provided for plausibility.
4. If the result is positive, the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate is validated (digital signatures, logos of the certification body)

5. GNP hands over the certificate (paper and PDF), the GNP logos and other digital GNP communication materials to the investor.

An upgrade from «Get Nature Positive 100» or «Get Nature Positive 30|30» to «Get Nature Positive Premium» is possible in accordance with the Methodology Document. The process follows 9.3.

10. Use of the certificate, the certificate logo and other GNP communication materials

- Investors may use the certificates, the certificate logos and other official GNP communication materials once the certification process has been completed.
- The communication materials must be obtained directly from GNP. The proportions and defined colors must not be altered.
- In the interest of transparent communication, GNP communication materials must be used in such a way that no misunderstandings arise regarding their statement and scope of validity. The following must be clear in all communication:
  - The certificates refer to one or more properties or construction projects. Misleading communication ("greenwashing") which, for example, promotes the entire company, a supply chain or products as nature positive on the basis of this certificate is not permitted.
  - The *GNP logo* may only be used in connection with the certificate obtained, e.g. to report the successful certification in the sustainability report.
  - Other official GNP communication materials are subject to specific terms of use defined by GNP.

11. Certification fee and quality assurance contribution

11.1 Fees for the «Get Nature Positive 100» certificate

- The fee for the «Get Nature Positive 100» certificate (2026 index) is calculated as a fixed amount in Swiss francs per square meter of sealed area to be offset. It amounts to CHF 15 per m^2 for pilot projects (2026 index). The fee finances advice from GNP, the planning and implementation of the project by the project partner, communication by GNP (website, social media) and the certification body. A maximum of 30% of the fee is used for GNP's administrative costs. At least 10% of the fee is allocated to a biodiversity and guarantee fund. This enables GNP to implement particularly complex nature areas and to create reserve areas in advance in case a nature area is lost. This ensures that the certificates are backed by natural assets at all times.
- An annual quality assurance contribution of CHF 0.20 per m^2 secures the quality of the area in the long term. As a rule, the quality assurance contribution is paid as a lump sum covering 20 to 25 years (CHF 4 to 5 per m^2). This contribution finances the monitoring, the validation of the monitoring report by the certification body and any success bonus for the project partner.

11.2 Fees for the «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate

- The area fee is calculated on the basis of the area to be offset (30% of the sealed area) and amounts to CHF 15 per m^2, plus a quality assurance contribution of CHF 4 to 5 per m^2 (2026 index).
- In addition to the area fees, a one-time flat-rate certification fee of CHF 5,000 (2026 index) is charged per property. The flat-rate fee covers the analysis and assessment of the biodiversity of the green space (target state; initial state if required), advice within a limited scope, the report, the expenses of the certification body, the monitoring in the first and second year

after certification, and communication by GNP (website, social media) relating to the certification.

- A flat fee of CHF 3,000 (2026 index) is charged for recertification every five years. The amount covers the monitoring, consisting of an on-site inspection – if possible together with the person responsible for the surroundings – the monitoring report in text and images, the expenses of the certification body, and communication by GNP (website, social media) relating to the recertification.

11.3 Fees for the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate:

- The area fee is calculated on the basis of the area to be offset and amounts to CHF 15 per m², plus a quality assurance contribution of CHF 4 to 5 per m² (2026 index).
- Flat-rate certification fee and recertification as under 11.2.

11.4 Special cases

- If the investor creates the offset areas entirely themselves, the area fee does not apply. Only the flat-rate certification fee of CHF 5,000 and CHF 3,000 for each monitoring from the fifth year onwards are charged (2026 index).
- Follow-up inspections according to 13.2 and 13.3 are charged to the investor on a time-and-materials basis if they do not coincide with a monitoring that is planned anyway.
- For larger projects, individually determined fees and subscription models are possible.

12. Certification body

- The «Get Nature Positive 100», «Get Nature Positive 30|30» and «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificates are issued by an independent certification body.
- The certification body is remunerated with a flat fee per certificate issued, financed through the certification fee and thus by the investor.
- See Section 15 Conflicts of interest and Annex 4.

13. Monitoring

13.1 Monitoring for the «Get Nature Positive 100» certificate

- After the new nature areas have been created by project partners or investors, GNP carries out monitoring. The first monitoring takes place in the first year after the contract is signed, during the growing season. Further monitoring takes place in the 2nd, 5th, 10th, 15th and 20th year. For shorter contract terms, the last monitoring may be omitted.
- The monitoring checks whether the nature areas are properly maintained so that biodiversity can develop positively. The habitats shall be preserved for at least 20 years, and if possible for 25 years.
- Through the monitoring of the nature areas, GNP and the project partner or investor seek to ensure that the nature areas meet the contractually agreed quality.
- If GNP finds during the monitoring of project partners' nature areas that nature areas have been destroyed without replacement, GNP ensures their replacement at the expense of the project partners.
- If monitoring of nature areas created by the investor themselves reveals that they no longer exist, the certificate is revoked.
- The monitoring reports are validated by the certification body.
- For the Monitoring Concept, see Annex 5.

13.2 Monitoring for the «Get Nature Positive 30|30» certificate

- The monitoring of the nature areas offsetting the sealed areas is carried out as described under 13.1.
- GNP regularly carries out monitoring of the green spaces of certified properties. As a rule, monitoring takes place in the first and second year after the contract is signed, during the growing season. Thereafter, the monitoring that also serves as the basis for recertification takes place in the fifth year after the contract is signed. Subsequent monitoring takes place every 5 years.
- Monitoring ensures that the certified near-natural surroundings of properties are properly maintained so that biodiversity can develop positively. The habitats shall be preserved permanently, but at least for the duration of the contract.
- If GNP finds during on-site monitoring that less than 30% of the green space meets the expected quality of at least 4 biotope values, an enhancement is required within one year and verified by a follow-up inspection at the investor's expense. If the quality is still not achieved, the certificate is revoked.
- The first monitoring also checks whether any contractually agreed measures have been implemented.
- The monitoring reports are validated by the certification body.
- For the Monitoring Concept, see Annex 5.

13.3 Monitoring for the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate

- Monitoring is carried out as described under 13.1 (nature areas) and 13.2 (green spaces on site).
- If the green space falls below the minimum requirements according to Chapter 6, an enhancement is required within one year and verified by a follow-up inspection at the investor's expense. If the quality is still not achieved, the certificate is downgraded to «Get Nature Positive 30|30», provided its requirements are met; otherwise it is revoked. The nature areas offsetting the sealed areas are preserved in any case.

14. Continuous development of the methodology and the certification system

14.1 Development of the methodology

- The Board of Get Nature Positive reviews annually whether the methodology applied for certification reflects the current state of the art.
- If this is found not to be the case, the Board instructs the GNP office to revise the methodology. The office may also revise the methodology without instruction from the Board if necessary.
- The independent certification body is asked to carry out a technical review of the revised methodology.
- The revised methodology is approved by the Board. It is then published by the GNP office.

14.2 Development of the certification system

- The Board of Get Nature Positive reviews annually whether these Certification Regulations fulfil their purpose and whether the processes described in them function efficiently.
- If action is required, the Board instructs the GNP office to revise the Certification Regulations. The office may also revise the Certification Regulations without instruction from the Board if necessary.

- Before the revised Certification Regulations enter into force and are published, the independent certification body is asked to carry out a technical review.
- The Certification Regulations are approved by the Board. They are then published by the GNP office.

15. Exclusion of conflicts of interest

- A conflict of interest exists if personal, financial or institutional interests impair judgment, decisions or actions relating to certifications by GNP.
- The following rules apply to members of the GNP Board, employees of the GNP office, members of the certification body and auditors:
  - They are obliged to declare any conflicts of interest when taking up their activity and whenever these change (duty of disclosure).
  - In particular, they are not permitted to act as project partners for GNP nature projects.
  - If these persons or organizations wish to have their own properties certified by GNP, they must recuse themselves from the certification process and monitoring.
- Declared conflicts of interest and violations of these rules are reported to the Board and discussed and minuted at the next possible Board meeting.
- Violations may lead to exclusion from certification activities and, in serious cases, to termination of the cooperation or exclusion from the association.

16. Applicable documents

Annex 1:	Certification agreement
Annex 2:	Project agreement
Annex 3:	Methodology Document
Annex 4:	Certification body agreement
Annex 5:	Monitoring Concept

17. Entry into force of these regulations

Zurich, 11.11.2026

Romanshorn, 11.11.2026

(signatures in German version)

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