

Get Nature Positive – Certification Regulation

1. Aims and principles

- The Get Nature Positive association (hereafter GNP) aims to increase the area rich in biodiversity in Switzerland.
- With 'Get Nature Positive', biodiversity deficits in real estate can be equalized fully. This is done with newly created or preserved natural areas on site as well as compensation projects in Switzerland.
- No certificate can be applied for in the case of partial compensation.
- The preserved and newly created natural areas fulfil clearly defined quality criteria.
- The quality of preserved and newly created natural areas are measured on the basis of a scientific and expert-tested method.
- The newly created natural areas fulfil the principle of additionality.
- GNP bases its work on the nature conservation hierarchy.
- The 'Nature Positive' certificate applies to a property or site, but not to products or a company as a whole.
- The 'Nature Positive' certificate is issued by an independent certification body.
- The 'Nature Positive' certificate may not be used in a misleading way.
- GNP reserves the right to refuse to co-operate with certain investors and project partners, stating its reasons.

2. Scope

- These regulations apply to the following parties:
 - Companies, public authorities and private individuals who apply for the 'Nature Positive' certificate for their property/construction project, henceforth referred to as 'investors'.
 - Managers of nature projects who create and maintain new nature areas outside the site of the property/construction project, henceforth referred to as 'project partners'.
- GNP works exclusively with stakeholders in Switzerland.

3. Requirements for nature projects of project partners and eligible nature areas of investors

- Nature projects and eligible nature areas are located in Switzerland and are precisely localised.
- The minimum area for nature projects is 5000 m². Justified exceptions are possible.
- Areas that fulfil the quality criteria for legal ecological compensation (quality level 4), are approved as nature projects by project partners. Selected natural areas of investors of quality level 3 can be counted as half (see Table 3 in Methodology). In addition, an improvement in quality of at least one ecological quality level must be achieved for all newly created nature areas.
- Isolated areas in settlement areas, areas in high mountain regions, projects on crop rotation areas that lead to compensation requirements, nature projects that lack the necessary permits etc. can be excluded from GNP.

4. Obligations on the part of investors

Investors are obliged:

- to conclude a private law contract with GNP, see appendix 1.
- to grant GNP access to project relevant documents and access to the site in order to calculate a detailed area balance and thus the certification fee.
- to implement the contractually agreed measures for nature areas on site.

- to give GNP access to project relevant documents and access to the site for regular monitoring of their natural areas.

5. Obligations on the part of investors

Project partners are obliged:

- to conclude a private law contract with GNP, see appendix 2.
- grant GNP access to all project relevant documents and access to the nature areas in order to validate the proposed nature areas.
- to realise the new nature areas agreed with GNP in the contract.
- to give GNP access to project relevant documents and access to the site for regular monitoring of their natural areas.
- to implement any measures requested by GNP on the basis of the monitoring results, see appendix 5.

6. Certification process

1. The GNP-office calculates the area to be compensated according to the GNP method and the certification fee based on this, see appendix 3.
2. The certification body receives all documents:
 - Contract between GNP and the investor
 - Contracts between GNP and the relevant project partner(s)
 - Pläne, Pflanzlisten, Abnahmebericht, Monitoringbericht der Aufwertungsprojekte der Projektpartner
 - Plans, planting lists, acceptance report, monitoring report of the nature projects if available.
 - The certification body checks and verifies the plausibility of the available information and finally the calculation of the area to be compensated.
3. if the result is positive, the draft certificate is validated (stamp, signature)
4. return of the certificate to GNP (paper and PDF)
5. GNP provides the investor with the certificate (paper and PDF), GNP logos and other digital GNP communication media.

7. Use of certificate, GNP logo and other GNP communication media

- Investors may use the certificate, the GNP logo and other official GNP communication tools after completion of the certification process.
- The means of communication must be obtained directly from GNP. The proportions and defined colours may not be changed.
- In the interests of transparent communication, GNP's communication tools must be used in such a way that there is no misunderstanding as to their meaning and scope.
 - The *certificate* refers to one or more properties or construction projects. Misleading communication ('greenwashing'), e.g. labelling 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 received, e.g. to inform about the successful certification in the sustainability report.
 - Other official *GNP communication media* are subject to specific terms of use defined by GNP.

8. Certification fee and area rent

- The certification fee (Index 2024) is calculated on the basis of a fixed amount in Swiss francs per square metre to be offset. It amounts to CHF 10 per square metre for the pilot projects. 70% of the fee is used to finance the advice provided by GNP and the planning and realisation of the

nature project by the project partner. Any surpluses are used to finance a biodiversity fund. 30% of the fee is used to finance tasks of the certification body and the administrative costs of GNP.

- The quality of the restored nature area can be maintained in the long term with an annual area rent of CHF 0.20 per square meter. Alternatively, the area rent can be paid at once (CHF 5 per square meter). The area rent is used to finance the monitoring scheme and a performance bonus for the project partner.
- See appendix 3

9. Certification body

- The 'Nature Positive' certificate is issued by an independent certification body.
- The certification body is paid a fixed price per certificate issued, which is financed by the certification fee and therefore by the investor.
- See appendix 4.

10. Monitoring

- Once the new nature areas have been created by the investor or project partner, regular monitoring is carried out.
- The monitoring ensures that the upgraded or newly created habitats are properly maintained and that biodiversity can develop positively as a result. The habitats should be preserved permanently, i.e. for at least 25 years.
- Monitoring is a way for GNP and the project partner or investor to ensure that the improved or newly created habitats meet the contractually agreed quality.
- If GNP discovers during the monitoring of project partners' nature projects that nature areas have been destroyed without replacement, GNP will ensure that they are replaced.
- If GNP's monitoring of investors' eligible natural areas reveals that nature areas have been destroyed without replacement, the certificate will be cancelled.
- See appendix 5.

11. Enactment of these regulations

Zürich, 28.05.2024

Felix Meier
President of GNP

Romanshorn, 28.05.2024

Simon L. Zeller
Co-Managing Director

12. Applicable documents

Appendix 1:
Appendix 2:
Appendix 3:
Appendix 4:
Appendix 5:

Framework agreement investors
Framework agreement project partners
GNP Technical documentation
GNP certification body agreement
GNP-monitoring concept