

# Get Nature Positive - Certification Regulation

## 1. Aims

The Get Nature Positive association (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 empower various stakeholders to design and maintain near-natural areas.

## 2. Scope of application

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

- Companies, private individuals or public authorities who wish to have their property/building project certified by GNP are called 'investors'.
- Managers of nature projects who create and maintain new natural areas outside the site of the property/construction project are called 'project partners'.

## 3. Principles

- GNP can be used to fully compensate for biodiversity deficits in properties.
  - The compensation for the sealed areas that are permanently unavailable to nature is achieved through the creation of new natural areas. These natural areas can be created by GNP's project partners or the investors themselves.
  - GNP demands a high ecological standard for the unsealed green spaces on site. The investor is responsible for achieving this standard.
- Investors can have their properties certified. Two different certificates are offered that build on each other: «Get Nature Positive» and «Get Nature Positive Premium».
- GNP ensures that no newly built properties are certified if their construction destroys particularly valuable natural areas or jeopardises known occurrences of rare species. In this case, certification would only be possible if compensation or resettlement measures were carried out in advance in consultation with the municipality and canton. The basis for this review is the respective communal or cantonal nature inventory as well as aerial photographs or photos. If the presence of valuable habitats cannot be ruled out, GNP carries out an on-site inspection.
- The GNP certification process is based on the "Framework For High Integrity Biodiversity Credits" of the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits [www.iapbiocredits.org](http://www.iapbiocredits.org).
- The certificates are issued by an independent certification body.
- The certificates must not be used in a misleading manner. They apply to a property or location, but not to products or a company as a whole.
- GNP reserves the right to refuse co-operation with certain investors and project partners, stating its reasons.

## 4. Compensation of sealed surfaces

- Complete compensation of the sealed surfaces of a property is a basic requirement for obtaining the «Get Nature Positive» and «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificates.
- Sealed areas are compensated with newly created natural areas that correspond to at least 120% of the sealed area.

- According to the Federal Statistical Office (Bundesamt für Statistik), sealed surfaces include buildings (including greenhouses) and paved surfaces such as asphalt or concrete as well as artificial gravel or stone surfaces without vegetation.
- No certificate can be applied for if the compensation is incomplete.

## 5. Minimum requirements for nature projects

- Compensation is carried out by means of newly created natural areas (enhancement projects) in Switzerland, if possible in the same or a directly neighbouring biogeographical region (division into 6 regions according to FOEN 2022). The natural areas must be precisely localised (coordinates).
- GNP realises the nature projects together with local project partners. A fair, partnership-based cooperation with the project partners should be guaranteed. Nature projects that are realised by the investors themselves are also permitted.
- The minimum area of GNP nature projects is 5000 m<sup>2</sup>. Justified exceptions are possible. There is no minimum area for investor enhancement projects.
- The ecological quality of the newly created natural areas is assessed on the basis of a scientific and expert-tested method (biotope type mapping, 'Biotoptypenkartierung'). See methodological document in Annex 3.
- Enhancement projects must fulfil the quality of ecological compensation (ökologischer Ausgleich) (biotope value 4). In addition, a quality improvement of at least 1 biotope value must be achieved for all newly created natural areas.
- Ecologically meaningful, site-appropriate habitats are created.
- Where appropriate, different habitats are created within an enhancement project.
- The enhancement projects are intended to help improve the connectivity of habitats in the landscape.
- Isolated areas in settlement areas, areas in high mountain regions, projects on crop rotation areas that lead to compensation requirements, projects requiring authorisation without authorisation, etc. are excluded from GNP.
- Enhancing projects fulfil the principle of additionality. The GNP is to cover at least 50 per cent of the costs necessary to implement the nature project.
- The long-term existence of the natural areas is ensured by private-law contracts between GNP and the project partners and regular monitoring.

## 6. Requirements for ecologically valuable surroundings

- With the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate, GNP aims to incentivise the promotion of green spaces of high ecological quality in urban areas.
- In order to obtain a «Get Nature Positive Premium Certificate», the green space of a property must fulfil high quality requirements. In addition, the sealed surfaces must be fully be compensated (see point 4).
- The ecological quality The minimum requirements that must be met in order to be eligible for certification are as follows: of the green spaces is assessed using the «biotope type mapping» method. See Technical Documentation in Appendix 3.

The minimum requirements that must be met in order to be eligible for certification are as follows:

- In the target state, the average biotope value of the green space must correspond to at least a biotope value of 3.

- If the average ecological value of a property's surroundings corresponds to a biotope value of 4 or higher, it can be certified directly. For these already very high-quality green spaces, the focus is on maintaining the ecological quality.
- If the biotope value is less than 3, the investor must realise an enhancement project before certification.
- The enhancing project must have been completed at the time of certification. It must not have been completed more than 2 years ago.
- The enhancement project must improve the ecological quality of the green space by at least 0.5 biotope values (delta) compared to the initial state. The improvement may be less if an average biotope value of 4 is achieved.
- If GNP is involved in planning at an early stage, it ensures that meaningful, site-appropriate habitats are created. If possible, different habitats should be created. Attention should also be paid to good connection to neighbouring properties.
- The long-term existence of the upgraded green spaces is ensured by private-law contracts between GNP and the investors, regular monitoring and the recertification process.

## 7. Obligations of investors

The investors are obliged:

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

In the case of "Get Nature Positive Premium" certification, investors are also obliged to:

- to maintain and professionally care for the areas agreed with GNP in the contract.
- GNP to view all project-relevant documents and to grant access to the property for regular monitoring of the natural areas on site.

## 8. Obligations of project partners

Project partners are committed:

- to conclude a contract under private law with GNP, see Appendix 2.
- GNP must be granted access to all project-relevant documents and to the natural areas during the planning phase in order to check the planned natural areas.
- implement the new natural areas agreed with GNP in the contract.
- After the implementation of the new nature areas, GNP must be granted access to all project-relevant documents and access to the nature areas for the regular monitoring of the new nature areas.
- implement measures requested by GNP on the basis of the monitoring results, see Annex 5.

## 9. Certification process

### 9.1 Certification process of the «Get Nature Positive» certificate

1. The GNP-office calculates the area to be compensated 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)

- Basic document with plans, planting lists, photos, etc. of enhancement projects of the project partners and the investors.

3. The certification body checks and verifies the plausibility of the existing data and finally the calculation of the area to be compensated.
4. If the result is positive, the «Get Nature Positive» 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 media to the investor.

#### 9.2 Certification process for the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate

1. The office calculates the average ecological quality of the unsealed areas of a property according to the GNP method. If an upgrading project is implemented, GNP also calculates the difference between the initial and target state and records this in a report.
2. The certification body receives all documents:
  - Certificate or necessary documents to verify the plausibility of the compensation of the sealed areas in accordance with 8.1.2
  - Basic document with plans, aerial photographs, photos, calculations, planting lists, etc. to document the green spaces (initial and target status for upgrading).
3. The certification body checks and verifies the plausibility of the information provided.
4. If the result is positive, the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate is validated (digital signatures, certification body logos)
5. GNP hands over the certificate (paper and PDF), the GNP logos and other digital GNP communication media to the investor.

### 10. Use of certificate, certificate logo and other GNP communication media

- Investors may use the certificates, the certificate logos 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.
- The GNP means of communication must be used in such a way that there are no misunderstandings regarding the statement and the scope of validity in the sense of transparent communication. The following must be clear in communication:
  - The certificates relate 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.

### 11. Certification fee and quality assurance contribution

#### 11.1 Fees for «Get Nature Positive» certificate

- The fee for the «Get Nature Positive» certificate (Index 2024) is calculated on the basis of a fixed amount in Swiss francs per square metre of sealed surface that is to be offset. It amounts to CHF 15 per square metre for pilot projects (Index 2024). The fee is used to finance advice from GNP, the planning and realisation of the project by the project partner and 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 used to finance a biodiversity and

guarantee fund. This enables GNP to realise particularly complex natural areas and create reserve areas in advance in case an enhancement area is lost. This ensures that the certificates are backed by nature values at all times.

- With an annual quality assurance contribution of CHF 0.20 per square metre, the quality of the area can be ensured in the long term. The quality assurance contribution is generally paid in one instalment to cover 25 years (CHF 5 per square metre). This contribution is used to finance the monitoring, the validation of the monitoring report by the certification body and a performance bonus for the project partner.

#### *11.2 Fees for «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate:*

- For the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate, GNP charges a certification fee of CHF 5000 (as of 2024) per property. The fee is used for the analysis and evaluation of the biodiversity of the green space before and after the redesign/enhancement, consulting to a limited extent, the report, the expenses of the certification body, the monitoring in the first and second year after certification and the communication by GNP (website, social media) relating to the certification.
- For recertification every five years, a lump sum of CHF 3000 is charged (index 2024). The amount is used for monitoring, consisting of an on-site inspection together with the person responsible for the environment, the monitoring report in text and images, the expenses of the certification body and communication by GNP (website, social media) relating to recertification.

### **12. Certification body**

- The «Get Nature Positive» and «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificates are issued by an independent certification body.
- The certification body is remunerated with a lump sum per certificate issued, financed by the certification fee and thus by the investor.
- See Appendix 4.

### **13. Monitoring**

#### *13.1 Monitoring for the «Get Nature Positive» certificate*

- GNP carries out monitoring after the creation of new natural areas by project partners or investors. The first monitoring takes place in the first year after the contract is signed during the vegetation period. Further monitoring takes place in the 2nd, 5th, 10th, 15th and 20th year.
- The monitoring checks whether the natural areas are being properly maintained and whether biodiversity can develop positively as a result. The natural areas should be preserved for at least 25 years.
- By monitoring the natural areas, GNP and the project partner or investor want to ensure that the natural areas fulfil the contractually agreed quality.
- If GNP discovers during the monitoring of project partners' natural areas that natural areas have been destroyed without replacement, GNP will ensure their replacement at the expense of the project partners.
- If the monitoring of natural areas created by the investor itself reveals that they no longer exist, the certificate will be cancelled.
- The monitoring reports are validated by the certification body.

### 13.2 Monitoring for the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate

- GNP carries out regular monitoring on the green spaces of certified properties. The monitoring usually takes place in the first and second year after signing the contract during the vegetation period. Thereafter, monitoring, which also forms the basis for recertification, takes place in the fifth year after the contract is signed. The following monitorings take place every 5 years.
- Monitoring ensures that the ecologically valuable surroundings of properties are properly maintained and that biodiversity can develop positively as a result. The habitats should be preserved permanently or for at least 25 years.
- GNP and the investor want to use monitoring to ensure that the environment meets the contractually agreed quality.
- If GNP determines during on-site monitoring that the quality of the environment permanently falls below the biotope value of 3, this leads to a downgrade of the «Get Nature Positive Premium» certificate to «Get Nature Positive».
- The monitoring reports are validated by the certification body.
- See Appendix 5 for monitoring concept.

## 14. Continuous development of methodology and certification system

### 14.1 Further development of methodology

- The Get Nature Positive Board of Directors reviews annually whether the methodology used for certification is the current technical standard.
- If this is not the case, the Board of Directors shall instruct the GNP office to revise the methodology. The office may also revise the methodology without being instructed to do so by the Board of Directors if necessary.
- The independent certification body shall be asked to carry out a technical review of the revised methodology.
- The revised methodology is approved by the Board of Directors. It is then published by the GNP office.

### 14.2 Further development of the certification system

- The Board of Directors of Get Nature Positive reviews annually whether the present certification regulations fulfil their purpose and whether the processes described therein function efficiently.
- If action is required, the Board of Directors shall instruct the GNP office to revise the certification regulations. The office may also revise the certification regulations without being instructed to do so by the Board of Directors if necessary.
- Before the revised certification regulations come into force and are published, the independent certification body shall be asked to carry out a technical review.
- The certification regulations shall be approved by the Board of Directors. They shall then be published by the GNP office.

## 15. Management of conflict of interest

- A conflict of interest exists if personal, financial or institutional interests affect the judgment, decisions or actions related to certifications by GNP.
- The following regulation applies to members of the GNP Board of Directors, 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 activities as well as when changing them (duty of disclosure).
  - In particular, they are not permitted to be 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 regulations will be reported to the Board of Directors and discussed and recorded at the next possible Board meeting.
- Violations may lead to exclusion from certification activities and, in serious cases, to termination of cooperation or expulsion from the association.

**16. Applicable documents**

Appendix 1:	Framework agreement investors
Appendix 2:	Framework agreement project partner
Appendix 3:	GNP Technical documentation
Appendix 4:	Certification body agreement
Appendix 5:	GNP Monitoring concept

**17. Enactment of these regulations**

Zurich, 22.09.2025



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