FOOD SYSTEMS
NDC SCORECARD

Switzerland Assessment

September 2025

I. Introduction

Switzerland is a mountainous, landlocked, high-income European country with a high-impact diet (About Switzerland—Geography; Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology, Appendices II, IV). Switzerland's geography is made up of the Alps (58%), the Jura (11%), and the Central Plateau (31%), with most of the population living in the Central Plateau (About Switzerland—Geography). It is known as Europe's water tower because the Alps and the Jura mountain ranges cover approximately 70% of its land, which contains both glaciers and permafrost (Switzerland's Second Nationally Determined Contribution Under the Paris Agreement 2031–2035 [NDC], pp.10–11; About Switzerland—Geography). Switzerland is home to more than 1,500 freshwater lakes, and 23% of its land is 2,000 meters or more above sea level (About Switzerland—Geography). Switzerland's export-driven economy has a large service industry and many small- and medium-size enterprises (About Switzerland—Economy). It is a federal state with a direct democracy at all levels of government (About Switzerland—Political System). In this direct democracy, citizens can use an optional referendum to veto decisions made by the Swiss Parliament, vote in a mandatory referendum on any constitutional amendment, and use the popular initiative to propose amendments to the Constitution of the Swiss Confederation (NDC, p. 14).

Switzerland submitted its NDC on January 29, 2025 (NDC Registry). The NDC reports Switzerland's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 65% compared to 1990 levels by 2035, staying within a 106.8 Mt (megatonnes) CO2-e five-year budget (NDC, p. 6). The NDC also commits to a net-zero target for all GHG emissions by 2050 (NDC, p. 6). It takes a sector-by-sector approach with a target of decreasing agricultural emissions—14% of Switzerland's total emissions—by 25% by 2035 and 40% by 2050 (NDC, pp. 7–9). The NDC also provides GHG emission footprint targets for the entire life cycle of food per capita compared to 2020 levels (25% by 2030, 35% by 2035, and 66.6% by 2050) (NDC, p. 7).

This NDC was evaluated according to the Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology, using the documents below. All scores are based on evaluations of the NDC and documents cited within each area of the assessment. Where not specified, in this assessment "NDC" may refer to content within an NDC submission document or other documents analyzed as part of the NDC (see Appendix).

For Switzerland, we analyzed the NDC; Annex to Switzerland's Second NDC 2031–2035: Contributions to the Outcome of the First Global Stocktake (Annex); Klimastrategie Landwirtschaft und Ernährung 2050 (Climate strategy for agriculture and food 2050)—Part 1: Principles, goals and directions (CSAF Pt 1) and Part 2: Action plan (CSAF Pt 2); Switzerland's First Biennial Transparency Report Under the Paris Agreement (December 2024) (BTR); and Bundesgesetz über die Ziele im Klimaschutz, die Innovation und die Stärkung der Energiesicherheit (KlG) (Federal act on climate protection targets, innovation and strengthening energy security). For additional information on policies considered within this evaluation, please see the Appendix. Original documents not available in English were translated using DeepL.

Switzerland — Overall Score: Very Strong

Specific to Food System	
Scope of food systems coverage	3
Context-specific action	3
Promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation	2.5
Broader Considerations	
Equity and inclusiveness in NDC development	2.5

Total Score **11/12**

II. Scope of Food Systems Coverage (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates whether the NDC or policies referenced within the NDC addresses each stage of the food system to assess the full extent of the country's climate mitigation and adaptation potential. The stages are as follows: (1) food production; (2) food loss; (3) food processing; (4) food distribution; (5) food consumption, including food access, diets, and nutrition; and (6) food waste. This area does not assess the policies' benefits or harms; these considerations are addressed in subsequent areas of this assessment. The NDC will receive a "strong" score of 3 points if it addresses all subareas; a "medium" score of 2 points if it addresses at least food production, food consumption, and either food loss or waste; a "weak" score of 1 point if it addresses at least one subarea; and an "absent" score of 0 points if no subarea is addressed.

Since Switzerland's NDC demonstrates action at all stages of the food system, it received **a strong score of 3 points** for the scope of food systems coverage area.

(1) Food production

The NDC demonstrates action at the food production stage of the food system through a commitment to production objectives. For example, the Climate Strategy for Agriculture and Food 2050 identifies as one of its primary goals to source at least 50% of the food required to support Switzerland's population from domestic agricultural production (CSAF Pt 1, p. 5).

The CSAF Pt 1 also demonstrates action by discussing the mitigation potential of shifting production so that "arable land is used predominantly for direct human nutrition" and feeding animals by using the natural nonarable land or waste for production of food that cannot be used for human nutrition (CSAF Pt 1, p. 15). This aim is reflected in the CSAF subobjective "Optimizing production portfolios" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 20). Among other examples, the CSAF action plan specifies that Switzerland intends to increase the "cultivation of [nitrogen]-fixing legumes for human consumption and the cultivation of [nitrogen]-efficient crops" to reduce the amount of mineral fertilizer needed, which "further reduces the GHG footprint" (CSAF Pt 2, p. 36).

(2) Food loss

The NDC demonstrates action at the food loss stage through various policy objectives. For example, the Annex and CSAF Pt 2 express the goal to halve the number of recorded avoidable food losses by 2030 while "achieving the greatest possible reduction in environmental impact," aiming for a three-quarter reduction by 2050 (Annex, p. 8; CSAF Pt 2, p. 27). These "avoidable food losses include harvest losses, fruit and vegetables rejected due to standard requirements, overproduction, [and] by-products from the processing industry" (CSAF Pt 2, p. 27). (Note that Switzerland uses both "loss" and "waste" to describe food loss as it is defined in the Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology; the example here is specific to the methodology's definition of food loss.) The first phase concludes in 2025, so achieving the food loss goal is contingent upon the success of the second phase of the CSAF action plan (CSAF Pt 2, p. 28).

(3) Food processing

The NDC demonstrates action at the food processing stage. For example, the NDC indicates a commitment to reforming food system policy instruments such that "production, processing, trade and consumption move towards the net-zero target for greenhouse gas emissions and the resilience of the food system is strengthened" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 5). In tandem with this commitment is a call for food systems policies—including those related to processing—to be reviewed in a climate impact assessment to make sure that the policies are moving toward the net-zero GHG emissions target and that the "resilience of the food system is strengthened" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 23).

(4) Food distribution

The NDC demonstrates action at the food distribution stage. For example, the CSAF Pt 1 includes a subobjective for a low GHG footprint for food imports that are sourced from sustainable and diverse sources and production sites to avoid climate-related supply chain issues (CSAF Pt 1, p. 19). Additionally, a subgoal in the CSAF Pt 2 is to prioritize importing food products and food-production products (e.g., fertilizer) "that meet environmental standards, have particular advantages for the climate compared to conventional products or are linked to agroecological principles" (CSAF Pt 2, p. 34).

(5) Food consumption

The NDC demonstrates action at the food consumption stage through a policy objective to promote healthy and sustainable diets within Switzerland's population, including a goal from the 2030 sustainable development strategy that at least one-third of the population eats a healthy, balanced diet in line with the Swiss food pyramid by 2030 (CSAF Pt 1, pp. 18–19). For average Swiss households to follow the food pyramid diet recommendations, they would have to reduce their meat consumption and increase their consumption of "dairy products, pulses, fruit and vegetables" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 8). The NDC suggests that with this dietary shift Switzerland can reduce its carbon footprint related to food consumption by half (CSAF Pt 1, p. 15). The CSAF Pt 1 also recommends supplementing diets with plant-based proteins, such as legumes, which benefit health and the environment (CSAF Pt 1, p. 4). These are two examples, among others, of how Switzerland's NDC addresses food consumption.

(6) Food waste

The NDC demonstrates action at the food waste stage through policy objectives to minimize avoidable food waste. The CSAF 2050 outlines plans to achieve this goal by repurposing food waste for animal feed, energy generation, and compost production (CSAF Pt 1, p. 19). The strategy also outlines the potential to minimize food waste by a total reduction of 66%, with the goal to halve avoidable waste by 2030 compared to 2017 (CSAF Pt 1, pp. 15, 19). Nothing in the NDC suggests there are other policies that address food waste.

III. Context-Specific Action (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the depth of food systems integration within the NDC through a framework of seven critical subareas for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the food system: (1) addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, (2) mitigating emissions in food production, (3) reducing fossil fuel use in the food system, (4) reducing agricultural deforestation, (5) shifting from high-impact dietary patterns, (6) reducing food loss and/or waste, and (7) enhancing climate-resilient food production. Subareas 6 and 7 are evaluated for all countries, and the other five are evaluated if applicable to a given country.

Subarea 1 is evaluated for all countries except high-income countries. Although food insecurity is present in high-income countries, this subarea is assessed only for low- and middle-income countries where the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition are associated with greater climate vulnerabilities. Subareas 2 and 3 are evaluated for high- and upper-middle-income countries only. Subarea 4 is scored for countries that are ranked among the 25 countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation according to Global Forest Watch data, and subarea 5 is evaluated for countries with a high-impact diet—countries whose consumption of animal-source foods (ASFs) exceeds EAT-Lancet recommendations by 25%.

The action in each applicable subarea is first assessed as strong, medium, weak, or absent:

- Actions are strong when a specific policy has been adopted or a plan to adopt a specific policy is in place.
- Actions are medium when an intent to take action is mentioned (i.e., no detailed implementation plan exists).
- Actions are weak if only a descriptive mention of it is included and absent when no action is mentioned.

On the basis of these assessments, the NDC will receive a strong, medium, weak, or absent rating for the area as a whole. (See more details in the Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology, p. 7.)

Subarea 1 was not analyzed because Switzerland is a high-income country. Subarea 4 was evaluated but not scored because Switzerland is not one of the countries with the highest rates of deforestation.

Since Switzerland's NDC demonstrates strong action in all of the applicable subareas, the NDC received **a strong score of 3 points** for the context-specific action area.

(1) Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition
This subarea was not analyzed for Switzerland.

(2) Mitigating emissions in food production
The NDC indicates strong action to mitigate emissions in food production. For example, the CSAF Pt 2 includes a program for energy advisory services for farms, which can reduce energy consumption, CO2 emissions, and costs (CSAF Pt 2, p. 66). Another example, a goal of the CSAF Pt 1, is to "maintain soil fertility and increase carbon storage" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 20). To keep carbon stored and improve soil health, the CSAF Pt 2 describes a policy that provides incentives to farmers for using conservation tillage methods and a variety of plants to increase humus content (CSAF Pt 2, p. 59). Additionally, the CSAF Pt 2 describes a new measure to help farms manage and increase the humus content in soils (CSAF Pt 2, p. 61). It says that through these farm-specific measures, "farms increase and maintain the humus content and thus bind atmospheric carbon in the soil [which] contributes to both GHG reduction and adaptation" (CSAF Pt 2, p. 61). Switzerland also has policies "curbing the loss of soil carbon stocks, especially in peat soils (soil carbon)," and CSAF Pt 2 details plans to create and implement guidelines for peat soil (CSAF Pt 1, p. 15; CSAF Pt 2, pp. 5, 56, 62, 67).

(3) Reducing fossil fuel use in the food system

The NDC shows strong action to reduce fossil fuel use in the food system. The CSAF Pt 1 says that fossil fuels are being replaced by renewable energies across multiple sectors, including the agriculture and food industry, which are now using solar energy at existing building sites (CSAF Pt 1, p. 20). The CSAF action plan states that fossil fuels are federally taxed, providing incentives to use cleaner energy sources, and that manufacturers and importers of fossil fuels are required to offset some of their transportation carbon emissions by supporting domestic emissions-reduction projects, such as ones in the agriculture and food industry (CSAF Pt 2, p. 9). These are just two examples of how the Switzerland NDC demonstrates plans to reduce fossil fuels in the food system.

(4) Reducing agricultural deforestation

Although we did not score its NDC on this subarea, Switzerland does address deforestation, noting in the Annex that the Federal Act on Forests ensures the conservation of "forests in area and spatial distribution [by] protect[ing] them as near-natural ecosystems, particularly by prohibiting deforestation" (Annex, p. 5).

(5) Shifting from high-impact dietary patterns

The NDC indicates strong action in shifting from high-impact dietary patterns. Throughout multiple policies, Switzerland demonstrates how consuming lower-impact foods has positive climate results. The CSAF Pt 1 explains how diets that are more plant-based contribute to improved human health and a cleaner environment (CSAF Pt 1, p. 14). The CSAF action plan notes that production of animal products has a higher environmental impact than production of plant-based foods, and because of this, "funding for the promotion of plant-based products should be increased in [the] future, while that for animal products should be adjusted" (CSAF Pt 2, p. 21). To shift consumption patterns, Switzerland is pursuing the objective that by 2050 "the population in Switzerland [will have] a healthy and balanced diet that protects the environment and conserves resources: the diet meets the recommendations of the Swiss food pyramid, and the greenhouse gas footprint of the diet per capita is reduced by at least two-thirds compared to 2020" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 18). With a diet based on the Swiss food pyramid, "the GHG footprint of the diet and other negative environmental impacts can be more than halved at the same time as promoting the health of the population" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 15). The CSAF Pt 1 notes that "compliance with the Swiss food pyramid should be verified on the basis of consumption data" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 18).

(6) Reducing food loss and/or waste

The NDC indicates strong actions to reduce food loss and waste in the food system. For example, the CSAF Pt 1 lays out a goal of reducing avoidable food losses per capita by three-quarters by 2050 (CSAF Pt 1, p. 19). The CSAF action plan states that the Federal Council adopted an action plan against food waste in 2022, which has since been implemented (CSAF Pt 2, p. 28). Companies in retail, catering, processing, and agricultural sectors have agreed to reduce food waste and are supposed to provide annual reports on food losses and reduction measures (CSAF Pt 2, p. 28). Additionally, Switzerland has developed a food waste hierarchy for food losses—when it is no longer fit for human consumption, food should be used as animal feed first "and secondarily for energy production or compost production" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 19).

(7) Enhancing climate-resilient food production

The NDC shows strong action to enhance food production systems to prepare for and cope with climate impacts. For example, the CSAF action plan indicates that the Plant Breeding Strategy 2050 has already been initiated, noting that plant breeding is key to ensuring crops can adapt to climate change (CSAF Pt 2, p. 39). It states that funding for plant breeding has increased; Switzerland intends to increase support for climate-resilient crops and their contribution to reducing emissions, including the plants' capacity to sequester more carbon (CSAF Pt 2, p. 39). Switzerland's policies also lay out goals to protect organic soils, use conservation agriculture, and manage humus (CSAF Pt 1, pp. 15, 20; CSAF Pt 2, p. 61).

IV. Promoting Synergies and Avoiding Maladaptation (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2.5 POINTS (STRONG)

Measures put forth in the NDC can promote synergies with other sustainability, social, and health objectives. These measures could also conflict with the same objectives. In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the extent to which the NDC has sought to promote synergies and avoid maladaptation or make trade-offs with other sustainable development objectives. This is a two-step evaluation process. The first step is an assessment of whether the NDC considers seven topics in relation to the food system that support sustainable development synergies: (1) nutrition; (2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare; (3) other health considerations; (4) human rights; (5) biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems; (6) gender; and (7) small-scale producers. For each synergistic subarea addressed 0.5 points are given, up to a maximum of 3 points.

Switzerland's NDC **received 2.5 points in the synergies main subarea** because it addresses five of the seven synergistic topics.

The second step is an assessment of the NDC for risks of maladaptation related to the inclusion of five to eight high-risk activities: (1) expansion of agricultural frontier; (2) increasing production of crops such as soy, corn, rapeseed, wheat, and sugar cane for animal feed and energy; (3) increasing pesticide use; (4) intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers; and (5) increasing water consumption. The remaining high-risk activities are evaluated only for high- and upper-middle-income countries: (6) intensification of animal agriculture (and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors), (7) increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption, and (8) increasing fertilizer usage.

Switzerland's NDC **did not lose any points in the maladaptation main subarea** because nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in the high-risk activities considered.

For each synergistic subarea, the NDC receives 0.5 points up to a maximum of 3 points. For each maladaptive high-risk activity, the NDC loses 1 point. The number of points subtracted from high-risk activities or policies can equal but not exceed the number of points gained for the synergistic topics mentioned.

Since no high-risk activities were identified, the NDC's synergies score of 2.5 points remained the same, resulting in **a strong total score of 2.5 points** for the promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area.

Synergies

(1) Nutrition
Switzerland's NDC considers nutrition in various ways. For example, the CSAF Pt 1 states how important "sustainable nutritional environments" are to achieving its goal for at least one-third of the population to eat a sustainable and healthy diet (CSAF Pt 1, p. 19). The CSAF Pt 1 identifies various ways to reach that goal, including the "promotion of healthy and resource-saving food and meals," as well as "transparency regarding the consequences of food production and consumption" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 19).

(2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare
The NDC considers this subarea across the CSAF Pt 1 and Pt 2. For example, One Health is specifically addressed in the CSAF Pt 1; it describes how the One Health approach integrates environmental sciences with human and veterinary medicine in the pursuit of improved health for people, animals, and the environment (CSAF Pt 1, p. 17). To achieve the goal of improved health for all, it says that the guiding framework must reflect the fact that the health of people, animals, and the environment are all interconnected and dependent upon one another (CSAF Pt 1, p. 23).

(3) Other health considerations
The CSAF action plan discusses health promotion and disease prevention in the context of food systems (CSAF Pt 2, p. 18). One measure, among others, that has been initiated is an update to Switzerland's nutrition strategy—it says that a healthy and balanced diet will improve individual health, lower the risk of noncommunicable diseases, and reduce the negative impact on the environment (CSAF Pt 2, p. 18).

(4) Human rights
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland considers this subarea in the context of food systems.

(5) Biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems
The NDC addresses biodiversity in food systems in multiple policies. Through the second phase (2025–2030) of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy action plan, Switzerland intends to strengthen current policies for agriculture and forestry to protect biodiversity (Annex, p. 5). The CSAF Pt 1 explains how climate change and biodiversity loss are worsened by unsustainable production and consumption practices and how Switzerland intends to promote agroecology to combat climate change and increase biodiversity (CSAF Pt 1, p. 17).

(6) Gender
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland considers this subarea in the context of food systems.

(7) Small-scale producers
The NDC considers small-scale producers in the food system. The BTR provides examples of climate-related capacity-building activities and includes how Switzerland supports APBREBES (the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society) "to raise awareness and contribute to capacity building on alternative legislation that better reflect smallholders needs and practices" (BTR, p. 163). This is just one example of how Switzerland's NDC considers small-scale producers.

Maladaptations

(1) Expansion of agricultural frontier
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in this high-risk activity.

(2) Increasing production of crops primarily for nonfood uses (animal feed and energy)
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in this high-risk activity.

(3) Increasing pesticide use
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in this high-risk activity.

(4) Intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers
Although the NDC did not lose points in this subarea, when small farms are consolidated to establish fewer yet larger farms, these acts likely threaten the livelihoods of small-scale farmers, and the BTR provides statistics that show these actions have occurred in significant ways (BTR, p. 36). While we do not see policies addressing this, data from 1975 to 2022 shows that the number of farms has decreased from approximately 111,000 to 48,000—an average closure of "three farms each day between 1999 and 2022" (BTR, p. 36). The number of farms has decreased, but the amount of land per farm has more than doubled since 1975 (BTR, p. 36). Despite more land per farm, the percentage of workers in the agricultural sector has decreased from 14.5% in 1960 to 2.2% in 2022 (BTR, p. 36). This data shows a trend of farm consolidation, fewer farm owners and workers, and potential farm industrialization.

(5) Increasing water consumption
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in this high-risk activity.

(6) Intensification of animal agriculture and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in this high-risk activity.

(7) Increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption
The NDC did not lose points for this subarea; however, the CSAF Pt 1 states that meat consumption in Swiss households is too high when compared to the Swiss food pyramid, and consumption of dairy—as well as pulses, fruits, and vegetables—is too low (CSAF Pt 1, p. 8). Additional policies promote the Swiss food pyramid and communicate its recommendations in various ways to the public (The Swiss Food Pyramid; CSAF Pt 1, pp. 15, 18). The BTR also states that between 1990 and 2022, the amount of milk each dairy cow produced per day increased from 13.2 kilograms to 19.4 kilograms (BTR, p. 36), demonstrating that measures have been taken to increase dairy cows' milk productivity.

We also note a potentially maladaptive trend. Many of Switzerland's policies indicate a shift away from meat consumption for health and environmental reasons, but data shows that between 1990 and 2022, while the number of cattle decreased by 18% and swine by 25%, poultry increased by 119%, indicating a potential trend toward higher poultry consumption (BTR, p. 36).

(8) Increasing fertilizer usage
Nothing in the NDC suggests that Switzerland engages in this high-risk activity.

V. Equity and Inclusiveness in NDC Development (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2.5 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the NDC on the main subareas of equity and inclusiveness throughout the NDC's development. The NDC as a whole was scored on this area, not just the NDC's content concerning food systems. Each main subarea was scored up to 3 points, and the total score is the average of the two main subarea scores.

Switzerland's NDC received **a strong total score of 2.5 points** for the equity and inclusiveness area.

Equity

The scorecard framework evaluates equity through (1) equitable 1.5°C alignment, (2) just transitions, (3) consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, and (4) equitable finance. Subarea 4 is evaluated only for high-income countries on whether they commit to financing for developing countries. The equity main subarea will receive a strong score of 3 points if all issues are addressed, a medium score of 2 points if two or three issues are addressed, a weak score of 1 point if one issue is addressed, or an absent score of 0 points if no issues are addressed.

Switzerland's NDC received **a medium score of 2 points for the equity main subarea** because it addresses subareas 2–4, but for subarea 1 the NDC's mitigation ambition is not equitably aligned with the 1.5°C temperature limit.

(1) Equitable 1.5°C alignment
The NDC describes Switzerland's plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 65% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels (NDC, p. 6).

Equitable 1.5°C alignment is assessed according to the fair shares assessment approach of the Civil Society Equity Review, using the Climate Equity Reference Calculator. Under this analysis, a country's emissions reduction is determined to contribute its mitigation fair share if it meets either of two CSER benchmarks, each corresponding to a different but reasonable vision of equity.

According to the 1850 High Progressivity benchmark, Switzerland would need to reduce its 1990 emissions by 546% in order to equitably contribute to 1.5°C alignment. According to the 1950 Medium Progressivity benchmark, Switzerland would need to reduce its 1990 emissions by 393% in order to equitably contribute to 1.5°C alignment. Since Switzerland's 65% planned reduction does not meet either benchmark (falling short of the 1850 High Progressivity benchmark by 28.2 t CO2-e per capita and the 1950 Medium Progressivity benchmark by 19.2 t CO2-e per capita), the country falls short of its fair share, and therefore its NDC is not considered equitably aligned with efforts toward 1.5°C.

(2) Just transitions
The NDC addresses just transitions as well as related policies. For example, Switzerland's CO2 levy on heating and process fuels provides a partial refund in order to protect lower-income households from excessive financial burdens (BTR, p. 107). In addition, Switzerland offers new training programs and advisory services to help farmers transition toward climate-friendly and agroecological production (CSAF Pt 2, p. 45).

(3) Specific consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups
The NDC considers the needs of marginalized or vulnerable groups broadly, stating that when taking climate action, countries should "consider their respective human rights obligations, including due consideration for gender equality and gender responsive policies, intergenerational equity, and the needs of particularly vulnerable groups" (NDC, p. 15).

(4) Equitable finance
Switzerland, as a high-income country, does include commitments of financing to developing countries within its NDC. The NDC notes that "Switzerland has and will continue to report regularly on its provision of financial support to developing countries" and that in 2022, Switzerland contributed a total of 711 million Swiss francs to international climate finance. The NDC also states that the country intends to "continue to contribute its fair share in context of the new collective quantified goal" (NDC, p. 11).

Inclusiveness in NDC Development

Inclusiveness in NDC development was evaluated on whether the following groups were included in the NDC's development: (1) multiple government ministries, (2) departments and agencies of government, (3) subnational bodies, (4) the private sector, (5) academia, (6) civil society organizations, (7) Indigenous Peoples, and (8) other vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, earning 0.5 points for each for a maximum of 3 points.

Switzerland's NDC received **a strong score of 3 points in the inclusiveness main subarea**.

The NDC describes how Switzerland's climate policies (including those that form the foundation of the NDC itself) are "defined through direct democracy" (NDC, p. 14). For example, the Climate and Innovation Act, which sets the target of the NDC, was accepted in a nationwide popular vote and subsequently confirmed by Switzerland's Federal Council, a body consisting of heads of government departments (NDC, p. 14). For the purposes of our scoring, we consider subjecting the Climate and Innovation Act to a popular vote to constitute inclusion of groups 4–6 and 8 above in the NDC's development. Since Switzerland does not have Indigenous Peoples, understood in much of the world to be groups whose ancestors inhabited an area before colonizing settlers, it is not included in this analysis or the main subarea score. Likewise, we consider confirmation by the Federal Council to constitute inclusion of groups 1 and 2 above in the NDC's development. The BTR further details the roles of the Federal Council (Budersrat), seven departments (ministries), and federal offices, as well as the subnational cantons (fulfilling engagement with group 3 above) (BTR, pp. 9–10).

VI. Analysis and Conclusions (Total score 0–12 points)

SWITZERLAND'S NDC TOTAL SCORE = 11 POINTS (VERY STRONG)

Switzerland's NDC received **a very strong total score of 11 points out of 12**. This score is based on evaluations of the NDC and the policy documents listed in the Appendix.

Some of Switzerland's policies have timelines that do not match the NDC commitment period. In our evaluation, policies that expire before 2031 were considered, but those described as taking effect after 2035 were excluded. All evaluations and scores are dependent on Switzerland's continuation of existing pre-2031 policies through the NDC 2031–2035 time frame.

Switzerland's NDC earned **strong scores** in both the **scope of food systems coverage** and the **context-specific action areas**. Switzerland's policy importantly noted that plant-based foods generally impact the environment less and the promotion of more plant-based foods is needed (CSAF Pt 2, p. 21). Additionally, Switzerland's CSAF Part 1 describes the Swiss population's meat consumption as too high. It also suggests that "dairy products, pulses, fruit and vegetables are eaten too little" (CSAF Pt 1, p. 8). While a shift toward pulses, fruits, and vegetables is a shift away from high-impact animal-source foods, increasing dairy consumption is not.

In the **promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area**, Switzerland's NDC received a **strong score** because it considers most synergistic topics—except human rights and gender—and has no identified maladaptive policies. While the NDC did not lose any points in the maladaptation main subarea, the NDC shows three concerning trends: increases in dairy production; consolidation of small farms into larger ones, a notable threat to small-scale farmers; and an increasing poultry population, which suggests a rise in demand for poultry, although beef consumption appears to be decreasing.

In the **equity and inclusiveness in NDC development area**, Switzerland's NDC received a **strong score** but did not earn all possible points because its pledge, according to the Climate Equity Reference Calculator, falls short of its mitigation fair share. Consequently, the NDC is not found to be equitably aligned with 1.5°C. It received all 3 points for the inclusiveness main subarea due to Switzerland's direct democratic structure, which fully involves citizen participation at all levels of government, including the NDC development process.

The NDC's very strong score of 11 points leaves few areas to significantly improve the score. The following are a few ways Switzerland could improve its score and, more broadly, its integration of food systems into climate policies in accordance with this evaluation: (1) considering human rights and gender in the context of the food system; (2) developing policies that discourage high dairy consumption increases and encourage dietary shifts away from high-impact animal-based diets toward a lower-impact, healthier diet full of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and plant-based proteins; and (3) increasing Switzerland's pledge to reduce its fair share of emissions in line with the 1.5°C temperature limit.

Appendix

Documents Evaluated

- Switzerland's Second Nationally Determined Contribution Under the Paris Agreement 2031–2035
- Annex to Switzerland's Second NDC 2031–2035: Contributions to the Outcome of the First Global Stocktake
- Klimastrategie Landwirtschaft und Ernährung 2050 (Climate strategy for agriculture and food 2050)
  - Part 1: Principles, goals and directions
  - Part 2: Action plan
- Switzerland's First Biennial Transparency Report Under the Paris Agreement (December 2024)
- Bundesgesetz über die Ziele im Klimaschutz, die Innovation und die Stärkung der Energiesicherheit (KlG) (Federal act on climate protection targets, innovation and strengthening energy security)

Document Selection

An NDC submission typically references a number of policy documents. In some cases, these policy documents are referenced to provide context clarifying the content of the NDC. In other cases, these policy documents are referenced because they form part of a country's contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Where a country considers the documents integral to its climate change response, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers the content of these documents, if adequately referenced in an NDC submission, to be part of the NDC.

As a reference's intended function is not always clear, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers it holistically:

- How the NDC discusses the policy document.
- Location of the reference. For example, if the reference is within the planning processes section of an "information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding" table, this is a strong indication that the policy was incorporated into the NDC.
- Content of the referenced policy document itself—namely, the extent to which it considers climate change and therefore constitutes part of the country's climate policy framework.
- The Party's overall policy framework—for example, whether a cited policy is active rather than obsolete or superseded by other policy documents and whether other policy documents should perform the same function.

For Switzerland, the NDC submission as well as the Annex to Switzerland's Second NDC 2031–2035: Contributions to the Outcome of the First Global Stocktake were included in this analysis. The Climate Strategy for Agriculture and Food 2050 is referenced overall as well as in relation to both of its parts in the NDC submission and Annex. For example, the Annex highlights that these define concrete measures to reduce GHG emissions (Annex, p. 4). The NDC submission also states that "information on Switzerland's policies and measures which will help strengthen the implementation of its NDC can be found in Switzerland's Biennial Transparency Reports" (NDC, p. 10). This assessment considered the BTR's discussion for the purposes of the synergies section as well as any policies that appeared to continue past the NDC submission. Finally, the federal act on climate protection targets, innovation and strengthening energy security was considered as the NDC submission described it, among other references, as "the blueprint for Switzerland's long-term climate policy" (NDC, p. 14).

Scope of Assessment

This evaluation focuses on a food system perspective. While evaluating equity and inclusiveness more broadly, it does not specifically assess other sectors (such as energy) or indicate the quality of a country's climate policy overall. Additionally, the scoring reflects the presence or absence of particular types of action or consideration within the areas and subareas examined. This does not necessarily reflect ambition in the depth of action. For example, a policy to slightly mitigate food production emissions in a subsector will count equally in scoring to a policy to significantly mitigate emissions. The scores should be understood as indicators to consider alongside the fuller analyses. Finally, while NDCs are critical policy instruments, implementation is necessary to translate their ambition into action. Accordingly, an ambitious NDC alone does not guarantee effective action, just as the ambitiousness of action is not limited to the content of an NDC.

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Please contact the Food Systems NDC Scorecard project (info@foodsystemsndcscorecard.org) with any feedback, comments, or questions.