



# Gewässerperle PLUS

A Certification Scheme for the Benefit of  
People and Nature

Brig, September 6, 2022

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# The State of the Freshwater Systems in Switzerland: The Illusion



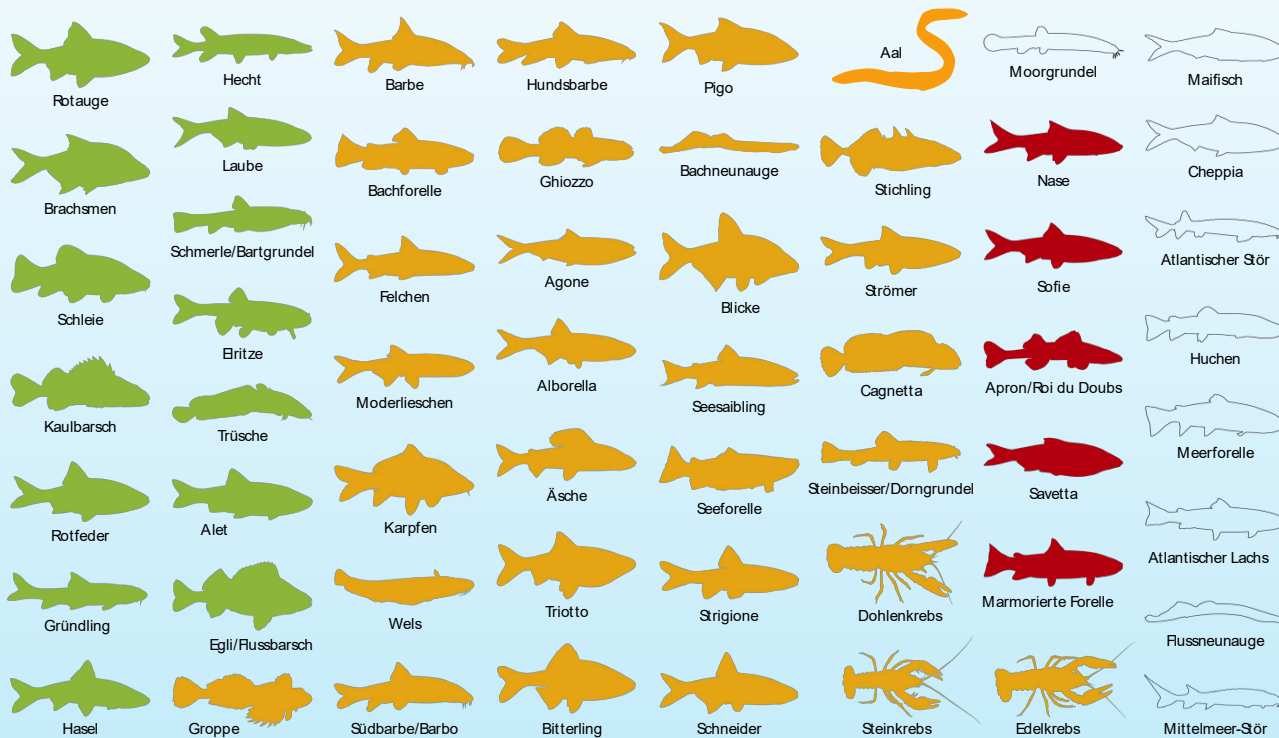


# The State of the Freshwater Systems in Switzerland: The Truth

# Impacts on Biodiversity and the Landscape



*75% unserer Fisch- und Krebsarten sind ausgestorben oder gefährdet*



- 75% of Swiss fish and crayfish species are extinct or on the red list.
- 80% of the floodplains and 90% of the peatlands have been lost.

Ecosystem services such as flood protection and water purification as well as habitat and species diversity are at risk!



# Save the little that can still be saved: «Gewässerperlen» (River Pearls)



Only **20%** of the Swiss freshwater network meets the goals of our own legislation.

Less than **5%** of the Swiss freshwater network is ecologically intact.

## Gewässerperlen (River Pearls)

And only **22%** of these «river pearls» have a sufficient protection status.



# Save the little that can still be saved: «Gewässerperlen» (River Pearls)



## Why a certificate?

- Useful addition to existing protection instruments
- Label is a low-threshold protection instrument
- Label obliges local stakeholders to get involved with their river and thus creates local commitment
- Further enhancement of the watercourse





# «Gewässerperle PLUS» in a nutshell



**Win-Win for label holders and water bodies**



**Certification period: 5 years**

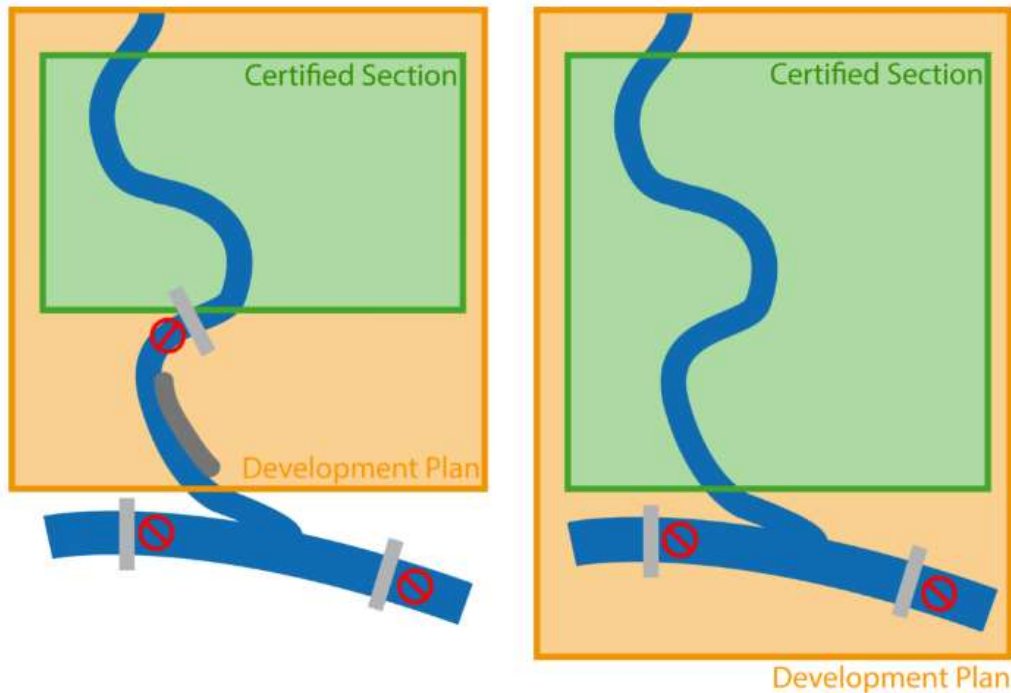


**Label holders: municipalities, regional development agencies, cantons, parks, associations...**



**Criteria:**  
**- Ecologically valuable water body**  
**- Development plan**

# «Gewässerperle PLUS» in a nutshell



Watercourse section of **at least 2km** in length

In very good ecological condition (**natural or revitalised**) in the certified section.

**Development plan** that looks beyond the certified section:

- Developed in a mandatory participatory process
- **MUST:** Awareness-raising, education

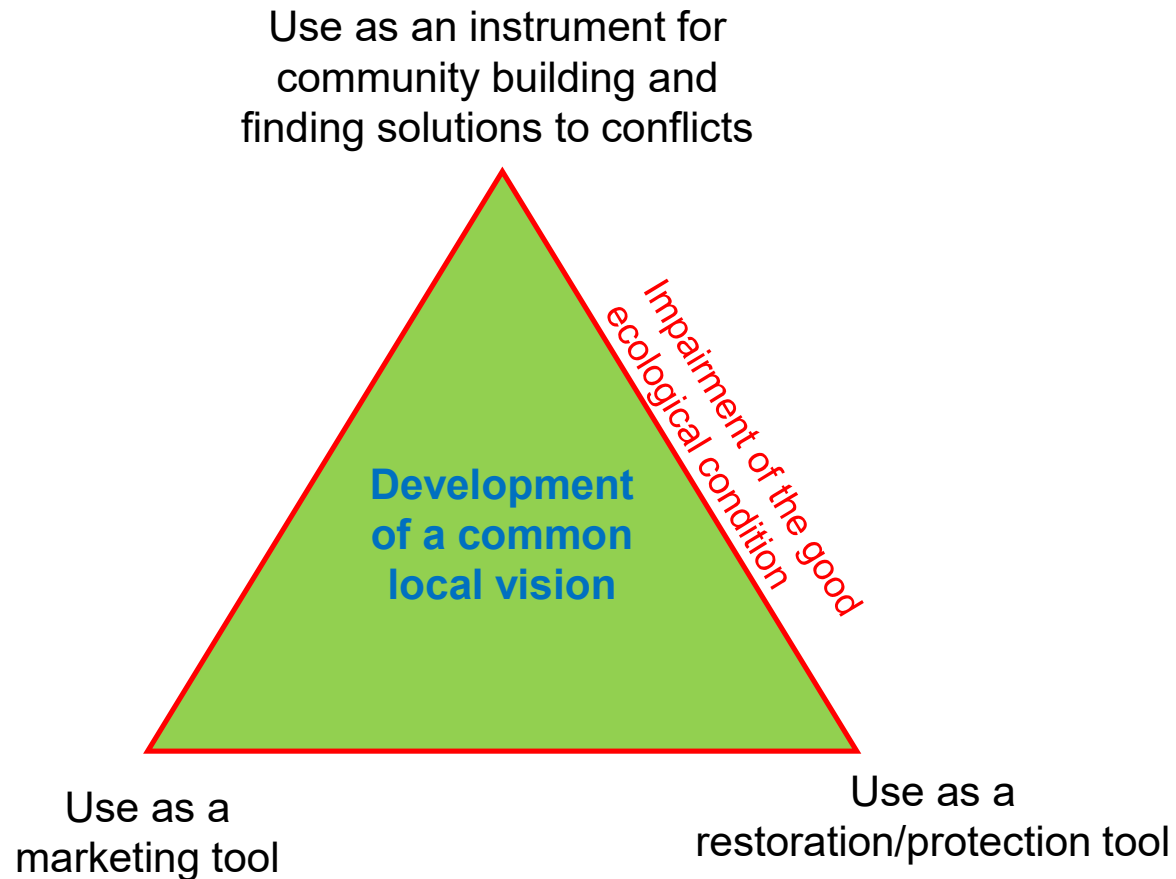


# Wo wir hin wollen





# What is the benefit of the label for communities?





# Bever, the first label holder: Why are we in?



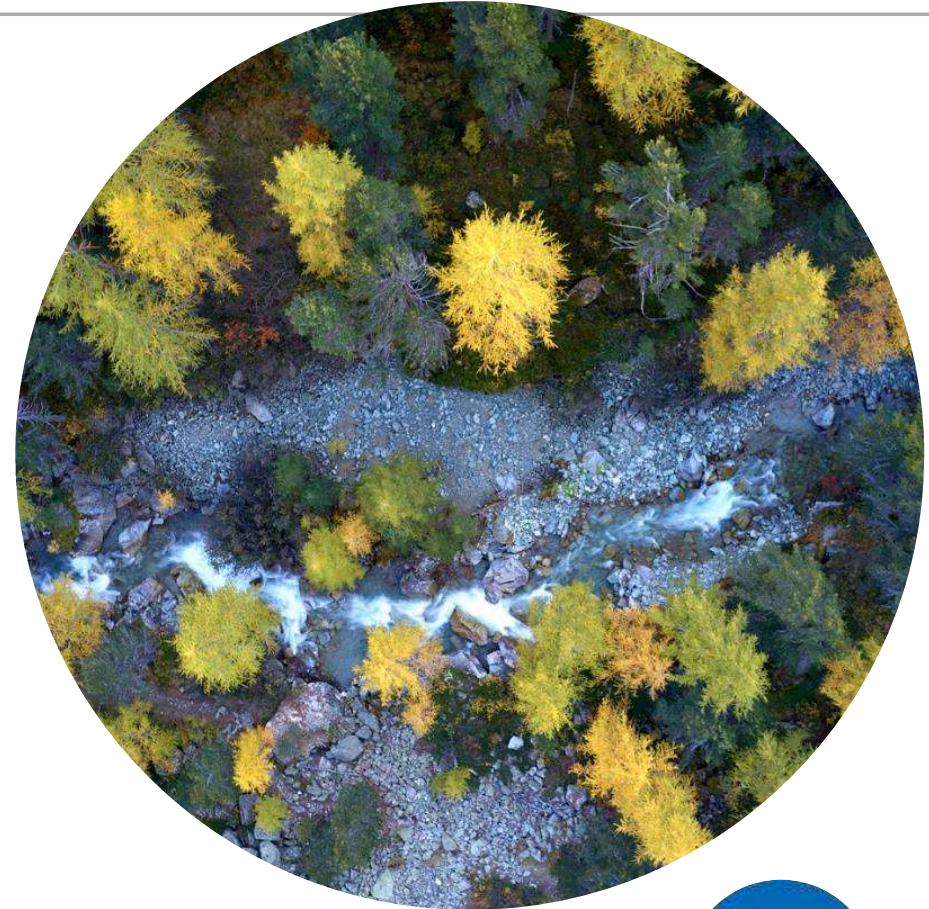
Watercourses are connecting elements like no others.

The preparation of the development plan has been very beneficial: Many stakeholders from within the municipality and across municipal boundaries collaborate positively.

The label allows a clear positioning of the community.

Residents and guests can identify with the community. They are proud of their river.

**Fadri Guidon**, President of the Municipality of Bever



# Discussion, Questions...





# Contakts, Links



[www.gewaesserperleplus.ch](http://www.gewaesserperleplus.ch)

<https://www.wwf.ch/de/projekte/entdecken-sie-unsere-gewaesserperlen>

<https://www.wwf.ch/de/projekte/wertvolle-gewaesser>

[WWF Schweiz, 2016: Wie gesund sind unsere Gewässer?  
Zustand und Schutzwürdigkeit der Schweizer Fliessgewässer.](#)

[Broschüre Gewässerperlen, WWF Schweiz](#)

[Arnold, M., Fitze U., 2020: Gewässerperlen – die schönsten  
Flusslandschaften der Schweiz. AT Verlag.](#)

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