

Amendment to Switzerland's Eighth National Communication and Fifth Biennial Report under the UNFCCC

Fifth National Communication under the
Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC

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1 Introduction

This document – submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 13 February 2024 – contains an amendment to Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report.¹ It was compiled based on the in-country review which took place from 29 January to 2 February 2024 in Bern, Switzerland. Switzerland thanks the Expert Review Team for its valuable inputs and the many useful discussions.

2 National circumstances

Fuel tourism

Section 2.6 on page 34ff

Section 2.6 on page 34ff of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report refers to the concept of 'fuel tourism'. To enhance the transparency of this section, the term 'fuel tourism' should be further explained by adding the following footnote (on page 36):

“Due to fluctuating fuel price differences between Switzerland and its neighbouring countries, gas stations in the vicinity of the national borders sell varying amounts of fuels to customers across the border. This amount of fuel is referred to as 'fuel tourism' and is large enough to have a relevant influence on Switzerland's total fuel sales. The value for fuel tourism can be negative (in case of net fuel imports – e.g. for diesel oil in the years 2015–2021, since it was cheaper in the neighbouring countries) or positive (in case of net fuel exports – e.g. for gasoline in most years, since it has been cheaper in Switzerland). The evolution of fuel tourism mainly depends on the development of the exchange rate between the Euro and the Swiss franc. In the greenhouse gas inventory, fuel tourism is recorded together with the statistical difference, i.e. as the difference between nationwide sales (top-down) and modelled consumption (bottom-up). *Keller and Wüthrich* (2014) provide a more reliable estimate of the effective fuel tourism. In their study, they analysed the effective sales of diesel oil and gasoline near the national borders. For the years 2002 to 2013, they estimate that fuel tourism for gasoline led to between 250 million and 440 million litres per year of additional sales, while for diesel oil it led to between 45 million litres per year of reduced sales and 50 million litres per year of additional sales. Fuel tourism thus led to additional CO₂ emissions of up to slightly over one million tonnes per year (highest value estimated for 2007, corresponding to slightly over five per cent of total CO₂ emissions from gasoline and diesel oil). Since the decrease in 2015, fuel tourism has been substantially less important. At present, although no detailed analysis is available, it may account for a few hundred thousand tonnes of CO₂ per year (see estimates provided in energy units in Table 1 of *SFOE*, 2022).”

3 Greenhouse gas inventory information

There is no amendment to chapter 3 of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report.

¹ The original submission of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report (as well as this amendment) is available under <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/nc-br>.

4 Policies and measures

Coordination of policies and measures between the Confederation and the cantons

Section 4.1.1 on page 86ff

To enhance the transparency of this section, the following paragraph should be added:

“The Swiss Confederation and the cantons coordinate through various channels. Generally, the cantons are always invited to participate in consultations for every new law or ordinance or respective major revisions. When the cantons are directly affected by policies and measures, they are included in the earlier stages of the policy-making process. There are various bodies to ensure this coordination, both formal and informal. An example is the ‘Cercle Climat’, an association that wants to help harmonise cantonal measures in areas such as buildings, mobility and agriculture. With respect to climate policy, the CO₂ Act also defines specific responsibilities of the cantons in certain areas. For example, the Swiss Confederation is responsible for the coordination of measures to adapt to climate change (Art. 8 of the second CO₂ Act), while the cantons are responsible for the implementation of measures. In the buildings sector, the CO₂ Act explicitly states that the cantons must ensure that CO₂ emissions from buildings heated with fossil fuels are reduced in line with targets. To this end, they issue standards for new and existing buildings based on the current state of the art (see section 4.3.4). The cantons must report annually to the Swiss Confederation on the measures they have taken in this sector.”

Costs of policies and measures: Network surcharge

Section 4.9 on page 131ff

Section 4.9 on page 131ff of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report presents information on costs, non-greenhouse gas mitigation benefits and interactions of policies and measures. The section also explains the difficulties encountered regarding the reporting of this information for each policy and measure. However, additional information is available with regard to the feed-in tariff system (see section 4.3.5). To enhance the transparency of this section, the following item should be added to the list of information reported for selected policies and measures on page 131:

“The feed-in tariff system (see section 4.3.5), which is financed by the network surcharge with a cap of 2.3 cent per kilowatt-hour, disposes of about 1.3 billion Swiss francs per year. Since the feed-in tariff system pays operators of electricity generation plants from wind and geothermal energy as well as from biomass the difference between the production costs and the electricity prices, the final direct costs depend on the level of the electricity prices and vary from year to year (see Tab. A). An overall economic cost evaluation is not available.“

Tab. A > Direct costs of the feed-in tariff system during the last years.

Year	Direct costs of the feed-in tariff system (million Swiss francs)	Evolution of the electricity prices (cents per kilowatt-hour)
2018	473	6.0
2019	500	4.6
2020	629	3.6
2021	310	12.3
2022	-275	28.1
2023	Expected 380-420	NA

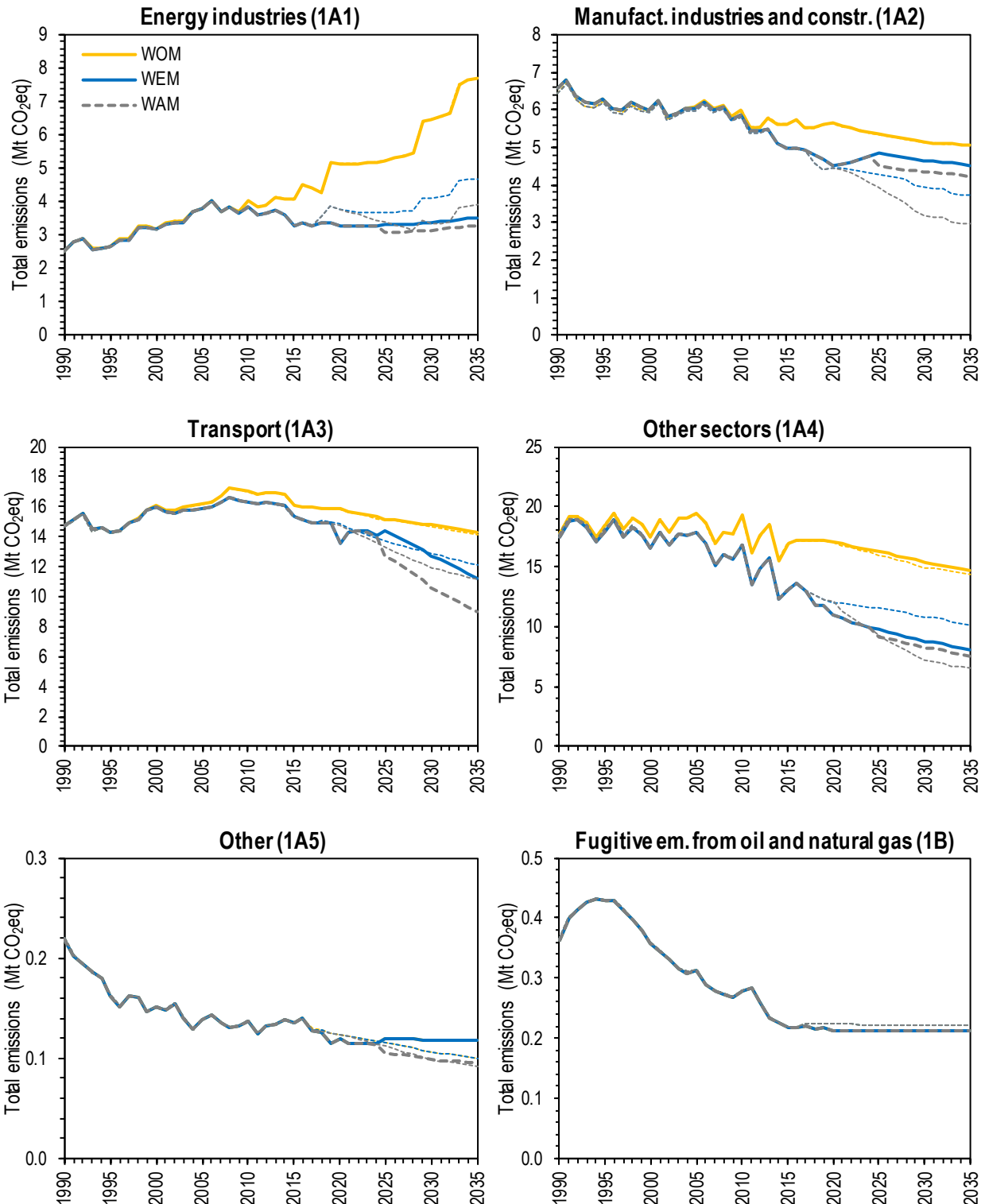
5 Projections and the total effect of policies and measures

Main differences compared to previous submissions

Section 5.3.8 on page 173ff

Section 5.3.8 on page 173ff presents the most important changes and improvements regarding methodology and assumptions that have been implemented since the last submission. Fig. 74 and Fig. 75 highlight the resulting changes in projections as reported in Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report compared to Switzerland's fourth biennial report for total emissions and international transport, respectively. To enhance the transparency of this section, the following figure (Fig. A) indicating the detailed differences for the source categories of the energy sector should be added:

Fig. A > Source categories of the energy sector: Changes in projections as reported in Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report (thicker lines) and Switzerland's fourth biennial report (thinner lines) for the WEM (blue), WOM (orange) and WAM (grey) scenarios. Source categories 1A1 and 1A2: The WOM scenario remained unchanged (thinner orange lines hidden by thicker orange lines). Source category 1A5: The WOM scenarios correspond to the WEM scenarios (orange lines hidden by the blue lines). Source category 1B: The WEM, WOM and WAM scenarios are identical (all thinner lines overlap and all thicker lines overlap).



Further, the following text should be added as an item to the list in section 5.3.8 on page 173:

“Within the energy sector, the change of model for the WEM and WAM scenarios, but not for the WOM scenario, represents a potential weakness of the approach to estimate the total effect of currently implemented and adopted policies and measures. In particular, the WEM and WAM scenarios reflect the impact of measures to contain the corona

virus pandemic, while the WOM scenario does not. Therewith, the total effect of currently implemented and adopted policies and measures – calculated based on the difference between the emissions under the WOM and WEM scenarios (see Tab. 29 of Switzerland's eight national communication and fifth biennial report) – may be overestimated for the year 2020.”

6 Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures

There is no amendment to chapter 6 of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report.

7 Financial, technological and capacity-building support

Exchange rates

To enhance the transparency of chapter 7 on financial, technological and capacity-building support and of the corresponding BR CTF tables, Switzerland notes that the exchanges rates as reported in Tab. 45 (2019: 0.994 Swiss francs per US dollar, 2020: 0.939 Swiss francs per US dollar) are consistently used throughout Switzerland's eight national communication and fifth biennial report, including the corresponding BR CTF tables.

Assistance to developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable

Section 7.1.1 on page 230

In the third paragraph of section 7.1.1 on page 230, Switzerland states: “In addition, Switzerland's bilateral support for climate action is based on a cooperative, bilateral dialogue with the various partner countries. Every four years the Swiss cooperation offices engage in a demand driven planning dialogue, where, based on the available resources, the needs and priorities of the partner country are assessed with stakeholders. This programmatic procedure ensures country ownership and provides increased predictability for the partner countries, pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Convention.” To enhance the transparency of this paragraph, the following text should be added at the end:

“The Agenda 2030 and its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular goal 1 aimed at eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, provide direction to the International Cooperation's action. The Swiss International Cooperation supports the fight against climate change, including mitigation, adaptation and the sustainable management of resources for the benefit of people, in particular the most vulnerable. The ‘SDC Climate Foresight Analysis’ (*Infras*, 2023), using the INFORM Risk Index, highlights that none of the priority regions' countries of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are rated low or very low risk, with the majority rated high or very high risk, underscoring the strategic alignment of climate support with regions facing significant risks. Country-specific adaptation initiatives which are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are guided by national plans and vulnerability assessments, focusing on resilience at the community level. As far as mitigation is concerned, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs supports as well middle-income countries in reducing CO₂ emissions in various sectors such as energy, urban development, public and private finance and agricultural and industrial supply chains.”

8 Research and systematic observation

There is no amendment to chapter 8 of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report.

9 Education, training and public awareness

There is no amendment to chapter 9 of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report.

Annexes

There is no amendment to Annex A, Annex B and Annex C of Switzerland's eighth national communication and fifth biennial report.

References

- Infras, 2023:** SDC Climate foresight analysis – Global and regional risks and hotspots, Update 2023. Infras (mandated by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation). 65 pp. <https://shorturl.at/adsGf> [13.02.2024]
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