Planetary Boundaries and Policy – Experiences from Switzerland

© FOEN

Planetary boundaries - Europe's life on a knife-edge
Webinar by MEPs Jutta Paulus and Sven Giegold, 11.6.2020
Andreas Hauser, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

Europe: Global sustainability leader?

Country	Region	SDGs	Rank ▲	Score
Denmark	OECD members		1	85.2
Sweden	OECD members		2	85.0
Finland	OECD members		3	82.8
France	OECD members		4	81.5
Austria	OECD members		5	81.1
Germany	OECD members		6	81.1
...				
Switzerland	OECD members		17	78.8

«Doughnut»: A stronger message

The safe and just space for humanity

critical natural thresholds
ENVIRONMENTAL CEILING

critical human deprivations
SOCIAL FOUNDATION

Experiences from Switzerland | Planetary boundaries - Europe's life on a knife-edge, 11.6.2020
Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, Andreas Hauser
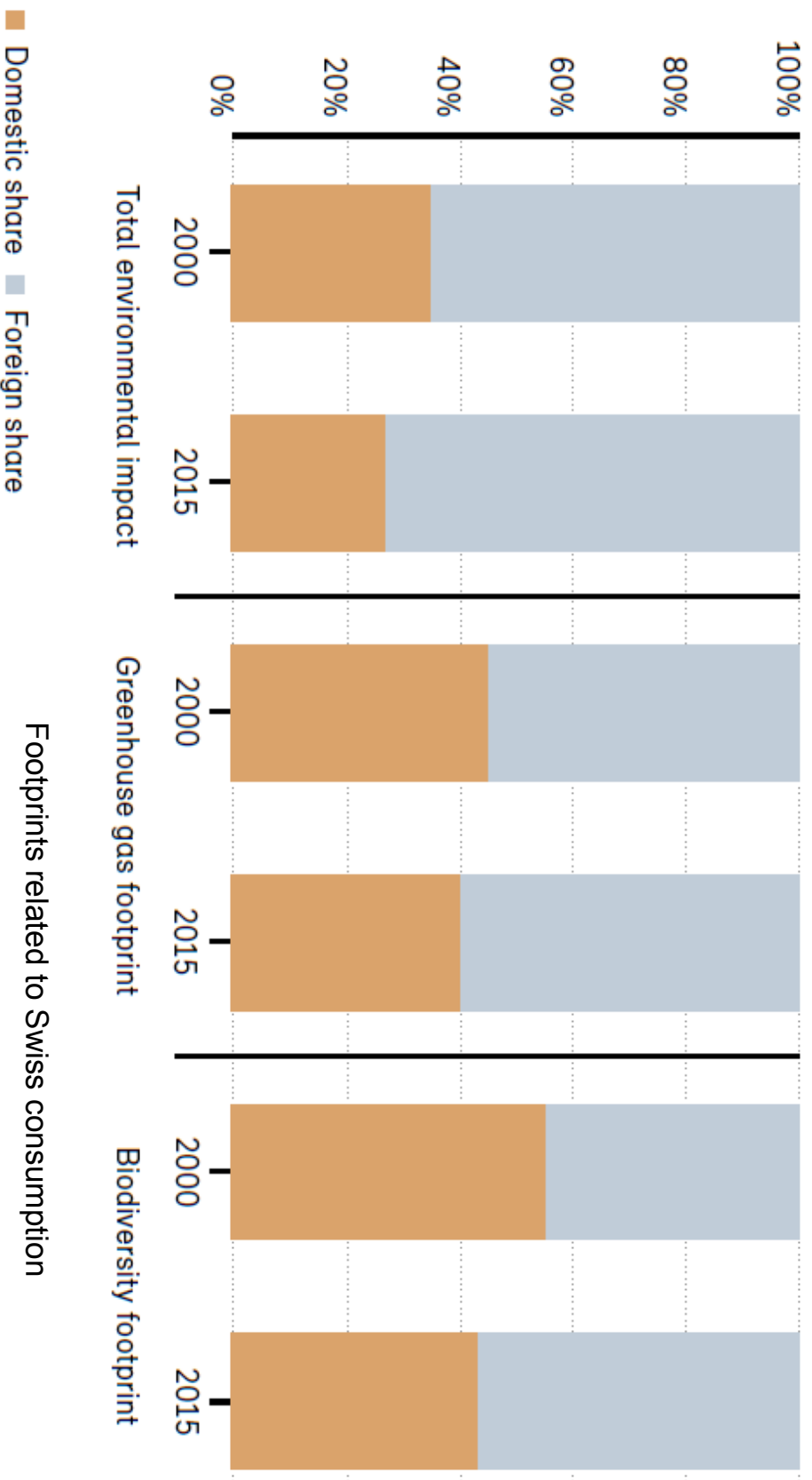
3

Footprints: Bring the demand-side of the economy on board!

Development of the foreign share of selected footprints for Switzerland

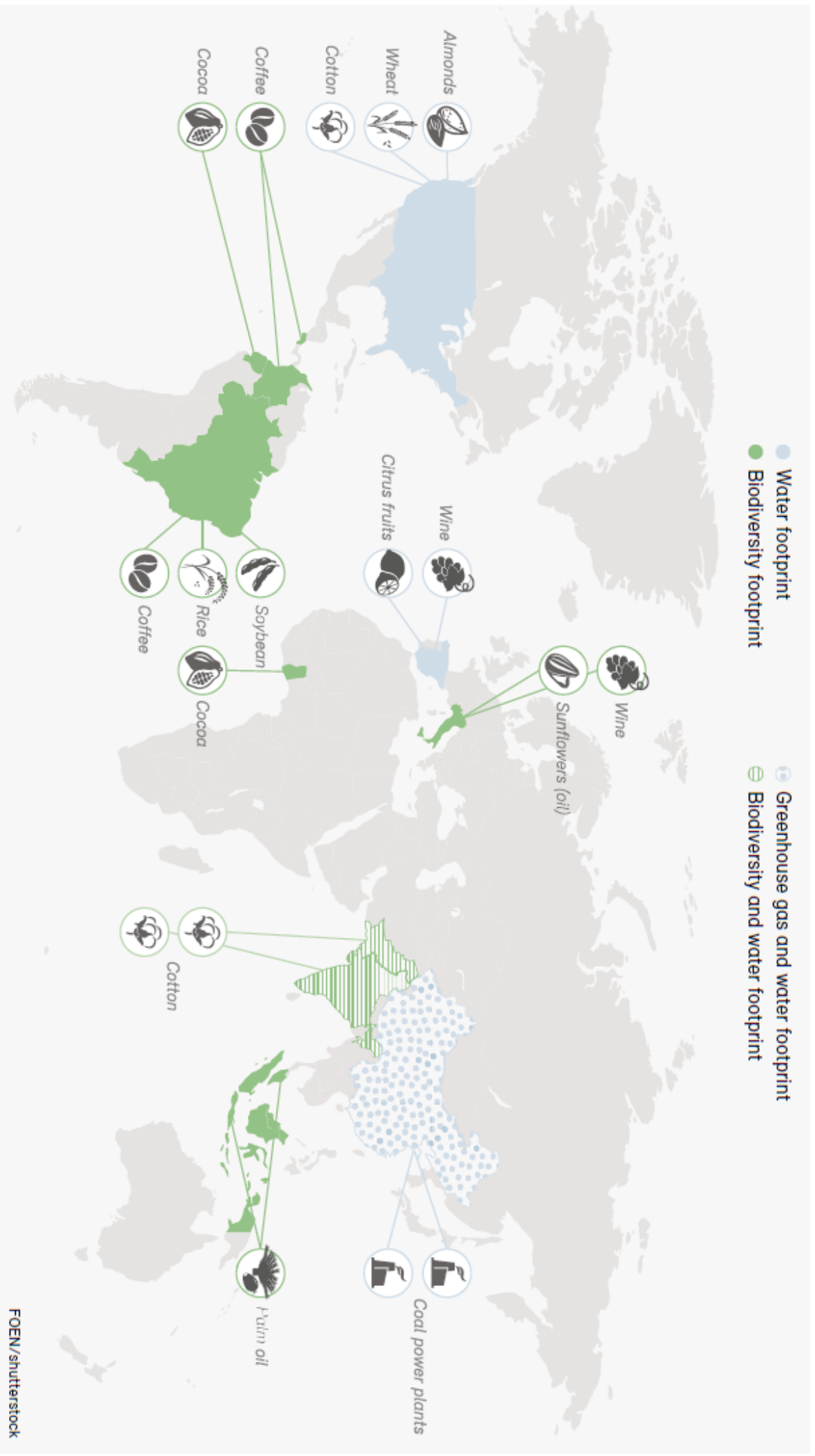**Total environmental impact** — 2000, 2015
Greenhouse gas footprint — 2000, 2015
Biodiversity footprint — 2000, 2015

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Domestic share   Foreign share

Footprints related to Swiss consumption

Swiss consumption – global impacts

Legend:
- Water footprint
- Biodiversity footprint
- Greenhouse gas and water footprint
- Biodiversity and water footprint

Map labels:
- Cocoa
- Coffee
- Cotton
- Wheat
- Almonds
- Coffee
- Rice
- Soybean
- Cocoa
- Citrus fruits
- Wine
- Wine
- Sunflowers (oil)
- Cotton
- Palm oil
- Coal power plants
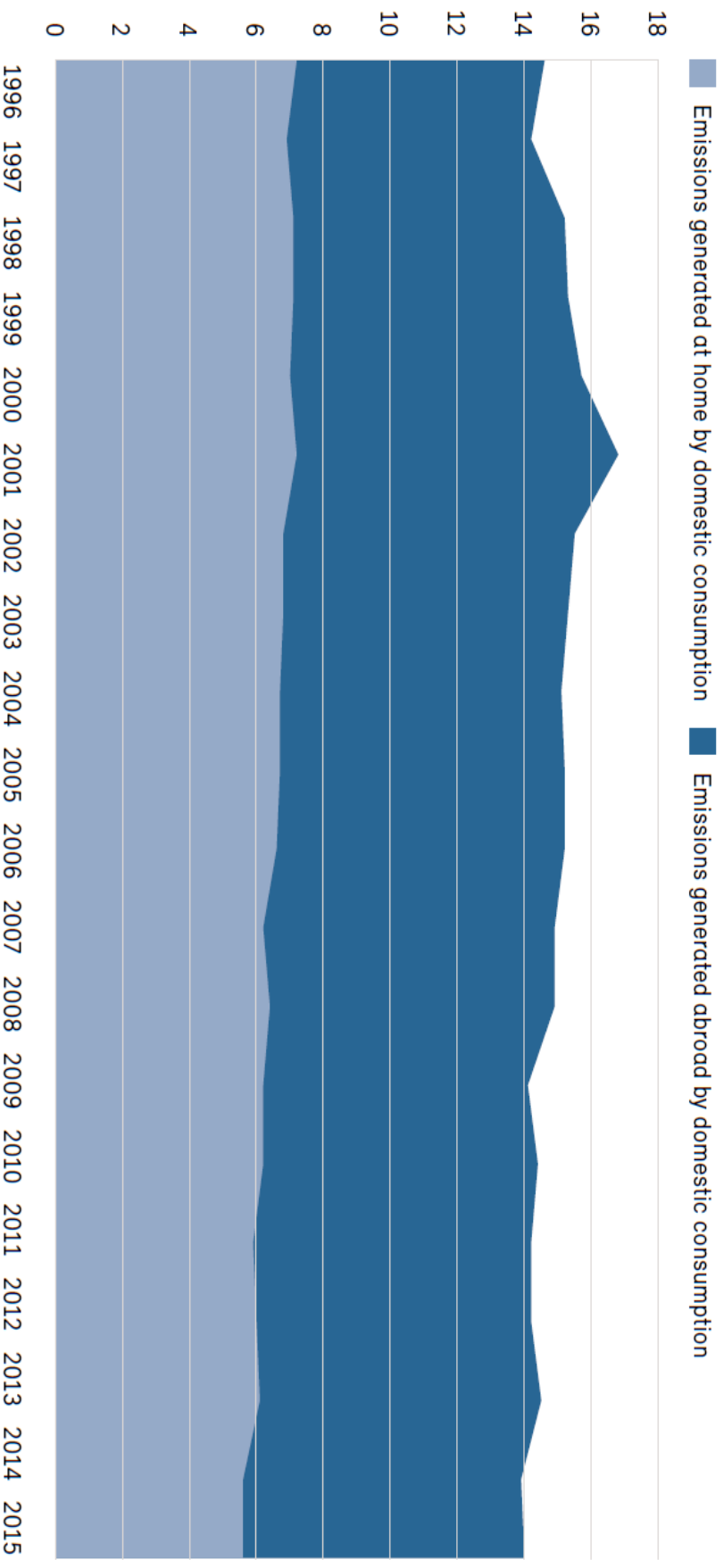
The map highlights countries from which Switzerland imports large quantities of high impact products.

Is decoupling enough?

Switzerland's Greenhouse gas footprint per capita

Emissions generated at home by domestic consumption

Emissions generated abroad by domestic consumption

Source: Calculations treeze and Rütter Soceco. (2018)

18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0

1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

Planetary boundaries and Swiss footprints

X times higher

Greenhouse gas footprint   Ocean acid. footprint   Biodiversity footprint   Eutrophication footprint

Threshold value

25
20
15
10
5
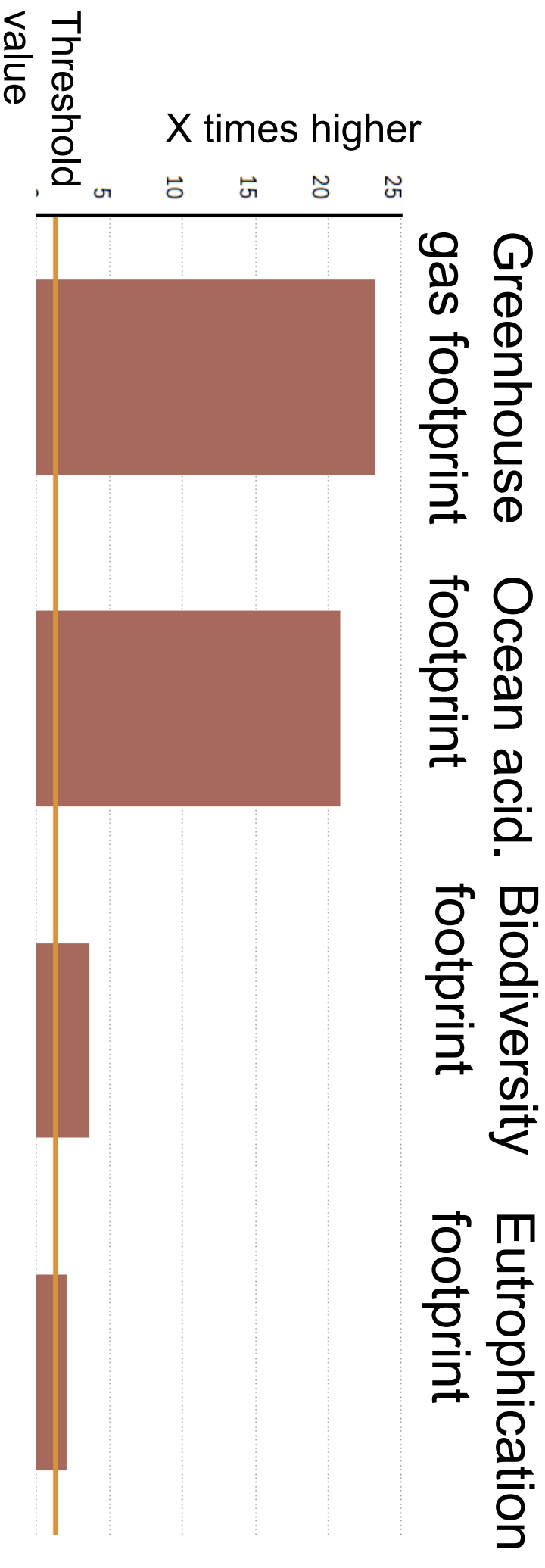
Sources: Dao et al. (2015), Frischknecht et al. 2018

Experiences from Switzerland | Planetary boundaries - Europe's life on a knife-edge, 11.6.2020
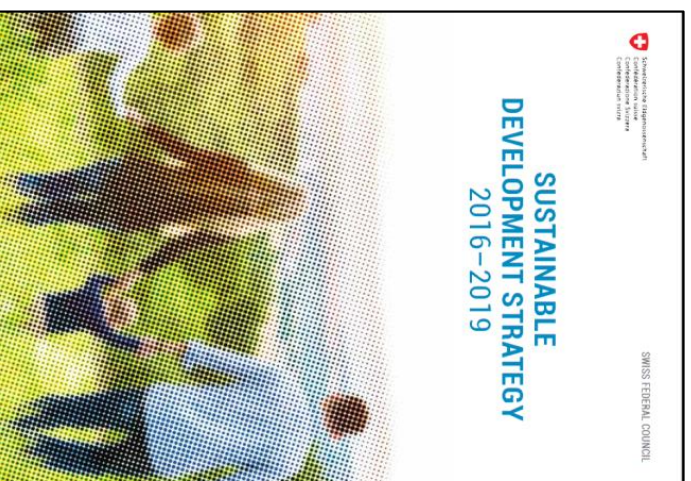Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, Andreas Hauser

Lessons learnt

➢ **Footprint perspective** leads to a fundamentally different assessment than territorial perspective

→ **Act along the whole product chain!**

➢ Assessing footprints against **Planetary Boundaries** leads to a fundamentally different assessment of the magnitude of the need for action.

Vision: the Swiss version of „living within"

«Environmental impacts are kept low **along the entire value chain**, and natural resources are used sparingly.»

«The quantitative and qualitative capacity and usage **limits of the planet's** natural resources are respected»

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
2016–2019

SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Strategic anchors for systemic change in a national context

- Develop a vision for critical systems
  - food,
  - housing
  - transportation
- Identify hot spots along the value chain
- Set footprint targets
- Act beyond thematic and sectoral policies

Options for national policy: On multiple levels

Actors	Options for Swiss government
Research institutions: • "technological progress" • "inventiveness"	• Know-how transfer • Standards
Business and finance: • "the market decides" • "healthy competition"	• Dialogue and agreements • Incentives
Civil society: • "ways of living" • "engagement"	• Information, promotion • Networking
Public sector: • "regulation" • "role model function"	• Legal framework • Funds, public procurement

Farm follows fork

(and vice-versa)

© FOEN

⌄ ⌄ Balance our diets
⌄ Love food, fight waste

Thank you

© Marlon Hauser und Andreas Hauser

Experiences from Switzerland | Planetary boundaries - Europe's life on a knife-edge, 11.6.2020
Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland, Andreas Hauser

13