

## ***Bern Biodiversity Data Day 2026***

# **Biodiversity: data serving life**

**Bern, 21 May 2026** – On the eve of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB) and the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) are organizing the Bern Biodiversity Data Day. Taking place at the House of Academies in Bern, the event brings together Swiss experts spanning the entire biodiversity data value chain – from field data collection to its use in informing policy decisions.

This event marks an important milestone for biodiversity science in Switzerland, bringing together stakeholders across the biodiversity data ecosystem to strengthen exchange, coordination and collaboration.

### **Data as a strategic lever for biodiversity conservation**

Biodiversity research and policy assessment are entering a new era, driven by the growing ability to exploit and connect increasing volumes of data. These data come from field observations, scientific literature, collections and genetics.

“Each type of data reveals a different facet of biodiversity: species presence, habitats, adaptive capacity. The challenge today is to connect them to build the most complete picture possible and better inform decisions,” says Robert Waterhouse, Director of the Environmental Bioinformatics Group at SIB.

Once standardised, made accessible and integrated at scale, these data can help identify priority areas for conservation and populations that are particularly vulnerable.

### **Concrete applications already visible in Switzerland**

Several examples already demonstrate this potential: the protection of whitefish populations in Swiss lakes and the reintroduction of the bearded vulture in the Alps have both relied on combining complementary data sources – including taxonomic, genetic and GPS tracking data. A new project led by SIB now aims to extend these approaches at scale to birds, bats and fish in Switzerland, as well as to other organisms across Europe.

Thanks to expertise ranging from the development of sampling standards to AI-based modelling, and to a collaborative ecosystem bringing together researchers, field biologists, NGOs and public authorities, Switzerland is particularly well positioned to benefit from this transformation towards data-driven insights and actions.

Against the backdrop of today’s biodiversity challenges, the Bern Biodiversity Data Day highlights this transition, showcases concrete successes and strengthens coordination across the community. “This joint organization by SIB and SCNAT aims to connect data, science and decision-making, and

to foster dialogue between biodiversity stakeholders both nationally and internationally,” says Eva Spehn, Scientific Collaborator at SCNAT.

## Media contacts

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## About SIB – The national organization for life science data

[The SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics](#) is an internationally recognized non-profit organization, dedicated to biological and biomedical data science. Our data scientists are passionate about creating knowledge and solving complex questions in many fields, from biodiversity and evolution to medicine. They provide essential databases and software platforms as well as bioinformatics expertise and services to academic, clinical, and industry groups. SIB federates the Swiss bioinformatics community of some 900 scientists, encouraging collaboration and knowledge sharing. The institute contributes to keeping Switzerland at the forefront of innovation by fostering progress in biological research and enhancing health.

## About SCNAT - Network of knowledge for the benefit of society

[The Swiss Academy of Sciences \(SCNAT\)](#) and its network of 30 000 experts work at regional, national and international levels for the future of science and society. It strengthens awareness of the sciences as a central pillar of cultural and economic development. The breadth of its support makes it a representative partner for politics. The SCNAT links the sciences, provides expertise, promotes dialogue between science and society, identifies and evaluates scientific developments and lays the foundation for the next generation of natural scientists. It is part of the association of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.