



Oberallmig Forest Protection Switzerland

Community climate action in the swiss mountains



OAK Schwyz, a group of 17,000 members with roots in the mountainous Canton Schwyz of central Switzerland going back to the early middle ages, is taking action to reduce global emissions. They have designed the Oberallmig project to increase the carbon sequestration of the forest through improved forest management.

The Context

The project is designed by OAK Schwyz, an organisation mentioned in writing for the first time in the 12 century with origins going back to the early middle ages. The forest is already FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified, however, the group wanted to increase the carbon sequestration of the forest to help combat global emissions.

The Project

Covering over 7,000 ha in the alpine Canton of Schwyz, the Oberallmig project is centred around increasing the carbon stock of the landscape through improved management. The OAK Schwyz forests are mainly not planted, rather they are protected for natural regeneration, this results in a mainly uneven-aged and diverse forest. The project includes extending the rotation period in plantation forest areas, so harvest only happens on a single tree basis or in small areas. Harvesting below the yield for some time will increase the carbon stock.

The Benefits

As plants use carbon dioxide during photosynthesis to create new growth, such as leaves, shoots and roots, improving how the forest is managed to increase the amount of biomass in the area, results in a more efficient carbon sink that can store vast amounts of carbon over a long time. On top of sequestering carbon, this reforestation project generates further environmental benefits at a local level. These include protecting the habitat for local native wildlife, such as the endangered capercaillie (*Tetrao Urugallus*) and the Wood Grouse (*Tetrao Urugallus*).



OAK is the largest non-state forest owner in Switzerland



26 jobs

created through the project



Strengthening local communities

with a third of the county resident members of OAK Schwyz



8,000 tCO₂e

mitigated on average per year



7,379 ha

of alpine land is managed sustainably



Habitat of rare and endangered birds

is protected



10+ species

of native trees are regenerated

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Oberallmig Climate Protection Project