



Assessing use of carbon credits

Climate Action Tracker assessment on use of carbon credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

June 2026



SWITZERLAND



Switzerland could meet a third of its 2030 emissions reduction target through Article 6 projects, totalling around 30 million tonnes over the current NDC period (2021-2030). As its domestic target is not 1.5°C compatible, this does not constitute a 'responsible use' of Article 6. Switzerland relies primarily on Article 6.2, which has fewer safeguards. The Swiss government has developed its own set of rules and safeguards, and excludes activities that pose risks to permanence or integrity.

Switzerland intends to participate in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as a buyer country. Switzerland has signed [17 Bilateral Agreements](#) (BAs) as of June 2026, including with [Ghana, Chile and Thailand](#).

In April 2025, the Federal Environment Agency (FOEN) stated that it will achieve [at least two thirds](#) of its emissions reduction target (NDC target: -50% by 2030 below 1990 levels) domestically. This means that Switzerland could purchase 9.15 million credits (one third) in the 2030 target year and count them towards its target. As a consequence, Switzerland thus may buy a cumulative amount of 149 million credits to achieve its targets from 2021 to 2040 (assuming that Switzerland continues to buy one third of its emissions reductions abroad between 2030–2040).

Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, countries can trade emission reductions through bilateral agreements ([Article 6.2](#)) or the UN-supervised Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) ([Article 6.4](#)). These are called Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs), with 1 ITMO equalling 1 tCO₂e.

Article 6 was agreed as a means to enhance climate action and ambition through cooperation. However, in practice, Article 6 risks weakening global climate action by enabling wealthier countries to substitute or delay domestic emission cuts, rely on low-quality or non-additional carbon credits, and shift mitigation responsibility to lower income seller countries, undermining ambition, equity, and environmental integrity. A responsible use of Article 6 requires a combination of high (domestic) ambition, adequate levels of climate finance, high-quality projects, and robust accounting practices.

To learn more about risks and responsible engagement in Article 6, see our [Article 6 briefing](#).

Summary of Switzerland's participation and planned activities for Article 6

Article 6 participation	
Role	Buyer
Expected to engage in Article 6.2	Yes
Expected to engage in Article 6.4	Yes
Stated purpose of Article 6 participation (according to NDC)	"Switzerland will partly use internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) from cooperation under Article 6."
Article 6 activities	
Signed Article 6.2 agreements	Yes, as a buyer country
Number of Article 6.2 agreements signed	17 agreements
Article 6.2 projects in pipeline	31 activities
Article 6.4 projects in pipeline	0 activities
Volume of credits transferred to date from Article 6 projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~0.06 million ITMOs (valid throughout the NDC period 2021–2030)
Planned volume of Article 6 credits	Switzerland plans to purchase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30.45 million ITMOs (2021–2030) 84.44 million ITMOs (2021–2035)* 149.40 million ITMOs (2021–2040)*

* Under the assumption that Switzerland continues buying 1/3 of its emissions reductions abroad between 2030–2040

Legend:

- **Article 6.2**, also known as "cooperative approaches", mostly sets the accounting framework for the transfer of emission reductions based on bilateral agreements between countries.
- **Article 6.4**, also known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM), is a project-based mechanism under the supervision of the UN Climate Secretariat (UNFCCC). It allows for the participation of private actors.

Evaluation



Prerequisites

Switzerland does not meet the prerequisites for a responsible use of Article 6, as it neither has a 1.5°C compatible domestic NDC target nor does it provide adequate climate finance.



Safeguards

Switzerland's engagement in Article 6 relies primarily on Article 6.2 which lacks basic environmental and social safeguards. Switzerland has established some **national safeguards**, including the [exclusion of certain activity types \(negative list\)](#), notably REDD+ and avoided deforestation activities, nuclear energy projects, and biological carbon sequestration approaches that raise permanence or integrity concerns.

Switzerland has also put in place a **grievance mechanism** for Article 6 activities, allowing affected stakeholders to raise concerns related to social or environmental impacts. In its reporting towards the UNFCCC under Article 6.2 (see [initial report](#)), Switzerland indicates that such concerns may be addressed to the FOEN, which acts as the competent authority for the authorisation and oversight of cooperative approaches.

The Swiss CO₂ Ordinance requires project developers to report the results of **stakeholder consultations** and provide opportunities for ongoing feedback for projects implemented abroad. Switzerland does not include explicit requirements on **benefit sharing** with host countries or local communities.



Transparency

Switzerland ensures transparency by publishing documentation for Article 6 projects and agreements online (see [compensation projects abroad](#)), but access to project-level information can be partial, with some documents redacted.



Projects

Switzerland prioritises mitigation activities in specific sectors, with preferred project types including energy efficiency measures, renewable energy use in households and industry, electric mobility, and methane reduction in agriculture. Current ongoing projects include a [cookstove project in Ghana](#) or the [operation of e-buses in Thailand](#).