Research for People and the Environment
Staff

**Function**
- Scientific staff: 319
- Technical staff: 174
- Administrative staff: 57
- Apprentices: 14

**Origin**
- Switzerland: 384
- EU: 139
- Other: 41

**Total staff**: 564
- Men: 61%
- Women: 39%
Knowledge
We generate knowledge about the environment via scientific publications, lectures, the magazine DIAGONAL, information material for specialists as well as events and websites.

Scientific publications: 708
Outreach publications: 284
Teaching hours: 2853
PhD Students: 135
Professors: 28

Finances
Our main funding is in the form of a basic contribution from the federal government, with contributions for research from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), other foundations and the EU, as well as contracts with state and private entities.

Basic federal government funding: 58 million
Research contributions, mandates, services, EU programmes: 30 million
Annual budget in million Swiss francs: 88
Highlights in 2020

Communicated: How to use the forest and preserve biodiversity

Explored: The Arctic for a year with the MOSAiC polar expedition

Analysed: Energy programme completed. WSL/Eawag initiative promoting land and water biodiversity launched

Locations and cooperation

We maintain more than 6000 test, observation and experimental sites, large-scale test facilities and laboratories in all language regions of Switzerland. We also cooperate actively with partners from all over the world.

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL (wsl.ch)
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF (slf.ch)
Acting Director: Dr. Christoph Hegg
WSL is a research institute of the ETH Domain.
Vision and mission

WSL strives for excellence in terrestrial environmental research to provide solutions improving quality of life in a healthy environment.
– We explore the dynamics of the terrestrial environment, as well as the use and protection of natural habitats and cultural landscapes.
– We monitor forests, landscapes, biodiversity, natural hazards and snow and ice.
– We develop sustainable solutions to socially relevant issues together with our partners from science and society.
Our focus
We focus on research, the transfer of knowledge and services related to forests, landscapes, biodiversity, natural hazards, snow and ice.

Services for Switzerland
Findings from our research are often relevant for local authorities, specialist centres and the public generally, and are made available to them through, for example:
– The Avalanche Bulletin
– The Swiss National Forest Inventory NFI
– Swiss Forest Protection information platform
– Hydrological forecasts
WSL was founded in 1885 as a forest research institute. In 1989, the Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF became part of WSL. It is now 75 years since SLF produced the first Avalanche Bulletin. This has, over the years, been further developed and continually improved.