

Fourth Edition of the PCP Inventory

The 2021 edition of the Swiss Inventory for the Protection of Cultural Property (PCP Inventory), which follows those of 1988, 1995 and 2009, identifies cultural property to be protected in the event of armed conflicts, disasters or emergency situations. The destruction of priceless cultural property during the Second World War led the Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to enact the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict³³ and the First Protocol³⁴ in 1954. These legal instruments, ratified by Switzerland in 1962, establish the two main principles of the protection of cultural property: safeguarding in peacetime and respect in the event of armed conflict. The Second Protocol of 1999³⁵ recommends the preparation of inventories as a measure of protection. Switzerland implements its international commitment through the Federal Act on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Disaster or Emergency Situations.³⁶

The revision of the PCP Inventory is being conducted according to the methodology initiated in 2009. The classification of the objects is done with a matrix established on uniform criteria³⁷, for the purpose of transparency and comparison. The current PCP Inventory contains about 3400 A-objects (of national importance), about 200 more than in 2009, and about 10 000 B-objects (of regional importance).³⁸ The increase is due to the focus on archaeological objects, which are now provided with terminology, dating and location that reflect the state of the art in the field. The systematic review of buildings and collections has led to a reclassification of some objects, particularly in the archi-

val field, and has only resulted in minor changes for buildings, museums, and libraries.

The A-objects are presented in the geoportal of the Confederation (swisstopo).³⁹ They are labelled at the place specified by their coordinates with a blue-and-white PCP sign. Extensive objects such as city fortifications or archaeological sites are designated with a PCP sign surrounded by a blue circle. The information attached to an object (photograph, description and link to other objects) will be completed according to its availability in the coming years.

At the request of the cantons, the Swiss Confederation assumes the recognized additional costs for the construction and renovation of shelters for collections of national importance, as well as for their furnishing.⁴⁰ The cantons are obliged to plan preventive protective measures to avoid and reduce damage in the event of an incident. It is recommended that cultural institutions (archives, libraries, museums) draw up emergency and evacuation plans accordingly.

A-objects are also integrated into military systems. In the case of an armed conflict, the distinctive blue and white emblem will be affixed by order of the Federal Council to the objects and shelters that must be respected. For military reasons, the shield is only applied to individual objects, excluding entire sites or large building complexes.

The 2021 edition of the PCP Inventory is the result of a long process of cooperation between the section Protection of Cultural Property of the Federal Office for Civil Protection, the Federal Commission for the Protection of Cultural Property, the cantonal authorities responsible for the protection of cultural property, monuments and sites and archaeology as well as the expert working groups and the partners involved. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who participated for their contributions.

33 [1954 Hague Convention](#) | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (unesco.org)

34 [First Protocol](#) | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (unesco.org)

35 [Second Protocol](#) | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (unesco.org)

36 [SR 520.3](#) - Bundesgesetz vom 20. Juni 2014 über den Schutz der Kulturgüter bei bewaffneten Konflikten, bei Katastrophen und in Notlagen (KGSG) (admin.ch) (German version)

37 [SR 520.31](#) - Verordnung vom 29. Oktober 2014 über den Schutz der Kulturgüter bei bewaffneten Konflikten, bei Katastrophen und in Notlagen (KGSV) (admin.ch), Art. 1 Abs. 2 (German version)

38 Given the overall number of 75,000 protected objects in the cantons, as listed in the national monument statistic (Federal Statistical Office, 2018: [Switzerland's built heritage](#): Statistics on built heritage 2016 and statistics on cultural behaviour, p. 6), the choice of objects in the PCP inventory is based on a strict selection.

39 [Maps of Switzerland](#) - Swiss Confederation - map.geo.admin.ch

40 [SR 520.1](#) - Bundesgesetz vom 20. Dezember 2019 über den Bevölkerungsschutz und den Zivilschutz (Bevölkerungs- und Zivilschutzgesetz, BZG) (admin.ch) (German version)