# Safari Club International's highest distinction for the Swiss Chapter!



**The SCI Helvetia Chapter has won an award for its project to promote the black grouse *(Tetrao tetrix)* in the Swiss Alps! By helping to put goats on mountain pastures, it aims to improve species' habitat and stabilise its population.**

One of the central elements of the project is goat browsing. These animals help to control the spread of green alder *(Alnus viridis),* an invasive shrub on the northern slopes of the Alps. Reducing the number of green alders means that open spaces can be reclaimed, which are essential for black grouse reproduction (feeding and courtship). The project began thanks to the SCI Swiss Chapter in 2021, where around twenty goats were used to control this vegetation in a two-hectare fenced area on Arpille mountain pasture.

### Based on voluntary work

Over the next few years, the Tetrao Tetrix Alpine Association was developed and goats were placed on a total of six alpine pastures by 2024. SCI Helvetia Chapter's involvement in this project highlights the importance of cooperation between hunters, farmers, nature conservationists and the general public in conserving and promoting biodiversity in the Swiss Alps. One hundred and sixty volunteers were involved in setting up the goat pens and piling up green alders on these mountain pastures.

### High distinction

In recognition of this commitment, the SCI Helvetia Chapter was this year awarded the Diamond Conservation Award, one of Safari Club International's (SCI) highest distinctions, presented each year to SCI members who provide outstanding services in the field of species and nature protection.

This award recognises Chapter Helvetia's commitment to protecting wildlife and its habitats, as well as promoting sustainable hunting practices.

Further information and the latest news can be found on the SCI Helvetia Chap- ter website (www.sci-helvetia.ch) and on instagram (@safariclub_ helvetia_chapter and @associationalpinetetraotetrix)■