



Article from Ministry of the Environment

Sweden highlighted the importance of wetlands to the climate on World Environment Day

Published 16 June 2021

This year's theme for UN World Environment Day was 'Ecosystem Restoration'. One Swedish example is the Government's drive in recent years to restore wetlands. This has a positive impact on biodiversity and the capacity to bind carbon dioxide. Arctic wetlands are at severe risk of destruction due to climate change.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day, on 5 June, was Ecosystem Restoration. Pakistan hosted the event together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was launched at the event. Ecosystem restoration can involve many different measures, such as blocking ditches, clearing overgrown areas, increasing urban green areas, reintroducing traditional land use such as grazing or mowing, or cleaning contaminated water or land.

Knowledge about the wetlands' importance to the climate has increased in recent years. Wetlands have a unique biodiversity and provide good access to clean water. They also store huge amounts of carbon in the form of peat.

In the 19th and 20th centuries almost three million hectares of wetlands in Sweden were drained, or about 25 per cent of the original wetland-area. In most cases, the ditches were dug and other areas drained to create new land for agriculture or to increase forestry production. Other reasons include peat production and road construction.

Restoring damaged wetlands can reverse negative trends. The Government launched a wetlands initiative in 2018 to encourage municipalities to restore and construct wetlands. This showed that these measures contributed to balancing water flows, increasing the influx of groundwater, and furthering biodiversity and the climate.

The multifunctionality of wetlands is a positive contribution to the achievement of the Swedish Environmental Quality Objectives, several of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and our international climate targets. The issue has long been on the international agenda. The international Convention on Wetlands, also called the Ramsar Convention, was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and has since been adopted by most of the UN Member States.

A great part of the world's wetlands are in the Arctic region, which includes northern Sweden. Arctic wetlands are of major importance to biodiversity and to the many indigenous people who live there.

Climate change has a major impact on the Arctic region and its wetlands. Even a small temperature increase can have a huge effect, since this causes the permafrost to thaw with the resulting risk of large amounts of greenhouse gases being released. Palsas, a unique type of Arctic wetland are at risk of being destroyed due to global warming. To counter this, it is important to protect, manage and, when necessary, restore wetlands.

In 2017, at Sweden's initiative, the Arctic Council launched a project to compile knowledge about the role of the Arctic wetlands in the climate. The project is led by the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group and comprises three parts – inventory, needs analysis and field studies, and recommendations.

The project report was presented at the Arctic countries' foreign ministers meeting in spring 2021. The report, entitled 'The Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands', contains 13 key findings and 20 recommendations, based on different geographical areas to maintain and strengthen wetland resilience. Many of these recommendations are relevant to all kinds of wetlands, not just those in the Arctic.

Restoration of peatforming wetlands helps mitigate climate change. The Arctic countries holds large areas of drained wetlands of this kind that could be restored for the climate, biodiversity, water quality and water hydrology.



Article from Ministry of the Environment

UNEA 5 urged green investments after the pandemic

Published 12 March 2021

The UN brought together the world's environment ministers at the virtual environment assembly UNEA 5, which focused among other things on global recovery after the pandemic. Several countries, including Sweden, highlighted the problems of plastic pollution in the oceans and the need for a global agreement on plastics. The assembly concluded with a kick-off ahead of the 50th anniversary of the UN Environment Programme, which will be marked in 2022.

The theme for the United Nations Environment Assembly on 22–23 February was 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. UNEA 5 was one of the first large assemblies since the pandemic began, and because of COVID-19 it was split into two parts, a virtual assembly this year and an in-person assembly in Nairobi in March 2022.

The Assembly agreed on a statement from the environment ministers concerning green recovery, urging the UN's member states to re-invest in green technology, including nature-based solutions.

During the 'leadership dialogue', the Swedish Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund emphasised that the path to recovery after COVID-19 presents an opportunity to create a more sustainable and fossil-free society, and to find global solutions to the problems of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

UNEA 5 also adopted a number of resolutions that are necessary to enable the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to function – as a strategy for the period 2022–2025 and a programme of work and budget for 2022–2023.

The Assembly agreed that the UN member states should make joint efforts to tackle plastic litter in the oceans. There is no global agreement today that adopts an integrated approach and regulates the entire life cycle of plastics, but several virtual events highlighted various ongoing initiatives. The member states showed increased belief in a global agreement governing marine plastic litter and microplastics being part of the solution. Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund expressed hope that a decision on formal negotiation on an ambitious global agreement will be adopted at the in-person assembly in 2022. German Ambassador Annett Guenther announced that Germany, Ghana and Ecuador will host a ministerial conference later this year to pave the way for such a decision.

UNEP marks 50 years in 2022

UNEP was formed as a result of the 1972 Stockholm Conference, and the organisation will mark its 50th anniversary in March 2022. The anniversary, called UNEP@50, was launched during UNEA.

Sweden plans to arrange the high-level meeting Stockholm+50 at the beginning of June 2022 to highlight issues concerning our relationship with nature, sustainable consumption and production, green recovery and a strong youth perspective, as well as mobilising the international community behind strengthened implementation and action. The meeting is linked to UNEP@50 in so far as both events in 2022 aim to contribute towards strengthening international environmental cooperation.

UNEP's environmental work over 50 years

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm and the formation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1972 marked the start of global environmental efforts.

UNEP initially made itself known for its work against depletion of the ozone layer in the atmosphere. Today, UNEP operates in seven areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency and environment

under review. UNEP's work is 95% funded by the member states and other partners, and a large proportion of the funding is earmarked for various projects. Sweden is one of the fifty largest contributors to UNEP and endeavours to ensure that UNEP continues to be an effective organisation and can be strengthened in its remit globally.

UNEP's remit is to take initiatives for new global provisions, policy and agreements in the environmental area, develop and disseminate knowledge about the environmental and climate situation in the world and coordinate environmental efforts within the UN. Since the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted under the 2030 Agenda, UNEP has reported globally on the implementation of several goals concerned with the environment, for example Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production. UNEP also plays an important role in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda globally.

Over the 50 years that have passed since UNEP was formed, the member states of the UN have agreed on a number of conventions that guide work on the environment and climate at the international level and in the long term. These are continuously developed through conferences of the parties, where the member states meet to negotiate and make decisions.

The secretariats for several of these conventions are at UNEP. This applies, for example, to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, (CMS).

Other UN conventions have come into being to govern pollution and hazardous substances, such as ozone (Vienna Convention), mercury (Minamata Convention), persistent organic pollutants (Stockholm Convention) and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (Basel Convention), where rules on export of plastic waste are an important issue. UNEP also coordinates the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Greener lifestyles the focus when Sweden hosts World Environment Day 2022

Published 23 November 2021

Sweden will host World Environment Day on 5 June 2022 in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The theme – ‘Only One Earth’ – will highlight the possibilities for shifting to more sustainable, greener lifestyles.

World Environment Day is an annual UN international day. The ‘Only One Earth’ theme will focus on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices. ‘Only One Earth’ was also the motto for the UN’s first conference on the human environment, the 1972 Stockholm Conference. The implication is that the Earth is still our only home, and that we must safeguard its resources. A range of activities will be linked to the theme.

“We are proud to host World Environment Day 2022. Sweden invites the countries of the world to participate in the celebrations and to organise activities and events. We want to highlight some of the most urgent environmental issues, as well as a number of Swedish initiatives and our role in international environmental action,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

The Government has already tasked the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency with organising and coordinating communication initiatives in Sweden ahead of World Environment Day, and with highlighting activities in Sweden that are linked to World Environment Day.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Outcome of the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference

Published 22 November 2021

The UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow has ended. The main successes of the conference were that countries were encouraged to sharpen their climate goals as early as next year, double support for adaptation to climate change by 2025 and that the role of fossil fuels in climate transition was mentioned for the first time.

Both before and during the conference, much revolved around the need for increased ambitions in global climate work and the gap between the countries' current commitments and the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees Celsius target. The commitments made by the countries are decided at national level and are therefore not subject to negotiation. However, the overarching decision of the meeting contains wording on the phasing out of subsidies for coal and fossil fuels, more ambitious commitments on the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, the importance of a just transition, human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. The parties are now also encouraged to ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of young people.

“Limiting heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require a lot of us, but the decision we have taken in Glasgow lays the foundations for making it possible. Over these past two weeks, the countries of the world have shown that they can agree on even the most difficult climate decisions and take major steps forward. This will not be enough, but it will speed up the pace of climate efforts and give us much greater opportunities to counter the climate crisis,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

During COP26, the countries have also negotiated on finalising the Paris

Agreement Rulebook, which sets out the rules governing how the countries must implement their commitments under the Agreement, the aim of which is to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Climate finance

One of the conference's major negotiation issues has concerned climate finance, i.e support for emission reductions and climate change adaptation in developing countries, and the commitment to mobilise USD 100 billion per year from 2020 to 2025. This is important to enable climate transition in developing countries and enable them to raise the level of ambition in their climate action. The UK Presidency gave Per Bolund, together with his Egyptian colleague Dr Yasmine Fouad, the task of leading the negotiations on climate finance. Together, they proposed, among other things, doubling the support for climate adaptation by 2025, which was requested by those most affected by climate change, and was also part of the final decision.

“Climate change is already doing enormous damage in many places and is making life more difficult for millions of people. The message we're sending from the conference is clear: support for climate adaptation will double by 2025. This will make a big difference to all those people who would otherwise have been hit hardest by the climate crisis,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

The conference also decided how the process for a new joint financing goal should be designed. A decision on such a goal is expected in 2024.

International cooperation and emissions trading

Another issue has been rules for international forms of cooperation and emissions trading between countries. For Sweden, it has been important that these rules do not allow 'double counting' of emission reductions, as this would equate to a lower climate ambition. The parties have now agreed to avoid this. Sweden has also pushed for the cooperation and projects implemented to be subject to protection of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the introduction of a right of complaint for those who consider themselves adversely affected as a result of activities under the regulatory framework.

A sticking point has been the rules for how countries are to report their emissions. For Sweden and several other countries it has been important that

all countries report their emissions in an equivalent way and that certain countries not be exempt from certain reporting requirements. The rules now agreed require all countries to report in such a way that their emission figures can be transparently reviewed.

Common timeframes

At COP26, the parties also agreed on common timeframes for when the countries are to update their commitments. This is a line that Sweden, the EU and several other countries have advocated because it increases the chances of raising the level of ambition at the rate necessary to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The common timeframes will begin to apply from 2031.

Loss and damage

The conference has also agreed on functions for the Santiago network and a process for deciding on the structure and financing of COP27. The aim is to strengthen technical assistance to the most vulnerable developing countries in order to identify and access solutions to counter loss and damage from climate change. The conference also agreed on a dialogue to discuss financing arrangements to counter, prevent and address damage and losses from climate change.

Initiatives

In connection with COP26, a high-level meeting was also held in the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, which was launched by Sweden and India in 2019 to drive the climate transition in heavy industry. The meeting gathered ministers and business leaders who agreed to develop road maps to achieve net-zero emissions in heavy industry.

During COP26, Sweden and several other countries and states joined the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA), which is intended to counteract new gas and oil extraction.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Nordic countries showing the way globally ahead of decisive climate negotiations

Published 16 November 2021

The Nordic environment and climate ministers met on 3 November in Copenhagen to discuss how they can work together to push for an ambitious outcome from the ongoing UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. Issues concerning a global agreement on plastics and the plans for the Stockholm+50 conference are also on the agenda.

“I hope in Glasgow, we can help bridge the gap in the level of ambition – so that the world’s countries get closer to the Paris Agreement’s 1.5 degree target. When we Nordic countries work together, we have greater opportunities to influence the decision,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

The traditional autumn meeting of the Nordic environment and climate ministers is being held within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers. In addition to the climate negotiations, the ministers will discuss how – at the forthcoming meeting of the UN Environment Assembly – they can work for an ambitious global agreement to prevent and reduce emissions of plastic waste and microplastics.

At the meeting in Copenhagen, Mr Bolund also updated his colleagues on plans to involve young people at the UN meeting on the environment that will be held in Stockholm in June 2022, for which the Nordic Council of Ministers is an important partner.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

At COP26: Sweden launches global initiative to strengthen young people's participation during Stockholm+50

Published 16 November 2021

Next year, Sweden will host Stockholm+50, a UN conference that aims to help accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the ongoing UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Sweden today launched an initiative to strengthen young people's participation in the work ahead of and during Stockholm+50.

The Youth Task Force project will contribute to the meaningful participation of young people at global level ahead of and during Stockholm+50. The Youth Task Force will provide input to various thematic areas within Stockholm+50, as well as facilitate youth consultations and mobilise youth organisations that want to become involved in Stockholm+50.

“Young people play an incredibly important role in the work for a sustainable world. At the same time, they are often excluded from contexts that shape their future. By forming a Youth Task Force, we are making sure that we receive valuable input from young people right up to the start of meeting, but also for what happens after the meeting,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

Youth representatives from the Youth Task Force took part in today's launch together with Mr Bolund and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director and Secretary-General of

Stockholm+50 Inger Andersen.

During the launch, a panel discussion was held during which participants discussed what they hope the Youth Task Force will achieve, and their expectations for Stockholm+50 from a youth perspective.

Stockholm+50 deals with issues that are of great importance for the future of young people, and the Government wants young people's messages to be reflected in the outcome of the conference. That is why it is important that young people are involved in a meaningful way in all processes ahead of and during the meeting. In this way, the Youth Task Force can also provide lessons for future international environmental efforts.



Press release

Countries and business leaders agree to draft roadmaps to zero emissions in heavy industry

Published 10 November 2021

At the ongoing UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Sweden held a high-level meeting in the global Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT). Sweden and India jointly launched LeadIT in 2019 to push for climate transition in heavy industry. Group members at the meeting agreed to focus on implementation of national roadmaps and strategies for the industrial sector's transition to zero emissions.

Both ministers and business leaders took part in the meeting. In addition to the implementation of national roadmaps and strategies, the participants agreed to carry out initiatives to strengthen the industrial sector's innovative capacity and technological development. They also agreed on policy measures and funding solutions to promote the industrial sector's green transition, reduce emissions and create new jobs. The most important conclusion was that major emissions reductions must be achieved in the coming decade.

- If the industrial sector makes the transition, we can drastically reduce climate emissions. This requires constructive collaboration between politics and industry, and that we jointly drive the efforts to make the transition. Sweden is currently experiencing a wave of green industrial investments. By showing how the transition provides new jobs and development, we encourage more countries to follow suit, says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

LeadIT's commitments will also be followed up during the UN conference Stockholm+50, which Sweden will host next June.

LeadIT was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019. The group consists of 35 countries and businesses from all continents working together to promote the climate transition in heavy industry with the aim of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. The countries in LeadIT account for one third of the global economy. Global initiatives such as LeadIT exemplify how Sweden's industry transition efforts can also spread around the rest of the world.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Climate Change Conference in Glasgow must keep 1.5 degree goal within reach

Published 04 November 2021

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) is being held in Glasgow between 31 October and 12 November. The world's countries are gathered there to negotiate global climate action under the Paris Agreement. They will negotiate on issues such as rules on emissions trading and how countries should report their emissions. The conference will also focus on how the countries' climate commitments measure up to the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 in Paris in 2015. It is an international climate agreement with the goal of limiting the global average temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and preferably under 1.5 degrees Celsius. To achieve this, all countries are to regularly present nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with targets for reducing their emissions. COP26 is the first opportunity since COP21 in Paris at which countries are expected to present new or updated NDCs, and much of the conference will focus on how well the countries' collective contributions measure up to the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

- Climate action around the world has been too slow and we are now heading for global warming of 2.7 degrees Celsius. This would have catastrophic consequences for people and communities around the world. All countries, including Sweden, must do much more to reduce our climate impact, and the climate negotiations must send a clear signal that emissions will be reduced

more quickly, says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund, who is leading the Swedish negotiating delegation in Glasgow.

Sweden also wants the countries' NDCs to follow a common five-year timeframe. This means that the countries should update their NDCs at least every five years, which increases their chances of raising their level of ambition at the rate necessary to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Paris Agreement Rulebook

During the conference, the countries will also negotiate on finalising the Paris Agreement Rulebook, which governs implementation of the Agreement. However, there is still disagreement on these issues. One such disagreement concerns rules on how countries should cooperate to reduce emissions, such as via emissions trading. The Paris Agreement allows countries to take climate action beyond their borders. For example, a country can finance wind power in another country. This helps the country where the wind power facility is built with its climate transition, and the country that financed the facility can use the emissions reduction generated by the facility to meet parts of its national emissions targets. However, some countries consider that the emissions reduction measure should be reported in both countries, known as 'double counting'.

- We were the first generation to become aware of the climate crisis. Now we have to be the generation willing to take the decisions needed to stop it. To do this, we cannot allow double counting of emissions reductions or other rules that risk leading to drastically reduced climate ambitions, says Mr Bolund.

One of the great successes of the Paris Agreement was that all countries are to report their emissions in an equivalent manner, which was previously not the case. However, some countries want to retain the earlier differences in how countries report their emissions. This would make it more difficult to compare the countries' climate action and lead to less transparency in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Sweden considers that there is a risk that excessively permissive rules could lead to a lower level of ambition in global climate action both as regards forms of cooperation and in emissions reporting.

Climate finance

The outcome of COP26 will also be assessed on the basis of whether the developed countries succeed in delivering on the commitment to mobilise USD 100 billion in climate finance per year from 2020 to 2025. This is important to enable climate transition in developing countries and to give them the means to continuously raise the level of ambition in their climate action.

- The poorest countries are the least to blame for the climate crisis, but they are the hardest hit. Rich countries have a special responsibility to contribute to the developing countries' climate transition. Sweden will therefore increase its climate finance by SEK 1 billion next year, and double it to SEK 15 billion by 2025. This makes Sweden the world's largest per capita donor of climate aid. Through this, we want to both improve the conditions for climate transition in developing countries and put pressure on other countries to do more, says Mr Bolund.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ahead of UN Climate Change Conference COP26: Government intends to double climate aid by 2025

Published 13 October 2021

The world is in an acute climate crisis. The world's poorest are the least to blame but are the hardest hit. The richer countries have a special responsibility to contribute to the developing countries' climate transition. The Government therefore intends to double Swedish climate aid to SEK 15 billion by 2025.

In less than three weeks, negotiations will begin at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. The Conference is taking place at a critical time in world history. We are in the midst of a climate crisis, where catastrophes such as protracted droughts, violent fires and devastating floods are becoming more common. The world's poorest are the least to blame for climate change, but they are hit the hardest by its consequences. All countries must reduce their climate impact to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, but the richer countries have a special responsibility to take the lead and contribute to the developing countries' climate transition. Sweden continues to take responsibility and the Government intends to double Swedish climate aid to SEK 15 billion by 2025.

“With today's decision on doubled climate aid, Sweden not only contributes to greater opportunities for the world's developing countries to implement the green transition, but it also sends an important message ahead of the climate negotiations in Glasgow. The developed countries must live up to

their commitments if we are to have a chance to jointly limit global emissions at the necessary pace,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The trend can be reversed, but not if we wait to take action. That is why the world must now join together to raise climate ambitions.

“By doubling its climate aid, Sweden is showing even stronger leadership on climate change. We make it possible for poor countries to reduce their emissions and make necessary climate adjustments. A doubling of Sweden’s climate aid puts pressure on other countries to contribute more. It increases the chance of achieving a breakthrough in the climate negotiations in Glasgow and thus a faster climate transition worldwide,” says Per Bolund, Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister.

Swedish climate aid contributes to important investments in both reduced emissions and more climate-friendly and resilient societies in poorer parts of the world. Sweden’s increased climate aid also increases pressure on other rich countries to help fulfil the promise from 2009 of USD 100 billion per year in climate finance. More countries increasing their climate aid would improve the chances of achieving real results in the climate negotiations in Glasgow and thus increasing the pace of global climate transition.

The Government is now making a broad international effort to mobilise additional capital for climate finance and to encourage countries to adopt ambitious climate plans to reduce emissions.

“The world is in a climate crisis with major consequences for human life, health and security. Climate change affects us all, but hits those who are already vulnerable the hardest. Thanks to the Government standing by the 1 per cent goal, we can keep raising ambitions and increasing support to poor countries for climate transition and expansion of renewable energy. Sweden will be part of the solution for the world to meet the 1.5 degree Celsius goal,” says Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Biodiversity needs greater global protection

Published 12 October 2021

This week, countries around the world will meet under the auspices of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to begin drafting a global framework on how to sustainably protect and make use of biodiversity. Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund will take part in the meeting digitally and will emphasise that Sweden wants protection for 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans.

According to a report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), human activities lead to ecosystem imbalance, species loss and a rapid and large-scale loss of genetic variation. Moreover, current human overexploitation of nature's resources results in the deterioration and loss of ecosystem services; services that provide clean water, pollination and fertile soils.

Sweden supports introducing goals to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and 30 per cent of its oceans. This is in line with what international researchers have highlighted as a minimum to ensure biodiversity.

“Humans are behind the global loss of biodiversity. Consequently, it is our duty to help address this critical issue. At the meeting of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, I will work for an ambitious framework with global goals that meet the challenges we see with continued loss of biodiversity,” says Mr Bolund.

Protecting 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans will not be enough to

ensure ecosystem services upon which people are completely dependent. This is why goals and measures are needed that reduce the pressure on biodiversity in the other 70 per cent. Sweden wants the new global framework to include goals for reducing the global ecological footprint. This involves reduced pressure from human consumption and production on biodiversity and its ecosystem services.

Nature-based solutions are one way of both protecting biodiversity and contributing to emissions reductions or adaptation to a warmer climate. Sweden is pushing for the new global framework to contain such solutions. Climate change contributes to reduced biodiversity, and reduced biodiversity can drive climate change. Species and ecosystems are unable to adapt when the pace of climate change is steadily increasing. For example, degraded ecosystems absorb less carbon dioxide.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Per Bolund leads climate finance discussions at Pre-COP26 ministerial meeting

Published 01 October 2021

A preparatory ministerial meeting is being held ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to discuss key aspects of the climate negotiations. Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund has been asked to lead the climate finance discussions.

COP26 will take place in Glasgow from 30 October to 12 November. Each COP is preceded by a preparatory ministerial meeting, called the Pre-COP, where some key issues are discussed. Italy is the host of the Pre-COP, taking place in Milan from 28 September to 2 October.

At the Pre-Cop, ministers will discuss the issues that are expected to be in focus at COP26: the world's progress in relation to the 1.5 °C goal, finalisation of the Paris Agreement Rulebook, action on climate change adaptation, approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change, and finance. Mr Bolund has been asked to lead the finance discussions.

“I am pleased to have been entrusted with leading the climate finance discussions and look forward to advancing work together with my colleagues. My goal is that the outcome of the discussions will help the UK to make COP26 in Glasgow successful,” says Mr Bolund.

Climate finance is a key and recurrent issue in the international climate negotiations. In the lead up to COP26, the goal of mobilising USD 100 billion per year from 2020 to 2025 is in focus. The 100 billion goal was

agreed at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009. The OECD, which conducts an annual assessment of progress towards the goal, reports that in 2019 donors had provided around USD 79 billion. In Glasgow, negotiations will start on the new climate finance goal, post 2025.

Ahead of the Pre-COP, Italy was hosting a youth dialogue – Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition. Around 400 young people aged between 15 and 29, from 186 countries were expected to attend. The main messages from the meeting was presented at the opening of the Pre-COP. Mr Bolund has been meeting with participants of the youth meeting to hear their reflections.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Decision on increased interim storage for spent nuclear fuel

Published 27 August 2021

The Government has decided to allow a capacity increase of the interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel, pending a repository for final disposal being constructed and put into operation. An intermediate decision on interim storage is necessary to safeguard the energy supply in the coming years.

The Government is prioritising and working as swiftly as possible to prepare the decision on the repository. In the Government's assessment, it will be a matter of months before such a decision can be made. However, the permit process following a government decision will take additional time. Without a valid permit for increased interim storage in place before the end of 2023, Sweden's electricity generation could be adversely affected. This is why an intermediate decision on interim storage is necessary.

“With this decision to increase the storage capacity, we are taking responsibility for Sweden's energy supply. Without this decision, we would risk serious consequences for society if essential electricity generation were to halt abruptly,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

The Government is examining how spent nuclear fuel and other nuclear waste will be disposed of. Such waste is extremely hazardous and must be stored away from people and the environment for up to 100 000 years. As part of the disposal process, capacity at the Clab interim storage facility in Oskarshamn needs to be increased.

“The municipalities of Oskarshamn and Östhammar are assuming a great responsibility and have worked intensively on the issue of disposal. The

Government understands their position, but I would like to emphasise that an intermediate decision on increased interim storage does not mean that the preparation of other parts of the question of disposal will cease,” says Mr Bolund.

In the next step, the Government will refer the evaluation of new research on the protective capability of the copper canister in relation to both copper corrosion and the planned cast iron insert to the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority and the Swedish National Council for Nuclear Waste. In the consultation process, the Government wants these authorities to determine whether the article on copper corrosion and the research to which the article refers provide new information that may be of significance to the Government’s decision on the case.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence

Sweden's new Government

Published 09 July 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment, Ministry of the Environment,
Ministry of Infrastructure

Swedish and French Ministers agree to step up efforts to enhance green transition

Published 08 June 2021

Swedish Minister for Environment and Climate, Per Bolund, Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, Märta Stenevi, and Minister for Energy and Digital Development, Anders Ygeman, met with French Minister for Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili, on her visit to Stockholm, to discuss joint efforts to enhance the green transition at national, European and global levels.

Building on the Swedish-French partnership for innovation and green solutions, signed by Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and French President Emmanuel Macron in 2017 and updated in 2019, the Ministers discussed among other things how to deepen the collaboration in the areas of smart sustainable cities and renewable energy.

The Ministers expressed their continued support to the 1,5-degree objective of the Paris Agreement and their joint ambition for a successful COP26 in Glasgow, notably by promoting the European Green Deal and the EU Climate Law that will be a part of the French and Swedish future presidencies of the EU. They also discussed the topic of biodiversity, especially in the perspective of COP15 and a post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

Focusing on innovation systems, the Swedish-French partnership for

innovation and green solutions is a valuable platform to jointly develop innovative solutions to global challenges by bringing together Swedish and French decision-makers, national agencies and the business community. The partnership includes areas such as green transition, digitalisation and health.

Friday's discussions prepared for the upcoming review and update of the partnership, foreseen to take place later this year by Prime Minister Löfven and President Macron.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Sweden to host UN conference 50 years after the UN's first conference on the environment

Published 25 May 2021

Sweden and Kenya today jointly presented a resolution for adoption by the UN General Assembly that lays the foundation for the international UN conference ‘Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity’.

Sweden will host Stockholm+50, to be held in Stockholm on 2–3 June 2022. The conference aims to help accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and promote sustainable recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, the UN's first major conference on international environmental issues, which was held in Stockholm in 1972.

Stockholm+50 aspires to help us redefine humankind's relationship with nature and create conditions for prosperity within the ‘planetary boundaries’.

“In Stockholm in June 2022, fifty years of environmental history will meet the future, with eight years to go to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It will be an occasion to reflect on the challenges and opportunities we have today and what we need to do? to ensure a sustainable future. We have both an opportunity and a responsibility to create a future for young people that is worth believing in,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund

One of the results of the 1972 Stockholm Conference was the creation of the

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which since then has been based in Nairobi. With both UNEP's 50th anniversary UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50, 2022 will be a crucial year for the environment.

Sweden will soon present a follow-up resolution at the UN in New York, setting out more details about the focus, structure and implementation of Stockholm+50.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Government reduces emission amounts by almost 10.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Published 03 March 2021

The Government decided today to reduce emission amounts by an additional 10.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by cancelling emissions units.

The Government wants Sweden to try to meet its national climate goal for 2020 with domestic measures only. As a result, a surplus of emissions units has been generated and the Government has now chosen to remove these units – as it has done in previous years – instead of selling them to other countries.

The Government has decided this year to cancel – meaning it will remove – approximately 10.5 million emissions units, which is equivalent to approximately 10.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

“I am delighted to be able to make this type of decision during my first few weeks as Minister for Environment and Climate. Sweden must be a role model for climate efforts, and with this decision we have removed emission amounts that could have otherwise been used by other countries. This is entirely in line with our ambitious climate policy,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

As a result of the decision, the Government has tasked the Swedish Energy Agency with removing the emissions units that were generated when Sweden exceeded the emissions goals it was assigned by the EU. The Energy Agency will also cancel the emissions units that arose through investments in

international climate projects under the Kyoto Protocol.

The decision in part concerns 4.6 million emissions units under the Kyoto Protocol that Sweden acquired through climate initiatives in developing countries that were delivered in 2019. These will be removed instead of being sold onward or credited so as to achieve the Swedish national climate goals.

The other part of the decision means that Sweden's entire annual surplus of emissions units under the EU resolution on division of responsibilities will also be removed. This year's decision applies to the surplus from 2018 that amounted to almost 5.8 million emissions units.

Based on similar decisions, the Government has reduced total emissions amounts since 2014 by approximately 130 million tonnes – more than double Sweden's total emissions in 2019.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

Global environment assembly focuses on green recovery

Published 23 February 2021

The world's environment ministers are gathering virtually on 22 and 23 February to discuss green recovery and decide on priorities ahead of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund is participating in the meeting.

The theme of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) is "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". Due to the pandemic, UNEA-5 has been divided across two sessions, of which this is the first and the second will take place in February/March 2022.

During the assembly, environment ministers from UN Member States will participate in a leadership dialogue focusing on the environmental dimension of the post-pandemic recovery.

"The road to recovery after the pandemic will be long, but it also provides an opportunity to create a more sustainable society. It is important that we now talk about green recovery at global level. I also hope to continue these discussions during the Stockholm+50 environmental conference next year," says Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund.

The world's environment ministers normally gather biennially in Nairobi to decide on global environmental measures during the UN Environment Assembly, the highest-level decision-making body under the United Nations Environment Programme. Because the assembly is taking place virtually this time, there will be no negotiations on further measures in the environmental

area. However, the assembly will decide which areas the UN Environment Programme should work within over the coming years, through the adoption of a new medium-term strategy. The discussions will resume during the second – in-person – session of the assembly, which will take place in February/March 2022 in Nairobi.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

Speech by Per Bolund at the UN event Delivering Climate Action

Published 27 October 2021

Speech by Minister for the Environment and Climate Per Bolund at the UN event Delivering Climate Action: for People, Planet, and Prosperity. The speech was given in English and the spoken word applies.

Dear colleagues, ministers, and friends.

I look forward to meet in Glasgow to demonstrate our joint commitments to keeping 1,5 alive. We are currently heading towards 2.7 degrees warming and the world's aggregated NDCs puts us on track to a 16 % increase in global emissions. This is unacceptable.

We have all committed to honour the Paris Agreement and we know what has to be done. It is time to act. You can count on Sweden to do our part, but climate action requires collective action. I urge all countries, especially the G20, to come forward with commitments before COP26 that keeps 1.5 alive.

The outcome of COP26 must reflect this urgency of action. The recent and upcoming IPCC reports as well as the NDC synthesis report are key products that the world expects COP26 to act on.

Moreover, it is essential that the outcome of COP26 reflects developments in the real economy. We are seeing unprecedented and accelerated action that is transforming both industry and finance. For example, we have two Swedish companies aiming to put fossil free steel on the market by 2025. Our financial actors are aligning their portfolios with the Paris Agreement. This is happening now. New jobs. New economic opportunities. I urge us all to embrace the opportunities of climate action.

Transition in the industrial sector is crucial as industry accounts for roughly 30 percent of global carbon emissions. As mentioned, Swedish industry is rapidly transitioning to greener and cleaner methods of production.

The Swedish-Indian initiative and collaboration Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) gathers countries and companies that are committed to action in alignment with the Paris agreement. Members of LeadIT subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industries can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

I also want to emphasize the importance of climate finance and specifically finance towards climate adaptation. Since the developing countries are the most vulnerable to climate change, Sweden together with the other wealthier nations have a responsibility to ensure that the USD 100 billion goal is reached on a yearly basis. We are now stepping up our game. Next year Sweden will increase our contribution towards the USD 100 billion goal with 13% (i.e. 1 billion SEK) compared to 2019 and doubling our contribution by 2025.

Furthermore, we need to urgently accelerate actions and set clear timelines to phase out coal power, coal-finance and the exploration and extraction of fossil fuels. Sweden is a frontrunner in sustainable export financing. No Swedish export financing for the extraction and exploration of fossil fuels will take place after 2022. In 2020, the Swedish Export Credit Agency ceased funding for the extraction and transport of coal.

We currently have a unique opportunity for a green recovery. We still have a fighting chance to keep the global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees. COP26 is probably our last window of opportunity to do so.

The world calls on us leaders to deliver, so let us answer to that call.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

Speech by Per Bolund at President Biden's climate summit

Published 26 April 2021

Speech by the Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund at a roundtable discussion on April 23 led by US Climate Envoy John Kerry and Secretary of State Antony Blinken during President Joe Biden's climate summit. Check against delivery.

Thank you John and Tony for this opportunity to share some Swedish thoughts on the themes of President Biden's Leaders Summit. We're having this roundtable at a crucial time.

One key area we need to tackle is the transition of the heavy industry. It's a difficult sector, but the transition will be rewarding.

I am happy that the United States have joined the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, LeadIT. We are proud partners with India, and a group of ambitious countries and industries, and with the United States on board, the momentum for industry transition grows even stronger. I believe that together, we can change mindsets and drive global change. I welcome other ambitious actors to join us as well!

The green transition is good for all of us. It is a driver of job creation as well as innovation. Swedish companies engage in climate action to enhance their competitiveness.

Sweden is proud to be one of the worlds' largest providers of climate finance. But it is also our job as governments – in both developed and developing countries – to ensure a regulatory framework that attracts private investments.

We need to step up on climate ambition. I expect all Parties to deliver ambitious NDCs ahead of COP26. Recent reports shows the we are far from keeping the promise we made in Paris. In view of this, I welcome the new ambitious goals from the United States.

Finally, next year marks 50 years since the first UN Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm. Sweden is once again inviting governments, business and youth to a Stockholm+50 in June 2022. We aim to mobilize political energy for accelerated implementation and driving action on the ground towards 2030 and beyond. Stockholm+50 in an opportunity identify key actions that governments and non-state actors can take to increase progress towards sustainable economic recovery in harmony with nature.

In closing, I want to thank the USA for your leadership. We need to act now, and we need to act with confidence. We are all allies in our efforts to live up to the promises we have made to our children.

Thank you.