

# A Swedish Strategy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services





Ministry of Climate and Enterprise

## A Swedish Strategy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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## 1. Introduction

### **1.1 All parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity shall have updated national strategies**

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a framework convention with three overarching objectives: to conserve biodiversity, to use biodiversity in a sustainable manner, and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Convention entered into force in 1993 and currently has 196 parties. All parties are required, under Article 6 of the Convention, to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Nagoya in 2010, a strategic plan for biodiversity was adopted. Sweden's earlier national strategy (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NBSAP) was based on the goals of the Strategic Plan and was presented in the government bill A Swedish Strategy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Govt Bill 2013/14:141). The government bill stated that the interim targets for biodiversity and ecosystem services established by the Government, together with the measures described in the government bill, constituted the Government's comprehensive strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services through 2020. The Government subsequently assessed the progress of the work (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – Checkpoint 2016, DS 2017:32).

The goals in the CBD's Strategic Plan extended to 2020, and therefore the parties to the Convention adopted a new global framework with targets to halt and reverse the biodiversity loss, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This Framework was adopted in December 2022 and contains four long-term goals describing different states to be achieved by 2050. Twenty-three targets specify what needs to be done by 2030. Targets 1–8 concern reducing direct threats to biodiversity, targets 9–13 focus on biodiversity's capacity to deliver the ecosystem services all people need for their survival, and targets 14–23 concern ensuring that tools exist for the implementation of the Framework. Many of the targets also address the indirect drivers in society that ultimately threaten biodiversity. The Swedish translation of the targets is published on the Government's website.

In connection with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a decision was also made that parties shall update their strategies for biodiversity and align these plans to the goals set out in the Framework. The measures described here, together with the interim targets for biodiversity and ecosystem services established by the Government, constitute this national strategy.

## **1.2 The matter and its preparation**

To develop the basis for updating Sweden's National Strategy and Action Plan for biodiversity, the Government commissioned the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to develop a strategy proposal (M2022/02367). The assignment was to be carried out together with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Sámi Parliament, and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, and in dialogue with stakeholders. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) presented its proposal on 2 November 2023 (KN2023/04264). As part of the assignment, (SEPA) gave various actors the opportunity to contribute through dialogue meetings and written submissions.

The Government issued an additional directive to the parliamentary All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives (M2010:04) on 4 August 2022. According to the additional directive, the All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives was to propose a strategy with interim targets, policy instruments and measures to contribute to Sweden's commitments within the EU and internationally. On 14 February 2025, the All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives presented its interim report, The All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives proposals for a strategy for how Sweden shall fulfil EU commitments on biodiversity and net removals of greenhouse gases from the land use sector (LULUCF) (SOU 2025:21). The All-Party Committee's interim report has been circulated for consultation. SEPA's report and the All-Party Committee's proposals in its interim report form the basis for the Government's update of the present strategy.

In accordance with Conference of the Parties decision CBD/COP15/6, parties were to submit an updated or revised strategy in time for the sixteenth Conference of the Parties which opened in October 2024. The

decision does, however, allow parties to submit national targets if unable to complete this update or revision in time. These national targets should, to the extent possible, reflect all parts of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for biodiversity. In accordance with this decision, Sweden submitted national environmental targets and other parliamentary-bound targets that contribute to the implementation of the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The submission took place on 3 July 2024 via the special online platform developed by the CBD Secretariat for this purpose. For details, see Sweden's submitted targets on the CBD Secretariat's website. Annex 2 to this strategy contains a compilation of the targets that have been submitted.

Decision CBD/COP/15/6 calls on all parties to involve and enable participation from a broad group of actors in formulating and implementation of NBSAPs- such as women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector. SEPA and the All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives have held dialogues within their respective assignments (see section 2.4 in report SOU 2025:21 and section 1.3 in the Agency's report KN2023/04246). The All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives interim report has been circulated for consultation. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework emphasizes that indigenous peoples and local communities have an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Within the framework of developing the national strategy, a consultation with Sámi representatives has been conducted in accordance with the Act (2022:66) on consultation on matters concerning the Sámi people.

### **1.3 Climate and environmental policy taking steps forward to achieve the targets**

In the field of climate and environment, are found three major interconnected global challenges: climate change, biodiversity loss, and the spread of pollutants. These challenges need to be addressed through measures at local, regional, national and within the EU and global levels. In 2019, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) presented the first comprehensive report on the state of the world's biodiversity and ecosystem services. The situation was described as serious, with more species than ever before in human history threatened with extinction and many ecosystems changing rapidly. The negotiation of

the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its global targets have the overall mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

The Swedish government considers twelve of the sixteen Swedish environmental quality objectives to be unachievable with current policy instruments. Existing measures, both national and international, are important, but for most targets, specific work overtime is required where additional policies and measures are needed. These measures are also central to achieving the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Swedish authorities continuously undertake measures and propose actions of central importance for of achieving the environmental quality objectives. The cooperation of these authorities with municipalities, regions, business, landowners and other local and regional actors is important for achieving the environmental targets, as is the work carried out through the Government inquiry process.

To achieve a long-term, sustainable living environment, climate and environmental targets are – and must be - well integrated across a broad range of policy areas and sectors. The conservation of biodiversity is a cornerstone of environmental policy and a fundamental prerequisite for ecosystems' long-term capacity to contribute to human well-being. Reduced pollution can also contribute to climate mitigation and improved conservation of biodiversity. The environmental quality objectives that the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) has adopted describe the state of Sweden's environment to be achieved in the future.

Climate and environmental policy should be ambitious and effective, while promoting conditions available for people and enterprises to live and work throughout the country. The Government seeks the most cost-effective measures to achieve climate and environmental targets while creating conditions for development for business and in rural areas. Work on fulfilling national, EU and other international commitments to limit climate change and increase resource efficiency must continue. The same applies to work for conserving and restoring valuable nature and safeguarding ecosystem services, which are of great importance to the Swedish economy.

It is important to the Government that policy continues to be based on a broad scientific foundation and creates conditions for long-term sustainability – socially, economically and environmentally.

## 2. Points of departure for the strategy

### 2.1 The environmental objectives system and other Swedish parliamentary targets form the basis for Sweden's implementation

**The Government's approach:** The Environmental Objectives System, comprising the generational goal, environmental quality objectives and interim targets, together with other Swedish parliamentary societal targets relevant to the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, form the basis of Sweden's national strategy and contribution to achieving the global targets for biodiversity.

The targets for environmental policy are structured in line with the Environmental Objectives System, as described in the government bill Swedish Environmental Objectives – For more effective environmental work (Govt Bill 2009/10:155), as follows:

- a generational goal providing direction for the societal transformation needed within a generation to achieve the environmental quality objectives (the Generational Goal)
- environmental quality objectives describing the state of the Swedish environment to which environmental work should lead, and
- interim targets describing the societal transformations that are important steps towards achieving the Generational Goal and the environmental quality objectives.

The national Environmental Objectives System is a central instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in Sweden, and several of the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are addressed through work to achieve these targets. Sweden has adopted the 2030 Agenda and decided on a Swedish parliamentary-bound target that Sweden shall implement the 2030 Agenda for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development through coherent policy at national and international levels (Govt Bill 2019/20:188, report (Bet.) 2020/21:FiU28, written communication from the Riksdag (Rskr.) 2020/21:154). The environmental targets correspond to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The

Swedish targets are thus central to the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Sweden.

At the same time as adopting this strategy, the Government has adopted two interim targets in the Environmental Objectives System:

- An interim target on wild pollinators, providing that the diversity of wild pollinators shall be improved and the decline in their populations halted by 2030 at the latest.
- An interim target on urban green spaces, providing that a majority of municipalities shall, by 2030 at the latest, maintain and integrate urban green spaces and ecosystem services in urban environments in the planning, construction and management of cities and towns.

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains several targets that underscore the importance of inclusive governance and mainstreaming. These aspects are not fully captured by the Swedish environmental targets. Rather, policy areas beyond environment are implicated, in these areas Swedish parliamentary targets also exist. Examples include gender equality and inclusion in decision-making processes that are relevant to the Global Biodiversity Framework's targets 20–23. Some elements of the Framework are addressed in Sweden through policy instruments and strategies rather than through ambitious targets, such as the Government's communication National Strategy and Action Plan for Climate Adaptation (Govt Comm. 2023/24:97), which is relevant to targets 11, and Circular Economy – Sweden's Transition Strategy (M2020/01133), which is relevant to, inter alia, targets 7 and 16. Through a transition to a circular economy, the development of a resource-efficient, non-toxic, circular and bio-based economy can be promoted, while strengthening Swedish companies' competitiveness and reducing pressure on ecosystems. See further section 2.3 below.

## 2.2 EU legislation and cooperation in the field are extensive

<p><b>Government approach:</b> By implementing EU environmental legislation, Sweden contributes to several targets.</p>
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As an EU Member State, Sweden contributes to several targets through the implementing EU legislation.

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (Habitats Directive) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) - the EU's nature conservation directives - are particularly important for target 4, which concerns halting species extinction, and target 3 on area-based conservation measures. The directives establish requirements for the conservation of habitats and the protection of naturally occurring bird species as well as specially designated species. A central tool is the Natura 2000 network, through which member states designate and manage areas to ensure long-term protection.

Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 (EU's Nature Restoration Regulation) provides that at least 20 per cent of the EU's terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas shall be restored by 2030 and all ecosystems requiring restoration shall be restored by 2050. This contributes primarily to target 2 on ecosystem restoration, as well as target 11 on restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people.

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy aims, inter alia, to guarantee farmers a fair standard of living and to protect natural resources and the environment. Agricultural policy contributes to several of the targets.

The Common Fisheries Policy contributes to target 10 on sustainable fisheries. It aims to ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities enable fish populations to be restored to and maintained above levels that ensure maximum sustainable yield.

Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive) and its daughter directives Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy (Priority Substances Directive) aim to prevent and reduce pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect and improve the aquatic environment and mitigate the consequences of floods and droughts. These directives contribute both to target 7 on reducing pollution, and to target 11 on

restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people, as well as protection against natural hazards and disasters.

Furthermore, Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) contributes to target 2 on restoring marine and coastal ecosystems and action 8 on minimizing the impact of ocean acidification on biodiversity. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive covers the management of coastal and marine waters and establishes a framework within which member states shall take measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment.

An important foundation for national work on combating invasive alien species is Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species), which entered into force on 1 January 2015. The Regulation aims to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of invasive alien species within the EU. The regulatory framework covers several species assessed as being of EU concern, and these are subject to common provisions and prohibitions throughout the Union. Through the Regulation, systematic cooperation between member states in the EU is established. This contributes to target 6 on invasive alien species.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (Plant Protection Products Regulation) aims to ensure a high level of protection for human and animal health and the environment, and to improve the functioning of the internal market by harmonizing the rules for placing plant protection products on the market while improving agricultural production. Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides aims to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and to promote integrated pest management and other alternative methods or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. The Directive is implemented, inter alia, through a national action plan updated every five years, which contains an overall goal and four sub-

goals with measures and indicators. Implementation of these EU directives contributes both to target 7 on reducing pollution and to target 10 on ensuring that areas for agriculture and forestry are sustainably managed.

According to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain directives (EU Waste Directive), each member state shall reduce its food waste by 10 per cent in food processing and manufacturing and by 30 per cent per capita in retail and at the household level. The reduction shall be calculated from a reference year governed by the Directive, where an average of 2021–2023 is the standard, but member states may choose an earlier year if they notify this by April 2027. The Directive also contains certain minimum measures that each member state must take. The rules shall enter into force on 17 June 2027. The Government has instructed relevant authorities to propose how the EU requirements should be implemented (KN2025/02264).

According to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products, organic farming shall, inter alia, contribute to conserving biodiversity and protecting soil fertility. The principles of organic production include, inter alia, limiting the use of external inputs. Moreover, it includes maintaining and improving the quality of soil, water and air as well as animal welfare and plant protection and the balance between them. Organic production thus contributes, inter alia, to target 7 on reducing pollution and to target 10 on ensuring that areas subject to agriculture and forestry are managed sustainably.

There is also EU legislation relevant to target 13 on fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on compliance measures for users of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union (EU ABS Regulation) and Regulation (2011:474) on simplified access to plant genetic resources. There is also EU legislation relevant to target 17 on biosafety, the Cartagena Protocol was incorporated into EU legislation in 2003 through Regulation (EC) No 1946/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on transboundary movements of genetically modified organisms. Implementation is also ensured through other EU laws including Directive

2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed.

In spring 2020, the European Commission presented, as part of the European Green Deal, the EU Strategy on Biodiversity for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives (COM/2020/380 final).

The European Commission adopted in June 2025 the EU Water Resilience Strategy. The Strategy charts a course to increase Europe's resilience and is anchored in the 2050 vision of a water-resilient EU that provides water security for all. The Strategy aims to support member states in more effective water management through the implementation of existing water legislation. The Strategy has three overarching goals, one of which is to restore and protect the water cycle. This contributes primarily to action target 11. The European Commission has also adopted a communication on the European Ocean Governance Pact, which includes an integrated strategy for ocean health and sustainability.

In October 2020, the European Commission presented a Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability – Towards a Toxic-Free Environment. The Strategy's objective is a toxic-free environment where chemicals are produced and used in a way that maximizes their contribution to society, including for managing the green and digital transition, while avoiding harm to our planet and current and future generations. Hazardous chemicals and their complex interaction with other environmental stressors can have long-term and large-scale environmental effects on terrestrial and marine environments. They can contribute to reducing ecosystems' resilience, leading to rapid declines in animal populations and ultimately to extinction. The Commission will therefore, inter alia, address environmental toxicity, persistence, mobility and bioaccumulation and strengthen requirements throughout the legislation to ensure that information about substances made available to authorities enables comprehensive environmental risk assessments. The Strategy contributes to action target 7 on reducing pollution.

The European Commission presented in February 2021 the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (COM(2021)82) which contains a number of

objectives for member states' climate adaptation work. The Strategy particularly emphasizes the need to strengthen work on nature-based solutions within the EU as a way of contributing through climate adaptation work to biodiversity and several other priorities of the Green Deal. Furthermore, it points to a need for increased knowledge about the impact of climate change on ecosystems.

### **2.3 Fundamental rights and the promotion of participation in democratic processes**

**Government approach:** Through Swedish regulations designed to guarantee gender equality, education for all, and the right to information and participation in environmental decision-making, a foundation is laid for achieving several targets within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework where participation and rights are highlighted even though biodiversity is not specifically mentioned.

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework emphasizes the importance of inclusive governance where participation is ensured for those affected by decisions, and several targets contain such elements in their formulation. Sweden has a long democratic tradition and there are fundamental provisions regarding decision-making and inclusion. Sweden's constitutional laws and democratic system of government establish that public authorities shall promote sustainable development that leads to a good environment for current and future generations (Chapter 1, Section 2(3) of the Instrument of Government). Citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of expression, are established in Chapter 2 of the Instrument of Government. The principle of public access to official records also plays a crucial role in inclusion and participation. It guarantees the public's insight through access to public documents and the right of officials to disclose information. The Swedish public administration is generally well equipped to address the challenge of halting and reversing the biodiversity loss.

The Environmental Code entered into force on 1 January 1999. The purpose of the Environmental Code is to promote sustainable development which means that current and future generations can live in a healthy and good environment. The precautionary principle is encompassed by the Swedish Environmental Code primarily through rules of general consideration in Chapter 2. The precautionary principle is a stepwise process that includes

avoiding impacts on natural value, minimizing impacts that cannot be avoided, restoring damaged environments and finally compensating for remaining impacts by creating or protecting nature conservation elsewhere. The Planning and Building Act (2010:900), PBL, handles environmental interests through several provisions.

In planning and permission-granting, municipalities must take into account public interests, which inter alia include nature and cultural values, good management of land, water, energy and raw materials, environmental quality standards in accordance with the Environmental Code and a socially good living environment and long-term sustainable development. This is relevant to target 1 in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. PBL is a balancing act: environmental interests are weighed against other public and private interests. Decisions shall be proportionate and promote long-term sustainable solutions. Sweden also works with an ecosystem-based approach to marine spatial planning. National marine plans are developed for different marine areas.

Sweden has comprehensive legislation and ambitious policy promoting gender equality and prohibiting discrimination. The legislation ensures the right to education for all as well as the right to information and participation in environment-related decision-making processes. The right to lodge complaints for individuals affected and environmental organizations also follows from the Environmental Code and the Aarhus Convention. These rights are central to creating inclusive and equitable societal structures. The Government assesses that the work undertaken in these areas is directly significant for several action targets, particularly those emphasizing participation, rights and equality, in line with the Convention's ambition to integrate the gender perspective into the implementation of the Framework's action targets. Work to promote education and awareness in environmental matters is ongoing both within the school system and in other contexts. Extensive information is available at authorities and individual bodies, and continuous work is being carried out to inform about environmental issues.

There is a wealth of high-quality research in Sweden on environmental matters. In addition to universities and higher education institutions, research is carried out at institutes and in the private sector. State funders such as Formas have dedicated funding for environmental research. Swedish

research in the biodiversity field contributes to knowledge development nationally, within the EU and globally.

### 3. Protection and conservation of nature and species

**Government approach:** Sweden contributes to achieving the political commitments within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which set targets that at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas shall be protected, of which at least one-third strictly protected, by 2030. For the EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU member states emphasized in the Council conclusions that this is a target to be achieved collectively by member states where each member state participates in the collective effort while considering national circumstances.

Implementation shall take place through continuing work on the formal protection of valuable areas and development of work on so-called other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM).

#### 3.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

In Sweden, the protection and conservation of nature and species is implemented in various ways. Areas can, for example, be formally protected as nature reserves in accordance with the Environmental Code or conserved as voluntary set-asides. Voluntariness is a fundamental principle and a main working method for authorities in formal protection. Environmental considerations in, for example, forestry are important for species conservation. Threatened species can be covered by special action programmes for species conservation.

Sweden has many nature reserves and national parks that protect high natural value and are important for outdoor recreation. The protected areas are an opportunity for sustainable local and regional development, tourism and rural development. The protection and management of valuable nature contribute to achieving continuous, long-term and sustainable recovery of biodiversity and resilient nature. Protection of natural areas is an important component of Swedish climate work, both to increase carbon storage and to secure ecosystem resilience to climate change. In the work of building a

climate-adapted society, biodiversity and ecosystem services must therefore be safeguarded through protecting and conserving the natural environment.

A central target in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is target 3, which inter alia provides that at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, are conserved by 2030. With regard to marine and coastal areas, the Riksdag has adopted the Marine Environment Government Bill, A Thriving Ocean – Enhanced Protection, Reduced Eutrophication and Sustainable Fisheries (Govt Bill 2023/24:156, Bet. 2024/25:MJU5, Rskr. 2024/25:32), that Sweden shall expand and strengthen the protection of marine areas to contribute to achieving target 3. The target in the EU Biodiversity Strategy by 2030 is that at least 30 per cent of the EU's land area and 30 per cent of marine areas shall be legally protected, of which at least one-third strictly protected, by 2030. The Government's approach is therefore that Sweden contributes to achieving the political commitments within the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which set targets that at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas shall be protected, of which at least one-third strictly protected, by 2030. For the EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU member states emphasized in the Council conclusions that this is a target to be achieved collectively by member states where each member state participates in the collective effort while considering national circumstances.

Work shall be carried out both through continuing work on the formal protection of valuable areas and through development of work on OECM. The All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives has proposed that Sweden shall develop protection of nature through increased application of OECM.

#### **Government commitments to protect valuable nature**

The Government is investing 500 million SEK per year during 2024–2026 to accelerate work on protecting valuable nature by compensating property owners for the establishment of nature reserves. In addition, the Government invested 40 million SEK in 2023 so that forest owners who voluntarily chose to protect their forests would receive more immediate compensation. During the current government mandate, the Nämndö Archipelago National Park (Govt Bill 2024/25:142, Bet. 2024/25:MJU21, Rskr. 2025/25:277) was established and many nature reserves have been

created. On 11 December 2025, the Government decided to designate twelve new protected areas for birds in accordance with the EU Birds Directive (KN2023/03559). The purpose of the new areas is to expand and strengthen Sweden's part of the Natura 2000 network by 175,000 hectares. The decision is a step in implementing the Marine Environment Government Bill. The Government estimates in the budget proposal for 2026 that it will invest 100 million SEK per year from 2027 onwards for implementation of forthcoming proposals on compensation for restrictions on the right to use land resulting from protection provisions protecting certain valuable species.

### **Formally protected nature in Sweden**

Of Sweden's total area, 15.3 per cent was formally protected on 31 December 2024 (SCB MI 41 Report 2025:01). Formally protected areas include national parks, nature reserves, nature conservation areas, habitat protection areas, The Royal National City Park and Natura 2000 areas, which are protected under the Environmental Code. This applies to terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments. Formally protected areas also include time-limited agreements under the Land Code; nature conservation agreements and agreements of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency with the Fortifications Agency. The All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives assessed that approximately 9 per cent were strictly protected in 2022 and the remainder, approximately 6.5 per cent, constituted other forms of protection than strict protection (SOU 2025:21). The collective work of formally protecting nature in Sweden is an important contribution to target 3 in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of all marine and coastal areas, are conserved.

### **Reporting on protected areas**

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency reports annually the areas of protected nature in Sweden to the European Environment Agency (EEA), as part of Sweden's international reporting under the CBD. The information is used for monitoring the CBD. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency reported to the EEA in May 2025 that 15.3 per cent of Sweden's land area consists of formally protected areas and OECEM in the form of voluntary set-asides. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency further reported nearly 154,000 hectares in 700 new areas, of which 200 were voluntary set-asides, compared with the previous year's reporting, which

represented an increase in area of 1.7 percentage points. Compared with 2020, the reported area has increased by 60 per cent (Reporting to EEA of protection and OECM, NatDa, NV-00660-25).

### **Work on OECM**

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's reporting of protected nature has developed as a result of previous government assignments to compare and report on the international reporting of protected nature in Sweden (Assignment to compare, report and propose changes in the international reporting of protected nature. Report of government assignment. NV-01318-21). The Government assesses that the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency can further develop reporting with OECM, including unexploited mountains, forest impediments, voluntary set-asides in forestry, agreements with authorities and other state actors, and investigate options to include meadows and pastures with special values that have environmental compensation. The National Property Board of Sweden, which is the largest landowner in the mountain area, has a responsibility to manage its land so that the values of the areas, including natural values, are conserved. Through continued work on developing reporting with areas that meet the criteria for OECM, steps are taken towards achieving the target in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Biodiversity Strategy of at least 30 per cent protected areas and increasing comparability with other member states.

### **Protection of species**

Work to protect species contributes to target 4 in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on halting the extinction of threatened species. The Species Protection Ordinance (2007:845) and its protection provisions are of central importance for conserving threatened plant and animal species. They are also an important part of the work to achieve the environmental quality objectives and to conserve biodiversity. Sweden's rules on species protection largely constitute an implementation of the EU provisions on species protection in the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. In addition to the protection provisions that implement the EU's species protection, there are protection provisions that protect species based on national assessments. The Government has referred proposals for changes to the rules on national species protection so that prohibitions do not unnecessarily complicate activities and measures while national species protection is adapted based on species' protection needs (KN2025/01529).

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is also tasked with reviewing which species should be nationally protected (KN2025/01532). An interim report has been issued under this assignment (KN2025/02172). The criteria that the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has used in the interim report are based, inter alia, on the Red List's threat categories. The Government has referred the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's partial report on proposals for nationally protected species (KN2026/00195). In addition to the species protection regulatory framework, there is also targeted action for particularly threatened species in the form of action programmes for threatened species.

#### 4. Conserving forest natural values

**Government approach:** Forests with conservation values shall be conserved through formal protection, voluntary set-asides by forest owners and environmental consideration in forestry. Knowledge of areas with high natural values and the occurrence of cultural heritage is important background material for Swedish environmental and nature conservation work. In order to safeguard species-rich environments in transition zones between forests and agricultural land, both the Forest Agency in the report of a government assignment and the All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives have proposed that the obligation to reforest in these transition zones should be abolished. The proposals are being considered within the Government Offices.

##### 4.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

Long-term conservation of primary and old-growth forests contributes to the targets in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly target 3 on protection, target 10 on sustainable forest management and target 11 on conserving forests' ecosystem services. According to the EU Biodiversity Strategy by 2030, primary and old-growth forests are, from several perspectives, the richest forest ecosystems and the ecosystems that will be crucial to define, map and strictly protect. They have significant carbon stocks and are of decisive importance for biodiversity and the provision of several ecosystem services. They constitute habitat for many of the EU's threatened species. In the EU today, these forest areas are rare, often small and fragmented. The target in the EU Biodiversity Strategy is to define, map, monitor and strictly protect all remaining primary and old-growth forests in the Union.

### **Protection and conservation of forest habitats and species**

Knowledge of areas with high natural values and the occurrence of cultural heritage is important background knowledge for Swedish environmental and nature conservation work. The Forest Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency have the assignment to develop digital geographical knowledge on nature and cultural heritage values in forests as a complement to field surveys (N2022/01391). The assignment shall be carried out in cooperation with the Swedish National Heritage Board, county administrative boards, and in dialogue with representatives of landowners and other affected parties and shall be reported jointly by 30 June 2027. The Government has a clear ambition that forests with high conservation values shall be conserved through formal protection, voluntary set-asides by forest owners and environmental consideration in forestry operations. The Government acknowledges, in line with stewardship principles, active and engaged land and forest owners as vital for strengthening forest ecosystems, safeguarding nature and cultural values, contributing to the conditions for outdoor recreation and for utilizing forests' crucial role in climate work, *inter alia* as a carbon sink and renewable raw material. The State, as a large forest owner, has an important role in conserving forests with conservation values.

Statistics Sweden (SCB) reports annually on statistics on formally protected forest land, voluntary set-asides, consideration areas and unproductive forest land. For 2024, 27.1 per cent of forest land was exempted from forestry for timber production, which benefits both flora and fauna. Due to methodological and legal differences between the different forms of exemption, however, aggregation of the figures should be done with caution (Formally Protected Forest Land, Voluntary Set-asides, Consideration Areas and Unproductive Forest Land 2024. SCB MI 41 Report 2025:02).

Forests with high conservation values continue to be harvested, which impairs ecological functionality and leads to a loss of important habitats for threatened species. Many Swedish species have disappeared from individual counties. Several of the most threatened species still remain but often in small populations that are sensitive to disturbance. For species dependent on long forest continuity and species that need habitats that are today uncommon in the forest landscape, the situation is serious. Many species need of powerful measures to conserve and develop their habitats. In this way, the protection of forests with high conservation values also contributes to action target 4 on halting the extinction of threatened species

County administrative boards, the Swedish Forest Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency work continuously on forest protection, mainly as nature reserves and biotope protection. For 2026, the Government allocates a total of more than 1.7 billion SEK for the main purpose of giving forests with high conservation values formal protection.

The Government think it is important that landowners who have high natural values on their property to be able to receive replacement land when nature reserves are established. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and county administrative boards are working on implementing a replacement land package that will result in additional areas of biologically valuable forests receiving formal protection. To make this possible, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, on assignment from the Government, has received approximately 21,500 hectares of productive forest from the state-owned company Sveaskog to use as replacement land.

#### **Transition zones between habitats**

Transition zones between different environments are valuable environments for biodiversity. A varied environment is important for a diversity of plants, animals and fungi to establish themselves. According to the Forestry Act, new forest shall be established on productive forest land, inter alia after harvesting or damage to the forest. If the requirement is removed in the transition zone between agricultural land and forest, the regulatory relief can facilitate the landowner who wishes to develop, inter alia, biologically valuable margins and promote ecosystem services that can be developed in the transition zones. This can, inter alia, limit game damage and reduce storm damage while timber production is, however, negatively affected. Both the Forest Agency and, inter alia, the All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives have submitted proposals that the obligation to reforest on forest land close to agricultural land should be abolished. The proposals are being considered within the Government Offices.

#### **Internationally unique mountain forest areas are protected**

The green belt of mountain-adjacent forest that exists along the entire mountain range is unique from a European perspective. The mountain-adjacent forest is an important core and dispersal area for species to the otherwise more affected forest landscape in northern Sweden. A large part of the mountain-adjacent forest is already formally protected or voluntarily set aside. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency carries out

important work to protect valuable mountain forest areas on state land together with, inter alia, the state-owned company Sveaskog and the National Property Board, and has been assigned to work towards approximately 140,000 hectares of high conservation value mountain forests receiving formal protection.

### **Voluntary set-asides are important for biodiversity**

Voluntary set-asides are also significant. The area of voluntary set-asides in 2024 was 1,411,000 hectares of productive forest land, which represents an increase of just over 70,000 hectares compared with 2023. The increase in voluntarily set-aside areas has occurred both for private and other landowners. However, there is a need for increased knowledge of their geographic location, duration and quality, inter alia for international reporting. The consideration that forest owners show in managing forests is also an important part of conserving natural values. There is also increased interest in continuous cover forestry which may contribute to variation in forest ecosystems and to conserving nature and cultural values in forests. A long-term sustainable forestry that conserves biodiversity, the Forest Agency's work with advice and supervision for legal compliance, also contributes to improved achievement of the environmental quality objective Living Forests.

Work on forest protection contributes to the long-term conservation of forests with high natural values. The Government assesses that work on the protection of valuable forests collectively will not negatively affect Sámi rights and influence in land use issues.

## **5. The Marine Environment Government Bill: A thriving ocean – enhanced protection, reduced eutrophication and sustainable fisheries**

**Government approach:** Marine environmental policy has a new approach through the implementation of the Marine Environment Government Bill (Govt Bill 2023/24:156), which aims to increase protection of marine areas, reduced eutrophication and sustainable fisheries. The application of the ecosystem approach is being strengthened so that marine environmental management is more clearly and effectively integrated with management by other sectors.

## **5.1 Rationale for the Government's approach**

A thriving ocean with biodiversity and well-maintained habitats is necessary for the sea to be able to deliver ecosystem services such as food, recreation and climate benefits. Today, the sea's capacity to provide these essential ecosystem services is limited by the fact that the environmental status of the sea is far from satisfactory. The effects of climate change are an additional factor that places higher demands on measures within water, coastal and marine environmental management.

In 2024, the Riksdag decided on the Marine Environment Government Bill, A Thriving Ocean – Enhanced Protection, Reduced Eutrophication and Sustainable Fisheries (Govt Bill 2023/24:156, Bet. 2024/25: MJU5, Rskr. 2024/25:32) and thereby approved the Swedish Government's proposal for the approach to marine environmental policy.

### **Expanded marine protected areas and protection of lakes and watercourses**

Work is ongoing to expand and strengthen the protection of aquatic environments to contribute to achieving target 3 in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of ensuring and enabling that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, are effectively conserved and managed. This also contributes to target 11 on restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management estimates that Sweden in 2024 protects barely 15 per cent of the ocean and 27 per cent of inland waters. The reporting shows that the protection of Sweden's water environments has increased geographically, which provides better conditions for ensuring a representative, coherent and functional network of protected areas. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management notes that strictly protected aquatic areas has not yet been designated (KN2025/01918) but has previously estimated that certain existing protected areas with fisheries regulations could be categorized as strictly protected, which collectively cover approximately 8 per cent of the North Sea and 0.8 per cent of the Baltic Proper.

The Riksdag has decided, in accordance with the Government's proposal in the Marine Environment Government Bill, that Sweden shall expand and strengthen the protection of marine areas to contribute to achieving the international target of 30 per cent protected marine areas, of which one-third

strictly protected, corresponding to 10 per cent, by 2030, as adopted in the EU Strategy on Biodiversity, the regional sea commissions Helcom and Oskar, and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This contributes to target 3 on protection as well as target 11 on restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people.

The Government, following the Riksdag approval, established the Nämndö Archipelago National Park (Govt Bill 2024/25:142, Bet. 2024/25:MJU21, Rskr. 2025/25:277), which is Sweden's first marine national park in the Baltic Sea. The National Park provides an expanded and strengthened protection of the marine environment and biodiversity within the area.

A network of marine protected areas strengthens ecosystem resilience, preserves biodiversity and ensures long-term ecosystem services. Sweden has a national framework for marine area protection that aims to support the development of a more ecologically representative, coherent and functionally managed network of marine protected areas. It also enables an evaluation of this network. The framework is based on adaptive management and is developed as application takes place.

Ongoing work includes for instance the introduction of fisheries regulations in protected areas to achieve conservation objectives. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management assesses that most marine protected areas today are covered by functional fisheries protection.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is working to update its action plan for marine area protection to create conditions for expanded, strengthened and fit-for-purpose protection of marine areas in Sweden. This includes proposals for cost-effective policy instruments/measures, improved monitoring of the results and assessments of how the results relate to the Swedish Government's objectives. The Agency is also investigating which area-based conservation measures could qualify as OECMs and develop and propose a process for how a marine area can be recognized as OECM and contribute to the EU and international targets of 30 per cent protected marine areas by 2030 (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management Appropriations Letter 2025).

Lakes and watercourses are included in most of the Swedish nature reserves and water environments are of great importance for both terrestrial and aquatic environments and their biodiversity. In 2024, more than one million

hectares, or a quarter of Sweden's inland waters, were protected areas, where the largest share consists of Natura 2000 areas. During the period 2014–2024, 230 nature reserves were established with a designated purpose of protecting values in lakes and watercourses.

Improved and accessible geographical knowledge bases will help ensure that there are good foundations for implementing protection targets and for other societal planning. In order to appropriately improve and strengthen the protection of limnic environments, better knowledge bases on limnic natural values are needed. Through the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management's National Strategy for Protection of Lake and Watercourse Environments with High Natural and Cultural Values, the Agency has made an ambitious increase in work on protecting lake and watercourse environments with high natural and cultural values, which is required if national and international targets and commitments are to be achieved. The Strategy also aims to develop and update common knowledge bases (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management Report 2021:21).

#### **Eutrophication must be limited**

Eutrophication has a major impact on biodiversity, and several measures are being taken to limit eutrophication, especially in the Baltic Sea. In 2024, the Swedish Government decided on an interim target on eutrophication that strengthens the implementation of several environmental quality objectives. The interim target provides for reduced eutrophication through resource-efficient use of manure and monitoring by sector of nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the environment. Efforts to reduce eutrophication contributes collectively to several targets in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly target 7 regarding reducing excess nutrients, target 8 on minimizing the impact of ocean acidification on biodiversity and targets 2, 10 and 11. Through increased investment in strengthened regional coordination of measures within river basins, the effectiveness and pace of action work is further developed and strengthened. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has received permanently increased funding for more efficient water management, which will also contribute to reduced eutrophication. Regional action programmes are being developed for coastal and river basin areas, and stakeholder-driven work from source to sea is strengthened through several measures. For example, the Government has decided in the appropriations letter for the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management for 2026 to further

develop action work within the framework of stakeholder-driven and ecosystem-based coastal and marine environmental management.

### **Ecosystem-based approach and sustainable fisheries**

With the Marine Environment Government Bill, a clear direction was given to work on strengthening the application of the ecosystem approach. This is a central issue in the work of strengthening fisheries management as part of marine environmental management. Work in this direction contributes especially to target 10. The Swedish Government has taken several measures to strengthen work on sustainable fisheries. For example, the Government has decided on changes to the Swedish Fisheries regulation that result in a general prohibition on bottom trawling, with the possibility of certain exceptions, being introduced in marine protected areas within the trawl limit. The prohibition enters into force on July 1, 2026. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management reported an assignment on May 20, 2025, to develop a basis for international consultations to move the trawl boarder for pelagic trawlers over 24 metres to 12 nautical miles throughout the Baltic Sea. The Government has also given the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management an assignment to close exemption areas for trawling within the trawl boarder, with the possibility of limited exceptions (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management Appropriations Letter 2025).

### **Regional and international cooperation**

Sweden contributes regionally and internationally to raise the level of ambition for marine environmental work, not least through the regional sea conventions Helcom for the Baltic Sea and Ospar for the Northeast Atlantic. Regarding shipping, Sweden is driving for a prohibition on emission of washwater from scrubbers in shipping. Large volumes of water containing both acidifying and hazardous substances are released directly into the sea. Therefore, a prohibition is positive for improved marine environmental conditions. Emission from open ship scrubbers to water in Swedish territorial waters was prohibited from July 1, 2025, and emission from other scrubbers to water shall be prohibited in Swedish territory from January 1, 2029. Sweden is work in the Baltic Sea and in the Northeast Atlantic to ensure that neighbouring countries collectively reduce or prohibit the emission of scrubbers into our marine areas. As part of this, the regional sea convention Ospar has adopted measures regarding scrubber water. This is expected to reduce emission of hazardous substances in Swedish waters and contributes primarily to targets 7 and 11.

Sweden actively drives in the EU for an ecosystem-based approach from source to sea. This happens by being driving so that there is coordination in the implementation of the EU Strategy on Water Resilience (COM(2025)280 final) and the European Ocean Governance Pact (COM(2025)281). Sweden is active in UN negotiations on a global agreement against plastic pollution, which could reduce the amount of plastic in our water areas and seas. Sweden is working to ratify the UN agreement on the protection of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, the so-called BBNJ Agreement. Regarding mineral extraction from the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction, Sweden's position is that this should not be permitted until sufficiently good scientific knowledge exists to assess the consequences of such extraction.

Within the Arctic Council, Sweden actively works for environmental and climate work to be strengthened and for biodiversity in the Arctic to be conserved and used sustainably, considering traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities with traditional ways of life in close harmony with nature. The Government will also support work on a coherent Arctic network of marine protected areas.

## 6. Continued work on conserving and restoring valuable nature

**Government approach:** Sweden's work on conserving and restoring valuable nature and safeguarding its ecosystem services shall continue to contribute to achieving the objectives adopted within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Strategy on Biodiversity.

Continued work is needed to conserve and restore well-functioning and viable ecosystems. According to the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, a national plan for nature restoration shall be prepared and reported to the European Commission by September 2027.

### 6.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

The Government assesses that continued work is needed to conserve and restore well-functioning and viable ecosystems. The EU Nature Restoration Regulation provides that at least 20 per cent of the EU's terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas shall be restored by 2030 and all ecosystems that need restoration shall be restored by 2050. Protection and restoration of

valuable nature contribute to achieving continuous, long-term and sustainable recovery of biodiversity and resilient nature and thus contributes to target 2 on restoration and target 8 on climate adaptation. Ecosystem resilience is important for being able to withstand climate change and contribute to climate adaptation. By restoring damaged ecosystems, their long-term capacity to contribute with ecosystem services of crucial importance to human well-being is strengthened, which contributes particularly to target 2 on restoration and target 11 on recovered ecosystem services.

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation reflects target 2 on restoration in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Government proposes in the budget proposal for 2026 several investments in various appropriations to meet the requirements of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation. The Government proposes that 65 million SEK be allocated in 2026 on appropriation 1:3 Measures for Valuable Nature within expenditure area 20 Climate, Environment and Nature to meet the Regulation's binding knowledge requirements and to plan and implement restoration measures in appropriate locations and in a cost-effective manner. For 2027, the appropriation is estimated to receive 80 million SEK and for 2028 it is estimated to receive 95 million SEK. The Government proposes 3 million SEK in 2026 as reinforcement of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's administrative appropriation so that the Agency can carry out the new and expanded work that follows from the EU Nature Restoration Regulation. The Riksdag has decided in accordance with the Government's proposal in the budget proposal for 2026 (Bet. 2025/26:MJU1, Rskr. 2025/26:128). During the period 2027–2030, the Government plans to continue the investment with an announced level of 3 million SEK per year until 2030. The Government also proposes 100 million SEK per year 2027–2030 for aquatic restoration. The Government also proposes investing an additional 6.5 million SEK on environmental monitoring in terrestrial environments and 7.5 million SEK in aquatic environments in 2026. During 2027, the Government estimates that the investment will increase to 12.5 million SEK for environmental monitoring in terrestrial environments and 12.5 million SEK in aquatic environments. The Riksdag has decided in accordance with the Government's proposal in the budget proposal for 2026.

Restoration of meadows and pastures is prioritized. Managed natural pastures and hay meadows are among the most species-rich in the country but the area has declined dramatically since the beginning of the 1900s. Lack of management in the form of mowing and grazing and lack of small biotopes are pressing problems to solve. The Riksdag approved the Government's proposal to reinforce appropriation 1:3 Measures for Valuable Nature within expenditure area 20 Climate, Environment and Nature with 30 million SEK for 2025 for restoration of pastures and hay meadows. The reinforcement contributes to increasing the area of pasture and to conserving biological cultural heritage. During the period 2026–2027, the investment continues with 40 and 50 million SEK respectively. Support within the framework of Sweden's Strategic Plan for the implementation of agricultural policy during the period 2023–2027 contributes to maintaining continuous management of meadows and pastures. With the help of support from agricultural policy, the area of meadows and pastures has been able to be maintained and has not decreased over the last 15 years.

As a result of the requirements in the EU Nature Restoration Regulation to establish a national restoration plan, the Government has commissioned the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, together with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, to prepare a proposal for such a plan. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency shall report the assignment to the Government Offices on 27 February 2026. Subsequently, the material needs to be prepared by the Government before a draft plan can be submitted to the Commission by September 2026. The plan shall be completed within one year thereafter.

The Government has made extensive investments in aquatic restoration in marine and limnic environments and issued an assignment to the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management to strengthen work on restoration and nature-based solutions in marine and limnic environments in order to maintain and recreate habitats, strengthen fish stocks and contribute to biodiversity.

## 7. Wetlands provide biodiversity and climate benefits

**Government approach:** Restoration and re-establishment of wetlands through, among other measures, re-wetting of drained organic soils is one of the Government's prioritized areas. Wetlands with high natural values can, if necessary, be conserved through the establishment of formal protection.

### 7.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

Carbon dioxide emissions from drained peat soils are extensive and contribute to climate change. The Government's efforts to restore and recreate wetlands through, among other measures, re-wetting of drained organic soils to limit greenhouse gas emissions are of great importance for long-term climate work but also for biodiversity and thus contribute to target 2 through restoration as well as targets 7 and 11. The efforts also contribute to climate adaptation in that wetlands can function as buffer areas and reduce the risk of flooding in other places and strengthen landscape protection against drought and fire and thus also target 8.

#### Restoration and re-establishment of wetlands through re-wetting of drained organic soils is prioritized

Restoration and re-establishment of wetlands through, among other measures, re-wetting of drained organic soils is one of the Government's prioritized areas. The Government assesses that work on conserving, restoring and recreating wetlands through, among other measures, re-wetting of drained organic soils requires long-term commitment and continuous development, in order to achieve both climate targets and targets for conservation of biodiversity. The Government therefore carries out an ambitious and long-term financial investment in restoring and recreating wetlands through, inter alia, re-wetting of drained organic soils to benefit the climate, society's climate adaptation and biodiversity.

The Riksdag decided in the budget proposal for 2023 on a permanent investment in re-wetting of wetlands of 200 million SEK per year. The Riksdag decided in the budget proposal for 2024 on a further investment in re-wetting of wetlands which comprised 155 million SEK for 2024, 235 million SEK for 2025 and 375 million SEK per year for 2026–2030. Furthermore, funds are channelled from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy to management and establishment of wetlands in the agricultural

landscape. The Government has in the budget proposal for 2026 proposed an investment of 50 million SEK per year from 2026 to 2030 to accelerate the work of county administrative boards with review of wetland measures, in order to achieve increased pace in restoration and recreation of wetlands through, among other measures, re-wetting of drained organic soils. The Riksdag has decided in accordance with the Government's proposal (Bet. 2025/26:MJU1, Rskr. 2025/26:128).

In the budget proposal for 2026, a new investment in re-wetting of abandoned agricultural land is proposed, with a focus on reducing carbon dioxide emissions and contributing to Sweden's commitment within the land use sector also called the LULUCF sector (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry). The investment comprises 50 million SEK for 2026 and is estimated to increase to 100 million SEK in 2027 and 150 million SEK in 2028. The investment complements existing support for re-wetting, which means that more landowners will be covered by the support and the scope of the investment increases. The investment provides a contribution to Sweden's commitments on climate and biodiversity and can contribute to climate adaptation. The importance of re-wetting will increase as funding increases, activities scale up and ecosystems are restored. The investment will contribute to Sweden's international commitments, such as the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, and the environmental quality objective Flourishing Wetlands. In the budget proposal for 2026, the Government also proposes an investment to the Forestry Board regarding information and advice to forest owners on increased carbon uptake and biodiversity. The appropriation is estimated to increase by 20 million SEK in 2026 and is estimated to then increase by 40 million SEK in 2027. The Riksdag has decided in accordance with the Government's proposal.

The voluntary market's demand for sustainable climate compensation measures with high environmental integrity can contribute to additional financing for re-wetting peatland through the Commission having established a Union framework for certification of permanent carbon removals, carbon-sequestering land use and carbon storage in products (CRCF). The European Commission intends to decide in 2026 on a delegated act regulating certification of the measure of re-wetting peatland. In order to increase the pace of re-wetting, private financing through certified measures can complement state support and co-finance individual projects.

In 2024, approximately 3,540 hectares of wetlands were established and restored, and a much larger area is currently being examined for measures. Of this area, in 2024 approximately 1,500 hectares of established and hydrologically restored wetland on peatland, which represents a clear increase from previous years. The Swedish Government's increased investment in re-wetting will lead to larger areas and greater effect in coming years. Restoration projects normally take a long time and usually extend over several years. Long-term commitment and continuity in financing are therefore crucial for effective implementation. The difficulty of managing land drainage activities has been identified as a major legal obstacle to restoration and re-wetting of organic land. The Government therefore commissioned the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to, in dialogue with the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, investigate whether, in order to facilitate climate and environmental measures without negatively affecting agricultural land, there is a need to change the rules for reconsideration and revocation of permits for land drainage in Chapter 24 of the Environmental Code, the Act (1998:812) with special provisions on water activities, or other rules for land drainage and water activities. The assignment was reported in February 2025, and the proposals are currently being prepared within the Government Offices (KN2025/00565). Proposals for regulatory changes have also been submitted by the All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives (SOU 2025:21).

To facilitate those who wish to restore a wetland, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has developed its guidance directed at operators with a focus on re-wetting, in order to increase efficiency in the work while agricultural land and other public interests are not negatively affected.

#### **Climate impacts of peat extraction and development must be limited**

Peat is used as fuel (energy peat) and as a soil improver in horticulture and plant nurseries including forest reproductive material and as bedding (horticultural peat). Both use and extraction of energy peat have declined dramatically while production of horticultural peat has increased. Use of both horticultural and energy peat gives rise to large greenhouse gas emissions. Certain emissions also occur during extraction. These emissions are reported within the LULUCF sector in the country where horticultural peat is produced and are covered by Regulation (EU) 2023/839 of the

European Parliament and of the Council of 19 April 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/841 on the scope, simplification of rules and compliance monitoring and establishing member states' targets for 2030 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 regarding improved monitoring, reporting, tracking of progress and review, the EU's LULUCF Regulation (2023/839).

A Government inquiry has been appointed to analyse appropriate measures to limit the climate effects of horticultural peat (ToR. 2025:29). The assignment shall be reported by 12 February 2026. The purpose is to identify such measures and to develop material to enable measures to be introduced.

### Valuable wetlands are protected

The area of wetland that is formally protected as national park, nature reserve, nature conservation area or Natura 2000 area increases each year. In 1994, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency adopted a so-called Wetland Protection Plan where the country's most valuable wetlands were identified. The plan was revised in 2016. During 2024, 25 nature reserves were established or expanded which contribute to the protection of the country's most valuable wetlands in the plan. The protected area of such wetlands increased by just over 20,000 hectares, which means that 22 per cent of the country's open wetlands are formally protected. Protection of the country's wetlands is an important step in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Wetlands Convention (also called the Ramsar Convention).

## 8. A Fit-for-purpose management of protected nature

**Government approach:** Protected areas, including other effective area-based conservation measures, shall by 2030 have a management fit for purpose with the purpose of conserving and strengthening the areas' biodiversity.

### 8.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

Nature reserves and national parks protect Sweden's most valuable natural areas. They are spread throughout the country and attract millions of visitors. They are important for promoting health and the opportunity to experience untouched nature. The protected natural areas are an asset for sustainable local and regional development, tourism and rural development. They are furthermore a great asset for recreation, public health and

integration and in educational activities in, for example schools and preschools. Protected nature is of great importance to the entire country, both for residents, visitors and for business. The right to public access, which allows everyone to move freely in nature in Sweden, shall be protected while taking landowners' interests into account. Proper management is also an important ongoing measure to create legitimacy for the overall work on nature conservation. It also involves the need for long-term commitment in skills provision and creates employment throughout Sweden, particularly in rural areas.

### **Fit-for-purpose nature management**

The Riksdag has decided that protected areas shall be managed so that nature and cultural heritage values are maintained or increased and so that areas are made accessible to visitors to a large extent (Govt Bill 2008/09:214; Bet. 2009/10:MJU9; Rskr. 2009/10:28). Areas shall be managed with a high level of ambition. Protected areas shall also be managed in a cost-effective manner.

The Swedish Government therefore works for protected areas to have fit-for-purpose management with the purpose of conserving and strengthening the area's biodiversity by 2030. The Government assesses that continued work is needed for the national environmental quality objectives and outdoor recreation targets to be achieved so that Swedish nature and cultural heritage is conserved for future generations and made accessible to all, not least given Sweden's international and EU commitments that include the importance of conserving well-functioning and viable ecosystems.

Both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target 3 on protection and the EU Strategy on Biodiversity state that areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services shall be conserved through being effectively and equitably managed. Protection and management of valuable nature as well as measures both within protected areas and in the landscape outside, are part of the work to improve the conservation status of habitat types and species designated in the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive and for Sweden's implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

Through nature-conserving management and recurring maintenance in the form of, for example, grazing, conservation-worthy species and habitats are

conserved. The management of protected nature thus contributes to 7 of the 16 environmental quality objectives that the Riksdag has decided on:

- Rich Plant and Animal Life
- Magnificent Mountain Landscape
- Thriving Lakes and Watercourses
- Balanced Seas and Vibrant Coasts and Archipelagos
- Living Forests
- Flourishing Wetlands
- Rich Agricultural Landscape

The management of protected nature is also important for the national targets for outdoor recreation policy. The overarching target is to support people's opportunities to spend time in nature and engage in outdoor recreation. Of the ten sub-targets, it is particularly the target on protected areas as a resource for outdoor recreation that is significant in this context. The target provides that management shall create good conditions for outdoor stay and recreation in protected areas (Govt Bill 2009/10:238, Bet. 2010/11:KrU3, Rskr. 2010/11:37). The Government and the Riksdag have subsequently clarified the targets (Govt Comm. 2012/13:51, Bet. 2012/13:KrU4, Rskr. 2012/13:278).

The Government assesses that measures are needed to improve and make more efficient the State's efforts for management of protected nature to fulfil national targets and international commitments connected to biodiversity. Even though many important measures have been implemented, the Swedish Government assesses that existing and decided measures, both national and international, are not sufficient to achieve most of the environmental targets.

The Government allocates special funds for efforts for management and administration of protected nature within appropriation 1:3 Measures for Valuable Nature within expenditure area 20 Climate, Environment and Nature. The appropriation was allocated 1,352 million SEK for 2025 and the Government proposes in the budget proposal for 2026 that the appropriation should increase in coming years. For 2026, the appropriation is therefore estimated at 1,803 million SEK and for 2027 at 1,896 million SEK. The Riksdag has decided in accordance with the Government's

proposal in the budget proposal for 2026 (Bet. 2025/26:MJU1, Rskr. 2025/26:128).

The Government assesses that EU co-financing within the LIFE Fund for measures on nature and biodiversity is underutilized and that these funds or equivalent could be used to a greater extent to contribute to restoring natural values and implementing management measures in protected nature.

The conservation of biodiversity is a cornerstone of environmental policy and a fundamental prerequisite for ecosystems' long-term capacity to contribute to human well-being. Mainstreaming of biodiversity in various sectors' and state authorities' activities is a necessary and central part for conserving and developing biodiversity and for addressing the major and interconnected challenges in the climate and environmental field: climate change, biodiversity loss and the spread of pollutants. These challenges need to be addressed through measures locally, regionally, nationally, within the EU and globally. Closer and stronger cooperation in Sweden's neighbouring region, not least with our Nordic neighbours and within the EU, contributes to accelerating the pace of climate transition. Climate and environmental targets need to be and must be well integrated across a broad range of policy areas and sectors to achieve a good and long-term sustainable living environment. Destroyed habitats, overexploitation of species, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species are the most important impact factors that need to be addressed. To maintain a functioning green infrastructure, formal area protection, effective management and monitoring are central tools in cooperation with other effective area-based conservation measures and consideration in the land-based industries. Sectoral mainstreaming of conserving biodiversity in accordance with the ecosystem approach needs to continue to be developed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, which for example contributes to target 14 in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A changing climate will affect all parts of biodiversity in Sweden. The Government will therefore continue to work to strengthen ecosystem resilience and utilise ecosystem services in climate adaptation work.

#### **Effective management and follow-up**

The Government considers it important to have effective management of protected areas and clear monitoring of the conservation values that have been protected, to ensure that protection is fit-for-purpose over time. Effective management means that protected areas are managed in

accordance with the purposes for which they have been established and that management can contribute effectively to achieving relevant environmental quality objectives and outdoor recreation targets. Climate change also places demand on more adaptive management of protected areas to ensure long-term conservation. The Government intends, with the support of for example the Swedish National Audit Office's review (RiR 2024:11), to develop work on the management of protected nature. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is working on preparing a national action plan for the management of protected nature. Monitoring of the management of protected areas should be developed so that it is easy to follow up the status of the conservation values that have been protected and how they are developing. This is necessary to be able to follow up whether the Riksdag's targets for the management of protected areas are achieved, as well as how the management of protected nature contributes to achieving relevant environmental quality objectives and outdoor recreation targets. Since monitoring is costly, it is important that it is designed so that it effectively contributes to the development of activities, meets requirements within for instance the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and for Natura 2000 areas, and takes into account county administrative boards' needs.

## 9. Invasive alien species

**Government approach:** The spread of invasive alien species is a serious threat to biodiversity and shall therefore be prevented. The Government is therefore currently working on preparing a new national ordinance to support work on preventing the spread of invasive alien species in the country. The ordinance shall strengthen the implementation of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species. Furthermore, the ordinance shall strengthen efforts to prevent introduction and limit spread of nationally prioritized invasive alien species covered by a national list of such species. Therefore, the Government has submitted a government bill to the Riksdag with proposals for increased penalties in the Environmental Code for introduction of prohibited species from other EU countries, as well as giving authority to the Swedish Customs to monitor such introductions at Sweden's borders to other EU countries.

### 9.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

Efforts to prevent the spread of invasive alien species is important for halting biodiversity loss. The collected efforts being carried out in Sweden

aim to contribute to target 6 in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through measures to limit invasive alien species' impact on biodiversity. The need to control and limit the spread of invasive species is not only an environmental issue since the negative effects of these species can also affect businessmen, landowners and property owners, tourism and outdoor recreation.

To effectively prevent and manage the spread of invasive alien species, coordinated international cooperation is required, in addition to national efforts. This cooperation has guided how the work in Sweden has been organized. In addition to member states' cooperation in the EU, Swedish authorities also cooperate with corresponding authorities in Norway as the countries have a common border and have similar habitats and thus also similar potential risks. Important exchange of experience has been conducted within the framework of cooperation between countries in the Nordic Council of Ministers. To this work should also be added the commitments following from the international Ballast Water Convention which aims to prevent foreign organisms from spreading with ships' ballast water. Sweden has ratified the Convention and implements it in collaboration with several other countries. In addition, measures are also being implemented within other multilateral agreements concerning the marine environment.

### **Effective measures through national cooperation**

The Swedish national ordinance on invasive alien species (2018:1939) entered into force on 1 January 2019. Since then, Swedish authorities' work has been directed at developing effective measures to prevent introduction and spread of invasive alien species in the country and to implement prioritized efforts. The cooperation of authorities with national academic institutions has been important for strengthening knowledge about certain invasive alien species, carrying out risk assessments and developing threat pictures in order to develop preventive measures. This cooperation has also been directed at developing effective IT-based reporting systems based on principles of citizen science. This has made it possible for an interested and knowledgeable public, together with officers at authorities and municipalities throughout the country, to report findings which have subsequently been compiled into a nationwide mapping of the occurrence of species.

Authorities have also cooperated with various entrepreneurs so that important eradication efforts have been implemented in an efficient manner. This has, inter alia, been possible through developing knowledge bases on how efforts should be undertaken and through ongoing dialogue for exchange of experience.

In addition to fulfilling the requirements that follow from the EU regulatory framework, the Government considers it of great importance that invasive alien species that have a national impact, or where such a risk exists, are identified and included in a national list of invasive alien species. Work on a new national ordinance is ongoing within the Government Offices and is planned to enter into force during 2026. In 2025, the Government has submitted a government bill (Govt Bill 2025/26:41) to the Riksdag with proposals for increased sentence provisions for introduction of prohibited species from other EU countries, as well as an expanded authority for the Swedish Customs.

#### **Monitoring and follow-up**

Monitoring and follow-up are important to strengthen the work to prevent and prevent the spread of invasive alien species in the country. Where possible, new methods for monitoring and follow-up activities should be developed and new technology tested and adapted for the purposes. Monitoring of the results of the measures implemented to prevent spread is important in continued work so that it is possible to determine whether further efforts are needed or whether resources should be reallocated to efforts against other prioritized invasive alien species in order to achieve the best possible effect.

To make this ambition possible to live up to in coming years, the Government has in the budget proposal for 2026 proposed additional funds to be allocated for work on invasive alien species. The Riksdag has decided in accordance with the Government's proposal which means that in 2026, together with previously calculated funds, a total of 55 million SEK is allocated for efforts in terrestrial environments and a total of 30 million in aquatic environments. For 2027 and 2028, a total of 30 million SEK per year is estimated for efforts in terrestrial environments and 30 million SEK per year for efforts in aquatic environments.

## 10. Business and biodiversity

**Government approach:** Dialogue, cooperation, experience exchange and dissemination of knowledge on business's dependence and impact on biodiversity should be strengthened between relevant authorities and actors. In cooperation, concrete and effective opportunities for companies to work through their value chain for reduced direct and indirect impact on biodiversity, which strengthens companies' competitiveness and preparedness, both locally, regionally within the EU and globally, should be highlighted, and proposals for continued work should be developed. Climate, circular economy and biodiversity need to be handled in an integrated manner, and digitalisation's opportunities need to be highlighted. State-owned enterprises with substantial impact on biodiversity are expected to contribute through ambitious targets and concrete transition plans that lead to reduced negative impact and increased positive contribution. The Government continues to address the potential of ecological compensation. Sweden actively participates in the dialogue on the possibilities of a system for nature credits at EU level.

### 10.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

#### Biodiversity – a critical issue for business

According to the World Economic Forum, over half of the world's GDP is moderately or strongly dependent on nature (Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy, World Economic Forum (2020)). Biodiversity loss can lead to reduced food security, health risks and disruptions in supply and value chains, which affect the economy. Biodiversity loss represents a growing risk for companies, particularly within agriculture and food, but also ultimately for the financial markets. At the same time, the transition to a nature-positive economy opens new opportunities. Sustainable business models, circular solutions and investments in ecosystem restoration can create competitive advantages, new business opportunities and new markets. Companies that act proactively and integrate biodiversity into risk assessments, governance and strategy can reduce their exposure to nature-related risks and strengthen their long-term resilience and competitiveness.

It is becoming increasingly important to identify and manage nature-related risks and dependencies in financial assessments to ensure financial stability and improve resilience. This is often closely linked to climate-related risks. Swedish authorities are represented in the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) where the Riksbank and the Swedish Financial

Supervisory Authority participate. NGFS develops scenarios that banks can use to assess climate change and environmental impact. These scenarios help to understand systemic risks linked to nature loss, including biodiversity loss.

In the Government's communication National Strategy and Action Plan for Climate Adaptation (2023/24:97), the private sector's role in adaptation work is highlighted to create growth and increased competitiveness. In order to accelerate climate adaptation work, the Government intends to work for environmental considerations to be integrated and synergies to be utilized in work on climate adaptation.

The Government decided in 2025 on a new industrial strategy, Sweden's Industrial Strategy: for a technology-leading and competitive industry in a new world. The serious consequences of climate change for nature and people's life conditions require society to transform. Industry plays a crucial role in this transition, both by reducing its own emissions and by developing new services, goods and solutions that contribute to enabling and accelerating the transition. This includes, for example, circular solutions for increased resource efficiency and the introduction of new technology and new production methods. The Government's objective is that industry's regulatory burden and administrative costs should be reduced. It should be easy to do the right thing for companies with clear rules, clear information and good guidance. It is also evident from the strategy that the Government works for a strong focus on simplification work within the EU to reduce regulatory burden for Swedish companies.

### **Swedish business leads the way**

Swedish companies have long demonstrated strong leadership in the global climate transition. With access to fossil-free electricity, high innovation capacity and clear climate ambitions, Swedish industry has succeeded in combining emission reductions with strengthened competitiveness. Swedish companies are also driving the transition to a circular economy, where resources are used efficiently and waste is minimized. Companies, banks and industries are also deepening their work with a more nature-positive economy where biodiversity is integrated into governance, business models and strategies. Moreover, climate, circular economy and biodiversity are being handled in a more integrated manner.

The business organization Confederation of Swedish Enterprise highlights that work on strengthening biodiversity, alongside climate, is a prioritized area where Swedish companies can and should take a leading role both nationally and internationally. The business network UN Global Compact Network Sweden works on integrating biodiversity as a strategic issue for business. The network Business & Biodiversity Sweden brings together several large companies and industry organizations that want to be at the forefront of environmental work, drive development and work with biodiversity as part of their business model. Environmental organizations such as WWF have extensive cooperation with business to make industries and value chains more sustainable.

Work is ongoing within specific sectors, for example within the mining and minerals industry. Svemin, the industry organization for Swedish mining and minerals, has developed a roadmap for biodiversity called Mining with Nature (2020). This roadmap is the first of its kind within the mining sector and highlights that increased consideration for biodiversity should be profitable, not just for nature but also for business. A foundation for the work is to proceed based on science and the mitigation hierarchy; that is, to avoid, minimize, restore and compensate negative impact on biodiversity. The target in the roadmap is that the Swedish mining and minerals industry by 2030 contributes with increased biodiversity in all the regions where mining and minerals activities and prospecting are ongoing. The industry organization Swedish Aggregates Producers Association has also in 2025 developed the Aggregate Industry's Roadmap for Biodiversity with the vision of strengthening biodiversity in regions where quarrying activities are ongoing.

Local cooperation between business, academia and public administration is emerging, for example through the cooperation initiative Bee-Go in the Gothenburg region where companies, municipal administrations, enterprises and academia work on concrete measures for biodiversity.

### **Increased emphasis on impact, risks, opportunities and dependencies**

When companies measure and report sustainability, including impact on natural environments and ecosystems, the ability to identify impact, risks and opportunities in the value chain and take measures to reduce negative impact and dependence on biodiversity increases, but also to increase positive impact. The EU has in recent years worked to create a common and

transparent structure for companies to define, measure and report on sustainability, including impact on natural environments and ecosystems. This contributes in several ways to target 15. These regulations include, for example, the EU Green Taxonomy (Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework for facilitating sustainable investments and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088) which defines which economic activities are environmentally sustainable. The Taxonomy is designed around six different climate and environmental objectives, including an objective on "Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems". The EU's initiatives in the field also include Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, SFDR), which specifies, inter alia, how financial actors report sustainability information, for example on biodiversity, to investors. Also the Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 57/2024, Directive 2005/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU as regards corporate sustainability reporting (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, CSRD), sets requirements for certain companies and financial actors to disclose their impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Through European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), which follow from the CSRD, certain companies must report their material impact on climate, pollution, water and marine resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as resource use and circular economy – and how these factors – if deemed significant – affect the company financially (risks and opportunities).

After the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, global work has also begun on voluntary standards for making visible and managing nature-related risks, dependencies and impacts in business operations, for example the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). Some of Sweden's state pension funds (AP 2 and AP 7), which have the task of managing part of the funded capital within the income pension system, use TNFD, and the corresponding standard in the climate field, in their climate and nature reporting or in the analysis of their investment portfolios.

The Swedish Institute for Standards (SIS) actively participates through its activities in the global work on developing standards, for example in the development of the new international standard for integrating biodiversity into business governance and strategy, ISO 17298.

Digitalisation can in several ways improve companies' work with biodiversity, particularly by enabling measurement, monitoring and reporting in a more efficient and transparent manner. Digitalisation can, for example, contribute with better decision bases through digital tools such as AI, satellite data, laser scanning, sensors and eDNA, which contribute with knowledge bases for ecosystem monitoring, for example within environmental monitoring and species inventory to follow changes in biodiversity. Swedish companies participate in the development of digital solutions that contribute to improved decision bases for understanding and valuing how an activity affects nature.

The intergovernmental knowledge platform on biodiversity, IPBES, is producing a special report on business and biodiversity (Business and Biodiversity Assessment). Activity-adapted methods for monitoring, assessing and openly reporting risks, dependencies and effects on biodiversity are emerging. The Government assesses that business's work on biodiversity needs increased attention. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has been given the assignment through the appropriations letter for 2026 to, in dialogue with relevant authorities and actors, work for cooperation, experience exchange and knowledge dissemination on business's dependence and impact on biodiversity. The work shall highlight concrete and effective opportunities for companies to work through their value chain for reduced direct and indirect impact that strengthens companies' competitiveness and preparedness, both locally, regionally and within the EU and globally. The work shall contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for biodiversity. Development of proposals for continued work shall take place in cooperation with business and other affected actors. The assignment shall be reported in 2028. The report shall contain an analysis of business' work on biodiversity and contain proposals for continued work. The work will in several ways contribute to, for example, targets 14, 15 and 19.

One advantage of strengthening of companies' work with biodiversity in the long term is that consumers have the necessary information to promote

sustainable consumption patterns. An example of this is the EU labelling of organic products in accordance with EU rules in the field, which is complemented by the national labelling system KRAV and the international label Demeter. Another example is the Nordic Swan ecolabel and the EU Ecolabel, which in Sweden is managed by the state-owned company Ecolabelling Sweden AB. The work contributes to action target 15.

### **Swedish public enterprises contribute to biodiversity targets**

Sweden owns 40 enterprises within several sectors, for example basic industry, energy, real estate, infrastructure, transport, finance, services and consumer. The State Ownership Policy 2025 for state-owned enterprises expresses high expectations for sustainable value creation, inter alia, that enterprises shall, based on materiality analysis, integrate sustainability into governance, business model and strategy. The enterprises shall within their industry be a model on climate and environmental issues and work for the national environmental and climate targets and the Paris Agreement to be achieved. For biodiversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is guiding. This means that enterprises that have substantial environmental or climate impact through their value chain shall establish ambitious targets and concrete transition plans. This work shall lead to actual improvements through reduced negative impact and increased positive contribution. An enterprise's targets shall be relevant for the enterprise's activities and to the greatest possible extent scientifically based (State Ownership Policy (2025)).

### **Enhanced opportunities for ecological compensation**

Ecological compensation is a way of counteracting net losses of biodiversity and ecosystem services by compensating losses in one place with benefits in another. Ecological compensation is mentioned in several parts of the Swedish Environmental Code and can, for example, be used when an activity has a negative impact on natural environments. To date, ecological compensation has been applied in relatively limited scope in Sweden. The All-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives has proposed that the Government continues to work on ecological compensation. The proposals are being prepared within the Government Offices.

In addition, the Government has in the appropriations letters for 2025 assigned the county administrative boards that are water authorities to investigate the need for and potential of compensation measures against

eutrophication. The assignment also includes conducting a legal analysis of the possibilities of implementing pilot projects.

### Development of nature credits

The European Commission has presented a communication on nature credits which concerns initiating a dialogue on the possibilities of creating a voluntary, certified system to promote investments in projects that restore or conserve nature, for example wetlands, forests and habitats for threatened species. The purpose is to reduce the financing gap for nature conservation in the EU by looking at possibilities to mobilize private capital from companies, investors and citizens, as a complement to public funds (COM/2025/374 final). Swedish Biocredit Alliance is an initiative working to create a credible and transparent market for trading in biocredits.

Nature credits function in a similar way to carbon credits, but focus on ecosystem restoration and biodiversity, rather than emission compensation. The Commission will conduct consultation, support pilot projects and evaluate a possible market. Sweden will participate in the dialogue. Sweden has made a submission to the Commission with proposals on key elements in the process of development of possible nature credits. The credits would need to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss and the value needs to be based on the extent and with what quality they contribute to this objective. Sweden supports a voluntary approach with high integrity that can complement existing legislation and state financing. For the process going forward, it is crucial to analyse business' demand for certificates and particularly nature credits, in both the short and long term.

## 11. Sámi traditional knowledge and other knowledge traditions

**Government approach:** Sweden shall conduct an active and inclusive effort to conserve Sámi and other traditional knowledge that contributes to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework expresses strong recognition of the central role indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Meaningful participation of the Sámi people and local communities in decision-making processes on biodiversity should be ensured and their traditional knowledge should be taken into account when relevant. In accordance with target 22, indigenous peoples' rights to land, territories

and resources should be respected. Traditional sustainable use of nature that creates valuable natural and cultural environments should be encouraged and supported.

Measures described in this chapter contribute primarily to target 21 on best available knowledge and target 22 on participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in which their important role in the implementation of the Framework is clarified (but also to targets 1, 3, 5, 9 and 19) in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It is also evident in the Framework that its implementation shall ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities' rights are respected, which also includes rights regarding traditional knowledge. The Sámi are recognized both as an indigenous people and a national minority in Sweden.

Traditional knowledge can be said to consist of knowledge, experiences, customs and perceptions that help people in their interaction with the surrounding environment, and which is passed down from generation to generation. Traditional knowledge can include, inter alia, knowledge within reindeer husbandry, agriculture, traditional food production, other animal husbandry, handicrafts, hunting, fishing, collection of various resources and treatment of illness or injury. Traditional knowledge is under constant development and can be seen as a combination of inherited and accumulated knowledge, innovations and adaptations to changes.

Within the CBD, it is Article 8(j) on traditional knowledge and Article 10(c) on sustainable customary use that are the relevant provisions on traditional knowledge of and sustainable customary use by indigenous peoples and local communities with traditional ways of life in close harmony with nature. In the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, indigenous peoples and local communities have a prominent role, inter alia through recognition of their important roles and contributions as stewards of biodiversity.

### **Árbediehtu and the importance of reindeer husbandry for the conservation of biodiversity**

Traditional Sámi knowledge – árbediehtu – involves a holistic perspective where reindeer husbandry, the lands, Sámi culture, languages and cultural heritage are interlinked. In a Swedish context, árbediehtu concerning, inter alia, reindeer husbandry, hunting, fishing and the landscape constitutes an important component for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

As a grazing animal, the reindeer is a key species in the mountain ecosystem. The reindeer is dependent on large, coherent grazing areas where it can graze undisturbed and where there is a variation in local climate and flexibility to use grazing areas at different times of year and weather conditions. The ability of reindeer to move between their grazing areas is therefore an important part of the ecosystem and affects the landscape. Traditional Sámi knowledge linked to reindeer husbandry and other sustainable use of land and natural resources has shaped the lands as they appear today and is a prerequisite for both maintaining and sustainably using parts of the mountain landscape's biodiversity. Therefore, the maintenance of reindeer husbandry, including the preservation of Sámi traditional knowledge, is crucial for several of the environmental quality objectives, particularly A Magnificent Mountain Landscape.

#### **Other traditional knowledge, including Scandinavian summer farming culture (fäbod-culture) and small-scale fisheries**

Other relevant traditional knowledge in a Swedish context can be the summer farming culture (fäbod-culture) that has developed over a long time. In Scandinavia's mountains, forests and coastal areas, there has for centuries been a history of moving livestock to summer pasture and this has given rise to a multifaceted fäbod-culture. Summer farming practices (fäbodbruk) concerns everything from animal husbandry to food production, land management, handicrafts, music, storytelling and rituals. This tradition shapes the landscape and contributes to biodiversity. The tradition of Swedish and Norwegian fäbod-culture is adopted on UNESCO's list of Humanity's Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the fishing that today takes place with traditional methods, sustainable and small-scale fishing is pursued.

#### **Other traditional knowledge, including Scandinavian alpine pastoral culture and small-scale fisheries**

Other relevant traditional knowledge in a Swedish context can be the alpine pastoral culture that has developed over a long time. In Scandinavia's mountains, forests and coastal areas, there has for centuries been a history of moving livestock to summer pasture and this has given rise to a multifaceted alpine pastoral culture. Alpine pastoral farming concerns everything from animal husbandry to food production, land management, handicrafts, music, storytelling and rituals. This tradition shapes the landscape and contributes to biodiversity. The tradition of Swedish and Norwegian alpine pastoral

culture is adopted on UNESCO's list of Humanity's Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the fishing that today takes place with traditional methods, sustainable and small-scale fishing is pursued.

The Government assesses that conservation and use of traditional knowledge relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is of importance for the possibility of achieving several environmental quality objectives. Traditional sustainable use where attention is given to local participation and traditional knowledge can also contribute to cultural and local identity and promote sustainable economic activity through, for example, farm tourism.

#### **Processes where traditional knowledge should be included and considered**

The Sámi Parliament is assigned to, as a national focal point, coordinate Sweden's implementation of Articles 8(j) and 10(c). Implementation consists, inter alia, of promoting the use of, and contributing to increased knowledge about, traditional knowledge and sustainable customary use that is relevant for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In this work, the Authority shall promote involvement and participation from the concerned authorities and actors. The assignment covers both Sámi traditional knowledge and other knowledge traditions. Swedish Biodiversity Centre (CBM) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences provides, with funding from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, support to the Sámi Parliament in the work, particularly regarding other traditional knowledge than Sámi.

The Government's intention is that the Sámi Parliament shall continue to be the focal point after the current assignment expires. An important part of the work is to include actors concerned. Currently, the backbone of the implementation consists of a network (programme board) consisting of about forty different authorities, universities and interest organizations that, inter alia, represent knowledge-holders. The Sámi Parliament has reported (KN2023/04519) on great engagement among programme board members and that the composition has contributed constructively to implementation and to a large extent been a prerequisite for anchoring and advancing the work. The programme board has gradually developed and now functions as a platform for dialogue and knowledge dissemination and for anchoring the

work of the assignment. Within the framework of work on the assignment, forms need to be developed for cooperation between research and traditional knowledge in order to contribute to increased consideration of traditional knowledge.

There are several examples of processes relevant to the management of biodiversity where consideration of traditional knowledge can constitute an important part. In the management tool for the occurrence of large carnivores based on a tolerance level for reindeer herding, the knowledge of the Sámi communities about reindeer grazing and carnivores' movements and behaviour is an important part. Several years have passed since the management tool was developed and began to be applied and an evaluation should be conducted. Another example is work on reindeer husbandry plans which are the Sámi communities' own tool for describing their land use. Reindeer husbandry plans are fundamentally established based on reindeer herders' traditional knowledge about which lands are needed for continued sustainable reindeer husbandry. The plans can be used in dialogue and consultation and contribute to increased understanding, respect and consideration for reindeer herding's needs among other land-using actors. Yet another example is Laponiatjuottjudus (Laponia Administration) which is an association that manages the world heritage Laponia. Laponiatjuottjudus is a local management organization where, inter alia, Sámi communities concerned are included. By the Sámi communities being included in the board, it is ensured that their traditional knowledge can be taken into account in relevant decisions.

Sámi have from time immemorial lived in an area extending over parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. According to the Constitution and in accordance with international conventions, the Sámi people shall have the opportunity to maintain and develop their own cultural and societal life. The rights of the Sámi people regarding influence over decisions and processes that concern Sámi society, industries and culture are supported by both national legislation and international law. According to the Act (2022:66) on consultation on matters concerning the Sámi people, Sámi representatives shall be consulted by the Government, state authorities, regions and municipalities before decisions are taken in matters that may be of particular significance for the Sámi. In the preparatory materials for the Act, it is stated, inter alia, that matters concerning biodiversity on reindeer pasture can be of particular significance for the Sámi people and that consultation in

such matters can become relevant. It was further stated that it is appropriate for the Act to be evaluated a few years after it has entered into force in order to, inter alia, analyze its application and its socio-economic consequences. The value of the Act, considering its purpose of promoting the Sámi people's influence over their affairs, in relation to ordinary consultation processes, was also proposed to be included in such an evaluation. Furthermore, it was assessed as appropriate that, within the framework of the evaluation, it be examined what the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) means for the Swedish State's relations with the Sámi in light of the consultation arrangements (Govt Bill 2021/22:19).

In addition to consultation according to the consultation arrangements, there have since previously been other provisions that mean that actors planning certain measures or activities that can affect reindeer herding need to consult with representatives of, for example, a Sámi community.

Sweden needs to continue to consider Sámi and other traditional knowledge in decision-making on, for example, forestry and other development issues such as wind power or mining establishments. The Sámi people and local communities should therefore, when relevant, continue to be ensured meaningful participation in decision-making processes on biodiversity, for example in physical planning and other decisions that can have an impact on their traditional sustainable use of land. This shall be done in accordance with current legislation such as the Environmental Code, the Minerals Act, the Planning and Building Act, the Forestry Act and the Act on Consultation on Matters Concerning the Sámi People. To the extent possible, it should be done in a coordinated manner that facilitates assessments of cumulative effects for improved decision bases. Consideration should also be given to the close links that exist between climate and biodiversity, as well-functioning and species-rich ecosystems make society better equipped to meet the challenges that follow from a changing climate.

#### **Existing and new measures and forms of support important for biodiversity**

It is important that traditional agricultural methods that were previously common and that promote biodiversity, but where the methods are considered too costly for modern agriculture, can receive financial support so that they are maintained. In this context, Ordinance (2024:202) on State Support for Certain Measures Aimed at Conserving or Restoring Biodiversity should be mentioned. The Ordinance provides both the

opportunity to receive support for restoration of natural pastures and meadows, and the opportunity to receive support for pollarding of trees and coppicing, nature conservation burning of certain grasslands and mowing of peatland meadows in the northern parts of the country. In Sweden's Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Agricultural Policy for the period 2023–2027, there are, inter alia, environmental compensations for management of meadows and pastures and summer pasture grazing (fäbodbeta) that are important for maintaining these traditional farming practices and thus also relevant traditional knowledge. Furthermore, support is provided for the conservation of threatened livestock breeds that contribute to maintaining a living cultural heritage. Within the work for the Swedish Quality Objectives, authorities have proposed that a financial policy instrument for rewarding the importance of Sámi reindeer husbandry for maintaining the mountain pasture character should be investigated.

## 12. Mobilising resources for biodiversity

**Government approach:** Sweden works for a broad and integrated approach in the mobilization of resources for biodiversity, strengthens engagement and dialogue and identifies obstacles, synergies and good examples of innovative instruments and solutions that can form the basis for continued work. The work synergizes climate action, and the implementation of international environmental agreements. Sweden implements the reform agenda for development assistance, which contributes to effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on biodiversity.

### 12.1 Rationale for the Government's approach

In accordance with target 19 on substantially and progressively increasing financial resources from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private resources, resources need to be mobilized to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The mobilization of resources for biodiversity is closely linked to the mobilization of resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce pollution. Sweden's work on mobilizing resources includes both public and private resources for measures at all levels of society, but also contributions to significant and catalytic development financing.

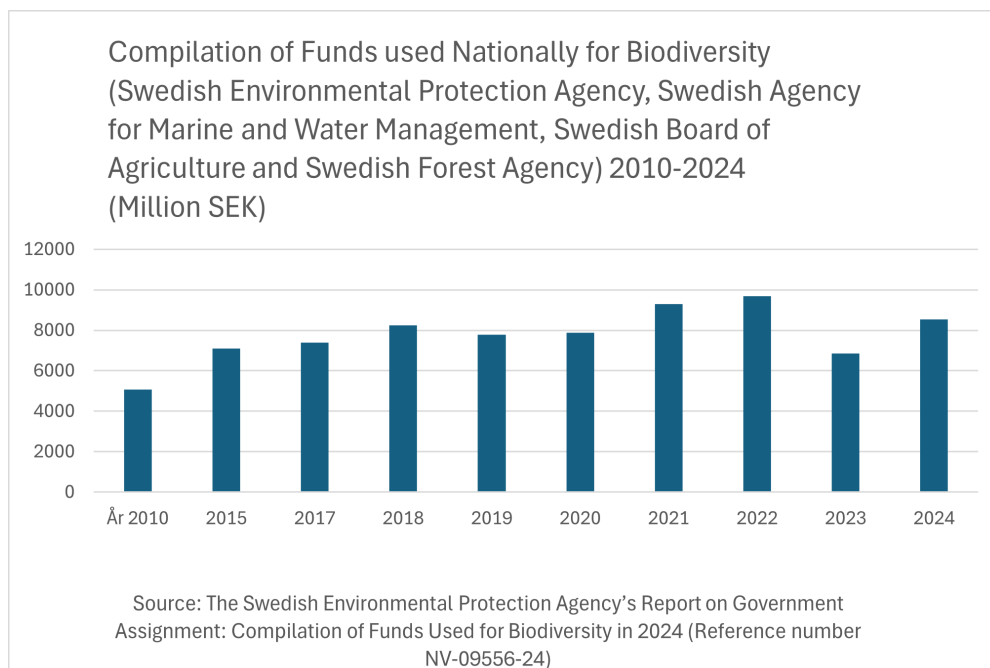
## A national mobilisation of resources – public and private

Public financing refers to funds from the State, municipalities, regions and public authorities, but also from international public institutions, such as the EU.

The budget proposal allocates funds to work on biodiversity, particularly within the climate and environmental policy expenditure area 20 Climate, Environment and Nature, where the Environmental Objectives System provides a structure for systematic monitoring of environmental policy that forms the basis for strategic action work. Another important expenditure area for work on biodiversity is expenditure area UO23 Land-Based Industries, Rural Areas and Food.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency annually compiles funds for biodiversity handled by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Forestry Agency and the Swedish Board of Agriculture. According to the compilation below, in 2024 more than 8.5 billion SEK was used for biodiversity (KN2025/01235). State authorities can also allocate funds to, for example, municipalities, interest organizations and for research.

**Table 1**



The mainstreaming of biodiversity across various sectors and government agency activities is important. This work contributes notably to action target 14. There are 26 national authorities that have a special responsibility to work for the environmental targets to be achieved. This means that they shall assess which environmental quality objectives are most relevant to their activities and how they should work towards their achievement. Several of these authorities work within their activities with the environmental quality objectives that contribute to biodiversity. An example is the Swedish Transport Administration which is responsible for the country's transport system. In its work on biodiversity, the Authority adapts the management of road verges and develops, for example, species-rich road and railway environments.

Extensive funds go to research which in various ways strengthens work on biodiversity. In addition to allocation to universities and higher education institutions, there are several research appropriations to various research financiers. One such financier is Formas – a Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development. Formas handles sustainability research as well as nature conservation and receives annually extensive state support, which is allocated to research and innovation within areas such as biodiversity and agriculture and forestry.

An important source of environmental strategic research is Mistra (the Swedish foundation for strategic environmental research supports research of strategic importance for a good living environment and sustainable development) is financed through managed capital. With support from Mistra, the programme Mistra BIOPATH ("Pathways for an Efficient Alignment of the Financial System with the Needs of Biodiversity") is financed, which has the objective to integrate biodiversity into the financial system and in business. Within the programme, actors within finance, industry and the public sector cooperate. One of the participants in the project is Swedish Export Credit Corporation, SEK, a state-owned enterprise with the task of financing Swedish export industry on commercial and sustainable grounds. SEK's lending takes place in over 60 countries and within many different sectors. SEK works to increase insights into how financiers such as SEK can more clearly integrate biodiversity into financial decision-making based on risks, opportunities and impact.

Many municipalities in Sweden actively work on biodiversity. A report from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency shows that municipalities prioritize measures that can be co-financed or where there are synergies with other areas (e.g., outdoor recreation, recreation, visitor industry) (Swedish Municipalities' Work on Biodiversity - A Survey of 29 Municipalities as Background Report for Follow-up of Sweden's Environmental Targets, Report 6956, 2021). Many municipalities successfully seek co-financing from the EU for their work on biodiversity, for example through LIFE. Through the EU, Sweden also receives other support that directly or indirectly contributes to biodiversity, not least through the Common Agricultural Policy. In Sweden's Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Agricultural Policy for the period 2023–2027 there are, inter alia, measures for management of pastures, summer pasture grazing (fåbodbete) conservation of threatened livestock breeds, organic production, establishment and management of wetlands, carbon storage in soil and reduced loss of plant nutrients. Thereby the current implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy contributes to several of the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency was through its appropriations letter (2024) assigned, together with several other authorities, to prepare a proposal for a national plan for nature restoration. According to the Nature Restoration Regulation, it includes assessing the estimated financing needs for implementation of restoration measures.

Sweden reports environmentally harmful subsidies to the EU. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency develops material for Sweden's reporting of environmentally harmful subsidies to the European Commission. The starting point for the reporting is the European Commission's guidance. This work contributes to target 18.

As part of the work to strengthen synergies between climate financing and financing of biodiversity, the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action is working to develop analytical tools for integrating nature and climate issues in economic policy. Sweden participates in the Coalition's work.

The Swedish National Debt Office borrowed 20 billion SEK by issuing a green bond on 1 September 2020. The purpose was to finance expenditures

in the state budget that contribute to fulfilling Sweden's environmental and climate targets.

Swedish municipalities have through their company Kommuninvest developed green bonds and through loans, projects are financed within, inter alia, nature conservation, carbon storage and environmental measures. Several municipalities work on restoring wetlands, protecting forests and promoting biodiversity and co-finance activities with funds from several sources.

Private financiers and philanthropists contribute support to research and concrete restoration projects to improve the environment. Through sustainable management of nature, opportunities for enterprise also increase for indigenous peoples and local communities and in turn their opportunities to contribute to resources being used for biodiversity. Civil society in Sweden has an important role in conserving and strengthening biodiversity, not least through local projects and initiatives and in cooperation with authorities and research. An example of a successful private cooperation project is “Hela Sverige blommar” (All of Sweden Blooming), where companies sponsor farmers with seeds to establish flowering areas in the agricultural landscape.

The direction for Swedish assistance is set out in the Government's reform agenda Development Assistance for a New Era – Freedom, Empowerment and Sustainable Growth (2023). One of the reform agenda's prioritized areas is that Swedish development assistance shall contribute to accelerating the global green transition and strengthening adaptation efforts to support implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The reform agenda emphasizes that biodiversity is seriously threatened and needs to be protected, both on land and in the seas. Safeguarding biodiversity also contributes to effective climate action and is key to achieving sustainable food systems and assured global water and food security.

Swedish development assistance shall be catalytic for increasing resource mobilization in partner countries. This means, inter alia, that aid shall promote capital from other actors such as development finance institutions, international financial institutions and not least from the private sector. The synergies between development cooperation, promotion and trade policy

constitute part of the reform for promoting sustainable development and economic growth. An important part of effective development assistance is engaging local authorities and business as well as cooperating with, and working to increase efficiency in, the major climate funds and development banks.

### **Sweden is a leading donor**

Sweden is a significant global donor to the multilateral development banks and works together with other donors for the banks to work actively and in an integrated manner with climate and biodiversity and thereby contribute to the implementation of both the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Sweden, together with other donors, raises the need to integrate climate and nature issues into multilateral development banks' activities, particularly through adopting a harmonized method for tracking nature-positive financing.

Sweden is a leading donor to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) which through its efforts indirectly but strategically contributes to biodiversity, not least by financing climate projects that protect ecosystems, such as forest restoration and climate adaptation in agriculture. Sweden contributes 8 billion SEK to the Fund's second replenishment 2024–2027. The Fund's support to nature-based solutions is extensive, for example through projects that restore mangroves and wetlands globally. Sweden is also a leading donor to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Sweden contributes just over 4 billion SEK to the GEF during the eighth programme cycle GEF-8. According to the GEF's mandate, biodiversity is one of five main areas. During the current financing cycle (GEF-8), extensive funds go to biodiversity, up to one-third in direct allocation. The projects support, inter alia, protected areas, ecosystem restoration, implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as the role of local communities and indigenous peoples in conservation work. Sweden views positively that GEF-8 to a greater extent has mobilized private capital for co-financing of biodiversity through, inter alia, green bonds and that work on debt conversion can be further developed and developed during GEF-9.

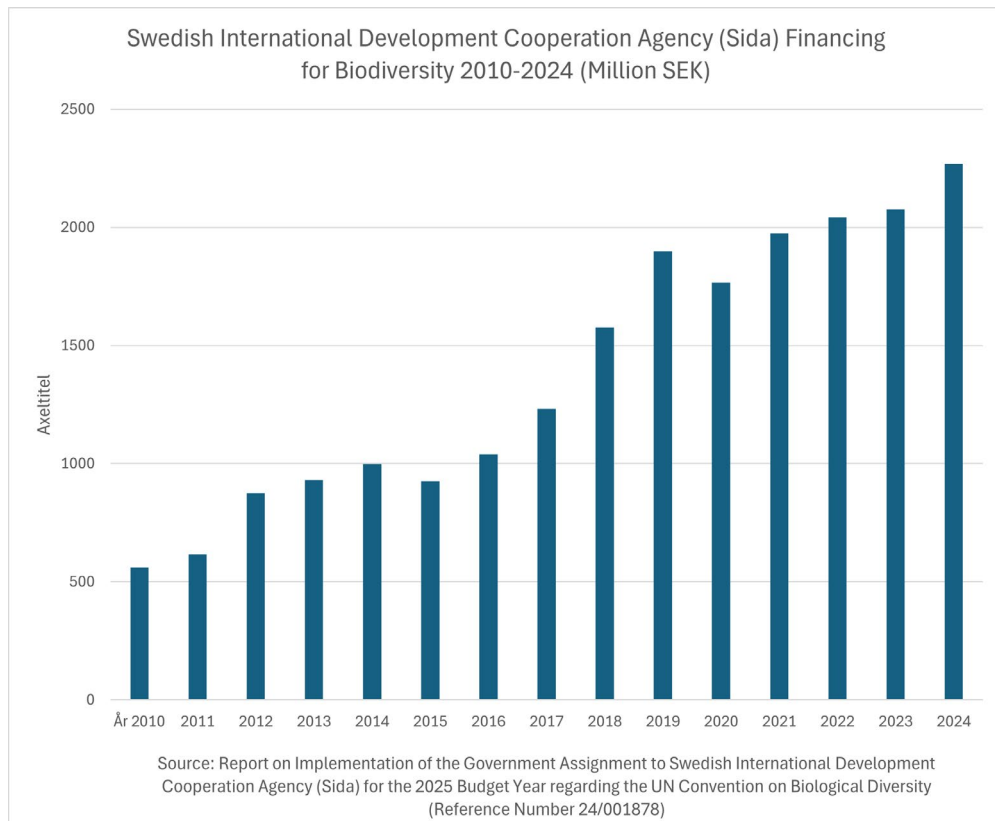
Swedfund is a state-owned enterprise whose task is to reduce poverty through sustainable investments in developing countries. A large part of Swedfund's investment portfolio aims to contribute to both climate targets and biodiversity. The focus is on increasing positive contributions while

reducing negative risks or impacts on nature and biodiversity in its investment activities. Swedfund has committed to adapting its methods to the global targets for biodiversity according to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It also participates as a forum member in the Taskforce for Nature-related Disclosures (TNFD) and uses its recommendations and guidance to assess, report and act on nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities within its portfolio (Swedfund's Policy for Sustainable Development (2025)).

### **Sida supports biodiversity in several ways**

Sweden's development financing for biodiversity decided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has increased between 2021–2024. Sida's support for biodiversity amounted in 2024 to 2.27 billion SEK. The geographical and thematic allocation of funds is determined through strategies and appropriations letters from the Government, while measures are decided by the Authority. More than half of these funds were directed to bilateral projects in developing countries, while approximately 40 per cent were channelled through multilateral organizations. IPBES Nexus Assessment, which highlights how biodiversity, water, food, health and climate are interconnected and must be handled in an integrated manner, is an important starting point (IPBES 2024). In addition to support for protection and conservation of biodiversity, Sida's support for biodiversity spans several sectors, such as environmental protection, agriculture, urban or rural development as well as research, water and sanitation. Sida works continuously to strengthen potential and increase opportunities to integrate the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into its activities; the work contributes to several targets, not least 10, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

**Table 2**



Sida works long-term with capacity development for nature conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. The Swedish resource base, through Swedish authorities, is of great importance in this work. Sida supports projects in several countries to develop national strategies for biodiversity, as well as national climate plans, thereby creating opportunities for countries to mobilize domestic and national resources for biodiversity and climate. Sida works with a rights-based approach. Sida provides, for example, support to SwedBio, a development programme at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, which works together with strategically selected partner organizations to support locally driven work and sustainable and fair governance of knowledge and policy on biodiversity. Through Sida's support

to environmental defenders in many parts of the world, opportunities increase to participate in work to protect wetlands, forests and strengthen the right to land and resources. More than 70 per cent of the support that went to biodiversity also had integrated targets that contribute to gender equality.

Through several efforts, protection, conservation, management and restoration are strengthened and expanded, which provides conditions for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. One such example is work to strengthen sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems within the framework of the broader work on the blue economy. For example, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management works in West Africa to strengthen work on an ecosystem-based approach to marine spatial planning which can enable increased protection and conservation of coastal and marine environments.

Sida works continuously on integrating climate and biodiversity. Of the total support for biodiversity in 2024, 92 per cent also contributed to targets related to climate. Of the climate-related support, just over 43 per cent contributed to biodiversity. A large proportion of projects use nature-based solutions (Nbs), not least efforts within urban development and agriculture. Support for biodiversity contributes to emission reductions, adaptation efforts and disaster risk reduction, but also food security and health, fundamental conditions for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

Sida works on implementing the Government's prioritization to mobilize private capital as well as the development of guaranteed instruments. Sida's guarantees entered between 2020 and 2023 are expected to mobilize approximately 3.8 billion SEK for protection and restoration of biodiversity as a part objective. In 2024, these funds were complemented with a major environmental guarantee in the Amazon region through the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB) which shall mobilize up to 469 million USD for forest conservation and sustainable forest management as well as sustainable and resilient landscapes and bioeconomy. Sida has also financed guarantee instruments that have contributed to debt conversion in the Amazon. With an increased focus on green transition, Sida works with deepened dialogue with Business Sweden which is Sweden's export and investment council that supports Swedish companies to grow internationally. Within Team Sweden,

Sida works on developing integrated work on climate, environment, economic development and trade, for example through sustainable investments and value chains that reduce impact on biodiversity.

## ANNEX 1 The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework §§28-31 in CBD/COP/DEC/15/14

### *Section F. 2025 Vision and 2030 mission*

28. The vision of the framework is a world of living in harmony with nature where: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

29. The mission of the framework for the period up to 2030, towards the 2050 vision is: To take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, while providing the necessary means of implementation.

### *Section G. Kunming-Montreal Global Goals for 2050*

30. The framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

#### **GOAL A**

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

#### **GOAL B**

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

## **GOAL C**

The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

## **GOAL D**

Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of 700 billion dollars per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

### ***Section H. Kunming-Montreal 2030 Global Targets***

31. The framework has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement towards the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions.

#### ***1. Reducing threats to biodiversity***

### **TARGET 1**

Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance,

including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

### **TARGET 2**

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

### **TARGET 3**

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

### **TARGET 4**

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

### **TARGET 5**

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

### **TARGET 6**

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.

### **TARGET 7**

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

### **TARGET 8**

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

## ***2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing***

### **TARGET 9**

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

### **TARGET 10**

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

### **TARGET 11**

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

### **TARGET 12**

Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

### **TARGET 13**

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030 facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

### *3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming*

#### **TARGET 14**

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

#### **TARGET 15**

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

- a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios;
- b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;

in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

#### **TARGET 16**

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially

reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

#### **TARGET 17**

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries in biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

#### **TARGET 18**

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

#### **TARGET 19**

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year, including by:

- a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030;
- b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;
- c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;

- d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards
- e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises,
- f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions<sup>22</sup> and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity
- g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use;

### **TARGET 20**

Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

### **TARGET 21**

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, <sup>23</sup> in accordance with national legislation.

### **TARGET 22**

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories,

resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

**TARGET 23**

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

ANNEX 2 National targets that are relevant to the Kunming–Montreal-framework.

The Sami Parliament and Sami policy	The overall objective of Sami policy is to promote a thriving Sami culture based on ecologically sustainable reindeer husbandry and other Sami economic activities.
Democracy policy and human rights	The main objective of the democracy policy is a vibrant and persistent democracy characterized by participation and where the opportunities for influence are equal. The goal of the policy for human rights is to ensure full respect for Sweden's international commitments on human rights.
National minorities	The objective of the policy for national minorities is to provide protection for the national minorities and strengthen their opportunities for influence and to support the historical minority languages so that they are kept alive.
Financial markets	The policy objective for the financial markets is for the financial system to be stable and characterized by high confidence with well-functioning markets that meet the needs of households and companies for financial services while at the same time securing a high level of protection for consumers. The financial system must contribute to sustainable development. The state's financial administration must be conducted efficiently.
Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	The goal for Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda is for Sweden to implement the 2030 Agenda to achieve economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development through a coherent policy nationally and internationally. Implementation will be guided by the agenda's principle of leaving no one behind.
Emergency preparedness	The goals specified by the government, which were clarified in the fiscal bill for 2015 are divided into a preventive perspective and a managing perspective. With these starting points, the goals of crisis preparedness are to - reduce the risk of accidents and crises that threaten our security, - safeguard people's lives and health and also fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights by maintaining all of society's essential operations and preventing or limiting damage to property and the environment when accidents and crisis situations occur.
International aid	The goal for expenditure area 7 International aid is to create conditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and. Development cooperation must take its starting point from the principles of aid- and development effectiveness, as well as Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement.
Public health policy	The overarching goal of public health policy is to create societal conditions for good and equal health in the entire population and close the influenceable health gaps within a generation.

Policy of Rights of persons with Disabilities	Taking the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a starting point, the national goal for disability policy is to achieve equal living conditions and full participation for persons with disabilities in a society based on diversity. This goal will contribute to greater gender equality and consideration of the children's rights perspective.
Children's rights policy	The objective of child rights policy is to ensure that children and young people are respected, given the chance to develop and enjoy security, and are able to participate and have an influence.
Policy against discrimination	The goal of the governments work is a society free from discrimination.
Gender Equality Policy	The overall policy objective for the Swedish gender equality policy is that women and men must have the same power to shape society and their own lives." Gender equality policy in Sweden ( <a href="http://government.se">government.se</a> )
Research and innovation	In the Research and Innovation Policy Bill "Research and Innovation for the Future, Curiosity, and Benefit" (prop 2024/25:60), goals and sub-goals for the research policy is presented. The goal of the research policy is for Sweden to be one of the world's leading research and innovation countries and a leading knowledge nation, where high-quality research, higher education and innovation lead to societal development and welfare, enhance the competitiveness of businesses, and address the societal challenges we face, both in Sweden and globally. The following measurable sub-goals have been identified for the ten-year period 2025–2034: -Sweden should be a leading nation in terms of knowledge and be among the foremost countries in terms of investments in research and development measured in relation to GDP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swedish research should be of high quality.</li> <li>• Sweden should be one the world's leading innovation countries</li> </ul>
Cultural environment	On 13 June 2013, the Riksdag adopted national objectives for work involving the cultural environment (bet. 2012/13:KrU9, Riksdag Comm. 2012/13:273). The objectives mean that central government work involving the cultural environment is to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a sustainable society with a great diversity of cultural heritage sites that are preserved, used and developed,</li> <li>• people's participation in cultural heritage management and opportunities for them to understand and take responsibility for cultural heritage,</li> <li>• an inclusive society in which cultural heritage is a shared source of knowledge, education and experiences, and</li> <li>• a comprehensive perspective on landscape management in which cultural heritage is utilized in the development of society.</li> </ul>
Youth policy	The objective for youth policy: that all young people should have good living conditions, the power to shape their lives and influence over the general development of society. This objective affects all central government decisions and

	initiatives concerning young people aged between 13 and 25 years.
Politics for civil society	The goal of the policy for civil society is to improve the conditions for civil society as a central part of democracy. This must take place in dialogue with civil society organizations by - developing civil society's opportunities to make people participate based on the commitment and desire to influence one's own life situation or society at large, - strengthening the conditions for civil society to contribute to social development and welfare both as voice carriers and opinion makers and with a variety of activities, and - deepen and spread knowledge about civil society.
Objectives for outdoor recreation policy	In December 2010, the Riksdag adopted an overall objective for the outdoor recreation policy (Govt Bill 2009/10:238, bet. 2010/11:KrU3, Riksdag Comm. 2010/11:37 and 2010/11:38). The outdoor recreation policy's overall objective is to support people's opportunities to spend time in nature and enjoy outdoor recreational activities, with the right of public access being a foundation of outdoor recreation. All people are to have the possibility to experience nature, for their well-being, social interaction and to learn more about the natural world and the environment. Measurable objectives for outdoor recreation have been drawn up as part of the Government's efforts to develop the outdoor recreation policy. They were reported to the Riksdag in December 2012 in the communication Mål för friluftslivspolitiken [Objectives for outdoor recreation policy] (Comm. 2012/13:51).
Community planning, housing provision and more	The goal for the area of community planning, housing market, construction and land surveying is to provide all people in all parts of the country with a socially good living environment where long-term good management of natural resources and energy is promoted and where housing construction and economic development are facilitated. For the area of the housing market, the goal is also long-term well-functioning housing markets where consumer demand meets a supply of housing that corresponds to the needs.
Consumer policy	The objective of the consumer policy is well-functioning consumer markets, balanced and clear rules for business, strong consumer protection and sustainable consumption
The generational goal	The overall goal of environmental policy is to be able to pass on to the next generation a society in which the major environmental problems have been solved, without increasing environmental and health problems beyond Sweden's borders. The goal includes a set of indents concerning, among other things, restored ecosystems, biological diversity, health, the sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable consumption patterns.
Environmental quality objective: Reduced Climate Impact	In accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere must be stabilised at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the

	climate system. This goal must be achieved in such a way and at such a pace that biological diversity is preserved, food production is assured and other goals of sustainable development are not jeopardised. Sweden, together with other countries, must assume responsibility for achieving this global objective. The goal has one specification.
Environmental quality objective: Clean Air	The air must be clean enough not to represent a risk to human health or to animals, plants or cultural assets. The goal has ten specifications concerning substances and particles that must be limited.
Environmental quality objective: Natural Acidification Only	The acidifying effects of deposition and land use must not exceed the limits that can be tolerated by soil and water. In addition, deposition of acidifying substances must not increase the rate of corrosion of technical materials located in the ground, water main systems, archaeological objects and rock carvings. The goal includes four specifications, among other things, stating that biological diversity must not be harmed by acidification.
Environmental quality objective: A Non-Toxic Environment	The occurrence of man-made or extracted substances in the environment must not represent a threat to human health or biological diversity. Concentrations of non-naturally occurring substances will be close to zero and their impacts on human health and on ecosystems will be negligible. Concentrations of naturally occurring substances will be close to background levels. The goal includes six specifications concerning, among other things, information on environmental and health-hazardous substances on products and more.
Environmental quality objective: A Safe Radiation Environment	Human health and biological diversity must be protected against the harmful effects of radiation. The goal includes four specifications, including those concerning the realisation of radioactive substances.
Environmental quality objective: Zero Eutrophication	Nutrient levels in soil and water must not be such that they adversely affect human health, the conditions for biological diversity or the possibility of varied use of land and water. The goal includes four specifications concerning environmental impact and environmental conditions.
Environmental quality objective: Flourishing Lakes and Streams	Lakes and watercourses must be ecologically sustainable and their variety of habitats must be preserved. Natural productive capacity, biological diversity, cultural heritage assets and the ecological and water-conserving function of the landscape must be preserved, at the same time as recreational assets are safeguarded. The goal includes eleven specifications concerning, among other things, ecosystem services, preserved natural values, endangered species and restored habitats, invasive alien species, and more.
Environmental quality objective: Good-Quality Groundwater	Groundwater must provide a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water and contribute to viable habitats for flora and fauna in lakes and watercourses. The goal includes six specifications concerning, among other things, the quality of discharging groundwater.
Environmental quality objective: A Balanced	The North Sea and the Baltic Sea must have a sustainable productive capacity, and biological diversity must be

Marine Environment, Flourishing Coastal Areas and Archipelagos	preserved. Coasts and archipelagos must be characterised by a high degree of biological diversity and a wealth of recreational, natural and cultural assets. Industry, recreation and other utilisation of the seas, coasts and archipelagos must be compatible with the promotion of sustainable development. Particularly valuable areas must be protected against encroachment and other disturbance. The goal includes six specifications concerning, among other things, ecosystem services, endangered species and restored habitats, preserved natural values, invasive alien species, and more.
Environmental quality objective: Thriving Wetlands	The ecological and water-conserving function of wetlands in the landscape must be maintained and valuable wetlands preserved for the future. The goal includes nine specifications concerning, among other things, ecosystem services, restored wetlands, endangered species and restored habitats, preserved natural values, invasive alien species, and more.
Environmental quality objective: Sustainable Forests	The value of forests and forest land for biological production must be protected, at the same time as biological diversity and cultural heritage and recreational assets are safeguarded. The goal includes nine specifications concerning, among other things, ecosystem services, endangered species and restored habitats, preserved natural values, invasive alien species, and more.
Environmental quality objective: A Varied Agricultural Landscape	The value of the farmed landscape and agricultural land for biological production and food production must be protected, at the same time as biological diversity and cultural heritage assets are preserved and strengthened. The goal has twelve specifications concerning, among other things, ecosystem services endangered species and restored habitats, preserved natural values, invasive alien species, and more.
Environmental quality objective: A Magnificent Mountain Landscape	The pristine character of the mountain environment must be largely preserved, in terms of biological diversity, recreational value, and natural and cultural assets. Activities in mountain areas must respect these values and assets, with a view to promoting sustainable development. Particularly valuable areas must be protected from encroachment and other disturbance. The goal includes eight specifications concerning, among other things, the mountain region's value for reindeer husbandry, ecosystem services, endangered species and restored habitats, preserved natural values, and more.
Environmental quality objective: A Good Built Environment	Cities, towns and other built-up areas must provide a good, healthy living environment and contribute to a good regional and global environment. Natural and cultural assets must be protected and developed. Buildings and amenities must be located and designed in accordance with sound environmental principles and in such a way as to promote sustainable management of land, water and other resources. The goal includes ten specifications concerning, among other things, sustainable spatial

	planning, access to nature and green areas near residential areas, the sustainable use of natural resources, and waste management.
Environmental quality objective: A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life	Biological diversity must be preserved and used sustainably for the benefit of present and future generations. Species habitats and ecosystems and their functions and processes must be safeguarded. Species must be able to survive in long-term viable populations with sufficient genetic variation. Finally, people must have access to a good natural and cultural environment rich in biological diversity, as a basis for health, quality of life and well-being. The goal includes eight specifications concerning, among other things, the impacts of climate change, ecosystem serviced and resilience, invasive alien species and genotypes, biological cultural heritage, and nature in and around urban areas.
Milestone target: Increase the proportion of materials from construction and demolition waste that is recycled and prepared for reuse.	By 2025, preparation for re-use, recycling and other material recovery of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste, with the exception of soil and stone, shall increase to a minimum of 70 percent by weight annually.
Milestone target: Increase the proportion of municipal waste that is recycled and prepared for reuse	By 2025, the amount of municipal waste that is prepared for re-use and recycled shall increase to a minimum of 55 percent by weight, by 2030 to a minimum of 60 percent by weight and by 2035 to a minimum of 65 percent by weight. (The milestone targets are intended to identify a desired social change and specify steps towards achieving the generational goal and one or more of the environmental quality objectives.)
Milestone target: Emissions of greenhouse gases from domestic transport	Emissions from domestic transport, excluding domestic aviation, are to be reduced by at least 70 per cent at latest by 2030 compared with 2010. Domestic aviation is not included in the goal since domestic aviation is included in the EU ETS.
Milestone target: Emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030	Emissions in Sweden outside of the EU ETS should at latest by 2030 be at least 63 per cent lower than emissions in 1990. To achieve the goal, no more than 8 percentage points of the emissions reductions may be realised through supplementary measures.
Milestone target: Emissions of greenhouse gases by 2040	Emissions in Sweden outside of the EU ETS should at latest by 2040 be at least 75 per cent lower than emissions in 1990. To achieve the goal, no more than 2 percentage points of the emissions reductions may be realised through supplementary measures.
Milestone target: Emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045	At latest by 2045, Sweden is to have no net emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and should thereafter achieve negative emissions. To achieve zero net emissions, supplementary measures may be counted. By 2045, emissions from activities in Swedish territory are to be at least 85 per cent lower than emissions in 1990.
Milestone target: Reuse of packaging	The proportion of packaging placed on the Swedish market for the first time that is reusable must increase by

	at least 20 percent from 2022 to 2026 and by at least 30 percent from 2022 to 2030.
Milestone target: The use of biocidal products	The use of biocidal products with particularly hazardous properties shall be reduced significantly by 2030.
Milestone target: The use of plant protection products	The use of plant protection products with particularly hazardous properties shall be reduced significantly by 2030.
Milestone target: Pharmaceuticals in the environment	Regulations and other measures that minimize the negative environmental effects must be in place in Sweden, in the EU or internationally by 2030 at the latest.
Milestone target: Emissions of dioxin	Dioxin emissions from point sources must be mapped and minimized by 2030 at the latest.
Milestone target: Proportion of pedestrian, bicycle and public transport	The proportion of personal journeys using public transport, cycling or walking in Sweden must be at least 25 percent by 2025, expressed in person kilometres travelled, with a view to doubling in the long term the proportion for pedestrian, bicycle and public transport.
Milestone target: Stormwater management in existing buildings	The municipalities with a risk of significant impact of stormwater on land, water, and the physical environment in existing buildings, have carried out a survey by 2025 at the latest and developed action plans for sustainable stormwater management and started implementing the plans.
Milestone target: Integration of urban greenery and ecosystem services into urban environments	The majority of the municipalities must utilise and integrate urban greenery and ecosystem services into urban environments in the planning, building and administration of towns and cities and densely populated areas by no later than 2025.
Milestone target: Reduction of national emissions of air pollutants	Emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and particulate matter (PM2.5) shall no later than in 2025 correspond to indicative emission levels for 2025 set out in Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC.
Milestone target: Food loss	By 2025, an increased share of the food production should reach retailers and consumers.
Milestone target: Food waste	From 2020 to 2025, the total amount of food waste should be reduced by at least 20 % by weight per capita.
Energy, research and innovation	The overall objective of the energy policy is to create conditions for efficient and sustainable energy use and a cost-effective Swedish energy supply with low negative impact on health, the environment, and the climate, as well as to facilitate the transition to an ecologically sustainable society. The objective is based on the same three pillars as the common energy policy in the EU and aims to unite security of supply, competitiveness and ecological sustainability. The overarching goal for research and innovation in the energy sector is to contribute to achieving the energy and climate policy objectives. To support the overarching goal for research

	and innovation in the energy sector, and to facilitate follow-up of the benefits of research, the Swedish Parliament has decided that initiatives in the field should build knowledge and competence, develop technology, services, products and solutions, promote the utilization of research and innovation, and contribute to and benefit from international cooperation in the energy sector.
Transport policy objectives	The overall objective of the transport policy is to ensure the economically efficient and sustainable provision of transport services for people and businesses throughout the country. In addition to the overall objective, there is a functional objective about accessibility and an impact objective about safety, environment and health. The impact objective means that the design, function and use of the transport system shall be adapted so that there are no fatalities or serious injuries and it shall contribute to the overall generational goal for the environment and environmental quality goals, and to improved health.
Overall objectives for arable industries, rural areas and food systems	The goal for expenditure area 23 The arable industries, rural areas and food is as follows: The efforts must contribute to good conditions for work, growth and welfare in all parts of the country. The green industries must be viable and contribute to climate change adaptation and sustainable use of natural resources. Within the expenditure area there are also goals decided by The Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) which concern a coherent rural policy, a competitive and sustainable food system, forestry policy and the Sami industries. The Riksdag has decided on a generation goal and 16 environmental quality objectives for the environmental work. The report of the status of the environmental quality objectives in their entirety can be found within expenditure area 20 Climate, environment and nature. For the work in expenditure area 20, the goal of Agenda 2030 for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development through a coherent policy nationally and internationally is also central to the work decided by The Riksdag.
A competitive and sustainable food supply chain	Through its decision on the food strategy, The Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) has decided on an overall goal for the food chain. The overall goal: - A competitive food supply chain that increases overall food production, while achieving the relevant national environmental objectives, aiming to generate growth and employment and contribute to sustainable development throughout the country. The increase in production- of both conventional and organic food - should correspond to consumer demands. An increase in production of food could contribute to a higher level of self-sufficiency. The vulnerability in the food supply chain will be reduced.
Forest	The Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) has decided on two equal goals for forest policy - a production goal and an environmental goal. The production target means that the forest and forest land must be used efficiently and

	<p>responsibly so that it produces a sustained good yield. The direction of forest production should allow for flexibility in terms of freedom of action when utilizing the forest produces. The environmental goal means that the natural productive capacity of the forest land must be preserved. Biodiversity and genetic variation in the forest should be safeguarded. The forest must be managed so that plant and animal species that naturally belong in the forest are given the conditions to survive under natural conditions and in viable populations. Endangered species and nature types should be protected. The forest's cultural environmental values as well as its aesthetic and social values should also be preserved.</p>
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