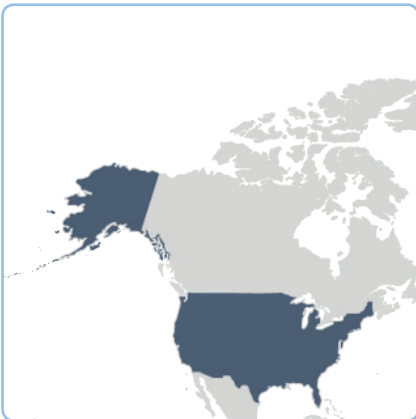


Cooperation with strategic countries in the field of environment and climate

Summary of the Annual Report 2017

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Cooperation with strategic countries in the field of environment and climate

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About the Bilateral Cooperation Fund

The Swedish government has a specific fund for bilateral cooperation with strategic countries in the field of environment and climate.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the coordination of that fund and decides the distribution of the funding. Four Swedish government agencies are involved in carrying out bilateral cooperation: the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Chemicals Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. Since 2017, the Council of the Baltic Sea States also receives allocations from the fund.

The purpose of bilateral cooperation is to:

- exchange experience on environmental management
- support the implementation of commitments made within the EU or international convention efforts
- pursue Sweden's key priorities
- build alliances
- Develop an understanding for others' positions in international negotiations.

During 2017, the four government agencies and the Council for Baltic Sea States cooperated with Brazil, India, Indonesia, China, Russia, South Africa, USA, Vietnam as well as within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council. The budget of the bilateral cooperation fund for 2017 was 17.4 million SEK.

The report is a summary of the annual report "Miljö- och klimatsamarbete med strategiska länder. Årsrapport 2017" (978-91-620-6825-7), published by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in March 2018.

Summary of the bilateral cooperation by thematic area

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, multilateral environmental agreements and the Swedish environmental quality objectives demand international cooperation. Above all it calls for bilateral cooperation with the influential economies Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa (BRIICS). To achieve results through bilateral cooperation, it demands **long-term actions** since cooperation is based on long-lasting processes and trust.

In this summary of the annual report, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency presents the collective work carried out during 2017 within the framework of the fund for bilateral cooperation with strategic countries in the field of environment and climate.

During 2017, the funding was distributed between the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Chemicals Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and the Council for Baltic Sea States. The budget of the bilateral cooperation fund for 2017 was 17.4 million SEK.

Most of the activities carried out under the bilateral fund focus on capacity development. Without a stable and democratic administration, based on openness, transparency, equality before the law and accountability, it is hard for environmental public agencies to work effectively within the field of environment and climate.

During the past year, the involved agencies have worked with **gender equality**. Several agencies take gender equality into consideration when participating in study visits and seminars. The Swedish Chemicals Agency integrated gender equality aspects in two workshops in Brazil. During the workshops, the agency drew attention to the differences between men and women regarding sensitivity to chemicals and differences in exposure. Gender issues are also considered in the project plan detailing training of civil servants in India, which was developed by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The CSE takes this into account when considering the selection of training participants.

The bilateral cooperation provides opportunities for different kinds of **synergies**, which can make the work more effective. For instance, the Swedish Chemicals Agencies tries to find synergies between its work under the bilateral fund and its other international projects. Collaboration between the involved public agencies is also occurring. For example, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Chemicals Agency together organized a study visit for the Ministry of

Environmental Protection of China and the China Textile Information Center. The study visit focused on chemicals in textiles and the communication of those substances throughout the supply chain.

The bilateral cooperation contributes indirectly also to **Sweden's export strategy**. In connection with the high-level meeting within the China Europe Water Platform, in which the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management participated, a business-to-business-event was arranged. During the meeting, Swedish and European companies met around 50 Chinese companies. Cooperation under the bilateral fund can also strengthen environmental aspects in the Swedish export strategy. For example, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency was invited by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and Energy to a meeting with the Sweden China Trade Council to discuss the bilateral strategy. At the meeting the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency presented the bilateral fund and its cooperation on environmental issues with China.

During 2017, the activities under the bilateral fund focused on the following **Swedish Environmental quality objectives**: Reduced climate impact, Clean air, A non-toxic environment, A protective ozone layer, Flourishing lakes and streams, A balanced marine environment, Flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos, A good built environment, A rich diversity of plant and animal life and the Generational goal.

The activities contributed mainly to the following **Sustainable development goals**: Good health and well-being (3), Clean water and sanitation (6), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (9), Sustainable cities and communities (11), Responsible consumption and production (12), Climate action (13), Life below water (14), Life on land (15), Peace, justice and strong institutions (16) and Partnerships for the goals (17).

Within the thematic area **chemicals**, the Swedish Chemicals Agency has carried out three workshops in Brazil and developed a new cooperation plan for 2018–2020. The Swedish Chemicals Agency has also had activities in South Africa on strategies for chemicals control and development of registers as well as in China on chemicals legislation, mercury and textiles. The Swedish Chemicals Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency organized a workshop on capacity development for an effective implementation of the Minamata Convention in Indonesia. Chemicals is also part of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's cooperation with the DEA and Buffalo City on hazardous waste management and in the training of civil servants working with environmental issues, which is carried out together with the Centre for Science and Environment in India. Several seminars and working group meetings on strategies for resource efficiency for municipal waste management took place in Russia. The Russian project on best available technology (BAT) gives support to the Barents Euro-Arctic Councils (BEAC) subgroup on Hot Spots Exclusion. At the BEAC Meeting of

Environmental Ministers, two and a half environmental pollution sources (hot spots) were excluded from the hot spots list. Within the Arctic Council, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has supported the Swedish chairmanship of Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) and supported ACAP's expert group on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury.

During 2017, several activities on **climate and air pollution** were carried out. The second phase of the ParCur project of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, on particles and black carbon the city of Curitiba in Brazil, started in 2017. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute finalized a first model simulation of the large-scale distribution of air pollution in southern Africa. Two studies from ParCur were presented at the Colombian Congress and International Conference on Air Quality and Public Health in Cali, Colombia and a [report on the results of phase 1](#) was handed over to Curitiba. The Council of the Baltic Sea States organized six seminars and workshops on the 2030 Agenda in Russia and developed [Realizing the vision – The Baltic 2030 Action Plan](#). Several seminars and presentations at international conferences were carried out by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to promote the phasing down of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC). The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency continued to provide input to the on-going reform processes in China to enhance management instruments and systems for the prevention and control of pollutions from industries and other point sources through integrated environmental permitting. In Russia, the agency carried out two seminars on management of biological resources in climate politics and energy efficiency in cities. In connection to the 'Year of Ecology' in Russia, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency participated in several seminars and lectures.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management stands for most activities within the area of **oceans and water**. In 2017, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management linked its activities to The Ocean Conference, which took place June 5–9 in New York. The conference focused on Sustainable Development Goal 14. Partners from South Africa and Vietnam were invited and gave presentations at the Swedish Water Management Conference. The agency met Russian partners at the Baltic Sea Days and carried out several activities within the framework of the China Europe Water Platform (CEWP). The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has developed two project proposals within CEWP which have been granted funding from the EU. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management organized a technical workshop on marine spatial planning and cumulative environmental impact assessment. This knowledge exchange enabled the completion of 'Symphony', a tool for ecosystem-based marine spatial planning which now includes the assessment of cumulative environmental impact in Swedish marine spatial planning. In 2017, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute's water project in South Africa focused mainly on improving the model system HYPE. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute together with local representatives fine-tuned the model and used it to evaluate

different scenarios that can be used as a basis for water management in the area. The results of the project were presented at the International Association of Hydrological Scientists (IAHS) Scientific Assembly and in a [report](#).

Direct linkages to the area of **biodiversity** exist in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's cooperation with Russia and within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency participated at an expert meeting in Grimsö, Sweden, which focused on knowledge exchange regarding the nature, distribution and management of Swedish and Russian wolf populations. This resulted in the initiation of practical work relating to exchange of genetic material and collective analysis.

Through bilateral cooperation, the public agencies establish good relations with key figures in cooperating countries, which facilitate dialogue with the countries negotiating delegation at Convention of Parties and expert cooperation within **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**. During 2017, the Swedish Chemicals Agency has contributed to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has contributed to the Helsinki Commission (Helcom). The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has contributed to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment which focuses on the phasing down of the production and consumption of HFC. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency continues to support Brazil's work on developing a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, according to the Aarhus Convention.

In 2017 and with support of the bilateral fund, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management cooperated with Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, USA and Vietnam; the Swedish Chemicals Agency with Brazil, Indonesia, China, South Africa and Vietnam; the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency with Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, China, South Africa, the Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute with Brazil and South Africa and the Council of the Baltic Sea States with Russia.

Summary of the bilateral cooperation by country

Brazil

Since 2015 the **Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute** has collaborated with Curitiba municipality, the environmental authority of the Paraná state and various universities in the city of Curitiba on the project ParCur which focuses on particles and black carbon. During 2017, the second phase of ParCur began. It focuses on the development of a method to determine release of particles and their effect on urban air quality. Several workshops, both in Sweden and Curitiba, took place. Two studies from ParCur were presented at the Colombian Congress and International Conference on Air Quality and Public Health in Cali, Colombia and a [report on the results of phase 1](#) was handed over to Curitiba.

During 2017, the **Swedish Chemicals Agency** developed, with its cooperation partner in Brazil a new cooperation plan for 2018 – 2020. The Swedish Chemicals Agency organized two workshops in Brazil on risk assessment and risk management of industrial and consumer chemicals and pesticides. They also held a workshop on products registers. Brazil has developed a new law for chemicals, which is expected to be adopted in the near future and the Swedish Chemicals Agency has given advice on the design of the law. During a visit to the CETESB (a local agency and a regional center for the Stockholm Convention), future cooperation on education of civil servants was discussed.

The **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency** continued its cooperation with Brazil within two thematic areas. The first area focuses on supporting Brazil's work with the development of a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and strengthening the knowledge and experiences on open data and management of environmental data and information. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency organized two workshops on PRTR in Brasilia in December 2017. After the workshops, a report was developed reflecting on how the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA) and the federal environmental agency IBAMA could progress with its work regarding PRTR. Within the project on development of sustainable waste management, a study visit to Sweden was carried out. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency also participated in a workshop on prevention of food waste in Brazil and in a dialog regarding producer responsibility for the management on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management met its cooperation partner from the MMA in connection with the 2nd International Conference on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management invited them to the Swedish Water Management Conference,

however they were not able to attend. A next meeting is planned to take place during the World Water Forum 2018.

China

The **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management** carried out several activities within the framework of the China Europe Water Platform (CEWP). The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has applied for EU funding for two projects within CEWP, on 'Horizontal Activities' which the agency is co-partner in, and on 'Sustainable Hydropower Use and Integration in China and EU' (SHUI-SHE) which the agency is lead-partner for. Both projects have been granted funding from the EU.

Three colleagues from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management travelled to China and among others presented the work under CEWP at the Second International Top – Level Forum on Engineering Science and Technology Development. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management participated in several meetings arranged by CEWP, among others steering committee meetings, the Annual High-Level Dialogue Conference and High-level Business Conference in Turku, Finland and project meetings. During the High-level Business Conference, a Business-to-Business event was arranged in which Swedish and European companies met with around 50 Chinese companies.

The **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency** continued its cooperation with China regarding the implementation of the Montreal protocol with focus on phasing down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and ozone depleting substances (ODS) through district cooling. Several activities have been carried out throughout the year, among others a two-days seminar in Shanghai with 150 participants from a Chinese organization and a one-week Chinese study visit to Sweden and Norway.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency continued to provide input to the on-going reform processes in China to enhance management instruments and systems for the prevention and control of pollutions from industries and other point sources. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Chemicals Agency together arranged a study visit to Sweden for the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China focusing on the environmental effects of textiles. Furthermore, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency presented the Swedish experiences on integrated environmental permitting for a delegation of the China's National People's Congress and experiences regarding circular economy for a delegation of the National Development and Reform Commission. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency also published a [report on Swedish Environmental Law](#) which has been distributed to key actors in China.

Sweden has been supporting and participating in the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) for many years. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency arranged a visit to Sweden for the Secretary of the CCICED to meet several Swedish entities and discuss future collaboration. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency took part in a seminar, arranged by the Swedish Embassy in Beijing, on e-commerce and management of packaging waste. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's Director General participated also in the visit of Sweden's Minister of Environment to China.

The **Swedish Chemicals Agency** participated with two experts at the First Annual Meeting of the Professional Committee for the Prevention and Control on Chemical Environmental Risk and gave a presentation on the importance of preventive chemicals control and the chemicals legislation in Sweden and the EU. The Swedish Chemicals Agency also arranged a study visit from Shandong Meteorological Institute focusing on the phasing-out of mercury in different types of measuring instruments, which is linked to the Minamata Convention.

Another study visit with participants from the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office under the Ministry of Environmental Protection focused on communication around hazardous chemicals in textiles. The study visit was part of China's ongoing project on chemicals in textiles, financed by The Global Environment Facility (GEF).

India

The **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency** continued its cooperation with the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, CSE organizes training programmes for state-level environmental regulators. During 2017, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish County Administration Board, Västra Götaland, participated in two one-week training events in India with 24 and 22 participants. One event focused on waste and the other on environmental permitting of industries and inspections.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has started cooperation aiming to support the phasing down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC). The agency participated in the Business and Climate Summit in New Delhi and met with The Energy and Resources Institute (Teri). In collaboration with the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency arranged a study visit for the Council on Energy, Environment & Water (CEEW) which is currently working on a research report for policy makers on phasing down of HFC.

Indonesia

The **Swedish Chemicals Agency** organized together with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency a workshop on capacity development regarding effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. Besides representatives of relevant Ministries and public authorities, two NGOs from the region participated. The NGOs Artisanal Gold Council and Health Care without Harm are very active regarding the termination of mercury use.

During 2017, the **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency** allocated a grant to the ongoing environmental country review of Indonesia by the OECD. During 2018, an environmental economist will participate in the OECDs review. Furthermore, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency participated at a workshop on implementation of the Minamata Convention together with the Swedish Chemicals Agency.

Russia (incl. Arctic Council and Barents Euro-Arctic Council)

The **Council of Baltic Sea States** focused during 2017 mainly on the support and development of six seminars, workshop, panels on 2030 Agenda in Russia. The Council of Baltic Sea States supported the development of the [“Realizing the vision – The Baltic 2030 Action Plan”](#) which was endorsed by the Council’s Foreign Ministers on the 20 June 2017. The action plan and a communication leaflet have been translated to [Russian](#). Subsequently, The Council of Baltic Sea States worked on mapping of shared challenges for the region on the basis of available SDG-related indicators. The activities for example resulted in the definition of shared focus areas for the Baltic Sea region, and in the endorsement of the Baltic 2030 Action Plan by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Baltic Sea Region.

Furthermore, the Council of Baltic Sea States supported the organization of two seminars on topics such as climate and energy, cultural sector supporting climate objectives as well as two panels discussing climate action initiatives in Russia, in Sweden and other Baltic Sea Region countries, and in relation to climate-friendly initiatives and projects.

The **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management** participated at the Baltic Sea Days in Saint Petersburg. The agency presented Sweden’s work related to the Sustainable Development Goal 14 ahead of The Ocean Conference. Furthermore, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management gave a presentation at a round table on the current situation regarding micro plastics in the

Baltic Sea and which measures are being developed within the Helsinki Commission (Helcom).

Within the area of nature conservation, the **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency** participated in the Bajkalska Environment Forum. A project proposal on ecotourism was prepared by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency ahead of the Work Program 2018-2020.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency participated at an expert meeting in Grimsö, Sweden, which focused on knowledge exchange on nature, distribution and management of Swedish and Russian wolf populations. Subsequently, the practical work of exchange of genetic material and collective analysis could be started according to plan. A Russian expert was invited to participate at the Ad-hoc Policy Review Group to the 2016 Scientific Assessment Report under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) in Stockholm. Two seminars with back-to-back working group meetings were carried out focusing on management of biological resources in climate politics and energy efficiency in cities. Furthermore, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency arranged a round table and participated in a panel debate at the climate forum for Russian cities, arranged by the Department of Natural Resources Management and Environmental Protection of Moscow. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency took part in two seminars on best available technology (BAT) in Moscow. BAT and integrated environmental permitting was also the focus of Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's participation at several seminars and lectures in connection to 'Year of Ecology' in Russia. Swedish BAT-experts gave presentations at the International Ecological Congress in Saint Petersburg. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency gave comments on the new Russian environmental licensing regulations. Several seminars and working group meeting on strategies for resource efficiency for municipal waste management were carried out.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency continued to contribute to the Arctic Council. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency supported the Swedish chairmanship of Arctic Council Action Program (ACAP) and its expert groups. The agency participated in nine expert group meetings and three ACAP-meetings. Within the expert group on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury, three remediation project proposals have been developed. Communication measures for better cooperation with the working group on Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) have been prepared. During 2017, ACAP's expert group on hazardous wastes has mainly communicated via email and phone. The Swedish contribution to ACAP's expert group on Indigenous Peoples Contaminant Action Program (IPCAP) focused mainly on the Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO). Two workshops as well as communication activities linked to the World Reindeer Herders Congress were organized.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency continued its work within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC). The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency participated in two meetings of the subgroup on nature protection. Furthermore, the agency allocated a grant to the Barents Protected Area Network and the Habitat Contact Forum, in which the agency has also participated. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has also contributed to the planning around nature protection of Sweden's chairmanship of the BEAC. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency participated in ten meetings of the subgroup on hot spot exclusion and at the technical expert committee meeting in Novodvinsk, as well as submitted comments on documents regarding six hot spots. The agency also supported preparations ahead of the BEAC Environmental Ministerial meeting. During the meeting, two and a half hot spots were excluded from the hot spots list. Results of the work on hot spots exclusion were communicated on several occasions, through regional media in Arkhangelsks county, Murmansk county and Komi Republic. The Swedish County Administration Board, Norrbotten, was co-organizer of the Climate Forum in Arkhangelsk and participated in the BEAC working group on environment in Tromsø and Bodø. Project proposals for the EU's Kolarctic fund and the Nordic Council have been developed.

South Africa

The **Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute** focused on both water and air quality in its cooperation with South Africa. Within the area of air quality, the institute visited South Africa twice and finalized a first model simulation of the large-scale distribution of air pollution in southern Africa. The result is used in a study which is being carried out together with researchers at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to quantify the air quality in the South African Highveld Air Quality Priority Area (HPA). The results were also presented to other researches at an international meeting in Pretoria.

Sweden, represented by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, and South Africa have initiated a bilateral cooperation with the goal of creating a decision support system for rivers. The work during 2017 focused mainly on improving the developed model system HYPE. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute traveled to South Africa and, together with local representatives, fine-tuned the model and used it to evaluate different scenarios that can be used as a basis for water management in the area. Representatives of different organizations showed great interest in the model and recognized its usability in multiple water management projects. The results of the projects were presented at the International Association of Hydrological Scientists (IAHS) Scientific Assembly and in a [report](#).

The **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency** has a cooperation with the South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and Buffalo City on hazardous waste management. During 2017, three workshops, two in Buffalo City and one in Stockholm were carried out. In addition to the workshop in Stockholm, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency organized study visits to a recycling plants in Sofielund and waste management organization (Gästrikeåtervinnarna) in Gävle. Furthermore, the planning for a baseline study for the project has been started.

The **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management** financed the participation of five representatives from the Ocean and Coast Branch (OCB) and one from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in the Swedish Water Management Conference. A subsequent study visit to the national park Kosterhavet was also arranged. The South African delegation gave presentations on how South Africa is working with the implementation of the SDG 14 in front of 400 conference participants. Several informal meetings between representatives from South Africa and the Swedish Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Swedish Minister for Environment took place. This resulted in the participation of South African representatives at the Swedish side event at The Ocean Conference in New York. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management participated also in a mini-symposium on environmental monitoring in marine and fresh water areas, which was organized by OCB in November.

The **Swedish Chemicals Agency** organized a workshop with the Department of Environmental Affairs and participated in the Multi-stakeholder Committee on Chemicals Management. On both occasions, the DEA presented its work on the development of a strategy on chemicals control for South Africa and the Swedish Chemicals Agency presented its Products Register and work related to issues on registries. DEA is now seeking to actively cooperate with the Swedish Chemicals Agency to develop the strategy. A DEA employee has also applied to participate in the International Training Program (ITP), which will run during spring 2018. Their project proposal focuses on the development of a chemicals register for South Africa.

During a workshop together with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestries (DAFF), the Swedish Chemicals Agency presented possibilities to use EU-instruments to develop a register for pesticides hosted by DAFF. Following the workshop, two representatives from DAFF also applied to participate in the ITP.

USA

The **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management** organized a technical workshop on marine spatial planning and cumulative environmental impact with

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of California. This knowledge exchange enabled the completion of ‘[Symphony](#)’ - a tool for ecosystem-based marine spatial planning which now includes the assessment of cumulative environmental impact in Swedish marine spatial planning. The result has generated great interest in global, regional and national fora. The tool has been recognized by HELCOM and presented at a side event during the UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) process.

Vietnam

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management continued its cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and VASI, Vietnam’s water management authority. They are collaborating on a source-to-sea project that targets the river network that flows via the cultural city of Hoi An. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management arranged together with IUCN a two-day seminar on sustainable hydro power in Hoi An and a study visit to a number of major hydro-electric plants, close to the boarder to Laos, in Vu Gia – Thu Bon. Relevant national public authorities, environmental organizations and representatives of the hydro-electric plants participated in the meeting.

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The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, multilateral environmental agreements and the Swedish environmental quality objectives demand international cooperation.

The Swedish government has a specific fund for bilateral cooperation with strategic countries in the field of environment and climate. The bilateral cooperation is carried out by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Chemicals Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

In this summary of the annual report, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency presents the cooperation with Brazil, India, Indonesia, China, Russia, South Africa, USA, Vietnam as well as within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council in 2017.



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Water Management

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