



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY

# International Cooperation at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency



**The Swedish EPA conducts international cooperation both bilaterally with selected countries and in various multilateral forums**

# ‘A good living environment for humans and all other living things, now and for future generations’

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) conducts international cooperation both bilaterally with selected countries and in various multilateral forums.

Our cooperation contributes to our vision of ‘a good living environment for humans and all other living things, now and for future generations.’ It also strengthens our ability to achieve the Swedish generational goal, our environmental objectives as well as the Sustainable Development Goals under the global 2030 Agenda.

Global environmental cooperation is important for Sweden, and since the early 1990s the Swedish EPA has been involved in numerous and various forms of development cooperation.

We know from experience that good environmental governance not only supports economic development but also establishes the foundation for prosperity and sustainable development.

Our overall ambition with the international cooperation is to contribute to the development of effective environmental authorities for mutual strategic benefit, such as implementing commitments under international environmental conventions and active participation in the development and formulation of strategies and policies in the European Union (EU).



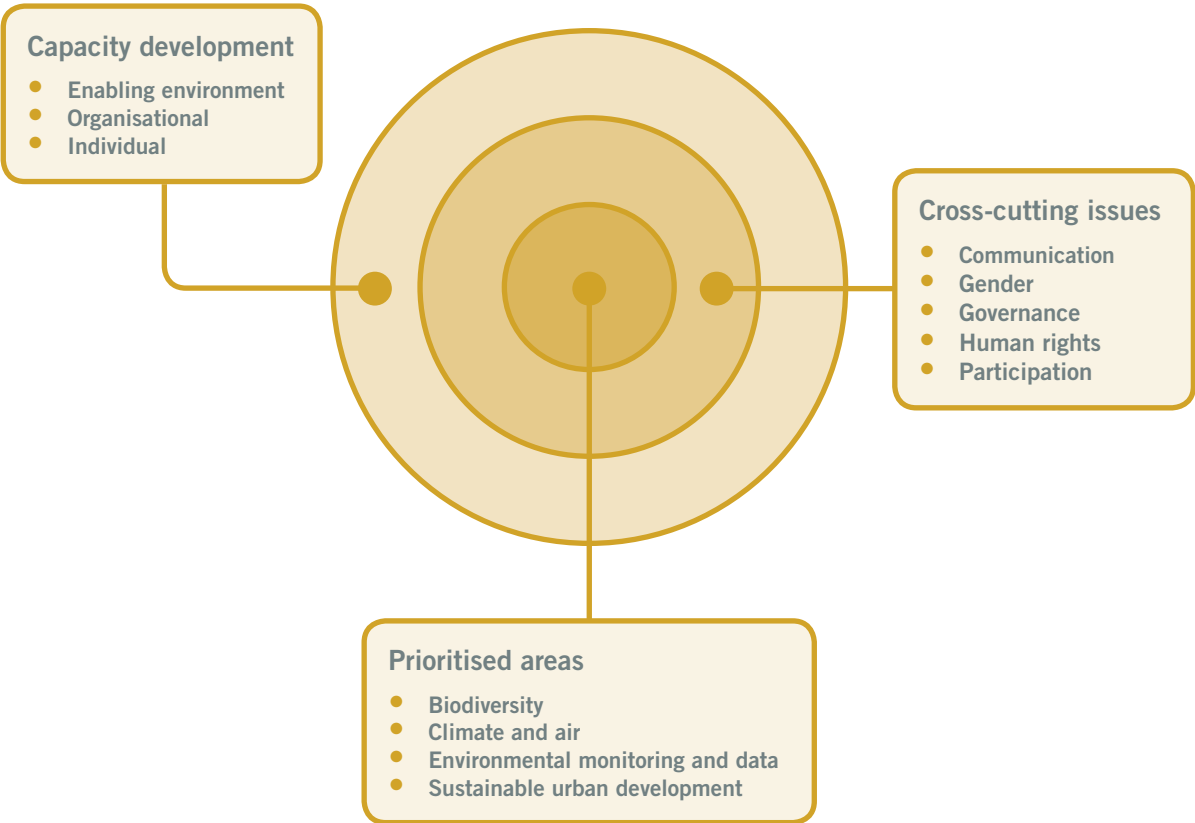
# We contribute to the development of effective environmental authorities

Our special area of expertise is capacity development of environmental public administrations for more efficient and effective environmental governance based on democracy, human rights and rule of law with a clear citizen perspective.

In close collaboration with our partners we provide advice and technical assistance in developing more effective governance and management of environmental work.

Apart from our cross-cutting support of building strong institutions based on principles of good governance we focus our cooperation on the following prioritised areas:

- Biodiversity
- Climate and air
- Environmental monitoring and data
- Sustainable urban development.



# To improve the state of the environment, we need to cooperate

The Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

Sweden has the ambition to be a leader in implementing the 2030 Agenda – both at home and through contributing to its global implementation.

Cooperation is essential if we are to achieve our joint objective set out in the 2030 Agenda.

The Swedish EPA contributes with its experience and expertise on the ecological dimension – both nationally and internationally.



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## About the Swedish EPA

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency promotes and coordinates actions in order to ensure a good living environment in collaboration with others. Our work is knowledge-based and demonstrates opportunities for sustainable development. We are a public agency that carries out assignments on behalf of the Swedish Government.

The agency was established in 1967 and is thus the oldest EPA in the world. Our remit is threefold:

- Compiling knowledge and documentation – to develop our own environmental efforts and those of others.
- Developing environmental policy – by providing the Government with a sound basis for decisions and by giving an impetus to EU and international efforts.
- Implementing environmental policy – by acting in such a way as to ensure compliance with the Swedish Environmental Code and the achievement of the national environmental objectives.

The agency's bilateral and multilateral cooperation is funded through allocations from the national budget for environmental policy and development cooperation policy.



# A selection of the Swedish EPA's international cooperation

## **Arctic Council**

Contribute to the Arctic Contaminants Action Programme, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna working group.

## **Barents Euro-Arctic Council**

Participate in the Working Group on Environment and its subgroups on nature protection, water issues, climate regional strategies, and the work to eliminate environmental hotspots in the Barents' region.

## **International Training Programmes (ITP)**

Carry out international training programmes in environmental governance, focusing on environmental policy instruments and principles of good governance.

## **Global Capacity Development Programme**

Contribute to an international capacity building programme in environmental governance, focusing on climate including issues on transparency systems in the Paris agreement, sustainable urbanisation and principles of good governance.

## **Nordic Council of Ministers**

Cooperate within the Working Group under the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for the Environment and working groups on climate and air pollution, global climate negotiations, terrestrial ecosystems, waste, sustainable consumption and production, environment and economy.

## **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

Represent Sweden on the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC) and its work on climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable production and consumption.

## **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Cooperate to strengthen human rights and rule of law in environmental public administrations of mining in developing and transitional countries.

## **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

Represent Sweden on the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and its work on environmental policy as well as in the ECE's environmental performance expert group.

## **United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)**

Cooperate with the Sustainable UN (SUN) to develop and implement environmental management systems for the UN and also contributing to the ten year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10 YFP).

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

Participate in the Environment and Health Process (EHP) aiming to draw attention to the influence of environmental factors on health and health impacts in environmental work. The focus is on air pollution, climate, urban planning, water and sanitation, chemicals and waste.

## **World Bank**

Cooperate on global Ecosystem Services Accounting together with the Environment for Development initiative (EfD) and the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership.



### **Albania**

Assist in the EU accession process by supporting the implementation of the environmental chapter.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Cooperate with relevant stakeholders to address air quality issues and to find measures spanning technical capacity, legal aspects and policy to address air pollution from sources coming from industry, traffic and households.

### **Brazil**

Cooperate with the Ministry of the Environment and the federal environmental authority IBAMA on environmental data management and waste management.

### **China**

Cooperate with the Ministry of Environmental Protection on the environmental conventions and also within the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

### **Georgia**

Support waste management reform and strengthen public authorities' capacity and expertise to safely manage waste and to align national policy with relevant EU regulation.

### **India**

Arrange training programmes for environmental regulators in collaboration with the environmental organization Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on compliance, monitoring and enforcement.

### **Palestine**

Cooperate with the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority (EQA) on waste and climate.

### **Russian Federation**

Cooperate with the Ministry of the Environment on issues such as nature conservation and biodiversity, climate and air, environmental protection and waste.

### **Serbia**

Cooperate on EU accession, focusing on the implementation of the environment chapter and create an effective national structure to coordinate the work. We also participate in a EU co-funded Twinning Project related to Serbia's waste management policy.

### **South Africa**

Cooperate with the Department on Environmental Affairs and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality on waste management, especially on household hazardous waste.

## MORE INFORMATION

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