

LIFE+ Call for proposals 2008

National annual priorities for Sweden

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

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2. METHOD EMPLOYED TO SELECT THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Swedish government has appointed the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) as national authority for LIFE+. The Swedish EPA, established in 1967, is the central government agency for environmental protection and nature conservation/biological diversity under the Ministry of the Environment. The Swedish Government has commissioned the Swedish EPA to prepare background material for Swedish national priorities for the LIFE+ call for proposals 2008.

The Swedish EPA has made a consultation to stakeholders, such as central government agencies for various sectors, county administrative boards, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, NGO's and others. More than 50 stakeholders were consulted and 32 responses have been received. The current progress report by the Swedish Environmental Objectives Council of the 16 Swedish Environmental objectives have also been studied. The report, entitled *Sweden's Environmental Objectives – no time to lose* was submitted to the Government 31 March 2008. An overarching analysis of the response of the stakeholder consultation and the progress report has then been made by the Swedish EPA.

3. IDENTIFIED LONG-TERM NEEDS IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

National environmental legislation

Environmental legislation in Sweden is mainly covered by the Environmental Code which entered into force in 1999. The Code is an integrated body of environmental legislation with rules on management of land and water, nature conservation, protection of plant and animal species, environmentally hazardous activities and health protection, water operations, genetic engineering, chemical products and waste. Under the Code, specific areas may be designated as national interests which means that they enjoy stronger protection. The purpose of the Code is to promote sustainable development that will assure a healthy and sound environment for

present and future generations. To transpose European Community directives into Swedish law Ordinances are often issued pursuant to the Environmental Code.

16 national environmental quality objectives

In addition to the Environmental Code, the Swedish Parliament has adopted 16 national objectives in 1999 relating to the quality of Sweden's environment, and most of them are to be achieved within one generation, or by the year 2020. The overall aim is to pass on to the next generation a society in which the major environmental problems facing Sweden have been solved. The 16 national environmental quality objectives are (*difficult or even impossible to achieve by the target year):

Reduced climate impact*

Clean air*

Natural acidification only*

A Non-toxic environment*

A Protective ozone layer

A Safe radiation environment

Zero eutrophication*

Flourishing lakes and streams

Good-quality groundwater

A Balanced marine environment, flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos*

Thriving wetlands

Sustainable Forests*

A Varied agricultural landscape

A Magnificent mountain landscape

A Good built environment*

A Rich diversity of plant and animal life*

To implement the environmental objectives there are three action strategies:

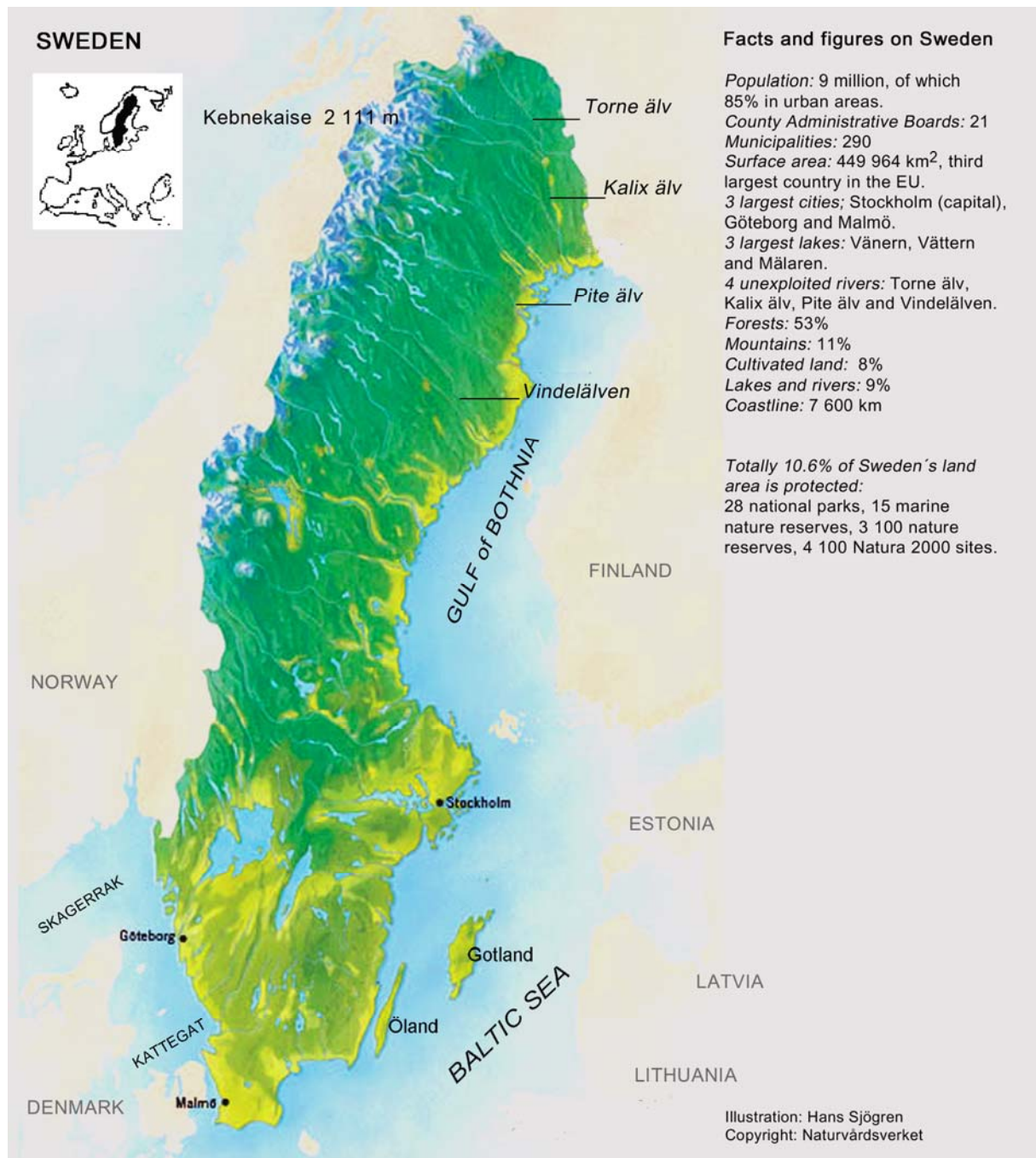
~ a strategy for more efficient energy use and transport – in order to reduce emissions from the energy and transport sectors

~ a strategy for non-toxic and resource-efficient cyclical systems, including an integrated product policy – in order to create energy- and material-efficient cyclical systems and reduce diffuse emissions of toxic pollutants

~ a strategy for the management of land, water and the built environment – in order to meet the need for greater consideration for biological diversity, the cultural environment and human health, wise management of land and water, environmentally sound land use planning and a sustainable built environment.

Progress towards the objectives is monitored and assessed by the Environmental Objectives Council, with representatives of central government agencies, regional and local authorities and NGO's, appointed by the Swedish Government. The Council is served by a Secretariat based at the Swedish EPA. Each year the Council reports to the Government on the progress made towards the environmental objectives and every fourth year an in-dept assessment report is submitted to the Government. The latest was submitted 31 March 2008. The report revealed that more than half of the objectives are difficult or even impossible to achieve by the target year.

The Swedish Government considers that the geographical conditions as well as the 16 identified Swedish Environmental Quality Objectives and the progress reports towards achieving them form the basis of Sweden's long-term needs.



Baltic Sea facts: All nine countries bordering the Baltic Sea are EU members except Russia. The Baltic Sea is a shallow and semi-enclosed sea with one of the largest bodies of brackish water in the world with a very slow water exchange rate. The average depth is only 55 m, whereas the Mediterranean, for example, is 1 500 m deep on an average. The Baltic Sea has a unique and fragile ecosystem with naturally low numbers of species and is highly sensitive to all kinds of pollution. It is surrounded by many large cities and regions with intensive agriculture and industry and is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The major problems facing the Baltic are eutrophication, toxic substances, overfishing and maritime activities.

	Principal objectives and priorities as set out in Annex II of the LIFE+ Regulation	Area chosen as national annual priority: (Tick if appropriate)	Types of projects as set out in Article 3(2) of the LIFE+ Regulation	Specific national objective (Please include reference to more information)
LIFE+ NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY				
1. Nature and Biodiversity To protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU by 2010.				
Priority areas of action (PPA)	a) contributing to implement Community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity, in particular of Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC, and promote its integration with other policy areas;	X	A, B	<p>Swedish environmental objectives: Flourishing lakes and streams A Balanced marine environment Flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos Thriving wetlands Sustainable forests A Varied agricultural landscape A Magnificent mountain landscape A Rich diversity of plant and animal life. http://www.miljomal.nu/</p> <p>Swedish reporting under article 17 of Directive 92/43/EEC. http://www.artdata.slu.se/filer/Arter_och_naturtyper_i_habitatdirektivet_lowres.pdf</p> <p>Swedish Species Action Programs.</p> <p>Management plans and conservation plans for sites that show high restoration needs for habitats and species.</p>
	b) supporting the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats and species;			

	c) supporting design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for monitoring and assessing national and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impacts on it, in particular in relation to achieving the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010;	X	A, B	<p>Swedish environmental objectives: Flourishing lakes and streams A Balanced marine environment Flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos Thriving wetlands Sustainable forests A Varied agricultural landscape A Magnificent mountain landscape A Rich diversity of plant and animal life. http://www.miljomal.nu/</p> <p>The development of methods for surveillance and monitoring of biological diversity is of great importance for the long term work with preserving species and habitats.</p>
	d) improving the knowledge of the impact of genetically modified organisms on ecosystems and biodiversity: risk assessment methodologies.			

LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

2. **Climate change** Stabilising greenhouse gas concentration at a level that prevents global warming above 2°C.

Priority areas of action	a) Ensuring the implementation of EU commitments under the UNFCCC Kyoto protocol and developing a post 2012 strategy and implementation programme with a view on further reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions up to 2020.	X	B	<p>Swedish environmental objectives: Reduced climate change. http://www.miljomal.nu/</p> <p>Svensk klimatpolitik SOU 2008:24 (in Swedish with an English summary) http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/108/a/99694</p> <p>The Parliament's objective for renewable electricity production on 17TWh to 2016 within the framework of the electricity certificate system.</p>
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	b) ensuring the adaptation of the EU economy and society, nature and biodiversity, water resources and human health to the adverse impacts of climate change (to a potential temperature increase of 2°C resulting from increased greenhouse gas concentrations) and mitigating its impact;	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: Reduced climate change. http://www.miljomal.nu/ Svensk klimatpolitik SOU 2008:24 (in Swedish with an English summary) http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/108/a/99694
	c) ensuring the implementation and use of market-based instruments, in particular greenhouse gases emissions trading, in order to achieve a cost-efficient emissions reduction in a post-2012 framework.	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: Reduced climate change. http://www.miljomal.nu/ Svensk klimatpolitik SOU 2008:24 (in Swedish with an English summary) http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/108/a/99694
3. Water Contributing to enhanced water quality by developing cost-effective measures to achieve good ecological status in view of developing the first river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by 2009.				
Priority areas of action	a) preparing the WFD programmes of measures and integrating measures from parent directives such as e.g. Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive, the Bathing Water Directive, the Drinking Water Directive, the Plant Protection Products and Nitrates Directive, and the IPPC Directive;	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: A Balanced marine environment, flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos Zero eutrophication Flourishing lakes and streams Good-quality groundwater http://www.miljomal.nu/ En utvecklad havsmiljöförvaltning SOU 2008:48 (in Swedish with an English summary) http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/108/a/104309

	b) contributing to the effective implementation of the EU Marine Strategy;	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: A Balanced marine environment, flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos Zero eutrophication Flourishing lakes and streams Good-quality groundwater http://www.miljomal.nu/ En utvecklad havsmiljöförvaltning SOU 2008:48 (in Swedish with an English summary) http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/108/a/104309
4. Air Achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment				
PAA	a) implementing the Thematic Strategy on air pollution	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: Clean air Natural acidification only Zero eutrophication http://www.miljomal.nu/
5. Soil Protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of soil by preserving soil functions, preventing threats to soil, mitigating their effects and restoring degraded soils.				
PPA	a) implementing the Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil; and			
	b) ensuring the protection and restoration of soil biodiversity.			
6. Urban environment Contributing to improving the environmental performance of Europe's urban areas.				
PPA	a) contributing to a better implementation of existing EU environmental policies and legislation at the local level by supporting and encouraging local authorities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management, including the transport and energy sectors.	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: Clean air Good built environment Good-quality groundwater http://www.miljomal.nu/

7. Noise Contributing to policy development and implementation on ambient noise.				
PPA	a) to prevent and reduce the harmful effect from exposure to ambient noise.			
8. Chemicals To improve the environment and health from risks posed by chemicals by 2020 by implementing chemicals legislation, in particular the REACH regulation and the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides.				
PPA	a) enhancing science-policy integration and the transfer of results to provide a solid technical background in support of REACH;	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: A Non-toxic environment http://www.miljomal.nu/
	b) implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides.	X	B	Swedish environmental objectives: A Non-toxic environment http://www.miljomal.nu/
9. Environment and health Developing the formation base for policy on the environment and health (the Environment and Health Action Plan for 2004 to 2010).				
PPA	a) human bio monitoring and data linkage on environment and health;			
	b) protection of the ozone layer to reduce negative health and environmental impacts.			
10. Waste and natural resources Developing and implementing policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste, improving the environmental performances of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling. Contributing to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on waste.				
Priority areas of action	a) promoting sustainable use of natural resources, with a life-cycle approach, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in order to decouple environmental impact from economic growth;	X	B	Almost all Swedish environmental objectives. http://www.miljomal.nu/

	b) promoting waste prevention, recovery and recycling with a focus on life-cycle thinking, eco-design and the development of recycling markets; and	X	B	Almost all Swedish environmental objectives. http://www.miljomal.nu/
	c) contributing to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on waste, in particular the Landfill Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Waste Shipment Regulation and POPs Regulations and the Directives on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restrictions of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS), End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), Hazardous Waste, Waste Oils, PCBs and mining waste.			

11. Forests Providing, especially through an EU coordination network, a concise and comprehensive basis for policy relevant information on forest in relation to climate change (impact on forest ecosystems, mitigation, substitution effects), biodiversity (baseline information and protected forest areas), forest fires, forest condition and the protective functions of forests (water, soil and infrastructure) as well as contributing to protect forests against fires.

Priority areas of action	a) promoting the collection, analysis and dissemination of policy-relevant information concerning forests and interactions between forests and the environment;			
	b) promoting the harmonisation and effectiveness of forest monitoring activities and data collection systems and making use of synergies by creating links between monitoring mechanisms established at regional, national, European and global level;	X	B, D	Swedish environmental objectives: Sustainable Forests http://www.miljomal.nu/
	c) stimulating synergies between specific forests related issues and environmental initiatives and legislation (e.g. EU soil strategy, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, etc.);	X	B, D	Swedish environmental objectives: Sustainable Forests http://www.miljomal.nu/

	d) contributing to sustainable forest management in particular by collecting data related to the improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as adopted by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting 7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria; and	X	B, D	Swedish environmental objectives: Sustainable Forests http://www.miljomal.nu/
	e) building capacities at national and Community level to allow for coordination and guidance on forest monitoring.			
12. Innovation To contributing to developing and demonstrating innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments to assist implementation of the European Technologies Action Plan (ETAP).				
PPA	a) promoting the identification, demonstration and dissemination of innovative technologies and practices, through actions complementary to those of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme;			

13. Strategic approaches				
- Promoting effective implementation and enforcement of EC environmental legislation and improving the knowledge base for environmental policy; - Improving the environmental performance of SMEs;				
Priority areas of action	a) strengthening the knowledge base for policy making and implementation by building a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and supporting the implementation of the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security initiative (GMES)			
	b) implementing the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs.			
LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION				
16. Information and Communication Ensuring regular and effective information flow to provide the basis for policy decisions on the environment, and to provide accessible information to citizens on the state and trends of the environment				
PPA	a) disseminating information, eco-labelling, raising awareness and developing specific skills on environmental issues, including on forest fire prevention.	X	B	All Swedish environmental objectives http://www.miljomal.nu/