

# Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

## Summary for Sweden

### **Disclaimer**

Based on the scoreboard in Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018)460 accompanying the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. For referencing this Commission analysis from June 2018, please use the full version in the SWD.

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Overall progress**

Sweden has made a good start with climate adaptation and there is both political will and finances available for this purpose. Sweden's adaptation work is divided over different levels of administration, where each actor is responsible for adaptation within its sector or area of responsibility. The Ministry of the Environment and Energy has the overall responsibility for coordinating the Government's work on adaptation. and following the recent adoption of a national adaptation strategy, new coordination mechanisms between the different sectors and levels are being introduced. The Swedish Government recently adopted its first national adaptation strategy, which outlines mechanisms for coordination, monitoring, evaluation and review. Adaptation progress is generally positive, but an important step is now to move into concrete implementation, especially at the municipal level, where much of the responsibility lies, including for physical planning.

#### **Adaptation strategies**

The Swedish Government adopted in March 2018 the country's first national adaptation strategy<sup>1</sup>. The strategy entered into force upon adoption and implementation has started. At regional level there are adaptation plans in place, which also contain strategic elements, but no regional adaptation strategies.

#### **Adaptation action plans**

There is no national adaptation plan. Instead there are comprehensive regional adaptation plans, based on climate impact assessments, covering 100% of the country's population. These were developed and adopted by the county administrative boards following a Government decision in 2013.

In June 2018 the Government decided on an ordinance which mandates 32 national authorities and the CABs to initiate, support and follow up on adaptation within their area of responsibility, including to develop action plans. 17 national agencies and the CABs have already developed or are developing action plans and a number of agencies were in 2018 tasked to create a plan or report on the implementation of an existing one.

---

<sup>1</sup> See:

[https://www.regeringen.se/494483/contentassets/8c1f4fe980ec4fcb8448251acde6bd08/171816300\\_webb.pdf](https://www.regeringen.se/494483/contentassets/8c1f4fe980ec4fcb8448251acde6bd08/171816300_webb.pdf)

## **Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation**

### **1 Coordination structure**

The Ministry of the Environment and Energy has overall responsibility for coordinating the Government's policy work on climate change including follow up on adaptation through the National expert council at SMHI. Adaptation is mainstreamed into ordinary structures as far as possible, and each actor is responsible for implementing adaptation within their area of responsibility. As a result of the NAS the Government has decided that the National Board on Planning, Building and Housing shall have a coordinating role in relation to adaptation within physical planning.

There is a National network for adaptation, promoting both vertical and horizontal cooperation, including the 21 counties, and 19 Government agencies. There are also national networks for thematic cooperation.

### **2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development**

Stakeholders are involved in developing adaptation plans at the county, sectoral and municipal level. In preparing "Basis for Check point 2015", and other reports which form the analytical basis for the NAS, a wide range of stakeholders were consulted.

There is exchange of adaptation information with other Nordic countries and Sweden is a part of the Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue. Sweden has initiated cooperation on climate adaptation in the Arctic Council and the Barents cooperation.

## **Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change**

### **3 Current and projected climate change**

The Rossby centre of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) collects climate data and has developed climate scenarios up until the year 2100. A database of natural disasters is kept by the Civil Contingencies Agency, and the Swedish Geotechnical Institute has developed maps and support tools for climate risks. The Swedish portal for climate change adaptation provides information on possible climate impacts.

Many of the sectoral and regional adaptation plans include risks and vulnerability assessments. Transboundary risks are considered, but transboundary work appears not to have reached a concrete stage.

### **4 Knowledge gaps**

In 2017 the Government commissioned the Swedish Research Council Formas to set up one ten-year national research program on climate and one on sustainable urban development, both containing elements of adaptation research. There are also other institutions funding adaptation research.

Identified knowledge gaps are used to prioritise public funding for research on impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation, but are often not identified systematically.

### **5 Knowledge transfer**

SMHI's Rossby centre collects, develops and disseminates information about climate change through e.g. publications, seminars, lectures, films and education material. Also other agencies work extensively on building capacity and disseminating information.

The centre runs a web portal for adaptation. The portal supports those who work on adaptation issues at all levels of society and contains comprehensive and up to date information about all aspects of climate adaptation.

## **Step C: Identifying adaptation options**

### **6 Adaptation options' identification**

The report "Basis for Check point 2015" identifies both climate risks and corresponding adaptation measures to reduce the vulnerability of a comprehensive range of sectors.

Adaptation options in the regional and sectoral action plans are selected and prioritised based on expert judgement and stakeholder consultation.

Sweden's framework for disaster risk reduction includes work in forums for crisis preparedness, coordinated by the Civil Contingencies Agency. All counties and local authorities must carry out risk and vulnerability assessments, including climate adaptation.

### **7 Funding resources identified and allocated**

For 2018-2020 the Government proposes SEK 461 million (app. EUR 44.8 million) of public funding for adaptation to climate change and climate services, capacity building, the Swedish National Knowledge Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and the climate adaptation portal. Through this allocation, resources are also provided to a number of public agencies to develop adaptation knowledge. Funding is also provided to prevent or mitigate the negative consequences of natural hazards.

## **Step D: Implementing adaptation action**

### **8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes**

In all Environmental Impact Assessments, the environmental impacts as a consequence of the actions vulnerability to climate change are included.

The Civil Contingencies Agency shares information on climate risks and how climate projections can be integrated in disaster risk management plans.

New buildings must be located on land that is suitable for the purpose, and the risk of accidents, flooding and erosion must be taken into account. As a result of the NAS the Government has decided that the National Board on Planning, Building and Housing shall have a coordinating role in relation to adaptation within physical planning.

Recent legislative changes require municipalities to take further action on adaptation in physical planning, including by integrating their views on potential climate-related events in their master plan. Insurance Sweden, the industry organisation for insurance companies, is active in adaptation. Damage from natural disasters is usually included in the insurance companies' regular products. However, this also means that the part of the premium relating to damage caused by natural disasters is difficult to distinguish.

### **9 Implementing adaptation**

Adaptation action plans have been developed for all counties and a number of Government agencies; implementation work has started but varies greatly.

Adaptation is increasingly taken into account in planning processes, but there is still substantive work needed to promote action in municipalities. Responsibility for climate adaptation is divided across different levels and the coordination and division of responsibilities is slightly unclear.

While there is guidance material on adaptation measures, there are no formal guidelines for large projects.

Stakeholder engagement is strong, with many non-governmental bodies actively participating in implementation.

## **Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities**

### **10 Monitoring and reporting**

Sweden's first national adaptation strategy was recently adopted and a five-year policy-cycle with adequate monitoring and reporting will be developed. Previously the monitoring and reporting involved yearly reports from the counties and concerned agencies to the Government, which are published on the adaptation website. National progress has been evaluated.

Insurance Sweden and IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet have for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 published reports on the adaptation process at municipality level, following the structure in the EU Adaptation Strategy<sup>2</sup>.

### **11 Evaluation**

There is a five-year evaluation-cycle for the national adaptation strategy. The first step will be a vulnerability analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategy, and proposals for revisions of the strategy, followed by an updated strategy in 2023. The Government has established an expert council on adaptation at the SMHI as proposed in the NAS. The Council is tasked with evaluating adaptation progress for this revision. The exact evaluation and review mechanisms are not yet decided and stakeholder involvement in this process is still not guaranteed.

---

<sup>2</sup> Insurance Sweden, 2017, Klimatanpassning 2017 - så långt har kommunerna kommit, [https://www.svenskforsakring.se/globalassets/rapporter/klimatanpassningsrapport-2017/klimatanpassning-2017\\_rapport\\_20170607.pdf](https://www.svenskforsakring.se/globalassets/rapporter/klimatanpassningsrapport-2017/klimatanpassning-2017_rapport_20170607.pdf)