INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
THE SWEDISH EPA CONDUCTS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BOTH BILATERALLY WITH SELECTED COUNTRIES AND IN VARIOUS MULTILATERAL FORUMS

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The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) is the government’s national environmental authority and is tasked with implementing and coordinating environmental work. This entails compiling knowledge and documentation to develop our own and others’ environmental efforts, helping to develop and implement environmental policy by acting in such a way as to ensure compliance with the Swedish Environmental Code and achievement of the national environmental objectives.

The agency was established in 1967 and is thus the oldest EPA in the world.

Our vision is ‘a good living environment for humans and all other living things, now and for future generations’. The overall goal of Swedish environmental policy is to hand over to the next generation a society in which the major environmental problems in Sweden have been solved, without increasing environmental and health problems outside Sweden’s borders (the generational goal).

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

Nationally, the Swedish EPA is responsible for implementing environmental policy in areas such as air pollution and climate change, biological diversity and nature conservation, recycling, waste and contaminated areas, environmental monitoring and environmental research.

We coordinate the evaluation of progress towards the environmental quality objectives set by the Swedish Parliament. At the government’s request, we undertake studies on a range of issues and provide data and analysis for policy decisions. A central part of Swedish environmental work is carried out through our active participation in the development and formulation of strategies and policies in the EU as well as via the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and conventions.

WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES

The Swedish EPA conducts international cooperation both bilaterally and in various multilateral forums. The cooperation improves our ability to achieve the Swedish generational goal and our environmental objectives.

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

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

We work in partnerships to create better conditions for good environmental governance and strengthen the capacity of organisations and institutions. We cooperate bilaterally with environmental agencies in some ten countries, multilaterally in the Nordic countries and the Arctic and Barents regions, and with UN bodies such as UNEP, UNDP and UNECE. The agency’s bilateral and multilateral cooperation is funded through allocations from the national budget for environmental policy and Swedish development cooperation policy.
A SELECTION OF SWEDISH EPA’S CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2015

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

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

NORDIC REGION
Cooperate in programmes on climate, marine environment, chemicals, biodiversity and nature protection, waste, sustainable consumption and production and green economy led by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

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

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

UNDP
Cooperate on environmental governance in developing and transition countries for sustainable management of natural resources.

UNECE
Represent Sweden on the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and its work on environmental policy as well as in the ECEs environmental performance expert group.
UNEP
Cooperate with the Sustainable UN (SUN) to develop and implement environmental management systems for the UN.

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.

BRAZIL
Develop cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment on mercury control and waste management.

CHILE
Cooperate with the Ministry of the Environment and the City of Stockholm on reducing methane emissions from municipal waste as part of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC).

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 authorities’ capacity and expertise to safely manage and close landfills.

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

PALESTINE
Explore different areas for possible future cooperation between the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority (EQA) and the Swedish EPA.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Cooperate with the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation 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.

UKRAINE
Strengthen the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources’ ability to take part effectively in the upcoming EU accession negotiations concerning the environment chapter.

USA
Cooperate on promoting life cycle analysis data accessibility, interoperability and applications and also approaches to reduce waste within the food sector.
Emissions to air, land, seas, lakes and rivers in one country affect the environment in other countries. Transboundary effects can also be seen in areas such as overexploitation of natural resources, degradation of soil, deforestation, and poor management of waste. When other countries reduce their emissions, Sweden’s environment can also improve – just as emissions and consumption of imported goods in Sweden can affect environment and health in other countries. In order to improve global environment, we need to cooperate globally.

MORE INFORMATION
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