



# Environment and Climate Change

Towards environmental sustainability and resilience

Well-functioning ecosystems and a stable climate is the foundation for life on earth. Sustainable management of the earth's resources is a prerequisite for reduced poverty and sustainable societies – for current and future generations. Sida contributed with approximately SEK 12 billion to initiatives targeting environment and climate change, fully or partly, in 2020. The support contributes to improved environmental sustainability, increased resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction.



## MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Environment and climate change is one of five perspectives that must be integrated in all of Sida's operations. Therefore, efforts to contribute to a better environment, limit climate change impact and increase resilience permeates all of Sida's work. This is done through integration of environment and climate change in all sectors and in dialogue with partner countries, organisations, multilateral institutions and other stakeholders.

Sida's support to environment and climate change is focused on the following main areas: increased resilience to environmental and climate change; improved institutional capacity for environmental management; sustainable management and use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; sustainable cities; food security and sustainable agriculture; integrated water resource management and sanitation; and improved access to sustainable energy.

In 2020, Sida provided almost SEK 3.4 billion to contributions with environment as the main objective and an additional SEK 8.4 billion to contributions with environment as a significant objective. Approximately 46% of disbursements in 2020 was provided to contributions with a global focus, 35% to country-specific contributions and 19% to regional contributions. The four largest bilateral disbursements were allocated to actors in: Bangladesh, Mozambique, Ukraine and Bosnia-Herzegovina (in descending order).

In 2020, the main implementing partners for disbursements with environment as the principal objective were multilateral organisations followed by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) and universities, research institutes or think tanks.

Within the main sector General environmental protection 2020 (see figure 1) the biggest sub-sectors were environmental policy and administration (approximately SEK 1 billion) followed by energy (approximately SEK 400 million) and environmental research (approximately SEK 84 million).

Sida's support to environment and climate change is also measured using the policy markers of the Rio Conventions<sup>1</sup>. Disbursements in 2020 that had climate change action (adaptation or mitigation<sup>2</sup>) as a main objective was SEK 2.5 billion while support to initiatives that had climate change action as a significant objective (but not main) was approximately SEK 4.6 billion. Sida's disbursements to contributions with biodiversity as significant or principal objective amounted to around SEK 3 billion in 2020.

Integration of gender equality in interventions targeting environment were 87% in 2020 (main or significant) and 79% of disbursements targeting biodiversity also had gender equality as either main or significant target.

- 1 The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- 2 Adaptation refers to the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects while mitigation involves human interventions to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

## THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



## Results

### DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

The challenges related to the environment and climate are enormous and becoming more acute every day. They severely impact the ability of poor and marginalised people to lift themselves out of poverty. This is especially true for women and children as they are more exposed and vulnerable to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation due to their direct dependency on natural resources. Sida works to contribute to changing the negative development and during 2020 increased focus and financing was directed to programs to protect and increase biodiversity and how Swedish development cooperation can be even more aligned with the Paris Agreement.

2020 was a year dominated by the zoonotic COVID-19 pandemic. There is increasing evidence that humanity's overexploitation of nature is one of the factors behind the spread of new diseases like COVID-19. Degradation of ecosystems and changes in land use that bring wildlife, livestock and humans in closer contact with each other can facilitate the spread of diseases.<sup>3</sup>

Due to the pandemic, climate negotiations and the planned Conference of the Parties, COP 26 was postponed to 2021, as was COP 15 on Biodiversity and the super year for nature extended.

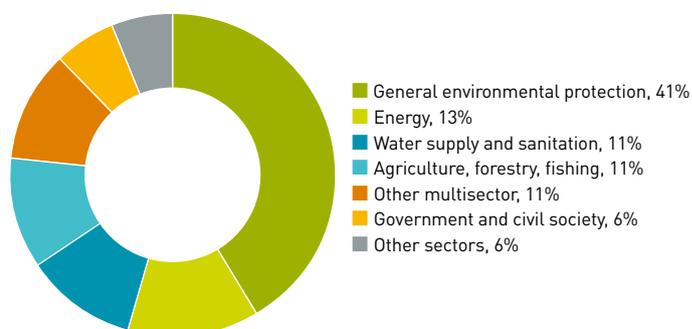
### SWEDISH SUPPORT

Important issues that have received increased attention and funding during 2020 include the relationship between pollution, climate change and health; loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the impact on local and indigenous people; low-carbon and climate-resilient growth; migration and climate change and issues related to how human rights are connected to environment and climate change.

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the connection to ecosystem and biodiversity degradation, Sida, together with partners, has made significant adjustments to current programs as well as launched new targeted contributions, such as increased its funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) earmarked specifically for health and environment. As an example of change within an ongoing program, the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD), a network of environment economists supported by Sida, have focused their research on COVID-19 related topics including the effects of the pandemic on the important tourism sector in Tanzania, waste management during the pandemic in Nigeria and green and inclusive recovery in a post-pandemic world.

<sup>3</sup> European Parliament (2020), The link between biodiversity loss and the increasing spread of zoonotic diseases, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies Directorate-General for Internal Policies, December

**FIGURE 1: SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO CONTRIBUTIONS WITH ENVIRONMENT AS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE 2020 PER MAIN SECTOR (%)**



### STORY OF CHANGE

#### Cash for work: Nature Conservation Activities as a COVID-19 response

In Cambodia, the already high pressure on forests and biodiversity has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tens of thousands of people have lost their jobs and over 100 000 Cambodian migrant workers have returned from neighbouring countries to their homes in rural areas. An increasing number of people have resorted to cutting down trees and hunting wild animals as a livelihood strategy during the crisis, putting additional pressure on fragile and threatened ecosystems.

As a response, Sida, through the Swedish Embassy in Phnom Penh, together with the Ministry of Environment and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) launched a joint conservation programme to provide financial support to 1,600 rural households in Pursat and Siem Reap provinces. The programme is intended to alleviate financial stress from the COVID-19 pandemic and residents are planting trees in exchange for cash. In addition to planting trees, the project will establish nurseries and fund other conservation activities across the country.



Sreyppov Phal from Stueng Tmey village engaged in tree planting.  
Photo: Manuth Buth UNDP Cambodia

Sida supports the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) in Kenya through a research collaboration program. The institute has developed an ecological method to protect crops against insects called "push pull" where selected plants that push away or attract insects and weeds are planted around the crop. The push pull method has enabled 150 000 farmers in East Africa to double their maize crops and decrease use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.