

IN BRIEF...

Department for Natural Resources and the Environment (NATUR)

The Department is Sida's centre for expertise and the development of concepts in the following fields:

Use of natural resources, including agriculture, forestry, soil conservation, fishing, coastal development, marine environment, water supply and sanitation in rural areas and the overall management of natural resources and biological diversity. It is intended that the Department's activities in these fields should contribute to improving the living conditions of poor people living in rural areas through long-term, sustainable and productive use of the natural resources.

In the field of *rural area development*, the Department is responsible at Sida for the overall coordination of area based rural development programmes. The aim is to make it possible to improve the living conditions of poor people in rural areas with regard to their income, health status, levels of education, decision-making powers and security.

Environmentally sustainable development, including policies, methods development, education and training, and the provision of internal and external information on environmental issues. The aim of these activities is that all programmes of development cooperation financed by Sida shall contribute to sustainable development.

The Division assesses, manages and follows up contributions at different levels – bilaterally, regionally and globally. Important principles for the

work of the Division are a holistic perspective, sustainable development and decentralisation.

The Department works actively with gender equality in all fields.

The Department is divided into four divisions in Stockholm and is also responsible for the activities of two external units:

RELMA (Sida Regional Land Management Unit) for East Africa, located in Nairobi.

SENSA (Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia) for Asia, located in Bangkok.

All six units are described in brief below:

Water Division

The Division has the overall responsibility for Sida's contributions in the fields of water and sanitation in rural areas, integrated management of water resources, and management and development of oceans, coastal areas and wetlands, which also includes fisheries. The Division is also responsible for the development of knowledge, capacity, policies and methods in these fields.

Special emphasis is placed on supporting processes that lead to sustainable improvements in water supplies and sanitation for poor families in rural areas, and on providing support for the administration of water as well as coastal and marine natural resources that are shared by several countries.

Rural Development Division

The Division's responsibilities cover a broad spectrum of issues, for example agriculture and forestry, animal husbandry, food security, administration of natural resources, advisory services, financial services, issues pertaining to land ownership, private sector development in the natural resources sector (including markets and trade), infrastructure, research, etc. Its responsibilities also include the development of knowledge, capacity, policies and methods in the field of rural development.

Environment Policy Division

The Environment Policy Division has the responsibility for creating a common approach at Sida where environmental aspects in programmes of development cooperation are concerned. The Division is responsible for the production and use of environmental guidelines and directions for the entire agency, and for the development of methods to ensure that programmes of development cooperation are adapted to meet environmental requirements. It is the responsibility of the Environment Policy Division to monitor new environmental ideas and concepts in international development cooperation and the work being done on the international environmental conventions. The Division is also responsible for coordinating Sida's Environmental Management Systems and for environmental training of Sida staff.

Planning and Administration Division

The Division has the overall responsibility for the controller function and for finance and personnel administration issues that concern the entire Department. The administration appropriation budget is also the responsibility of the Division. It is intended that the Division should provide support in matters relating to procurement and contracts, and in other issues relating to the assessment and administration of contributions. The Division is responsible for the Department's registration and filing systems and IT coordination.

RELMA

RELMA supports programmes and processes in East Africa that have regional relevance and that strengthen Sida's bilateral cooperation with

countries in the region. Hitherto, its activities have principally focused on sustainable agricultural production and food security.

Markets and trade, different forms of cooperation between farmers, and policy issues that have a bearing on private sector development in rural areas have been given higher priority in recent years.

SENSA

It is intended that SENSA should give Sida new opportunities to have a dialogue with environmental organisations in the region, to strengthen Swedish cooperation with the region primarily in respect of environmental issues of common North-South interest, and to develop contacts with different networks, central and local administrations, education and research institutions, NGOs, civil society, companies etc.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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