



Environment and Climate Change 2013

Changes in the environment have the greatest impact on people living in poverty. Climate change increases their vulnerability and is already affecting development opportunities and livelihoods. Environment and climate change is one of three thematic priorities for Swedish development cooperation. In 2013, almost half (45 percent) of the total development support from Sida had environment as principal or significant objective.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

In 2013 the overarching objective of Sweden's environmental and climate support was: A better environment, sustainable use of natural resources, stronger resilience to environmental impact and climate change in developing countries and limited climate impact. The support focused on five main areas:

- Strengthened institutional capacity in public administration
- Improved food security and sustainable use of ecosystem services
- Improved water resources management, greater access to safe water and basic sanitation
- Increased access to sustainable energy sources
- Sustainable urban development

Sida uses a three pronged approach to work with environment and climate change: with targeted support to environment as a sector, with mainstreaming in all other sectors, and by highlighting the issues in the dialog with partner countries, multilateral organisations and other stakeholders.

The targeted support included contributions to environmental policy and administrative management, biosphere protection, biodiversity and site preservation. In 2013 Sida

disbursed SEK 675 million to these types of contributions, see figure 1. Important contributions were done in e.g. Mali, Vietnam, Burkina Faso and Cambodia.

Mainstreaming of environment and climate change was also done in all other sectors, with a special focus on sectors which relate closely to the five priority areas above.

In 2013, Sida disbursed SEK 2.3 billion to contributions where environment was a principal objective and an additional SEK 5.3 billion to contributions where environment was significant objective, distributed geographically as per figure 2. Important contributions were made in e.g. Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, Bangladesh, Zambia, Ukraine and the Palestinian Administrated Area.

Climate change and biodiversity was also taken into consideration throughout different sectors, such as government and civil society; agriculture; forestry; fisheries; water and sanitation; energy generation and supply; urban development and management. Climate change adaptation was a principal or significant objective in 20 percent of Sida's total portfolio, while 17 percent contributed to climate change mitigation efforts. Biodiversity was a principal or significant objective in 12 percent of the portfolio.



FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENTS ENVIRONMENT AS A SECTOR, MILLION SEK

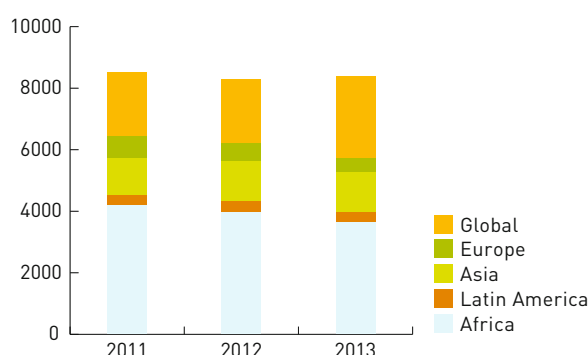
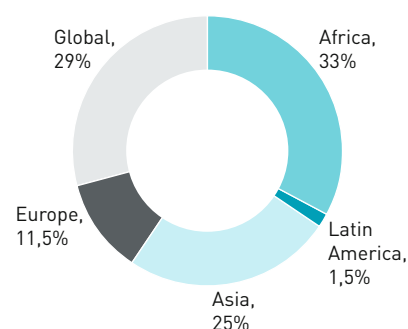


FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION MAINSTREAMING, %



RESULTS

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

There is a need for accelerated progress and bolder action in relation to Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. The currently observed changes to the earth system are unprecedented in human history. The impacts of complex changes in the earth system are already having serious consequences for human well-being, such as: increase of average temperature has led to significant human health impacts; increased frequency and severity of floods and droughts affect both natural assets and human security; and substantial biodiversity loss is affecting the provision of ecosystem services, e.g. the collapse of a number of fisheries and the

loss of species used for medicinal purposes. Several critical thresholds are close or have been exceeded, risking abrupt and possibly irreversible changes to life-support functions. This will have significant implications for poverty reduction and human development.

Environmental issues received increasing attention in 2013, among civil society, academia, private sector, and decision makers. The High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda delivered their landmark report to the UN Secretary-General, highlighting the need to bring together social, economic and environmental issues in a coherent, effective, and sustainable way.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida's environmental portfolio is extensive, ranging over a number of different sectors and geographical areas. Examples of results from 2013 are:

- Increased awareness and knowledge regarding disaster risk reduction at the local level in 31 districts in Botswana. Each district has identified a representative who will pass on the knowledge and educate others.
- In Cambodia resilience to climate change was increased in 380 villages, with a focus on women's participation

and needs. Adaptability has been strengthened in a number of local communities and 77 percent of the participating municipalities have included climate-related initiatives in their development plans. The goal of 60 percent was exceeded.

- Through Sida's regional programme in Asia, more than 100 000 solar home systems were distributed, providing modern electricity services to over half a million herders and their families in Mongolia.

PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

Sida supports UNDP's and UNEP's Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI). PEI is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into development planning. As a result, an increasing number of countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean are integrating poverty-environment objectives into sector plans, policies, and monitoring and evaluation systems. This has led to increased investments in and budget allocations for poverty-environment objectives and climate change adaptation.

STORY OF CHANGE

PEI has supported the Government of Rwanda to bring solutions to the challenges of increasing pressure from population density, unsustainable land use, soil erosion, deforestation and the impact of climate change. As a result, all district development and sector strategic plans now incorporate poverty-environment and climate change related objectives, and investments in environmentally sustainable agricultural practices have been enhanced in 30 districts.

The PEI initiative has for example transformed the village of Rubaya into a model for pro-poor sustainable development. Since the project initiation, poverty has been reduced in clear and measurable terms for a majority of the villagers. Terracing and the use of organic manure have

increased soil fertility, reduced soil erosion and increased water retention. The water that flows downhill is collected in reservoirs to be used for irrigation, and rainwater from the roofs is collected in big underground tanks used by the villagers for domestic purposes. Having water closer to hand spares women and children the burden of having to walk up to three hours up and down hill, carrying water containers.



– Since the village adopted a more holistic approach to environmental sustainability we are getting more crops, yields are bigger and we live in better houses.

Ms Muhawenimana Solange, young leader in the village of Rubaya, Rwanda