



DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BAROMETER

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Environmental and climate aid aims to improve the environment, the sustainable use of natural resources, limit climate impact and strengthen resistance to environmental and climate change. The results of Swedish aid through Sida in the field of the environment and climate in 2014 are presented below.

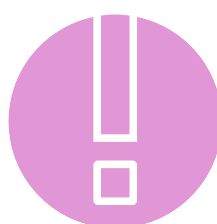
Sida accounts for the results of this aid on four levels:



World trends



Sweden's
grants



Projects and
initiatives



People first



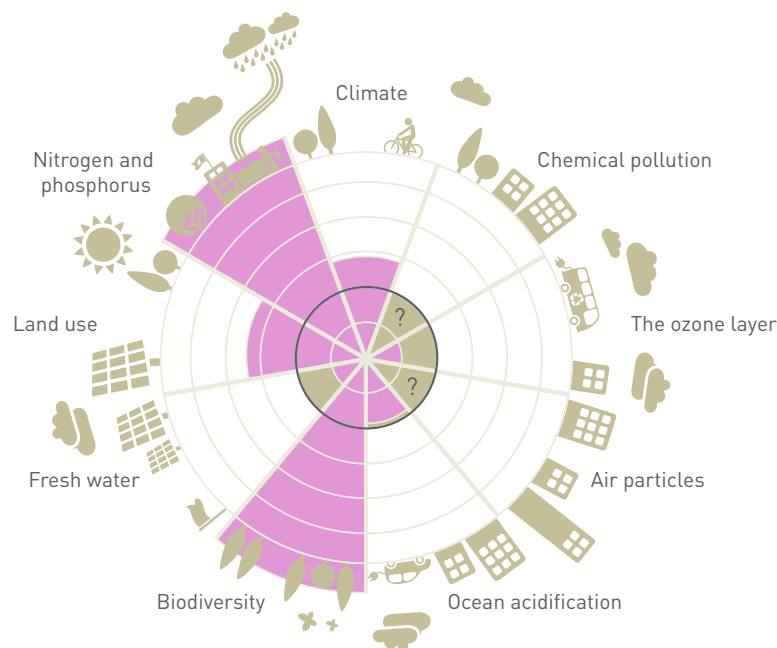
WORLD TRENDS

Cross-border environment and climate challenges

The global environmental and climate challenges are extensive because the planet's long-term survival is threatened, as well as the health and welfare of the population. World economic growth has not diminished our dependence on ecosystem services and a stable climate, but rather increased it. Global cooperation is crucial because the majority of environmental challenges are cross-border.

- Many development curves are positive and development has lifted people out of poverty. At the same time, many people are still lacking fundamental rights such as access to clean water, food, sanitation, sustainable energy solutions and a secure accommodation.
- Climate change affects safety and can cause or aggravate conflicts. This increases the number of climate refugees.
- Global greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at the same time as 1.4 billion people still lack access to electricity.
- Poor and vulnerable population groups are the hardest hit by climate change.
- Weak institutional capacity combined with strong economic interests and high corruption levels increases the risk of prioritising short-term gains instead of more sustainable solutions that benefit society at large and manage the world's natural resources for more sustainable economic development.

The planet's sustainable limits



Four of the planet's sustainable limits (the green areas) are deemed to have been exceeded: climate change, loss of biodiversity, changed land use and changes in the flows of nitrogen and phosphorus. Levels for chemical pollutants and air particles have not yet been established. Source: Steffen m.fl., Science, 16 January 2015.



SWEDEN'S GRANTS

Swedish support gives results

2,400,000

people were given access to clean water. Approximately 300,000 of these people also received access to sanitation.

5,000,000

farmers have started growing a new variety of rice, called Scuba rice, which is able to be submerged in water for two whole weeks and can also cope with the increasingly intensive monsoon rain. Rice varieties are developed by the research agency IRRI which receives support from Sweden and other countries. (Research takes time, this figure may not be attributed to 2014 only).

1,500,000

people affected by crises received livelihood support, mostly within agriculture.

93,300

people were given access to electricity. That is about as many people as the population of the Swedish medium sized city of Sundsvall.

Environmental and climate issues are important to Sweden

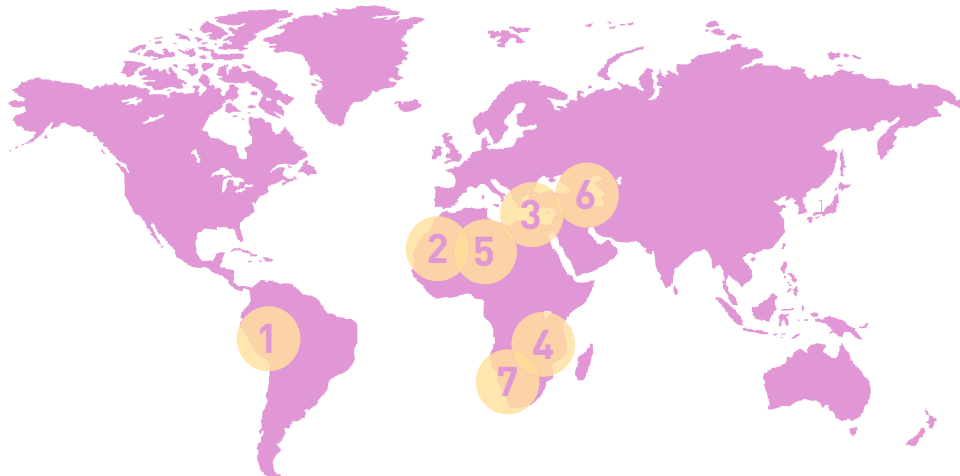
200 million people are affected by natural disasters each year. The majority of these disasters are weather-related. Sida works both proactively to strengthen the ability of individuals and communities to deal with environmental disasters (resilience), and to limit negative impacts on the environment and climate.

SEK 2.1 billion of Sweden's development aid went to initiatives which had the environment and climate as the main objective.



PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Solar panels, waste water systems and climate fund



Sida's support in the field of the environment and climate resulted in:

1. Bolivia: 20,000 new connections to conventional sanitation systems and 3,400 connections to climate-friendly sanitation systems have been made through the work of national sanitation policies.

2. Mali: A national climate fund has been established to integrate climate-related issues into policies and planning

3. Palestine: 20,000 - 30,000 people in Gaza have gained access to better waste water management. Reform aid to the water sector has led to an update of the Water Act and to the establishment of a water control authority.

4. Malawi: 5,700 solar panels have been installed in the slum areas by Slum Dwellers International.

5. Niger delta: 19 areas for cooperative farming have been established. They contribute to more sustainable land use in the densely populated region.

6. Georgia: 600 hectares of land in Georgia has been cleaned by 40,000 volunteers through the Keep Georgia Clean project. The management of emissions and waste has major flaws in Georgia, and Sida supports organisations working to increase understanding and advocacy in favour of environmentally sustainable waste management.

7. South Africa: 285 schools have become self-sufficient in vegetables, thanks to the technique of sowing with seed tape. The tape saves up to 80% of the water which is normally used in the growing phase.

Partners on several levels

The environment and the climate do not follow national boundaries, so to achieve results Sweden works with partners at a local, national and international level.

The authorities in Southeast Asia have gained increased knowledge about the risks of **agricultural pesticides** and other chemicals, as well as an improved position to deal with these issues with the help of the experts from the Swedish Chemicals Agency.

Poor countries have been helped to improve their capacity and create a more equal playing field in **climate negotiations** through the European Capacity Building Initiative.

Water resources around the Mekong River are better exploited through a partnership with the Mekong River Commission.

Sida has contributed to the work of the EU's plan against **illegal logging** and trade in forest products.

In the region around Lake Victoria in East Africa, crops are planted together to **increase production** while mitigating the effects of climate change in cooperation with Vi Agroforestry.



PEOPLE FIRST

“One of the things that make me happiest is coming to the garden knowing there’s water”

Tahé Konta has participated in a project where cooperative farming was established in the Niger delta in Mali, which is severely affected by climate change. Thanks to increased food access and livelihood opportunities, the initiative contributes to better health, increased self-esteem and recognition for the women. The proceeds can be used for things such as schooling or sun drying plants to improve food quality. The initiative is part of a programme with different climate adaptation measures.





The Development assistance barometer complements the reporting of Swedish development assistance in Sida's annual report. Development assistance barometers are launched regularly and each barometer focuses on a different area of development aid.

Also read: [Humanitarian](#), [Health](#), [Democracy](#) and [Equality](#)
Sources: www.sida.se/bistandsbarometern