

# Sweden's National Forest Programme

## International forest issues



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# Sweden's National Forest Programme

- In May 2018, the Government adopted a strategy for Sweden's National Forest Programme
- Vision:  
“Forests – our ‘green gold’ – will contribute to creating jobs and sustainable growth throughout the country, and to the development of a growing bioeconomy”

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Five focus areas:

1. Sustainable forest management with greater climate benefits
2. Multiple uses of forest resources for more jobs and sustainable growth throughout the country
3. World-class innovation and processed forest products
4. Sustainable use and conservation of forests as a profile issue in Sweden's international cooperation
5. A knowledge leap to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of forests

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The objective of action area 4 is that forests and their value chain should contribute to global sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Forests will be more visible in Sweden's international cooperation. Export and investment promotion will be strengthened and synergies with development cooperation will be harnessed, where appropriate. With regard to EU policies the right of national self-determination over forest issues will be safeguarded.

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- In July 2018, the Government adopted an action plan with specific measures, which will be updated in dialogue with interested parties
- With the action plan followed a number of assignments to various government authorities, incl. the Swedish Forest Agency
- Action area 4 included two assignments:
  - Assist the government in the work on international forest issues
  - Prepare and implement a “forest academy” for decision makers in the European Union

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- The assignment is divided into three areas of action:
  1. Further focus on policy development within the EU and strengthen forest cooperation and dialogue
  2. Strengthen and further develop strategic external monitoring, incl. reporting, statistics and impact assessments
  3. Assist in strengthening global development work, implementation of Agenda 2030, innovation and research collaboration, export and investment promotion and trade-related processes

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## How to work?

- Cooperation with other authorities, universities and organisations in implementation of the assignment
- Secondments from other authorities, universities or research organisations as well as to second experts to international organisations
- Participation in strategic dialogues and initiate bilateral and international cooperation
- Strengthen Swedish cooperation with international experts and researchers to stimulate knowledge exchange and improve the science-policy interface
- Further develop international reporting

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## Examples of activities

- External monitoring
  - Base for all work within the national forest programme
- Sweden chair of the Barents Council 2017-2019
  - Enhance the work of Barent's Forest Sector Network with focus on bioeconomy
- Circumboreal cooperation (six countries)
  - Strengthen research cooperation within the boreal region
  - Create a Team of Specialists within UNECE on boreal forests



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## Examples of activities

- Cooperation with international organisations
  - FAO, UNECE, Forest Europe
- Bilateral dialogue with the state of Sao Paulo in Brazil and with India
- Development cooperation
  - Ongoing bilateral cooperation (Albania)
  - Priority countries for Sida (possible forest component)
  - Other countries of interest (Ethiopia, Laos, ...)

# A forest academy for EU decision makers

- Swedish Forest Agency and the Finnish Forest Association will conduct a dialogue on sustainable forest management (SFM) with decision makers in the European Union
- Focus on SFM in Northern Europe
- First meeting in Finland 21-23 November 2018
  - Evaluation, 12 December
- Next meeting in Sweden October-November 2019