

# Biodiversity at Sida

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Sidas informationsklass (konfidentialitet):



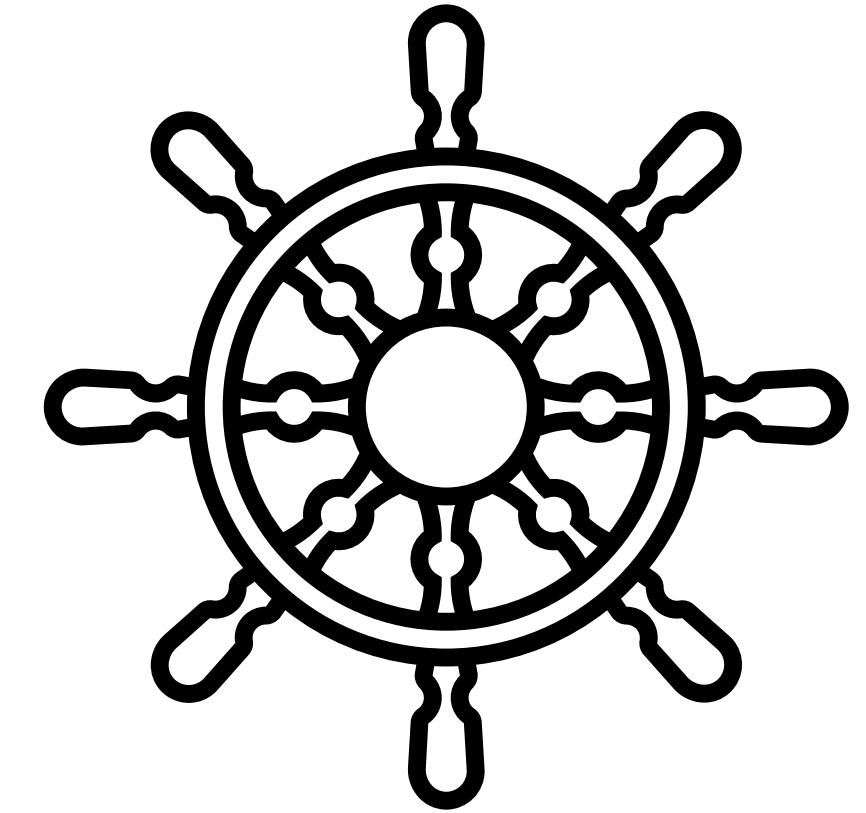
V1 Lågt skyddsvärde

# I'll tell you about...

- Political steering
- System for environmental integration
- Strengthening work on biodiversity  
– results, lessons and challenges
- Examples of integration



# Political steering



- 2020: three year assignment to strengthen work on biodiversity
- 2023: reform agenda for development cooperation, "Freedom, empowerment and sustainable growth", increasing synergies between development cooperation, promotion and trade; incorporates biodiversity under climate, puts increased emphasis on mobilisation of private capital
- Strategy objectives: number of strategies with explicit objectives on biodiversity and ecosystems increased from 4 to 15 from 2020 to 2023

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Sida must integrate climate and environment in a systematic way throughout its operations.”

## Sida's Climate and Environment Policy, 2022

All Sida's operations have an impact on the climate, the environment and human well-being, either positive or negative. Sida contributes to poverty reduction, sustainable development and just transformation in our partner countries by addressing three interconnected crises – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – all of which risk eroding sustainable development.

This policy is part of Sida's management system for climate and environment based on the Regulation for Environmental Management in Government Agencies (2009:907) and the Regulation for Government Climate Adaptation Work (2018:1428).

This policy shall guide the formulation of Sida's internal goals and proposals for strategic objectives that Sida proposes to the Swedish Government. All employees at Sida have an important role based on their position to contribute to Sida's climate and environment work.

### A PREREQUISITE FOR SUSTAINABLE AND REDUCED POVERTY

Sida works to create conditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and oppression. All of Sida's development cooperation is based on a rights perspective and poor people's perspective on development, as well as climate and environment, conflict, and gender equality. As the effects of climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation become increasingly alarming, inequalities, poverty, conflicts and vulnerability in individuals and societies will increase. Therefore, climate and environmental work is an important prerequisite for reducing poverty and must be conducted in the form of advocacy, targeted initiatives and integration into all of Sida's operational activities.

### SIDA SHALL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN ITS OPERATIONS

Sida's activities will contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and global environmental agreements such as the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup> and the Convention on

<sup>1</sup> This means that Sida does not support investments in energy system solutions based on fossil fuels. Sweden has signed the [Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC - Glasgow 2021](#) ([ukcop26.org](#)).



Photo: Moniruzzaman Sarak, Bangladesh

Biological Diversity. Our greatest climate and environmental impact is *indirect* through the collaboration with our partners. Sida's *direct* impact is through our own internal management systems. Sida will work to reduce the direct negative environmental impacts of the operation of its premises, of procurement and travel, as well as continuously identify opportunities for more sustainable alternatives. Sida must thus integrate climate and environment in a systematic way throughout its operations.

### STRATEGIC AREAS

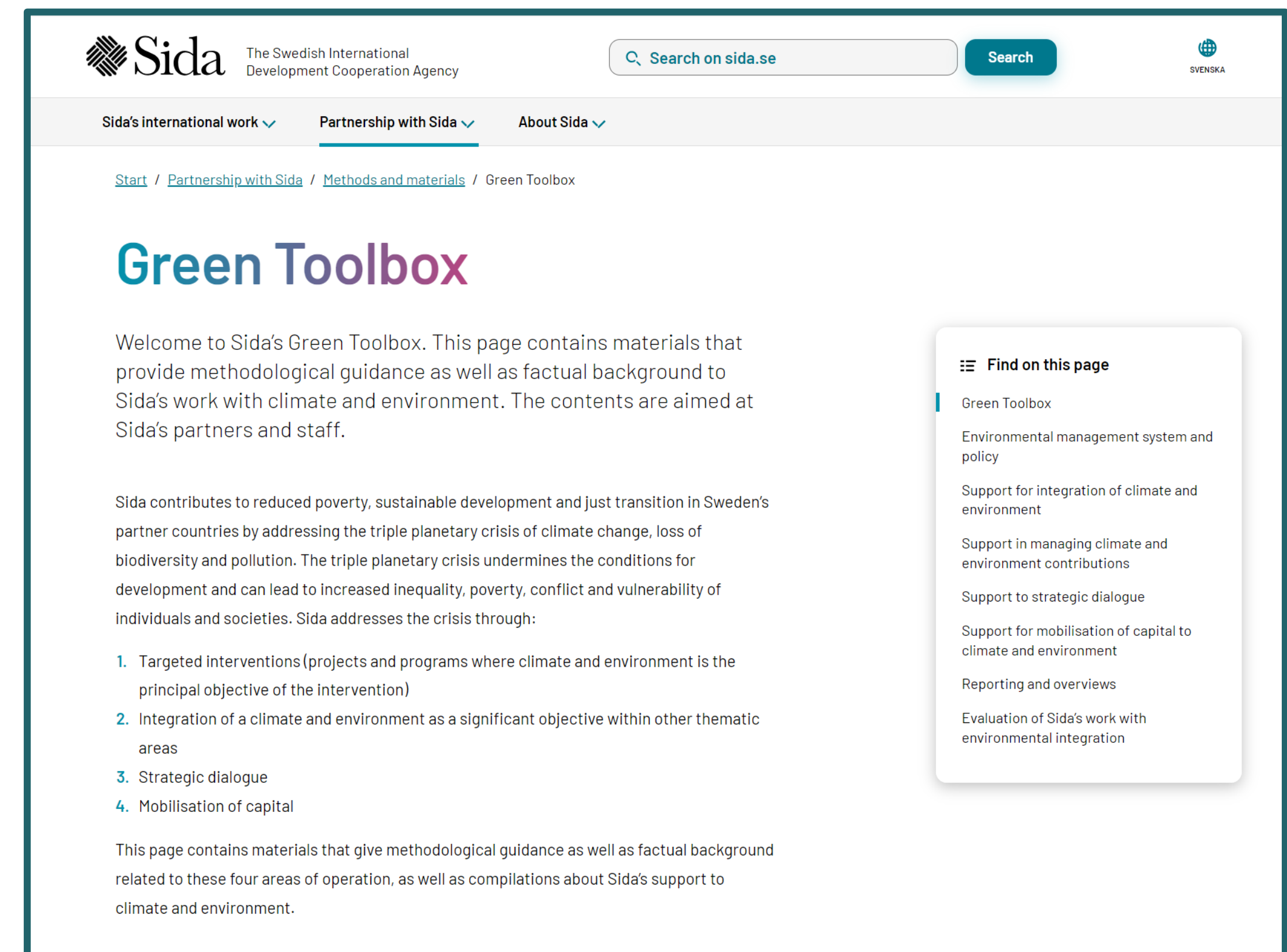
Sida shall support three prioritized mutually reinforcing areas in development cooperation, in collaboration with our partners, in order to increase resilience, reduce poverty and contribute to the fulfilment of human rights<sup>2</sup>:

- **Climate adaptation and mitigation**
  - to strengthen climate adaptation measures, support sustainable energy solutions and reduce the risk of disasters.
- **Sustainable use, restoration and conservation of forest, land, water and marine resources**
  - to improve the conditions for biodiversity, ecosystem services and food security.
- **Reduction of air, soil and water pollution**
  - to prevent, control and mitigate the release of pollutants into the air, soil and water for a clean and healthy environment.

<sup>2</sup> The goals of this work are governed by bilateral, regional and global strategies decided by the Swedish Government for various appropriation items.

# Environmental integration (mainstreaming)

- Environment and Climate Policy (2022)
- Step-by-step guide on Environmental Integration
- E-learning on Environmental Integration
- Helpdesk
- Advisors at operational departments
- [Green Toolbox | Sida](#)



# Environmental integration (cont.)

## Three aspects to cover in the environmental assessment

- 1) **opportunities** for a positive impact from the contribution on the environment, including opportunities for longer-term benefits for socio-economic development and transformation to green economies and resilient societies, as well as how the project or programme can **contribute to Swedish policies and international commitments** on the environment,
- 2) possible **negative impacts and risks** from the contribution that can harm the environment, including ways to avoid and mitigate such harmful impacts,
- 3) **risks from environmental degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity** on the sustainability of the contribution (that the contribution is resilient to climate change and other environmental changes), including ways to manage such risks.

### 5 STEPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION

**Step 1:** Dialogue between Sida and potential partner ahead of submission of proposal

**Step 2:** Partner submits proposal, including environmental assessment

**Step 3:** Sida reviews environmental assessment

**Step 4:** Dialogue between Sida and partner on how to act based on the environmental assessment

**Step 5:** Sida follows up on environmental integration

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[Sida shall] develop and strengthen its work on biodiversity and ecosystems [...] measures that contribute to restoration, protection and sustainable use and [...] reduce loss of biodiversity.”

**Government assignment 2020-2023**

# Increased support to biodiversity

- Total financial support increased from 1,77 billion to 2,08 billion SEK från 2020-2023
- The number of contributions with biodiversity as a main objective (Riomarker 2) increased from 214 to 256
- Five new guarantees and several initiatives to mobilise capital for biodiversity in the pipeline

18%

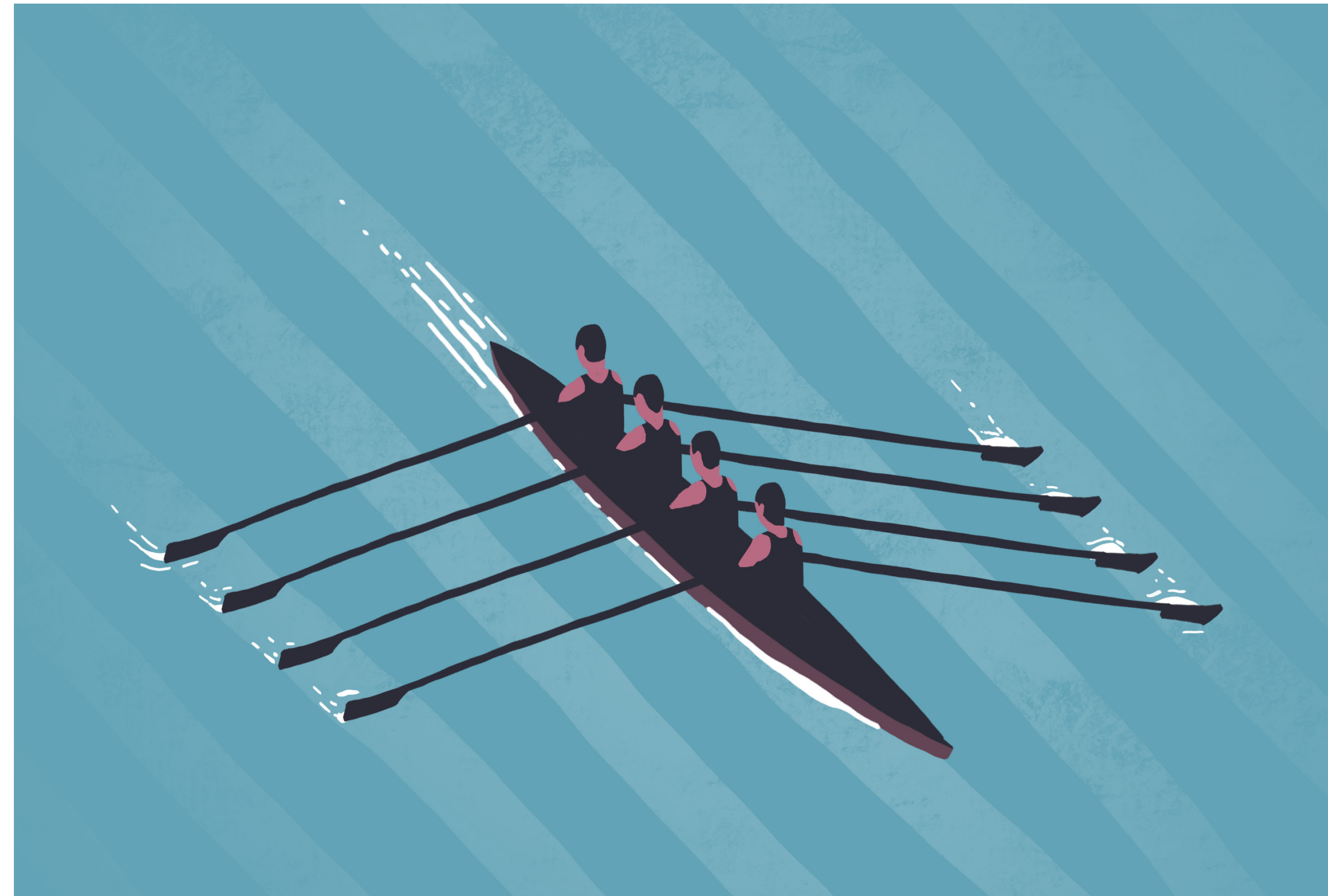
Increase in financial support to biodiversity from 2020-2023

# Distribution of support to biodiversity

- Main **sectors** for support to biodiversity: General environmental protection, Agriculture, Other multisector, Government and civil society, Forestry
- Biodiversity as significant objective under main **objectives** such as; climate adaptation, productive employment, women's economic empowerment, agriculture and food security, democracy and human rights, etc.

# External success factors

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework created political momentum
- Increased interest among investors and companies: TNFD, Nature+100
- Increased attention to the linkages between the climate and biodiversity crises (IPCC/IPBES 2021; the triple planetary crisis)



# Internal success factors

- Capacity and competence (thematic advisors, dedicated Teams, Helpdesk)
- Portfolio overviews
- Updated guidance and training on environmental integration
- New guiding materials (e.g. Rio marker guides, Guide on guarantees for biodiversity impact)
- Targeted training
- Active leadership
- Increased collaboration between different roles/expert areas (e.g on mobilisation of capital)



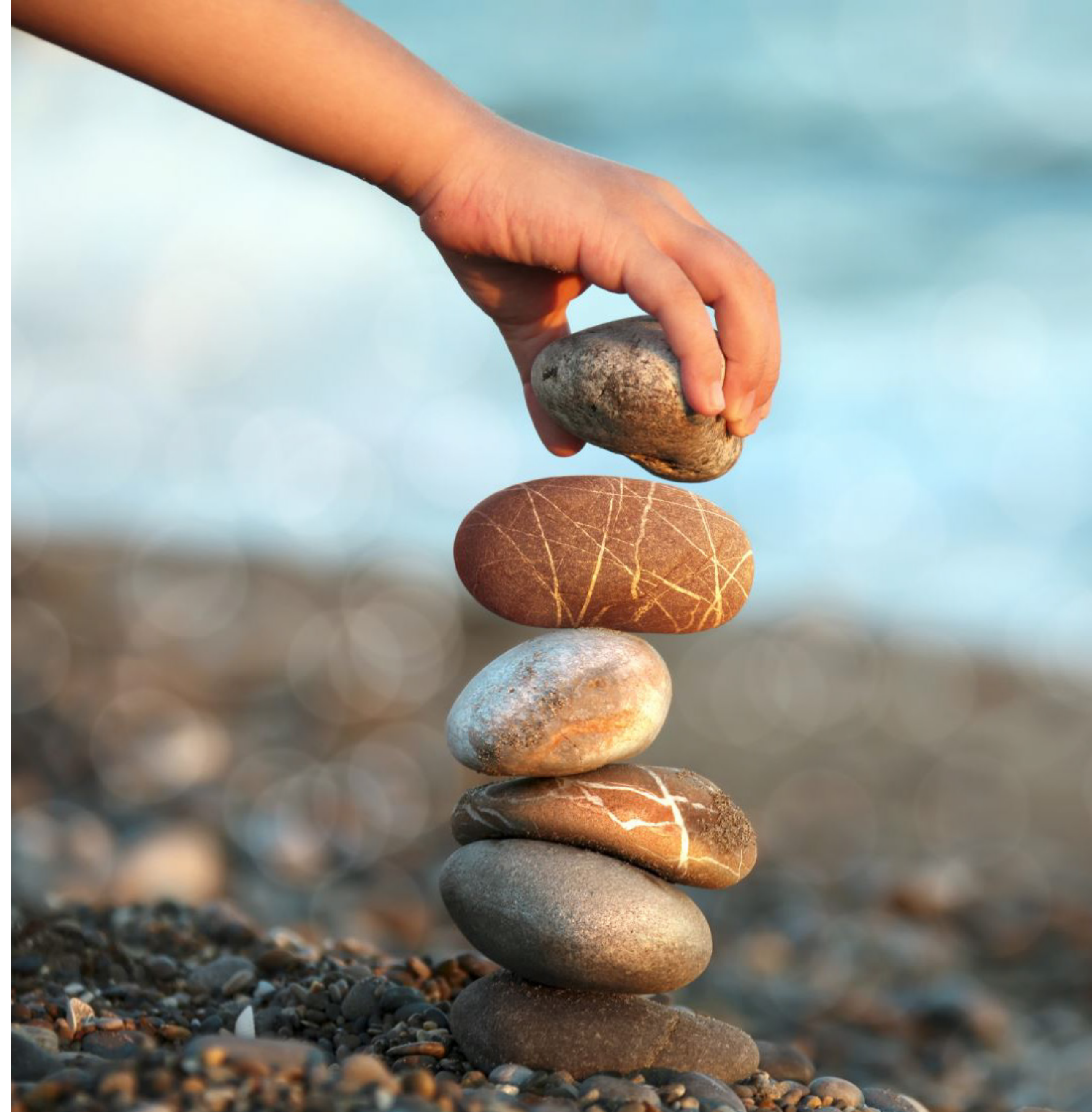
# Challenges

- Budget cuts
- Overriding priorities (e.g. in conflict settings)
- Lack of bankable projects



# Opportunities

- Nature based solutions
- Digitalisation
- Further mobilisation of private capital



# Examples

- WASH for Urban Poor, by WaterAid, in Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Improved environmental health and resilience for people in socio-economically vulnerable urban slum areas without access to water, sanitation and good hygiene
  - Increased access; improved governance; improved national policy
  - Strengthen laws and regulations; strengthen service delivery
- Musika (non-profit company), Zambia: Reduced poverty in rural areas
  - Market development, Productive employment
  - Integrate small scale farmers in markets
  - Technical support, catalytical investments
  - Agricultural practices: biological pest/weed control, diversification of crops, agroforestry

# Thank you!

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	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total support to biodiversity(tSEK)</b>	1 766 263	1 974 135	2 041 422	2 083 763
<b>As principal objective (tSEK)</b>	963 369	1 070 075	1 269 511	1 193 312
<b>As significant objective (tSEK)</b>	802 894	904 060	771 911	890 451
<b>Number of contributions with BD as principal objective</b>	53	56	81	81
<b>Number of contributions with BD as significant objective</b>	161	166	180	175
<b>Share of total disbursed amount that supports biodiversity (percent)</b>	6,7	7,4	8,5	8,4
<b>As principal objective (percent)</b>	3,7	4,0	5,3	4,8
<b>As significant objective (percent)</b>	3,1	3,4	3,2	3,6