# Biodiversity at Sida

Anna Axelsson Senior Policy Advisor **Policy Support Unit** Sida



# l'Il tell you about...

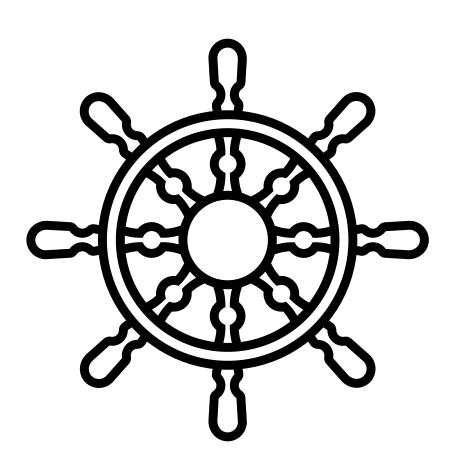
- Political steering
- System for environmental integration
- Strengthening work on biodiversity
  - results, lessons and challenges

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



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

Sida's Climate and Environment Policy, 2022



### Climate and Environment Policy

MAY 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

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



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

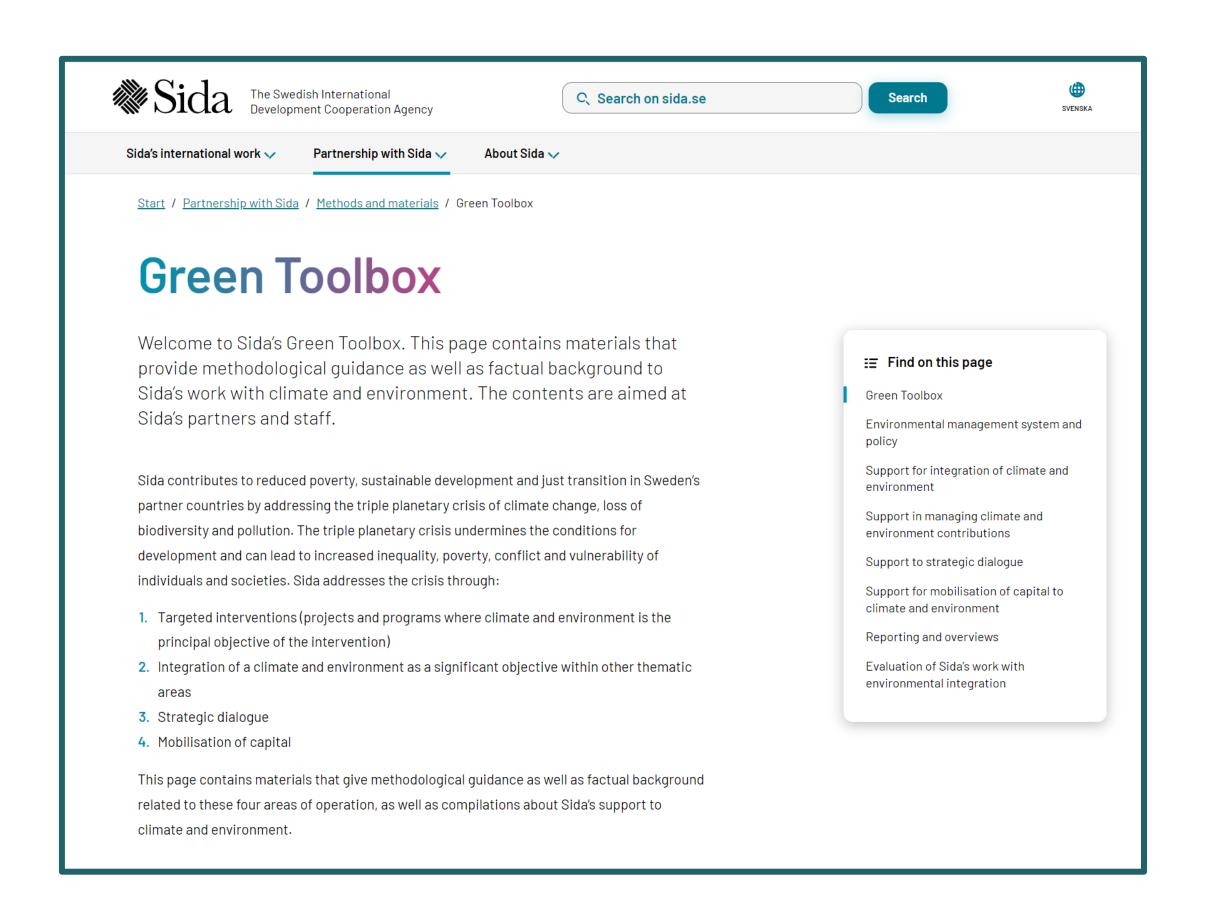
- to strengthen climate adaptation measures, support sustainable energy solutions and reduce the risk of disasters.
- Sustainable use, restoration and conservation of forest, land, water and marine resources
- to improve the conditions for biodiversity, ecosystem services and food security.
- · Reduction 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.
- 2 The goals of this work are governed by bilateral, regional and global strategies decided by the Swedish Government for various appropriation trees.





# 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

- 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,
- 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

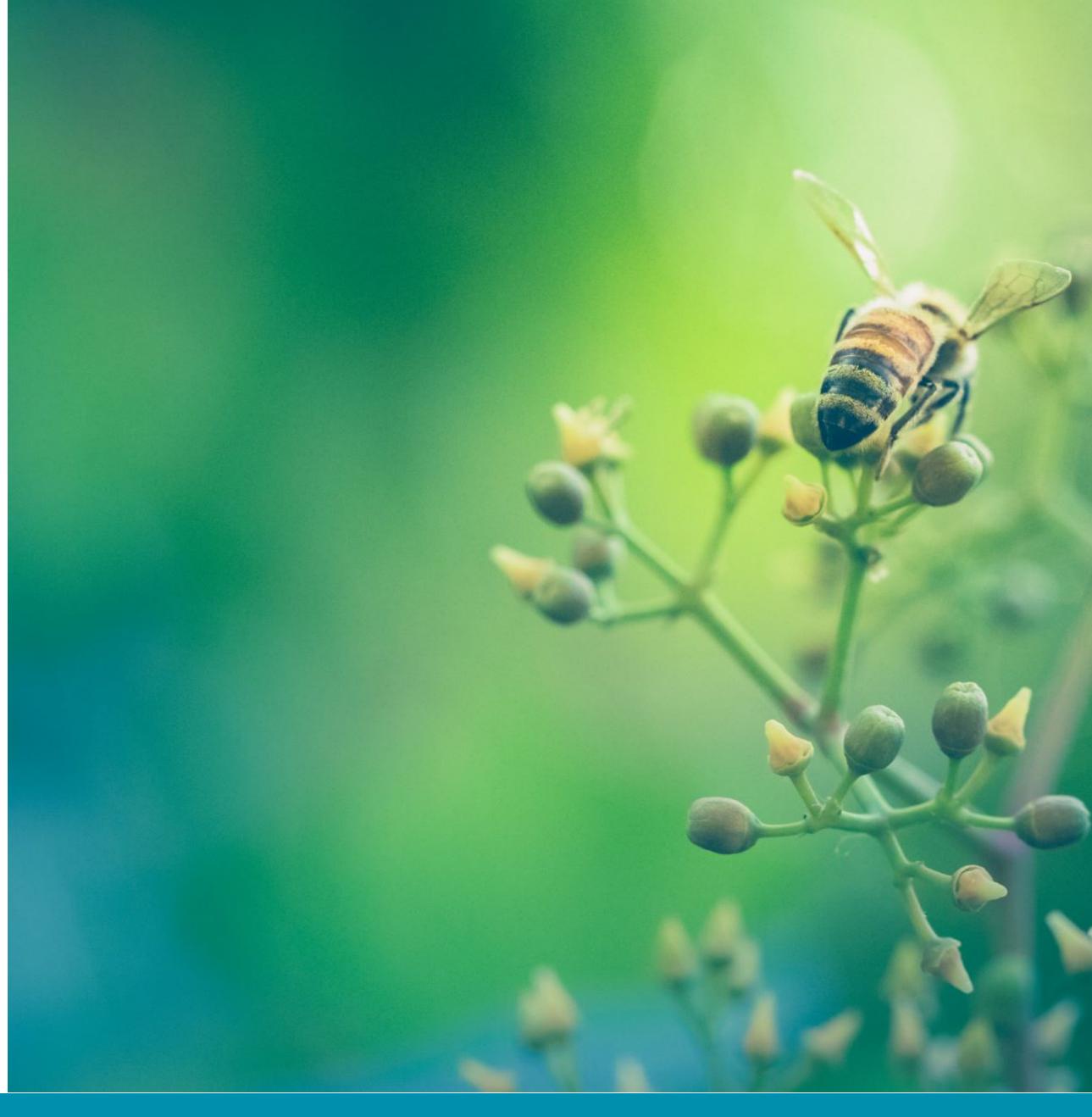
Step 5: Sida follows up on environmental integration





[Sida shall] develop and strenghten 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

Increase in financial support to biodiversity from 2020-2023



# Distribution of support to biodiversity

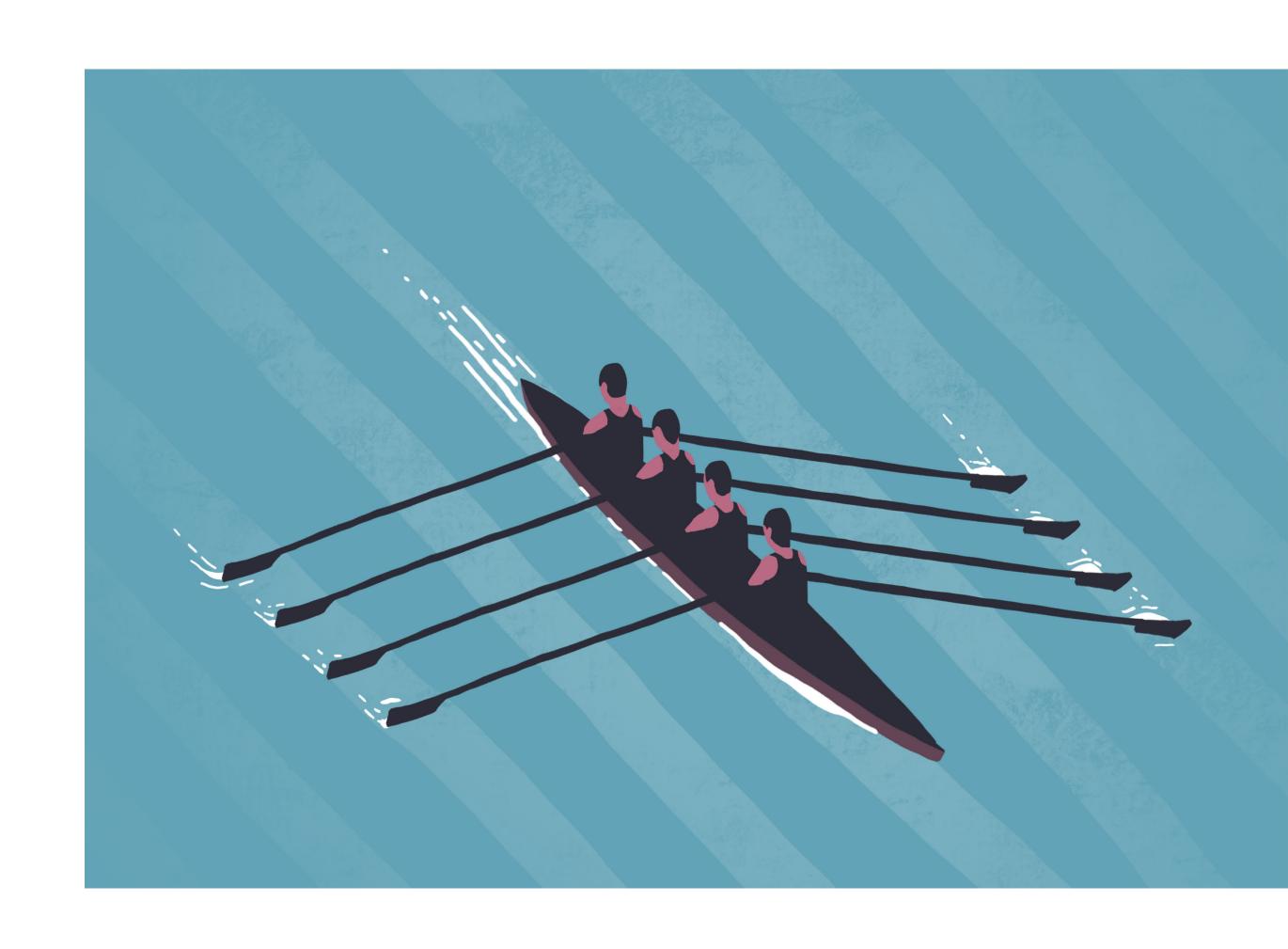
• Main **sectors** for support to biodiversity: General environmental protection, Agriculture, Other multisector, Government and civil society, Forestry

• 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)



### Biodiversity Marker Guide Agriculture

THEMATIC SUPPORT UNIT

**DECEMBER 2021** 

### This brief clarifies how to use the biodiversity policy marker, and how to advance further mainstreaming, for contributions related to Agriculture.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

In October 2020, Sida received an assignment from the government regarding biological diversity and ecosystems for the years 2020-2023. The assignment instructs Sida to strengthen and deepen the work on biodiversity and ecosystems throughout the Agency's total operations.

As part of the implementation of the assignment, Sida has identified an internal need to clarify the use of the policy marker for biodiversity and the connection to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on which the marker is based. This is to facilitate for program officers to come up with suggestions and ideas in the dialogue with partners during an intervention planning phase on how consideration of, and benefits from, integrating biodiversity in a program/project can be optimized.

Six sectors were identified as extra important for integration: Water and sanitation, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Health and Energy.

### 2. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)<sup>1</sup>

The Earth's biological resources are vital to humanity's economic and social development. As a result, there is a growing recognition that biodiversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generations. At the same time, the threat to species and ecosystems has never been as great as it is today. Species extinction caused by human activities continues at an alarming rate.

In May 1992, an "Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity" was decided upon and the Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the "Rio Earth Summit").

Introduction (cbd.int)







The Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993. The first session of the Conference of the Parties was held in 1994 in the Bahamas.

The establishment of CBD was inspired by the world community's growing commitment to sustainable development and has three main objectives:

- 1. The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

### 3. THE POLICY MARKER FOR BIODIVERSITY PROMOTES MAINSTREAMING OF THE CBD'S OBJECTIVES

Since 1998, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has monitored development finance flows targeting the objectives of the Rio Conventions<sup>2</sup> on biodiversity, climate change and desertification using the so-called "Rio markers". DAC members are requested to indicate for each development finance activity if the activity targets environmental

#### 3.1 Sida's contributions are screened against criteria of the Rio markers

Sida's contributions are screened (for altogether eleven policy markers) against the criteria of each policy marker. A contribution can be marked with the code 0, 1 or 2 depending on to what extent it fulfils the criteria for that specific marker. As regards the criteria for the Rio marker on *biodiversity*, it has been formulated as follows:

The project/programme promotes at least one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the following criteria apply:<sup>3</sup>

- The CBD, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) were initiated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, hence the name.
- 3 Source: Sida Statistical Handbook



# Challenges

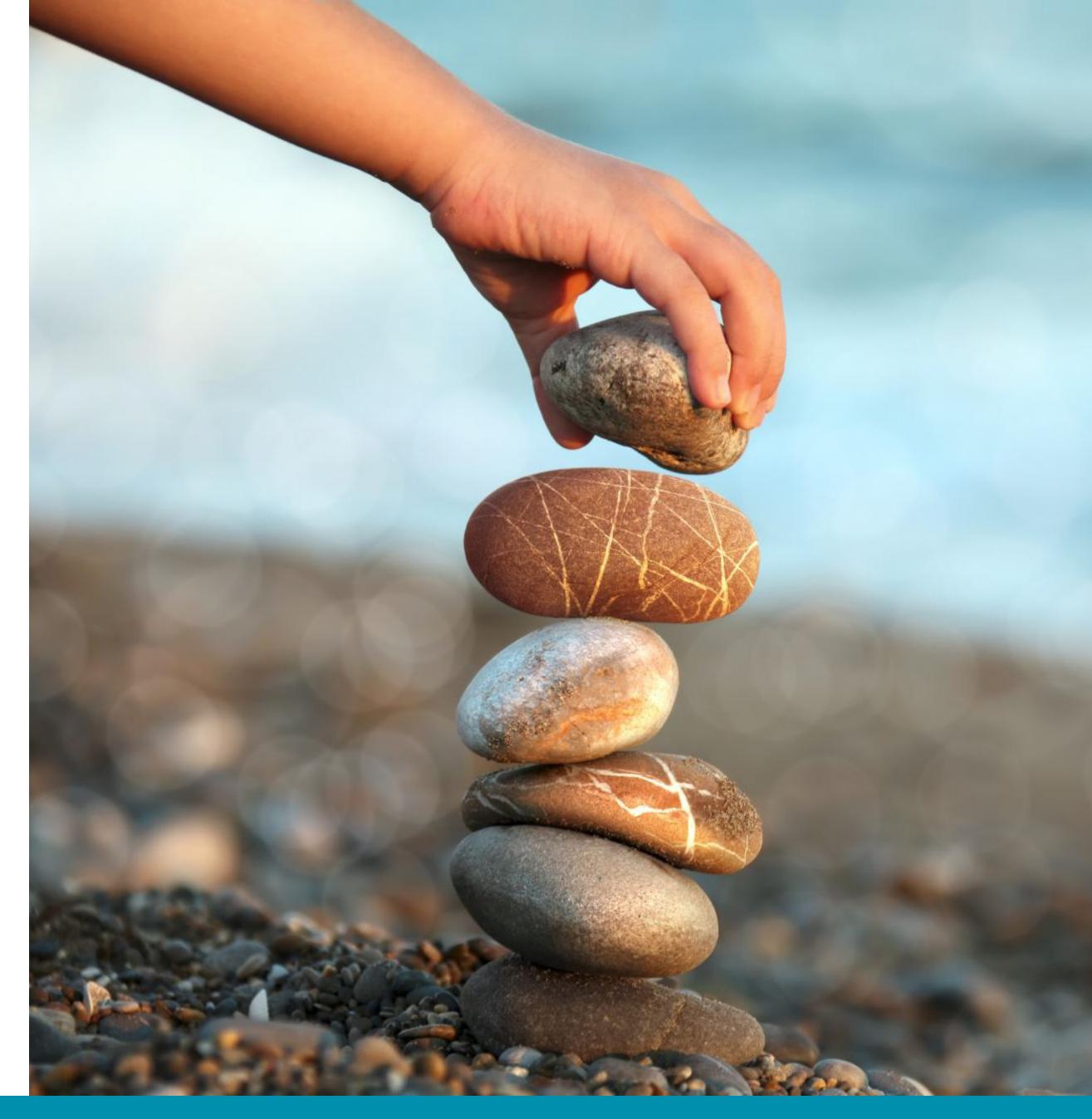
- Budget cuts
- Overriding priorities (e.g. in conflict settings)
- Lack of bankable projects





# 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 acess; improved governance; improved national policy
  - Strenghten 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!

anna.axelsson@sida.se



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

