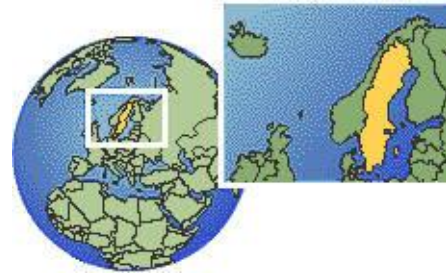


II-J. Profile of Sweden

Version 1 – 7 July 2006

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1. Sweden's Approach to Environmental Security

A New Understanding of Security

The Government of Sweden has formally acknowledged that environmental destruction and the scarcity of resources have become common reasons for armed conflicts, natural disasters and their increasingly serious effects. Sida asserts that development cooperation must consider the interrelationship of environmental destruction, poverty, economic growth, human health, and good governance.¹ Sida also maintains that in order to prevent future resource-related conflicts, it is important to ensure the conditions necessary for sustainable livelihoods. This in turn calls for enhanced protection for the environment and the natural resources that are necessary to secure sustainable livelihoods.²

Sweden's Policy for Global Development

Sweden's new overall policy for global development also provides important insights into the government's evolving approach toward environmental security. As noted below, environmental protection and conflict management and security are listed together as two of the eight central elements of the Policy for Global Development. The goal of the policy is to ensure that policies related to trade, agriculture, security, migration, and economics must be devised in such a way as to promote equitable and sustainable development globally.

The eight central component elements to the Policy for Global Development include:

- Respect for human rights
- Democracy and good governance
- Gender equality
- Sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection
- Economic growth
- Social progress and security
- Conflict management and security
- Global initiatives to protect the environment, combat contagious diseases, etc.³

¹ "All Development Must be Sustainable". Sida. 22 November 2005. Sida. 2 May 2006. <<http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp>>.

² "Integrating the Environment: Knowledge for Environmentally Sustainable Development". Sida. June 2004. Pg: 23.

³ Jamin, Carin. "Sweden's Global Development Policy". Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Stockholm: 9 Sep 2004. Regeringens. 8 Mar 2006. <<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/574/a/24520>>.

2. How Sweden Mainstreams Environmental Factors into Foreign and Security Policy

The Statement of Government Policy in the Parliamentary Debate on Foreign Affairs in February 15, 2006 asserts that its foreign policy is based on the conviction that there is an “interconnection between security, development, and human rights”.⁴ The interconnections between respect for human rights, dialogue, global security, and development will continue to guide Swedish foreign policy in the coming years.

3. How Sweden Mainstreams Conflict Prevention and Livelihood Protection into Development Cooperation

Sweden’s Holistic Approach to Security and Development

Sida’s new policy “Promoting Peace and Security through Development Cooperation” replaces Sida’s Strategy on Conflict Management and Peacebuilding (1999) and is based on the Swedish Policy on Global Development (2003), previous Government policies, Sida’s Perspectives on Poverty (2002) and the OECD-DAC Guidelines (2001). In 2004, Sida supported 107 different interventions for peace and security, to a value of SEK 710 million (approximately USD 105 million).⁵

The three cornerstones of Sida’s approach to development cooperation in potential or ongoing zones of conflict and insecurity include the following: risk awareness to understand and anticipate the effects of violent conflict on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance; conflict sensitivity to ensure that development assistance and humanitarian assistance do no harm; and the creation of opportunities to promote peace and security through different projects and programmes.⁶

Sida’s Peace and Security Interventions

Sida has identified three categories for development cooperation in the promotion of peace and security. The first involves creating the conditions for different forms of dialogue, such as mediation and reconciliation. The second involves concrete projects to ensure the promotion of security for individuals and groups affected by violent conflict. The third involves the promotion of structural stability to exploit the hidden potential of conventional development cooperation to address the root causes of conflict. Sida’s initiatives to support peace and security are summarised in an annual report containing a survey, which lists all interventions supported to promote peace and security.⁷

4. Sweden and Environmental Cooperation over Degraded and Environmentally-stressed Resources in Conflict Prone and Conflict Affected Zones

The Partnership for Peace

Sweden asserts that in order to meet present and future threats, the Government will further strengthen international cooperation on foreign and security policy; however, it will be based on Sweden’s non-participation in military alliances. Sweden maintains that it is important to have broad cooperation with NATO within the framework of the current

⁴ “Statement of Government Policy in the Parliamentary Debate on Foreign Affairs”. Government Offices of Sweden. 15 Feb 2006. [Government Offices of Sweden. 8 Mar 2006. <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/3103>](http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/3103).

⁵ “Policy”. Sida. 21 Nov 2005. Sida. 13 Dec 2005. <<http://www.sida.se>>.

⁶ See: www.sida.se and follow links to Division for Peace and Security.

⁷ See: www.sida.se and follow links to Division for Peace and Security.

Partnership for Peace (PfP). Despite the value that Sweden perceives in the work of NATO, it does not see any reason at present to join NATO. Sweden maintains that non-participation in military alliances gives Sweden both independence in its international commitments as well as the opportunity for Sweden to participate in international cooperation for peace and security.⁸

Sweden maintains that the Partnership for Peace has an important role to play as the international community faces new security challenges. However, there are now more international actors on the field and Sweden has identified five areas where the Partnership can add value to make a difference to prevent, manage and solve conflicts.

First, efforts must be directed toward improving its capacity to act more quickly. Both NATO and the EU are developing capabilities for rapid response. Second, resource mobilization must be improved. Third, the links between security and development must be strengthened: it is important to support the further development of mutually reinforcing military and civilian operations. Fourth, respect for human rights and international law in crisis management operations must be stepped up. Fifth, Sweden must continue improving consultations with Partner troop-contributing countries. Sweden's participation in NATO-led crisis management operations is a central aspect of the Partnership.⁹

5. Sweden and Inclusion of Environmental Factors in Monitoring, Mapping and Early Warning Systems

FOI Early Warning Initiatives

The Swedish Defence Research Agency's (FOI) Department for Environment and Protection conducts research on how humans and the environment can be better protected against chemical, biological and nuclear substances as well as the effects of ionizing radiation. One important aspect of this protection is being able to detect and provide early warning of these threats to ensure that appropriate action is taken quickly.¹⁰

New Methods for Early Detection of Earthquakes

In addition, the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) and Uppsala University have recently discovered that a method previously used to warn about mining quakes can be used to predict where and when earthquakes may occur. With this method, (involving the study of tension in earth crust activity) major quakes such as the one that caused the 2004 tsunami could be better predicted.¹¹

6. Sweden and Environment and Security Risk and Needs Assessment and Management

FOI's Vulnerability Analysis Work

The Swedish Defence Research Agency's (FOI) work in the area of security, safety and vulnerability analysis involves carrying out analyses and producing data as a basis for future-decision-making. FOI provides decision-making support in matters concerning the

⁸ Statement of Government Policy in the Parliamentary Debate on Foreign Affairs, February 15, 2006

⁹ Freivalds, Laila. "Managing Security Our Common Challenge". 25 May 2005: Are. Government Offices of Sweden. 8 Mar 2006. <<http://www.sweden.gov.se>>.

¹⁰ "Environment and Protection". FOI. 16 Dec 2006. <http://www.foi.se/FOI/template/Page_1580.aspx>.

¹¹ "New Method for Predicting Earthquakes". FOI. 14 Sep 2005. FOI. 13 Dec 2005. <http://www.foi.se/FOI/Templates/NewsPage_4441.aspx>.

development of the threat picture, including problems associated with environment and resource planning. FOI's work involves problem formulation, support for the work of strategic restructuring, and methods for evaluating alternative courses of action. Environmental strategy studies are an important tool in FOI's work.¹²

FOI's Threat Assessment Work

In addition, FOI's Department for Threat Assessment undertakes overall assessments of the whole spectrum of threats and risks. The Department carries out experimental research as well as threat analysis and studies to advance understanding of the effects of biological, chemical and nuclear risks and potential new threats.¹³

Sida's Conflict Analysis Approach

The 2004 methodology "Conflict-sensitive development cooperation: How to conduct a conflict analysis" is a tool developed by Sida to provide practical guidance on how to analyse violent conflicts so as to highlight the interaction between development cooperation, potential or ongoing violent conflict or insecurity. The methodology is divided into three sections. The first deals with conflict analysis at project, strategic and sector level. The second includes Sida's approach to peace and security, as well as how to develop appropriate responses. The third section is an outline of the causes of violent conflict.¹⁴

7. Sweden and Environmental Conflict Prevention and Resolution and Crisis Management

Sweden's defence policy for 2005-2007 acknowledges the need to increase conflict-prevention and crisis management efforts. The Government maintains that Sweden's "capability to participate in all kinds of peace-promoting operations, from preventive measures to peace enforcement must increase both qualitatively and quantitatively."¹⁵

A recent Swedish Foreign Ministry report entitled "Global Development and Human Security: Towards a Policy Agenda" highlighted several policy recommendations for strengthening Sweden's engagement in conflict prevention. These include:¹⁶

- Cultivate a culture of conflict sensitivity by ensuring that all aid professionals are equipped with the multidisciplinary skills and analytical instruments needed to assess regional and ethnic imbalances and political dynamics.
- Carry out conflict assessments, social analysis, and risk assessment to ensure that country assistance strategies are conflict sensitive and implemented by all government departments to guarantee policy coherence.
- Develop conflict sensitivity criteria for country assistance strategies.
- Manage the risks of unintended consequences associated with aid in conflict-prone environments.

¹² "Security, Safety and Vulnerability Analysis". FOI. 16 Dec 2005. <http://www.foi.se/FOI/templates/Page_1612.aspx>.

¹³ "Threat Assessment" FOI. 16 Dec 2005. <http://www.foi.se/FOI/templates/Page_1578.aspx>.

¹⁴ "Methodology". Sida. 21 Nov 2005. Sida. 13 Dec 2005. <<http://www.sida.se>>.

¹⁵ Swedish Government Bill 2004/05:5 "Our Future Defence: The focus of Swedish defence policy 2005-2007".

¹⁶ Picciotto Robert, et al. "Global Development and Human Security: Towards a Policy Agenda". Report published by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. Global Development Studies No.3.

8. Sweden and Post-conflict Rehabilitation

Important Post-conflict Lessons

The aforementioned Swedish Foreign Ministry report entitled “Global Development and Human Security: Towards a Policy Agenda” concludes that the post-conflict phase should be launched at an early phase of peacekeeping and that conflict management interventions should take into account key lessons learned, including the following lessons learned from on-the-ground experience:

- The sequential model of diplomacy, military intervention, conflict management, peacemaking, reconstruction and development, does not always suit the realities on the ground.
- Regional actors have been neglected and inadequately supported. In many cases, they are more sensitive to early warnings of potential conflict.
- UN mandates have been too narrowly focused on short-term objectives of political settlement and elections, encouraging early exit without dealing with the root causes of conflict.
- Peace agreements should strategically address critical issues such as the transformation of armed groups into political entities and actors and must move beyond training to ensure capacity development for the oversight of the security sector, for the engagement of key actors in development and for involving fragile states adjacent to war-affected countries.¹⁷

9. Sweden and Natural Disaster Preparedness

Sweden’s Contribution to Disaster Preparedness

According to Sida, at the international level, Sweden contributes to operational disaster preparedness mainly through its support to the different response instruments such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency, together with a network of other Northern European Rescue Services in the International Humanitarian Partnership, is often called upon by UN agencies to give support in the form of logistics, telecommunications and other capacities, as well as to provide emergency training for UN agencies.¹⁸ Sida acknowledges that preparedness is generally and seriously under-funded, but nevertheless views the capacity building of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in disaster-prone countries as one of the best ways of providing support. It also notes that the real challenge is to accept disaster reduction as a development concern and to make risk assessment a normal and integral part of development planning. The Swedish Government has clearly stated that it expects disaster reduction to become part of Sida’s development programming, and that the development budget lines increasingly should carry the costs.

10. Conclusion

Sweden approaches the development of environmental security as an interconnection of human rights and democratic institutions. Its policies reflect a need for a comprehensive understanding of a situation prior to involvement to ensure effective implementation of

¹⁷ A recent Swedish Foreign Ministry report entitled “Global Development and Human Security: Towards a Policy Agenda”. Page 32.

¹⁸ Johan Schaar, Head, Division for Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Management, Sida. “Greater Investment in, and response mobilization for preparedness activities”. Presentation at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 2005.

cooperative development and an avoidance of worsening the situation from insufficient risk assessment.

Sweden maintains direct control over its environmental security policies through non-participation in military alliances and careful risk assessment, giving it selective abilities in its environmental security endeavours. In this way, Sweden maintains its presence in the international community as well as its sovereignty over environmental security decisions.

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