

**National Report to the Third Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

Sweden

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II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

General

Sweden has performed an assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and a follow up study on Swedish priorities. Further an overall evaluation of the effects of the Swedish Forest Policy/National Forest Programme was undertaken in 2001 and is now followed by development of new sectorial goals for forests. These two evaluations have guided us to where to put our efforts in fulfilling the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Assessment of IPF/IFF proposals for action

The Swedish Forest Administration performed the thorough study of the proposals for action from the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) documented in Report No3, 2001, National Board of Forestry 125 pp (ISSN 1100-0295). The purpose of this study was to structure and analyse the IPF/IFF proposals for action from a Swedish point of view. The study was performed in collaboration with the following actors: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, Swedish Forest Industries Federation, Federation of Swedish Farmers and Forest Owners, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

Conclusions drawn from the Swedish study on IPF/IFF Proposals for action were that the Swedish situation and way of working correspond largely to the requirements of the proposals for action, although the measures have not been taken as a direct consequence of the IPF/IFF proposals. There are several fields where Sweden fulfils, or even is ahead of, the requirements of the proposals, but also some fields where further action can be recommended. Sweden is well ahead in, for example, policy formulation, capacity-building, implementation of forest policy through information and training, forest inventories and certification.

Matters in the proposals for action where further efforts can be recommended, include criteria and indicators, traditional forest-related knowledge, full-cost internalisation, and inventories of non-wood values.

Further, the contents, and even the existence, of the IPF/IFF proposals for action are relatively unknown in Sweden. Further work on disseminating information on the content of the proposals for action is now important.

The Proposals for action has been structured from a Swedish context in order to identify priorities and appropriate actors. It was found that slightly more than half of the proposals for action include actions to be implemented within Sweden (Category A) (See Fig 1). The

proposals for action that require international commitment, in some way, by Sweden (Category B) constitute around 39% of the total number of proposals. These are to be implemented outside of the Swedish borders. The proposals for action that do not require direct action or initiative by Sweden or are not applicable in the Swedish context (Category C) constitute a considerable part of the proposals for action, particularly the IPF proposals, with a little less than one-fifth of the proposals in this category. The proposals for action where no consensus could be reached but still are enclosed in the reports of the IPF and IFF (Category D) naturally constitute the smallest part of the proposals, and are reduced in the IFF process compared with the IPF. The Category D proposals constitute around 6% of the proposals for action.

The proposals for action that only include actions that are to be implemented within Sweden (classified only as Category A), constitute around 37% of the total number of IPF/IFF proposals. This figure is larger for the IFF proposals, compared with the IPF proposals.

The proposals that require actions both within Sweden and internationally (classified as both Category A and B) are roughly the same for the two processes, and constitute around 15% of the total number of proposals.

The part of the proposals that only requires action at the international arena (classified only as Category B) constitutes slightly more than one-fifth of the proposals for action.

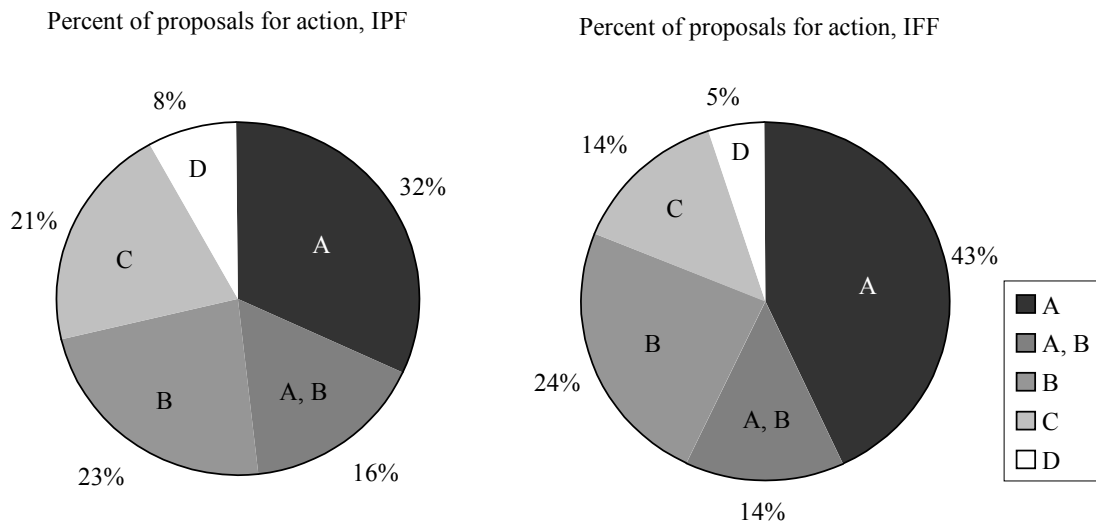


Fig 1. The percentage of the proposals for action, of the IPF and IFF processes, classified in the different Categories. The proposals for action classified as both Category A and B are represented by a separate part of the diagram. Categories are defined in the previous paragraph .

In the following up to our first study, a report was produced in 2002 named *Promemoria 20020207 National Board of Forestry*. In that report it was concluded that Sweden should primarily make efforts in the following tasks to implement the IFF/IPF proposals for action:

- C&I
- Full cost internalization
- TFRK
- Public awareness
- Non-wood values of forests
- Tech trans
- nfp

Development of the Swedish Forest Policy/National Forest Programme

There are some features of the Swedish situation and way of working that are of particular importance in relation to the proposals for action. Policy building within the forestry sector has a long tradition in Sweden. Ever since the first forestry act from 1903 the forest policy formulation has been an evolving process. This process is characterised by cooperation and consultation between interested parties with the aim to reach consensus. The current Swedish forest policy is from 1993, and it corresponds, among others, to the goals reflected in the Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles. The two goals of the new policy, one for the environment and one for the production should be equally prioritised in forest management.

The evaluation of the effects of the Swedish Forest Policy/National Forest Programme was a thoroughly work resulting in analysis in a main report of 275 pp (ISSN 1100-0295) plus 14 sub reports. The work was conducted 2000-2001 and is now followed by developed sectorial goals, new guidance to the forest authority extension service and overhaul of the forest policy.

The Swedish Parliament adopted in 1999, 15 Environmental Quality Objectives to strengthen the national efforts significantly towards sustainability in a wide range of society sectors. One of the Environmental Quality Objective is Sustainable Forests. This objective aim for “The forest and forest soil's value for biological production must be protected at the same time as biological diversity and cultural and social values are protected.”

The Sustainable Forests objective has specified target values and specific indicators for evaluation to be attained at 2010 compared with the level 1999. Examples are amount of protected forests (the goal is to double the area), amount of coarse woody debris, share of broadleaf trees, protected cultural heritage sites.

The intention is to develop indicators also for the sectorial goals, of which “sustainable forests” will be an integrated part. These indicators will likewise be closely connected to specified target values.

- Area of nature reserves
- Area of habitat protection areas
- Area of nature conservation agreement
- Volume of hard dead wood
- Area of old forest rich of deciduous trees
- Area of old forest
- Area regenerated with broad-leaved forest
- Damages on ancient monuments and cultural heritage sites
- Target programs for threatened species

Following the working methodology of Environmental Quality Objectives the intention is to broaden this concept also to encompass production, social and cultural values in the forest, during 2002, into forest sectorial goals. Examples of fields of interests are capacity building among forest owners and entrepreneurs, cultural heritage and ancient monuments sites, game management, urban and close to urban forestry.

Implementation of the Swedish Forest Policy/National Forest Programme and Stakeholder participation.

Forestry methods and forest policy are under continuous development and change. The reason for the changes can be found in market demands for new and changed products, in social changes and in new political points of view. Fundamentally the changes depend on new knowledge being created that changes our opinions of how the forests should be used. Sweden has a long tradition of creating changes to different policy sectors using enquiries, where the parties concerned give their views on how the needs of the future should be met. These evaluations, where different interests participate, also result in a general increase in knowledge that considerably facilitates mutual understanding. The implementation of forest policy is characterised by broad educational inputs that are also offered to people working outside forestry who wish to actively participate in the discussions on the utilisation and management of the forests.

Many forest owners’ experience difficulties in striking a good balance between the production and the environmental goal. Inventories of environmental values, “green” management plans and forest certification have proven to be efficient tools to show ways of attaining the two goals. On the individual farm the Green Forest Management Plan provide an important guidance. In the management plan the forest stands on the estate are classified by four different goal classes which are used to describe the long-term direction.

Extension campaigns like “Greener Forest” have also helped forestry go from words to action in its environmental commitment. This campaign is designed to illustrate ways of practical

implementation of the Swedish forest policy and how the forest sector will fulfil the international obligations agreed at the UN conference on development and the environment at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Regional Forestry Boards in a broad cooperation with the forest sector and other stakeholders are conducting the campaign. The Greener Forests campaign has the goal of reaching 100 000 participants.

An increased environmental awareness and discussions between forestry and the environmental movement lead to a large-scale certification of Swedish forestry. Certification confirms that environmental goals are attained, and contributes to securing, and expanding, areas voluntarily set-aside for protection.

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

Economic viability for the forestry sector is of utmost importance for the Swedish national economy. Of all exported goods from Sweden, 14% is forestry products (2001). The export amounts to 11 billion Euro and is by far the most important net export sector in Swedish economy. But it has not always been like this.

In the beginning of the last century, Sweden was a poor agricultural society. Our forests were over-used, degraded and misused for various reasons. One hundred years ago, by the end of the 19th century Sweden's forest resources were at an all time low. In 1895, a Parliamentary Commission was established to analyse the situation, which resulted in a National Forestry Act in 1903. This legislation put focus on the need for regeneration. The Forestry Act and the creation of the Regional Forestry Boards, responsible for supervision, extension activities and financial support, paved the way for the restoration of our forests. A local dialogue with the forest owners was established to facilitate the implementation of the National Forestry Act. From a very poor forest situation, our grandparents managed to fill our forests with trees again. Well-defined and secure tenure rights to forest and its products constituted a prerequisite for the development of sustainable forestry. This was a real bottom-up process and this was of most importance in the huge shift in the Swedish society from poverty to welfare. The Swedish forestry situation today is very fortunate. The standing volume has doubled during the last 100 years.

However, forestry concerns both forest production and economic profitability, as well as preserving and caring for biological values in nature and cultural environments. Consequently, production and environmental goals are given equal weight in Swedish forest policy. Both forestry and forest policy are developed and modified in a continuous dialogue between the State and the forest industry, together with representatives of various interests. Most of the forest in Sweden is economically utilised but some areas are protected. A good level of cooperation between the State and the different forest-owners is a condition for sustainable forestry where production, the environment and social values are united.

Forest health and productivity

Since the 1980s Sweden has participated in EU's programme for monitoring of forest damage with focus on the forest's health status, air pollution and soil condition. In order to follow the development of the damage, EU's compulsory sampling network has been supplemented with a country-wide network of sampling areas where assessments are made of the defoliation of tree crowns. The share of spruce with defoliation more than 20% has increased from 21% in 1984 to 30% in 1998. In pine the development is the opposite, a decrease from 18% in 1984 to 12% in 1998.

Hard winds cause damage to the forest every year. During the late autumn of 1999 a few strong storms caused comprehensive damage to forests in southern Sweden. Altogether 5-6 million m³ standing volume was felled by wind in that year. Forest fires are not a problem in Sweden. On average less than 1000 hectares are damaged by fire annually. Large populations of game lead to severe damage to pine and deciduous trees in planted and young forests. The grazing by the moose population causes damage in many places that is in excess of what can be accepted by forestry. However, the local variation is large. In southern Sweden roe deer cause severe damage to forest plantations. Despite a reduction in the moose population in some places during recent years, the damage still remains too high.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

The long-term sustainability is the pillar that the Swedish forest legislation, policy and the Swedish forest administration are built upon. The following statement can be found in the 1903 Forest Policy, where the state imposed control on forest exploitation to secure regeneration: "On forest land belonging to the individual, felling may not be performed in such a manner, or after felling the land treated in such a way, that the regeneration of the forest is obviously put at risk."

Sweden with its free market oriented economy, has identified the long-term aspects as one of the most important field for state intervention through legislation and extension service.

Recent efforts to assess long-term trends in national supply

The highest sustainable cutting levels for forests in Sweden have recently been re-estimated. The project, Forest Impact Analysis was named SKA 99, was completed and the final report published by the beginning of the year 2000.

The project was initiated by the Swedish National Board of Forestry (NBF) and has been carried out in cooperation with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish National Energy Administration, the Swedish National Board for Industrial and Technical Development and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

The main objective was to analyze and map the possible use and development of the forests in Sweden during the next 100 years.

The result showed that approximately 110 million cubic meters of harvest per year until year 2100 is sustainable. The corresponding felling figures for the late 1990s were 65-75 million cubic meters per year.

III. Preparation of the Report

This report was prepared in November-December 2002. The draft version was distributed and discussed by different stakeholders. At a meeting at the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication in Stockholm the content of the report was discussed and the following actors were invited to present their views; Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Environment, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedish Forest Industries Federation, Federation of Swedish Farmers and Forest Owners, Swedish society for Nature Conservation and the WWF.

The National Board of Forestry produced the final version based on the various stakeholders' input in close collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication.