

Annual Summary of Assignments Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change 2023

This document is an annual summary of assignments carried out by the Helpdesk during 2023. For more information on specific assignments listed below, please contact:

sidaenvironmenthelpdesk@slu.se

The numbers in the titles refer to the Helpdesk internal log system and is being kept in this summary for reference purposes. It is suggested to use the search function in Adobe if you are interested in a specific geographic or thematic area.

The assignments are presented based on their service category:

1. Projects and programmes
2. Country, regional, and thematic strategies
3. International processes
4. Thematic analysis
5. Methodological development
6. Capacity development
7. Information material
8. Facilitation and dialogue support
9. Learning

Table of Contents

Category 1. Program and project support	1
2022-137: East Africa Health Development Initiative	1
2023-001: RECONOMY for the Western Balkan Region	1
2023-004: HIVOS regional SRHR fund - Africa	1
2023-005: ILO Mali, Productive Employment for Women and Youth.....	2
2023-006: WFP/FAO programmes, review of policy markers in the Democratic Republic of Congo	2
2023-007 Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Waters, Regional Africa	3
2023-015 IPAS Mozambique - access to safe abortion.....	3
2023-016: DKT International – SRHR Regional Africa	3
2023-025: UNESCAP environmental rights in Asia and Pacific.....	3
2023-026: 2gether 4 SRHR – Regional Africa	4
2023-029: LISA – Access driven Rural Development project - Liberia	4
2023-041: Research FNI Mozambique.....	5
2023-042: Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD) Strategic Plan 2023-2027	5
2023-017: ITP Healthy livestock safe food.....	6
2023-055: Green Transitions Guatemala	6
2023-057: TAHA Growing wealth through horticulture - Tanzania	6
2023-059: TechnoServe (TNS) program WIN 2.0, Mozambique	6
2023-061: Coaching Act church of Sweden 2023.....	7
2023-064: Dialogue support Kvinna till Kvinna	7
2023-067: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) - review strategic plan.....	7
2023-068: Adolescent Impact Programme by SAT – SRHR Africa	8
2023-073: Support to the Food Safety and SPS Sector in Georgia – a case study under the Central Environmental Review of FAO	8
2023-074: Mapping of Technical Assistance options for a guarantee to the NCBA Bank	8
2023-081: Review of the Swedish Mission Council's annual report.....	9
2023-099: Review of the proposal by the African Forest Forum for a transformational phase	9
2023-100: Review ToR for a study on coastal erosion, Mozambique	9
2023-108: Review of revised program documents FNI - Mozambique.....	10
2023-028: ForumCiv coaching, 2023	10
2023-078: Coaching Swedish Mission Council, 2023.....	10
2023-110: The Water-Energy-Food-Nexus, World Food Programme Iraq	11
2023-116: Review of Southern Africa SADC SRHR, HIV, AIDS governance project.....	11
2023-117: Review of Civil Rights Defenders ToR for an Environmental Working Group.....	11
2023-119: Waste Management and Circular Economy in Armenia	11
2023-122: Environmental assessment – Action Against Hunger, Mozambique.....	12
2023-124: Review of Concept Note Green-AL, Albania.....	12

2023-126: Review of Individuell Människohjälps application	12
2023-135: Green Jobs for Youth in Northern Mozambique (GeraSol)	13
2023-136: Migration business and human rights in Asia, IOM	13
2023-146: SRHR Africa - REPSSI	13
2023-147: SRHR East African Community (EAC)	14
2023-148: SRHR International Rescue Committee, Africa	14
2023-150: Search for common ground, MENA.....	15
2023-162: Research cooperation with Tanzania.....	15
2023-164: Review of HelpAge application	15
2023-167: Support to Never Again Rwanda.....	15
Category 2. Country, Regional and Thematic strategy processes.....	16
2022-128: Challenges for Iraq's long-term access to water resources.....	16
2023-050: Contributions to the portfolio overview for agriculture.....	16
2023-058: Mapping actors and programmes regarding DRR insurance and financing in MENA	16
2023-089: Synthetisation of results, lessons and recommendations, Palestine	17
2023-090: Portfolio analysis, Zimbabwe	17
2023-115: EUROLATIN review of partner environmental assessments 2019-2022.....	17
2023-138: Georgia Green Taxonomy.....	18
2023-143: Environment and climate change Syria.....	18
2022-132: Mapping tools and approaches: how to reach the poorest in MENA	19
2022-135: Mozambique Portfolio Analysis	19
Category 3. International processes.....	20
2023-019 to 2023-025: Review of Green Climate Fund proposals, March 2023.....	20
2023-027: FAO Desert Locust Control Committee.....	21
2023-070: Green Climate Fund Environment and Social Safeguards review for FP181	21
2023-083 – 087: Review of Green Climate Fund proposals, July 2023.....	22
2023-091: Review of the Asian Development Bank's Climate change action plan	25
2023-097: Review of the African Union biodiversity strategy and action plan	25
2023-113: Review of Asian Development Bank Safeguards	26
2023-123: Review of GCF proposal on REDD+ results-based payments.....	26
2023-127 to 2023-134: Review of Green Climate Fund proposals, October 2023.....	27
2023-140: COP28, Review of pre-final Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace	28
2023-141: Global conference, gender and environmental data – takeaways.....	29
Category 4. Thematic analyses.....	30
2022-139: Biodiversity reporting 2022	30
2023-022: Update of the Climate change induced migration and displacement brief.....	30
2023-093: Analysis if an update of Sida's environmental review is needed	30
2023-101: Evidence brief on economic growth and environment.....	31

2023-104: Evidence brief on the global energy transition	31
2023-107: Evidence brief on social protection and climate adaptation	31
2023-155: Just and green transition definitions	32
2023-159: Carbon credits and carbon markets mapping	32
Category 5. Methodology development.....	33
2022-145: Support in the follow-up and reporting of Sida’s Environmental Management System	33
2023-018: Revised instruction för MDPA	33
2023-030: Update e-learning EMS	33
2023-034: How can the NDC/NAPS processes be strengthened?	33
2023-043: Indicators for environmental markers & activities	33
2023-092: Step-by-step guide for core support	34
2023-160: Indicators for PARTNERS Work Plan 2024	34
Category 6. Capacity development	35
2022-127: Helpdesk digital information tour, Africa	35
2022-129: Workshop with Environment POs in Addis Ababa	35
2022-144: Workshop on environmental integration for the Embassy in Kampala, Uganda	35
2022-146: Workshop on green transition/green economy in MENA	36
2023-060: Sida Biodiversity Day 2023	36
2023-075: Examples of environmental integration in other sectors	36
2023-096: Regional Asia partner meeting, preparation and facilitation	37
2023-121: Summary of three reports	37
2023-157: Presentation and discussion on the CER of UNICEF	37
Category 7. Information material	38
2023-094: Environmental and Climate change news – TEMA	38
2023-103: Notes from KSLA seminar on new genomic technologies for plant breeding	38
Category 8. Facilitation and Dialogue support	39
2023-031: Central Environmental Review of FAO	39
2023-038: Diakonia coaching 2023	39
2023-047: Agriculture and food security dialogue and support	39
2023-053: Dialogue meeting Sida, OPC and Swedish Red Cross	40
2023-066: Central Environmental Review of UNICEF	40
2023-071: FAO Country case study South Sudan (CER of FAO)	40
2023-072: FAO Country case study Mali (CER of FAO)	41
2023-102: Dialogue questions for the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation	41
2023-166: Planning Workshop Team Environment Africa	41
Category 9. Learning	42
2022-138: CIVSAM environmental integration measures – interviews	42
2023-046: Learning event Environmental Integration for the SRHR team	42

2023-044 and 2023-152: Learning on environmental integration in the Health/SRHR sector.....	42
2023-105 and 2023-145: Good examples - an input to communication on Environment and Climate Change	43
2023-111: Results examples for the Sida's annual report 2023	43
2023-151: Meeting with PARTNER - information from the Helpdesk.....	43

Category 1. Program and project support

2022-137: East Africa Health Development Initiative

Purpose: The Helpdesk was asked by the AFRICA department to give support to Health Development initiative (HDI) in their process of conducting an environmental assessment. In initial discussions with Sida and HDI, it was suggested that HDI could, instead of conducting an environmental assessment, further develop their environmental policy so that it meets Sida's requirements for an environmental assessment.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's assessment was that HDI has a unique opportunity to integrate aspects of environment and climate in HDI's work and even become a significant advocate and role model in the field of human rights, health and environment in Africa, an area more relevant than ever. The Helpdesk recommended HDI to: (i) identify and discuss how environment and climate change relates to and impact their key thematic areas, and identify opportunities for HDI to contribute to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in a proactive way, and (ii) take a greater scope on the environmental policy and not only focus on do-no-harm but also identify areas where they can contribute positively and proactively to environmental sustainability. This by including their core activities in the policy, i.e. health services, capacity building, awareness raising, advocacy, communication, and programming, and how HDI can integrate environment and climate in these areas. HDI revised their policy based on the recommendations above.

2023-001: RECONOMY for the Western Balkan Region

Purpose: Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change was commissioned by PARTNER to review the programme proposal for RECONOMY for the Western Balkan Region (referred to as RECONOMY), by Helvetas Eastern Europe.

Results/Findings: Helvetas' environmental assessment of the RECONOMY Western Balkan Region programme holds good quality, is pedagogical and interesting, and informs the programme proposal. Helvetas works to reduce both direct and indirect environmental impacts, although the focus appears to be on climate change. Care should be taken to not forget other environmental issues. There is good potential to integrate environment and climate change aspects during programme implementation, but monitoring is important. Environmental and climate change outcomes should be monitored and reported on, both at project and programme level, and included as a part of Sida's dialogue.

2023-004: HIVOS regional SRHR fund - Africa

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the AFRICA department to review the programme proposal for phase II of the HIVOS Regional Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Fund.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds that HIVOS has a sound understanding of the connections between environment/climate change and SRHR and that they showcase a large will and commitment to contribute to an environmentally sustainable development. There is however a lack of connectedness between the environmental assessment and the programme proposal. The

Helpdesk recommends HIVOS to develop and/or update their results framework, budget and monitoring and evaluation plan with specific posts for their environmental integration activities, and that Sida follows-up on HIVOS commitments.

2023-005: ILO Mali, Productive Employment for Women and Youth

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Bamako to review the draft project document “Productive Employment for Women and Youth in Mali through Market Systems Development”. The purpose of the assignment was to assess to which extent ILO has integrated environmental and climate change issues in their proposal, and to propose measures as to strengthen the integration of environment and climate change during the inception and implementation phases of the project.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concluded that ILO’s environmental assessment was sufficient but that the planned Inception Phase will be critical in making sure that environment and climate change aspects are incorporated into the implementation phase of the project. ILO has good tools that should be used, and by doing so, opportunities exist to increase the ambition for environmental integration. The recommendations to Sida were divided according to the envisaged steps of Sida’s assessment and the planned project phases. Examples of recommendations included to request ILO; to clarify which human and financial resources will be allocated to support integration of environmental and climate change aspects; include specific environmental and climate change adaptation results and indicators; and to put more emphasis on environmental opportunities and vulnerabilities, and the project’s direct environmental risks.

2023-006: WFP/FAO programmes, review of policy markers in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the AFRICA department, in liaison with the Embassy of Sweden Kinshasa, to support the assessment of the environmental and climate change perspective in three interlinked WFP/FAO contributions on agriculture and resilience. The Helpdesk used the DRC portfolio analysis in 2021 as a basis for analysing developments on environmental integration during the past two years. The policy markers for environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, desertification and DRR were assessed. The results frameworks of the projects were reviewed to compare expected results with actual results. Missed opportunities for environmental integration were flagged and, importantly, the review suggests how environment and climate change can be strengthened in these projects.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk put forward three recommendations to Sida: (i) Encourage the partners to adopt a more strategic approach to environment and climate change integration at the country, regional and project levels; (ii) Benefit from the follow-up and dialogue measures already existing in Sida’s planning, monitoring and evaluation practices, and document these thoroughly along the project cycle; and (iii) Inspire partners to develop robust environmental assessments and act upon them.

2023-007 Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Waters, Regional Africa

Purpose: This was a very short assignment to discuss with the AFRICA department, the potential for Sida to deepen its engagement on transboundary water management within the so called “Team Europe Initiative”.

2023-015 IPAS Mozambique - access to safe abortion

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Maputo to review Ipas project proposal *Building lasting momentum for gender equality and human rights in Mozambique through improved access to and respect for SRHR, including safe abortion*. The aim of the assignment was to review the proposal and provide advice on environmental integration in the programme.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds that Ipas has integrated the environmental perspective to some extent in the project proposal. For example, Ipas conducts research on how climate change impacts women’s and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and wants to improve the integration of SRHR, SGBV and abortion into humanitarian responses to crises such as climate-related disasters and conflict. This is well described and covered in the project. The Helpdesk recommendations were that 1) Sida asks Ipas to conduct an environmental assessment according to Sida’s requirements; 2) Ipas describes their plan to disseminate its research findings on SRHR and climate change with other SRHR organisations in Africa and globally. It is recommended that this is an issue for Sida to follow up on; and 3) Sida asks Ipas to clarify their in-house capacity to integrate and manage environmental opportunities and risks.

2023-016: DKT International – SRHR Regional Africa

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the AFRICA department to review the programme proposal and environmental assessment of DKT International.

Results/Findings: DKT showed clear ambitions and understanding of connections between SRHR and environment/climate change and had several suggested measures for environmental integration. Most of the measures were of direct character, why the Helpdesk suggested that DKT could also take the opportunity to strengthen the programs’ indirect environmental effects, such as through education and capacity development. It was not clear to the Helpdesk how DKT aimed to implement, manage, and monitor their environmental measures, and their capacity to do so was not fully covered in the assessment. The work of DKT is guided by an environmental policy at top level of the organization, which shows DKT’s ambitions to contribute towards an environmentally sustainable development. DKT had previously received a requirement from an ISK review to better outline how the environmental policy is fulfilled at the country offices, which the Helpdesk found not to be covered in a satisfying way in the environmental assessment.

2023-025: UNESCAP environmental rights in Asia and Pacific

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok to review a Concept Note from UNESCAP named *Advancing Environmental Rights in Asia and the Pacific*. The purpose of the assignment was to draw experience from lessons learned from the Aarhus

Convention and the Escazú Agreement to understand how a similar framework for Asia and the Pacific could be set up. The Helpdesk's recommendations to Sida focused on, inter alia, how UNESCAP and its UN partners will facilitate CSO participation in dialogue and negotiations leading up to the new environmental rights framework for the region especially for CSOs from countries in the region where the political space for civil society is restricted.

Results/Findings: There are number of initiatives regarding environmental rights in the region and it is important that Sida can guide partners to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coordination with other stakeholders.

2023-026: 2gether 4 SRHR – Regional Africa

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the AFRICA department to review a regional joint UN programme on SRHR in East and Southern Africa, namely *2gether 4 SRHR: Fast tracking the attainment of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Eastern and Southern Africa*. The aim of the assignment was to review the programme documents to assess to what extent environment and climate aspects have been integrated into the programme and to identify areas and entry points where this could be strengthened.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concluded that: 1) environment and climate change was not a prioritised issue in the programme even though environmental risks will be avoided and managed and some opportunities have been identified; 2) the programme had attached an environmental assessment that covers both opportunities and risks, but it is not clear if and how the identified opportunities will be implemented as they are not visible in the programme document or any of the other annexes (e.g. result matrix, budget, positions and posts, etc.); 3) The negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters on SRHR are well covered in outcome area 4 in the programme. This is assessed as highly relevant; and 4) it is not clear if adequate competence and capacity exists to handle any environmental risks and/or opportunities, or who is responsible for e.g. environmental policies and standards being used and followed up.

2023-029: LISA – Access driven Rural Development project - Liberia

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia commissioned the Helpdesk to review a new two and a half year proposal for the Liberian Swedish access driven rural development programme (LISA).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk acknowledged that the proposed project had many benefits and significant potential to contribute to poverty reduction through increased income opportunities by strengthened access to wheeled transport. The backside of the increased access to remote areas/ forest land is that it often leads to negative impacts on the natural resource base, due to e.g., increased deforestation and soil degradation if unsustainable management practices are applied, such as slash and burn/shifting cultivation agriculture. Further, increased access is associated with indirect risks, such as illegal logging, increased charcoal production, and illegal wildlife trade. The Helpdesk suggested (among things) that Sida's partner is asked to present more in detail how environmental protection and climate change will be considered in project activities as a transversal issue. Other suggestion were that the relation to other relevant projects, such as GROW-2 (also Sida

financed) is clarified, and that the monitoring and learning framework is expanded to also cover environmental aspects such as changes in agricultural practices and land use.

2023-041: Research FNI Mozambique

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Swedish Embassy in Maputo to support the Embassy and FNI with environmental integration in FNI's program proposal. The task was twofold – to comment on the concept note of FNI's program proposal and provide advice and guidance on how to integrate environment and climate change in their full proposal, and to review FNI's final environmental assessment.

Results/Findings: FNI has large potential to contribute to environmental sustainability, both direct and indirect, with the greatest potential within contributing to increased environmental research and knowledge, potentially increasing decisions informed by scientific research by improving research-to-policy interaction. In the final environmental assessment, FNI had accepted most of the Helpdesk's previous suggestions and recommendations although reporting a low capacity for environmental integration. The Helpdesk therefore recommended the Embassy to ask FNI to prioritize between their commitments by providing a suggested priority list, which was in line with what the Embassy's suggestions to FNI. The Helpdesk highlights that it is important for Sida/the Embassy to follow-up with FNI their environmental commitments.

2023-042: Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD) Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok to review APWLD's Strategic Plan 2023-2027. The purpose of the assignment was to: 1) analyse how recommendations on environment and climate issues from the external evaluation have been integrated into the proposed strategy and program 2023-2027; 2) assess whether the environmental assessment and environmental perspective in the strategy/proposal is in line with Sida's requirements; and 3) give recommendations on how APWLD can further strengthen its environmental integration/work on Climate Justice 2023-2026.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's assessment was that APWLD has made an environmental assessment that meets Sida's requirements but that APWLD could better analyse how they as a leading women rights network organisation in the region could work more systematic and strategic to contribute to the human right of a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The Helpdesk recommended APWLD to 1) develop a comprehensive environmental policy that outlines how APWLD could work more proactive, strategic, and systematic to contribute to improved environmental sustainability; and 2) analyse and discuss how they, apart from the work on climate justice, could contribute to the fulfilment of the human rights of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment? What other environmental issues are there that have a negative impact on women's rights and wellbeing? Could APWLD's success working with climate justice be repeated in other areas such as biodiversity or environmental pollution?

2023-017: ITP Healthy livestock safe food

Purpose: PARTNER/CAPDEV asked the Helpdesk to provide feedback to an application and to take part in a dialogue that Sida has with the partner to discuss environmental integration and the opportunities to increase environmental integration through clear performance management.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk had a close dialogue with Sida around a paper that was shared with the partner including recommendations for environmental assessment and relevant issues in order to, for example, be able to conduct a workshop where to go through the countries and discuss context-adapted activities to increase environmental integration.

2023-055: Green Transitions Guatemala

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Guatemala asked the Helpdesk to comment on Swisscontact and Conexión Guatemala's proposal to Team Europe Initiative for Green Transition in Petén, Guatemala.

Results/Findings: The project is well described, and its outputs positively related to sustainability including environment, biodiversity, and climate. It will be executed through well-known and trustworthy organisations and in line with EU Team Europe priorities. The Helpdesk had a few comments regarding the environmental assessment, the energy situation, and the landfills for the embassy to consider in the continued process with the proposal. The helpdesk recommended that documentation and follow-up of certification schemes and agrochemical protocols were added to the environmental assessment, as well as SMART indicators (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) to enable monitoring of the projects results.

2023-057: TAHA Growing wealth trough horticulture - Tanzania

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked for comments on TAHA's environmental assessment (EA) and draft logical framework (LFA) presented to him by the Embassy of Sweden in Dar es Salaam.

Results/Findings: the EA is most ambitious and detailed and has identified the main challenges for the project as regards environmental and social aspects. Without having access to the latest version of the project document, it is a bit unclear to the Helpdesk if and how the findings from the EA has been integrated in the project document and in what respect it has informed the design of the project as it seems to have been performed after the projects started.

2023-059: TechnoServe (TNS) program WIN 2.0, Mozambique

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo asked for a review of the new version of the proposal from Technoserve. WIN is a markets system development program (MSD) with a primary focus on women led micro-enterprise. The proposed 2nd phase includes a stronger focus on agri-entrepreneurship. The purpose of the assignment was to assess opportunities and risks, particularly related to the agricultural activities of the project, and to assess if the guiding documents and systems within TechnoServe are reflected in the proposal. The Helpdesk was further expected to provide clear recommendations to Sida and its partner on potential improvements prior to decision and/or during the implementation.

Results/Findings: There is an environmental assessment (EA) as part of the proposal (Annex 1). The EA presents the general challenges relating to climate-related risks and environmental degradation

and impacts on the productive sectors in Mozambique. Environment, biodiversity, and climate change issues is hardly visible in the present program document. There were however minimal connections made to the insights regarding the environment, biodiversity and climate change challenges presented in the EA. This suggests that environmental sustainability is not given priority by the program management. The Helpdesk provided three key recommendations: 1) To integrate environment, biodiversity and climate change more clearly in all relevant parts of the proposal and not just discuss it in the EA. Remember that Sida's approach for environmental integration requires more than a "do no harm" approach; 2) To explain if and how their "Regenerative business strategy" and the "Regenerate 30" has informed the proposal and if and how it will be applied; and 3) To expand the planned market system analysis to also consider environmental aspects.

2023-061: Coaching Act church of Sweden 2023

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked the Helpdesk to conduct coaching support to Act Church of Sweden in 2023.

Results/Findings: In a first meeting with Act Church of Sweden, the Helpdesk and Act discussed the International Red Cross's climate and environmental charter for humanitarian organisations that Act has signed. Act needs to develop an action plan, and set relevant targets and progress markers to meet and report on the principles in the charter. The Helpdesk provided Act with some suggestions on action plan, and also got in contact with Plan Sweden to learn from their work with the charter.

2023-064: Dialogue support Kvinna till Kvinna

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM requested Helpdesk coaching support to Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK).

Results/Findings: In a first step, KtK needed some advice and support in the development of their environmental assessment. The Helpdesk had a couple of meetings with KtK to discuss Sida's requirements and what is expected by KtK. The Helpdesk also provided KtK with some examples of environmental assessments to be used as inspiration.

2023-067: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) - review strategic plan

Purpose: INTEM asked support to review FIDH's strategy 2030 – Leading together the fight for human rights, to assess to what extent it has integrated the environment and climate change perspective.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's overall view is that FIDH has in an adequate way integrated the environmental perspective in the 2030 strategy. Since the last strategy in 2017, the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment has been recognised as a human right by the UN which also seem to have influenced FIDH. They describe for example that environmental rights are now added to the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that FIDH has been working for since the establishment 100 years ago. FIDH also strives to minimise its negative environmental impact as one of their specific approaches that will guide their work. It is however not clear how FIDH works systematically to reduce, mitigate, and follow up any direct negative impact and the Helpdesk therefore recommends FIDH to develop an environmental policy.

2023-068: Adolescent Impact Programme by SAT – SRHR Africa

Purpose: The AFRICA department asked the Helpdesk to review the youth-lead SRHR organisation SAT’s Adolescent Impact (AI) Programme. The aim of the assignment was to review the programme proposal, including the environmental assessment, to assess to what extent environment and climate aspects have been integrated into the programme, and to identify areas and entry points where this could be strengthened.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concluded that the programme has attached an environmental assessment (EA) of good quality that covers both opportunities, risks, and vulnerabilities as well as SAT’s capacity to manage and integrate environmental issues. The EA has also listed a number of relevant opportunities and mitigation measures linked to the various programme activities. It is however not clear if and how these identified opportunities and measures will be implemented as they are not visible in the programme proposal (including the result matrix and budget).

2023-073: Support to the Food Safety and SPS Sector in Georgia – a case study under the Central Environmental Review of FAO

Purpose: INTEM/GLOBEN requested support to review FAO’s operations in Georgia as an input to the Central Environmental Review of FAO (helpdesk assignment 2023-031). A specific review was made in relation to Sida’s financing to the “Support to the Food Safety and SPS Sector in Georgia under ENPARD (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development) IV”. I.e., the main purpose was to give inputs to the CER from a country perspective, but potentially also to provide recommendations to Sida’s country level engagement with FAO in Georgia.

Results/Findings: FAO has a strong presence in Georgia and the project is well placed to support Georgia’s Food Safety and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) sector. FAO in Georgia has developed and is implementing the project according to FAO’s organisational systems and routines, especially with reference to its environmental and social safeguards management system. The capacity of FAO in Georgia is strong. The project is partly engaging in activities that can promote climate change and biodiversity results. That said, opportunities for additional integration of climate change and biodiversity measures exists. Opportunities for improvements relates to FAO’s role as a convening actor to address climate change and biodiversity, and that the organisation could be more explicit in documentation and results-frameworks on how FAO address environment, climate change and biodiversity issues.

2023-074: Mapping of Technical Assistance options for a guarantee to the NCBA Bank

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, including PowerAfrica, Innovative finance and Environment/climate change and Sida’s Unit for Guarantee Origination, asked the Helpdesk to conduct a desk study with the purpose to map organisations, institutions, and facilities, that may hold the capacity to provide Technical Assistance (TA) in support of a planned guarantee to the NCBA

Bank. The Helpdesk made use of external experts, i.e. SEI and its Development Policy and Finance Team, for the assignment.

Results/Findings: Based on the ToR and discussions with Sida, the mapping resulted in the delivery of an excel sheet with 47 potential organisations that could provide the requested TA. Some of the issues included in the scope of the assignment, were an assessment of if the organisations have expertise in project management, if they have local presence in the region, and if the organisation have projects in renewable energy or other green sectors.

2023-081: Review of the Swedish Mission Council's annual report

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked the Helpdesk to review Swedish Mission Council's annual report for 2022 to Sida to assess how environment and climate change issues had been addressed therein. The review should also suggest dialogue issues for the forthcoming annual review meeting.

Results/Findings: Based on the review the Helpdesk proposed the following dialogue issues: i) Is it clear in SMR's steering document and in its internal communication what it wants to achieve with its extra investment of staff and resources to promote environment and climate issues in its operations? ii) How does SMR measure the effects? iii) Is there a result framework that facilitates follow-up, performance measurement and learning on environment and climate change integration? iv) How does SMR assess the competence of its member organisations (MO) to work environment and climate change integration? How do you support and, if necessary, develop the competence of the MO to live up to the ambitions? And related to the above, how is ownership established among MOs for the SMR's increased ambition as regards environment and climate change integration? How has it been ensured that "anchoring" and implementation is not a top-down process driven by SMR's HQ?

2023-099: Review of the proposal by the African Forest Forum for a transformational phase

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia to review the draft project proposal "Strengthening management of African forest biodiversity in the context of changing climate and other emerging trends for improved livelihoods and secured environmental sustainability", African Forest Forum (AFF), June 2023. The purpose of the assignment was to provide the regional office with inputs in view of potential support to a transformation phase of AFF.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that little of the recommendations from the regional office and evaluation outcomes from the past had been addressed by AFF in its new proposal. The review resulted in a set of quite stringent recommendations referring to AFF's thematic orientation and planned interventions, including biodiversity, theory of change, relevance, partnerships and governance. The recommendations were proposed to the regional office for its further dialogue with AFF. The Helpdesk involved an expert from its External Resource Pool.

2023-100: Review ToR for a study on costal erosion, Mozambique

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo asked for comments on a terms of reference for a study on costal erosion in the locality of Chwanga, Lago district, Niassa Province, Mozambique. The ToR was prepared by a researcher at the Eduardo Mondlande-university in Maputo.

Results/Findings: In the assessment the Helpdesk consulted experts on coastal erosion at the Swedish Geotechnical Institute (SGI). They kindly contributed with detailed comments on the ToR.

2023-108: Review of revised program documents FNI - Mozambique

Purpose: Continuation of the process to assess the environmental assessment of Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI), requested by the Swedish Embassy in Maputo. This part of the assignment also included looking at the environmental aspects of the embassy's draft appraisal of FNI.

Results/Findings: In this final version of the environmental assessment, FNI displayed good knowledge and ambition to integrate environmental aspects into its program, but still reported a low capacity to do so. The Helpdesk recommended the Embassy to follow up the capacity and resources of FNI to integrate environmental issues, and that an updated budget also includes specific activities for the set targets of FNI. For this and previous parts of the assignment, the Helpdesk has received advise from our external expert Magdalena Eriksson, Director of Global Sustainable Futures (GSF) with a specific focus on development of scientific institutes in low-income countries.

2023-028: ForumCiv coaching, 2023

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked for support to follow up on ForumCiv and their efforts to fulfil Sida's environmental integration requirements, included as dialogue issues with the organisation in the agreement for programme period 2023-2028 and in the PM. The Helpdesk support included the review of and comments to several documents, such as policies, guidelines, tools, a baseline report, and a ToR for environmental assessments, discussions with Sida, and meetings with ForumCiv.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk has continued to support ForumCiv with coaching since previous year. It has not been a project-type of assignment, more of a process. The Helpdesk was available when ForumCiv needed to discuss and to take new steps. The support has also been provided on different levels, policy level and on implementation level simultaneously, and coaching has been to individuals and in group. This year the coaching has been done in close dialogue with Sida.

2023-078: Coaching Swedish Mission Council, 2023

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked for support to coach and advise the Swedish Mission Council, SMC, in finding systems for clearer control, follow-up and result reporting of its environment/climate change activities, and connecting it to the operational work with project and program funding. The Helpdesk established a dialogue with the environmental working group at SMC and it was agreed that the Helpdesk should organise a workshop for the group with the purpose of developing a LFA for environment/climate change activities of SMC and assisting them in the follow-up of the development of the LFA.

Results/Findings: A full-day workshop was organised on October 24th, and a draft LFA for the years 2024-2026 was produced by the group under the facilitation of the Helpdesk. At the request of the environmental working group the Helpdesk provided a manual for following-up the workshop in order to finalise the LFA.

2023-110: The Water-Energy-Food-Nexus, World Food Programme Iraq

Purpose: HUMASIA/Iraq asked for support in the review of a concept note on “Agricultural interventions within the Water Food Energy ecosystem nexus” from the World Food Programme (WFP). The Helpdesk was later asked to engage in a dialogue with the WFP team in order to explain Sida’s requirements regarding environmental integration.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided comments on different versions of the program document as well as on the results framework. The Helpdesk also participated in meetings with WFP which contributed to bring needed clarifications on the table.

2023-116: Review of Southern Africa SADC SRHR, HIV, AIDS governance project

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Pretoria asked the Helpdesk to comment on the environmental assessment of the SADC-Parliamentary Forum program proposal SRHR, HIV, AIDS governance project. The assignment included providing recommendations for how to tag the environmental policy markers.

Results/Findings: The organisation and the program display a good understanding of the important connections between environmental issues and SRHR. The organisation also has a unique opportunity to influence national SRHR legislations and policies in the SADC region. The Helpdesk found the environmental assessment to be adequate but that it, given the organisation’s knowledge and position, could include environmental issues to a larger extent. The Helpdesk believes that the organisation has its main leverage point for environment-SRHR within disaster risk reduction. The Helpdesk assessed that the program in its current format should be marked 0 for all environmental policy markers but could be changed to 1 for ‘Environment’ and ‘Disaster Risk Reduction’ if the program should choose to incorporate the Helpdesk’s recommendations.

2023-117: Review of Civil Rights Defenders ToR for an Environmental Working Group

Purpose: The Helpdesk was asked by PARTNER/CIVSAM to review the Terms of References of Civil Rights Defenders’ Environmental Working Group (EWG). This assignment was a complement to the previous assignment (delivered on 29th September 2023) to review the CRD’s application for an extension of the agreement period 2024-2025.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds that the EWG is relevant, that their mandate is clear, and their tasks are ambitious. It is, however, not clear if the ambitions are supported by adequate resources.

2023-119: Waste Management and Circular Economy in Armenia

Purpose: EUROLATIN/Armenia asked for support in the review of the proposal “Improving Waste Policy Implementation in Armenia” and the narrative report “Waste Policy Armenia Program.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided comments on different drafts of the program document as well as on the results framework. The Helpdesk was later asked to participate in a meeting (digital) with the proponent to discuss the planned activities. Such interactions help to get a better understanding on the context and increase the understanding of the challenges the partners are

facing. It is also a good opportunity to discuss and get a better understanding of the Sida requirements regarding environmental integration.

2023-122: Environmental assessment – Action Against Hunger, Mozambique

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo asked the Helpdesk to assess the quality of the environmental assessment (EA) for the project proposal Food and nutrition security in Capo Delgado, Mozambique, by Action Against Hunger.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found the project with its EA promising and well conducted with good opportunities to contribute to an environmentally sustainable development in the target areas. The proposal stated that they had performed an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which the Helpdesk meant was not the case, they had rather performed a simple environmental assessment, which is what Sida requires. The project could improve some of its environmental areas throughout the project timeline, especially considering waste management which otherwise risk being left out from the project development. The partner was recommended to prioritise among suggested mitigation measures. Sida was recommended to follow up on specific issues related to waste management, water and WASH, and capacity.

2023-124: Review of Concept Note Green-AL, Albania

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Tirana asked the Helpdesk to review the concept note of a new phase of the Green-AL contribution, implemented by the environmental civil society organisation Co-PLAN. The purpose of the assignment was to provide advice and recommendations to the Embassy on issues/questions to bring up in the dialogue with Co-PLAN based on the content of the Concept Note.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found the concept note highly relevant from an environmental perspective and assessed the proposed activities effective to support ECSO. The Helpdesk recommended Sida to ask Co-PLAN how the programme will target and engage with the private sector as they are a vital stakeholder in the green transition.

2023-126: Review of Individuell Människohjälps application

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked for support to review Individuell Människohjälps (IM) application for the period 2024-2028. The purpose of the assignment was to assess to which extent IM has integrated environmental and climate change issues in their application. In addition, the task was also to assess the quality of the environmental assessment.

Results/Findings: The application from IM, together with the organisation's strategy shows that IM has very high ambitions on environmental sustainability and climate action. The environmental assessment, which is part of IM's application, is according to the Helpdesk of high quality and covers the expected aspects as per Sida's requirements. The Helpdesk's main concern relates to IM's capacity, on regional and HQ-level, to fully respond to the high ambitions set.

2023-135: Green Jobs for Youth in Northern Mozambique (GeraSol)

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo requested support from the Helpdesk to review a proposal from SNV on Green Jobs for Youth in Northern Mozambique (GeraSol). The purpose was to support the Embassy to assess if the partner SNV's environmental assessment (EA) fulfils Sida's requirements and provides adequate information for Sida's appraisal. The assignment was undertaken with support from an external expert.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that SNV has identified opportunities to contribute to a future that is more environmentally sustainable, through focusing the job training on the growing renewable energy market. Indirectly, through contributing to solar-based, off-grid electrification, the project has the potential to facilitate opportunities for the communities' low-carbon and resilient development. Hence, the GeraSol project can be assessed as indirectly contributing to implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Helpdesk assessed that the project activities in themselves are not linked to any significant risks for negative environmental impacts. The Helpdesk recommended that the EA is complemented with an assessment of possible indirect environmental risks and how possible environmental vulnerabilities in Niassa, Nampula and Cabo Delgado might affect the sustainability of the contribution. The Embassy was recommended to include environmental and climate change issues in their dialogue with SNV.

2023-136: Migration business and human rights in Asia, IOM

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok asked for support to review the proposal "Migration, Business and Human Rights in Asia: Promoting Corporate Responsibility and Migrant Workers' Rights in Global Supply Chains" submitted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The purpose of the assignment was to: i) Review the project proposal to help identify possible openings to further strengthen the environmental/climate aspects of the programme, and ii) Provide suggestions for dialogue questions IOM/Sida during the project cycle.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk recommended that Sida suggest to IOM that they add an outcome to the proposal/results framework that addresses the linkages at the policy level between climate change and labour migration governance as per IOM's Theory of Change (ToC) and their forthcoming MBHR Environmental Mainstreaming Strategy. Specifically, this outcome could address how IOM can support states and other players to develop innovative rights-based migration policies and practices that integrate issues of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards. This is well in line with IOM's first priority area on migration policy in its Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, 2021-2030.

2023-146: SRHR Africa - REPSSI

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the AFRICA department to review REPSSI's project proposal "Achieving better SRHR Outcomes for young people: Improved access to quality and responsive SRHR information and services for adolescents and young people in East and Southern Africa 2024-2026". The purpose of the assignment was to analyse if and how the programme has integrated the environmental perspective.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that REPSSI’s proposal did not integrate environmental issues, including climate change. REPSSI has made an environmental assessment that describes some linkages between SRHR and environment and climate change concerns, and to some extent identifies potential risks and opportunities. But as the opportunities are not integrated in the overall proposal it is difficult to know how the identified activities will be carried out, followed up or evaluated. The Helpdesk recommended Sida to ask REPSSI to clarify what specific environmental activities they intend to carry out in this specific contribution and what their capacity to implement, monitor and follow up any environmental activities or mitigation measures are. The Helpdesk recommends REPSSI to develop an environmental policy strategy or equal as a first step to better integrate environmental issues at strategy and project level.

2023-147: SRHR East African Community (EAC)

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the AFRICA department to review EAC’s project proposal “Integrated SRH/RMNCAH, HIV/AIDS and STIs Programme (2024-2027), EHIP phase II”. The purpose of the assignment was to analyse if and how the programme has integrated the environmental perspective.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that EAC’s proposal did not integrate environmental issues, including climate change. EAC has made an environmental assessment that describes linkages between SRHR and environment and climate change concerns, and to some extent identifies potential risks and opportunities. But the opportunities are not integrated in the overall proposal or the results-framework. The Helpdesk recommended Sida to ask EAC to clarify what specific environmental activities they intend to carry out in this contribution, and how these will be implemented, followed up and evaluated. Recommendations also included to ask EAC about their capacity to implement, monitor and follow up any environmental activities or mitigation measures, where the organisation stands in the updating of its climate change policy and strategy, and to request the to submit its travel and meeting policy.

2023-148: SRHR International Rescue Committee, Africa

Purpose: The AFRICA department asked the Helpdesk to review the environmental assessment of the proposal “Partnering for Resilience to Emergencies through Transformation of SRHR, by the International Rescue Committee’s (IRC)”.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found the environmental assessment of good quality and covering all Sida’s requirements, but that it should be integrated in the program proposal to a larger extent. They could for example more clearly and precisely list environmental aspects more, and reflect this more in their activities, budget and log frame. The proposal focuses largely on waste management, which is great, but could also include aspects of disaster risk reduction. The Helpdesk believes that the contribution has good opportunities to increase awareness and action on the connections between environment/climate change and SRHR, especially considering DRR.

2023-150: Search for common ground, MENA

Purpose: HUMASIA/MENA asked for support to coach their partner 'Search for Common Ground', on how to do an environmental assessment according to Sida's requirements and, subsequently review the forthcoming draft.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk organised two Zoom meetings with the partners where the general purpose of Sida's requirements for environmental and climate change integration into contributions was introduced and a presentation of Sida's Step-by-Step-Guide Environmental Integration into Sida's Operations was made.

2023-162: Research cooperation with Tanzania

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Dar es Salaam to review three applications for research cooperation with Tanzania. The applications are based on previous submissions of concept notes in 2022. The organisations were the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Commission for Science and Technology of Tanzania (COSTECH), and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk review noted that all applications encompass a short section on environment and climate change as a cross-cutting issue, but that what is raised falls short from what is needed in terms of an effective integration of environment and climate change issues into the research institution's programs. Notably, there is a large gap in the results-frameworks. Among others, the Helpdesk recommended Sida to request the institutions to: submit a mandatory environmental assessment; include specific environmental objectives in their results frameworks; and include bilateral cooperation between one (or more) of the Swedish universities, and the Tanzanian partners, on developing/strengthening the institutions Environmental Management Systems.

2023-164: Review of HelpAge application

Purpose: INTEM/SOCIAL asked for support to review HelpAges's application for the period 2024-2028. The purpose of the assignment was to assess to which extent the organisation has integrated environmental and climate change issues in their application.

Results/Findings: The application has a good ambition on integrating environmental and climate change issues.

2023-167: Support to Never Again Rwanda

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Kigali requested support from the Helpdesk to assist and coach its partner organisation Never Again Rwanda (NAR) in the process of developing an environmental policy (or policy elements integrated in NAR's upcoming strategic plan) and action plan during 2024.

Results/Findings: This assignment will continue during 2024 but as a first step, the Helpdesk has provided NAR with some information, examples and inspiration to get started with its work to develop an environmental policy.

Category 2. Country, Regional and Thematic strategy processes

2022-128: Challenges for Iraq's long-term access to water resources

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by HUMASIA/MENA/Iraq to map and describe the challenges for Iraq's long-term access to water resources. The assignment had a specific focus on transboundary aspects, with the aim to identify potential entry-points for water integration in Sweden's strategy for Iraq. The assignment also included mapping actors, initiatives, and literature of the water sector in Iraq that could be of relevance for Sida.

Results/Findings: Iraq is heavily dependent on Euphrates and Tigris for their water supply and thereby affected by upstream countries decisions regarding water uptake. The report found that Iraq certainly could be strengthened in regional matters concerning water, but that Iraq also need to focus efforts on reducing its national water-waste and increase its water use efficiency, which are measures that can be done independently of neighbouring countries. The agricultural sector stands for 78 % of total water withdrawal in Iraq and would benefit from updated infrastructure and techniques. Climate change is estimated to reduce the water availability in Iraq and the Helpdesk found that the most important consequences of this reduction include: i) reduced agricultural yields, ii) desertification and sand- and dust storms, iii) reduced flow of the Euphrates-Tigris Rivers, iv) reduced survival, growth and wellbeing of livestock and v) displacements urbanisation of farmers. The Helpdesk suggested national and regional categories for Sida's consideration as ways forward for Sida and potential entry-points for water integration in the Swedish development cooperation strategy for Iraq. These included supporting local water management initiatives, capacity development of authorities, strengthening civil society and academic research organisations in water issues within and outside Iraq, as well as promoting multitrack water diplomacy initiatives.

2023-050: Contributions to the portfolio overview for agriculture

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by INTEM/TEMA to provide background information to the annual Sida Portfolio Review "Agriculture and Food Security; Food Security – a basis for Peace and Resilience". It concerned results from Sida operations across different defined categories (geographical coverage, thematic, response to the triple crisis – climate, Ukraine impacts on food security/rising prices, conflict, etc.)

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk delivery comprised two main parts; 1) A number of fiches with result descriptions that can be drawn upon for the section "Relevant achievements for section Change Stories" of the review; and 2) Excerpts from relevant literature that can be used for the section "Development in the word".

2023-058: Mapping actors and programmes regarding DRR insurance and financing in MENA

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Amman requested support from the Helpdesk to conduct a study/mapping regarding actors and programmes related to disaster risk insurance and financing in

the MENA region. The assignment was to compile and list various insurance and financing initiatives/programmes and actors in the field of disaster risk insurance and financing. The assignment was to be finalised in three working days and should be presented virtually to the embassy in a PowerPoint presentation.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk presented a list of initiatives/actors in an excel sheet and with a PowerPoint presentation.

2023-089: Synthetisation of results, lessons and recommendations, Palestine

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by HUMASIA/MENA and the Swedish Consulate General in Jerusalem to synthesise results, best practices, lessons learnt, and recommendations from the Swedish development cooperation with Palestine during the current strategy period (2020-2024), related to support area 2: environment and climate change. The Helpdesk reviewed progress reports and evaluations of four contributions.

Results/Findings: The 12 overarching recommendations to Sida and the Consulate General included the importance of recognising that environment and climate change, are political and social issues, as much as a biophysical one, and that continuous support is critical to Palestine's civil space due to its importance for environmental improvement and increased resilience, including service delivery and capacity and awareness building on the ground.

2023-090: Portfolio analysis, Zimbabwe

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Harare requested support from the Helpdesk to conduct a portfolio analysis for Zimbabwe. The objectives were: to assess to what degree the portfolio has integrated environment and climate change aspects; to suggest how integration of environment and climate change could be strengthened; and to contribute to capacity-building for the Embassy.

Results/Findings: Mainly contributions in the assessment phase, or those agreed during the current strategy period, were included in the review. 18 contributions were included. The Helpdesk concluded that that most policy markers are correctly set but that, outside the specific environment and energy portfolio, there is a low level of integration of environment and climate change. One of the main reasons for this, according to the Helpdesk, is that few contributions have included an adequate (and mandatory) environmental assessment. Also, several partners do not seem to use their own policies and capacities for assessing and integrating environment and climate change. The results from the portfolio analysis is expected to be used in an upcoming workshop for the Embassy in Maputo.

2023-115: EUROLATIN review of partner environmental assessments 2019-2022

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by EUROLATIN to map the environmental assessments (EAs) carried out in 2022 and to compare with the number of EAs carried out 2017-2019. The aim was to assess to what extent environmental assessments are carried out by the EUROLATIN partners and to what quality.

Results/Findings: The mapping concluded that 16% more environmental assessments are carried out today compared to 2017-2019. During 2017-2019, 229 contributions were analysed. Out of these, 33% had carried out some kind of environmental assessment. For 2022, 95 contributions were analysed. Out of these, 49% had carried out some kind of environmental assessment. The quality of the EAs of ongoing contributions is assessed as inadequate. Only 10 (of 95) of the EAs meet Sida's requirements. It corresponds to 11% of all contributions assessed. Most EAs includes risks and/or opportunities. Few (12%) EAs includes vulnerabilities, i.e. how the project may be impacted by risks from environmental degradation and climate change.

2023-138: Georgia Green Taxonomy

Purpose: PARTNER asked the Helpdesk to analyse if the Georgian taxonomy for sustainable investments is of reasonable standard in comparison to the EU green taxonomy. The assignment was supported by an external expert. The Helpdesk also received pro-bono advice from a project coordinator at SDSN Northern Europe with work experience from the EU taxonomy.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk assessed that there are large differences between the Georgian and the EU taxonomy, where the major ones relate to scope and extent, as well as interlinkages and internal cross referencing. The Georgian taxonomy have fewer, and far less detailed, technical screening criteria than the EU taxonomy, and does not include a do-no-significant-harm perspective. The Georgian taxonomy is still in its cradle and include aspects that could become of concern for Sida with regards to guarantees. The Helpdesk highlighted that the differences between the taxonomies are too large to find relevant points of concern for Sida on a general level, and that the potential concerns instead should be investigated on a case-by-case basis to find if they would be of concern or not. The Helpdesk would happily support Sida with these investigations, if/when needed.

2023-143: Environment and climate change Syria

Purpose: HUMASIA/MENA asked the Helpdesk to synthesise information related to environmental risks and opportunities in Syria. The assignment aimed to support Sida to better understand the key environmental and climate change problems, trends, risks, and opportunities and their linkages to people living in poverty, to serve as input to upcoming strategy process. The report structure was aligned to the MDPA. Due to the complexity of the assignment, the Helpdesk sought advice from several External Experts.

Results/Findings: Syria is severely affected by climate change and environmental problems that are exacerbated by the raging war. The main environmental challenges are related to water scarcity, land-, air-, and water-pollution, land degradation and biodiversity loss. More than 90 % of the population live in poverty and more than 15 million people rely on humanitarian assistance, and the war has created the world's largest population of IDPs. The Helpdesk found that there are regional differences with regards to the environmental challenges and poverty linkages, where the northeast seems to be the most affected. There are also regional differences in available data that can be linked to the political situation with regards to regional control. The Helpdesk finds, among several issues, that it is crucial to link short-term humanitarian assistance with long-term development support to support a resilient and sustainable development. Environmental integration should be

promoted in all interventions. Focusing on long-term resilience could potentially even contribute to peacebuilding.

2022-132: Mapping tools and approaches: how to reach the poorest in MENA

Purpose: The Helpdesk was assigned by HUMASIA/MENA to provide analytic support to their work to implement Sida's operational goal 1.4. (Vi skärper vår kunskap om klimatförändringarnas effekter och utarmningen av den biologiska mångfalden samt identifierar åtgärder för klimatanpassning och biomångfald där vårt utvecklingssamarbete kan göra störst skillnad för de allra fattigaste) and to get an overview of Sida's own analytical tools available to identify how the unit's work can contribute to improve the lives of the poorest in the MENA region, given the impacts of climate change.

Results/findings: The Helpdesk identified a number of tools as important for MENA's work to strengthen the climate perspective including Sida's MDPA, national plans and priorities e.g. NDCs and NAPs, and information from partner organisations such as the mandatory environmental assessment, the World Bank, research institutes, think tanks, the Helpdesk, etc. Links and references to useful databases were provided. The Helpdesk summarised the main challenges people living in poverty in the MENA region face due to climate change: Food Insecurity, Water Scarcity, Displacement, Health impacts, Limited Access to Adaptation, and Lack of social protection. The Helpdesk also identified measures to manage the impacts of climate change in MENA, including: adaptation, mitigation, integrated approaches, climate-resilient infrastructure, capacity building, and cross-border cooperation.

2022-135: Mozambique Portfolio Analysis

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo requested support from the Helpdesk to conduct a portfolio analysis for Mozambique. The objectives were: to assess to what degree the portfolio has integrated environment and climate change aspects; to suggest how integration of environment and climate change could be strengthened; and to contribute to capacity-building for the Embassy.

Results/Findings: Only contributions being in the assessment phase, or those with a longer implementation span, were included in the review. The Helpdesk concluded that that most policy markers are correctly set but that, outside the specific environment and energy portfolio, there is a low level of integration of environment and climate change. One of the main reasons for this, according to the Helpdesk, is that few contributions have included an adequate (and mandatory) environmental assessment. Also, several partners do not seem to use their own policies and capacities for assessing and integrating environment and climate change. The results from the portfolio analysis were later used in a workshop for the Embassy in Maputo.

Category 3. International processes

2023-019 to 2023-025: Review of Green Climate Fund proposals, March 2023

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA requested support from the Helpdesk to review six GCF projects before decisions at the GCF board meeting no. 25 in March 2023. These GCF assignments are presented together, below:

- **2023-019 Cambodia (FP199), Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically-Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihood in Northern Tonle Sap Basin (PEARL).** Primarily adaptation, with environmental and social co-benefits. Overall, the Helpdesk agreed with the assessment and the conditions suggested by iTAP. The Helpdesk also recommended Sida to request GCF and the Accredited Entity (AE) to include an additional oversight mechanism by an external actor.
- **2023-020 Bolivia (FP202) Upscaling Ecosystem Based Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Rural Communities in the Valles Macro-region of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (RECEM-Valles).** An adaptation project with focus on agriculture adaptation with aim to enhance resilience of livelihoods, ecosystems, irrigation infrastructure, and food security in the Valles Macro-region of Bolivia. The Helpdesk agreed with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP and highlighted that the project would likely contribute to the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems, if implemented correctly.
- **2023-021 Africa (FP 205) Infrastructure climate resilient fund (AFC)** The Helpdesk agreed with the assessment made by the iTAP which fully endorsed the FP, including the recommendation that an assessment of the GHG emissions of its subprojects during the whole 20-year lifespan of the GCF programme (not just during the construction and development stages) also be conducted. Further, the iTAP stressed that the vulnerability assessment and how this is incorporated into the risk assessment may need to be clarified some more.
- **2023-023 Philippines (FP FP201) Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA).** A cross-cutting project within agriculture (Result areas: Health and well-being, and food and water security, Most vulnerable people and communities and Forestry and land use). The Helpdesk concurred with the Secretariat's assessment, as well as iTAP's assessment. The project descriptions of anticipated mitigation benefits are vague and there is a related recommendation to the Accredited Entity (AE), namely FAO. It is expected that AE should act on this specific recommendation, but there is only an acknowledgement of the recommendation. It may be a matter of wording, thus the Helpdesk only provided a note on this observation.
- **2023-024 Lao PDR (FP200), Scaling up the implementation of the Lao PDR Emission Reductions Programme through improved governance and sustainable forest landscape management (Project 2).** Cross-cutting. with environmental/ecosystems and social co-

benefits. Overall, the Helpdesk agreed with the assessment and the conditions suggested by the Secretariat and iTAP. The Helpdesk also recommended Sida to request GCF and the Accredited Entity to include an additional oversight mechanism by an external actor.

- **2023-025 Colombia (FP203) Heritage Colombia (HECO): Maximizing the Contributions of Sustainably Managed Landscapes in Colombia for Achievement of Climate Goals.** The project aimed at both strengthened mitigation and adaptation by enabling low-emission climate-resilient management in and adjacent to protected areas and improved adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities through improved climate-resilient land use and livelihood practices. The Helpdesk agreed with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP highlighting the need of capacity-building in Executing Entities and establishing strong anti-corruption measures.

2023-027: FAO Desert Locust Control Committee

Purpose: The Helpdesk was asked by INTEM/GLOBEC to provide background information in view of the upcoming FAO 42nd Desert Locust Control Committee Meeting, 13-17 March, Nairobi, including tracing the agenda and relevant documents.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk shared the agenda and links to meeting documents and highlighted the importance of Swedish presence at the meeting. After the meeting, the report was reviewed, and overall observations provided to Sida. These DLCC meetings have elements of a more technical nature, but are intended as the global forum that brings together affected countries, donors and other actors to address the challenges of Desert Locust, a migratory agricultural pest that poses risks to food security. Resource mobilization is a main theme of the DLCC as well as monitoring and control. Discussions around the negative impacts on the environment and human health from the control campaigns (mainly pesticides) and alternatives are also central parts of the DLCC meetings. (This time, it seems it was not possible for Sida/Sweden to attend the DLCC meeting.)

Issues highlighted to Sida: The Helpdesk encourages Sida to participate in the DLCC meetings, together with other resource partners (France, USAID, Switzerland etc), especially as Sida and Sweden have been engaged in various ways in addressing the Desert Locust problematics. FAO has received related humanitarian support from Sida. Through the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI), Sweden also provides support to FAO with the overall objective to contribute to sustainable food production and conservation of biodiversity, with a reduction of environmental and human health risks posed by pesticides.

2023-070: Green Climate Fund Environment and Social Safeguards review for FP181

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked the Helpdesk to provide comments on the GCF document "*IDP - Disclosure of environmental and social safeguards (ESS) information: Category B subproject under FP181*". The project's aim was to introduce so-called "hydropanels" in rural communities in Mexico, South Africa and Brazil for collecting drinking water from air moisture. The purpose of the review was to identify, via a desk study, how the proposal for ESS was compatible with GCF's policies and whether any effects "on the ground" of the project could be ascertained.

Results/Findings: The conclusion from this desk study was - beyond reasonable doubt - that the project owner appears to have adhered to the GCF's ESS and including the requested follow-up and evaluation mechanisms associated with the framework. However, as the technology still is quite unproven, the Swedish MFA could convey to GCF that they should ask for a "reality check" of how the installation of the first hydropanels was carried out in 2023. What technical and environmental problems have been encountered and how have these handled? Verified and well-documented interviews with "beneficiaries and stakeholders" would also be a desirable and obvious part of such a report.

2023-083 – 087: Review of Green Climate Fund proposals, July 2023

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA requested support from the Helpdesk to review ten GCF funding proposals (FPs) and SAPs (Simplified approval process) before decisions at the GCF board meeting (B.36) in July 2023. Due to time constraints Sida suggested that priority should be given to FP 206, 210 and 212, as well as SAP 026. The others (FP 207, 208, 208, and SAP 027, 028 and 029) should be reviewed with a lighter hand.

General Findings for all the below FPs and SAPs: The Helpdesk in general supported the finding from the assessments made by the GCF Secretariat and the independent technical committee (iTAP). There are however still some observed weaknesses as regards conflict analysis. Further, it is often the case that central concepts/approaches like e.g. "Climate resilient agricultural practices" are referred to without any definition of the approach which makes it difficult to assess its environmental impacts.

These GCF assignments are presented together, below:

- **2023-083 Bangladesh (FP206) Resilient homestead and livelihood support.** Accredited entity and implemented by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). An adaptation project with focus on building cyclone resilient houses based on the "building back better" concept and climate proofing traditional farming practices to secure nutrition and income needs.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk agreed with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP, and highlighted that the importance of promoting capacity development to ensure long-term sustainability of the project interventions (such as maintenance of the climate proofed houses) as well as including women organisations in the development of the gender assessment and action plan, and ensuring some flexibility in the project based on the input.
- **2023-084 (FP210) KawiSafi II Acumen Fund.** Accredited entity Acumen Fund, Inc. There are two executing entities; the General Partner; KawiSafi II Capital Investments LLC, and the Manager; Marula Partners LLC. KawiSafi II is a venture equity fund aimed at bridging the investments required to bolster mitigation and adaptation efforts and address disparities in accessing climate finance.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk commented that a fund structure is by their nature unable to provide certainty of the portfolio composition, therefore a close monitoring is preferred to assure that the poverty perspective is inclusive. The only concern is that there seems to be no conflict analysis included. It is recommended to highlight it.

- 2023-085 (FP212) Green fund investing in agriculture and protecting forests.** Accredited entity is FMO (The Netherlands). Implemented by FMO and the Stichting AndGreen.Fund (“the &Green Fund”). The &Green Fund aims to scale up commercial investment in tropical agricultural supply chains while transforming them to “no deforestation” and “socially inclusive” at a landscape level. The initiatives supported under the FP aim to establish a scalable mechanism that uses financial incentives to achieve behaviour change on the part of resource users that will contribute to sustainability.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk has failed to find how sustainable intensification is defined and should be understood in the FP. Neither are its pros and cons discussed in any detail. Further, introduction of incentives for local stakeholders to safeguard production areas is mentioned among the suggested adaptation and mitigation interventions. Considering the challenges associated with different kinds of incentives (linked to sustainability aspects and market distortion issues), it would have been interesting to learn more about the proponents take on this.
- 2023-086 Bangladesh (SAP026) Extended community CC project.** (ECCCP-Drought). Accredited entity: Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). PKSF acts both as executing entity and implementing entity for several results areas (NGOs are implementing entities for some activities at community level). The project intends to reduce the vulnerability to droughts of poor communities in the area of Bangladesh that is most affected by drought.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesks identifies some points of weakness in the assessments by the Secretariat and iTAP. The Helpdesk had preferred that both assessments had highlighted the meagre attention to biodiversity risks and benefits in the proposal. As earlier described, some issues: Risks and opportunities related to seed purchase – It is not clear if, and how, this proposal has considered support to local seeds systems and inclusion of local varieties. How do the planned activities link to sustainable seed systems and agro-ecology? Planting trees is not the same as promoting biodiversity; IWRM is a main focus. One of the four components of the IWRM concept is ecological benefits - no description or expected results.

2023-087 (brief review of FP207, 208, 209 and SAP027, 028, 029). The Helpdesk was requested to undertake a quick assessment of the summary of some of the proposals related to:

- FP207: Pakistan’s resilience to climate change through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Green Infrastructure for integrated flood risk management.** Accredited entity: World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US). Project implementing entity: WWF-Pakistan.

Results/Findings: The project has high degree of country ownership. The initiative is founded on in-depth scientific studies, inclusive planning, hydrological assessments, and climate analysis. This is a paradigm that could be replicated in other locations throughout the country. The Helpdesk note that the project is implemented by a PMU hosted by the EE. How will they ensure that the evidence collected during the project implementation is de facto transferred to relevance national authorities?
- FP208: Enhanced climate resilience in the Trois-Rivières region of Haiti through Integrated Flood Management.** Accredited entity: UNDP. Implementing entity: Ministry of Environment of Haiti.

The objective of this project is to enhance the climate resilience of the TR region by initiating

a shift away from uncoordinated decision-making and unsustainable land-use practices towards an integrated, climate-resilient approach to land and water resources management.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concur with the assessment by the GCF secretariat and the independent technical panel. It should however be noted that the iTAP remain concerned, about the ability of the project to carry out the national level work of output 3.1 effectively, strengthening the national governance framework for IWRM and scaling up the approach by establishing catchment and sub-catchment management structures in 31 catchments across the country.

- **FP209: Climate Change Resilience through South Africa’s Water Reuse Programme.**
Accredited entity: Development Bank of Southern Africa. Implementing entity: The South African national Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) which has proposed a number of interventions to address the current and future water challenges. These include decreasing water demand and water losses through non-revenue water.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk highlighted that the independent technical committee (iTAP) notes that the plan and process are yet to be tested; therefore the independent TAP sees this proposal as another example of a programme that could benefit from ongoing GCF engagement and learning.
- **SAP027: Solomon Islands Knowledge-Action-Sustainability for Resilient Villages (SOLKAS) Project.** Accredited entity: Save the Children Australia. Implementing entities: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and Save the Children Solomon Islands. The project seeks to enhance the capacities of governments at all levels, communities, and schools to understand, adapt to, plan and implement responses to climate crises. It will empower communities to lead adaptation planning and implementation (locally-led adaptation).
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk notes that the project is unlikely to have any significant negative environmental impacts, as it is mostly capacity development and small infrastructure investments (e.g. retrofitting of schools to be more resilient). Further, it would be interesting with a mechanism to learn from the projects financed by GCF, for instance related to the effectiveness of this project’s innovative parts.
- **SAP028: Women-Adapt: Enhancing the climate change adaptive capacity of smallholder farmer communities in Côte d’Ivoire.** Accredited entity: World Food Programme (WFP). Implementing entities: WFP together with The Government of Côte d’Ivoire through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The SAP will adopt a gender-transformative approach to overcome technical, institutional, knowledge and financial barriers focusing mainly on capacity-building and empowerment of women and youths farmers’ organizations (FOs) to promote the shift towards resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk notes that there are identified synergies with FP183, another GCF project in the sub-Saharan region, which could contribute to financing sustainable business plans in the Poro region. It would be interesting with some kind of follow-up of the actual synergies with FP183.
- **SAP029: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).** Accredited entity: Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). Implementing entities: MCT, MCT and the Protected Areas Network Fund (“PAN Fund”) shall act as the EE in Palau, and, the Marshall Islands

Marine Resources Authority (“MIMRA”) in the Republic of Marshall Island. The project aims to scale up locally led adaptation efforts by combining 1) the setting up of small grants facilities in the three participating countries for local organisations to implement EbA subprojects, with 2) capacity building for beneficiaries to plan, design and implement those, as well as 3) the generation and management of knowledge on EbA.

Results/Findings: It should be noted that the eligibility criteria have not been reviewed by the Helpdesk, but it is good if there is clarity about the gender aspects; are there any specific technical, institutional, knowledge and financial barriers for women to participate actively / access grants?

2023-091: Review of the Asian Development Bank’s Climate change action plan

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok to review the document “Asian Development Bank Climate Change Action Plan [CCAP] 2023-2030 - Working Draft as of 16 June 2023”. The purpose of the assignment was to review the Asian Development Bank’s draft Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and answer a number of questions formulated by Sida regarding if and how the CCAP provide a solid basis for the ADB to fully become the “Climate Bank for Asia and the Pacific”, and whether it is ambitious enough to create the transformative change needed.

Results/Findings: Altogether Sida provided six questions for the Helpdesk to answer, here is but a summary of the most important Helpdesk findings: The Helpdesk would welcome a clearer focus on supporting NDCs and NAPs, both to finance activities, develop implementation capacity, and support activities to ambition in line with the decisions at the recent UNFCCC COPs. Furthermore, the Helpdesk would like to see stronger wordings regarding that ADB’s interventions in Developing Member Countries should be prioritised in line with the country’s NDC and NAP. The Helpdesk also notes that *gender issues* are quite marginalized in the CCAP. Gender is only highlighted in four of the CCAP’s 103 paragraphs. The CCAP states that they will establish a country level coordination platform. A reflection from the Helpdesk is it is important to avoid duplication of efforts and incremental costs and “donor fatigue” by DMCs. Does this mean that ADB will take on itself to coordinate climate change financing in the region and are other actors prepared for this? What are the plans to coordinate with OECD/DAC countries and the World Bank in the region?

2023-097: Review of the African Union biodiversity strategy and action plan

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia to review the draft “African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 ” (ABSAP), prepared by the AU, of June 29th 2023. The purpose of the assignment was to provide suggestions for Sida for comments on the ABSAP that could be forwarded to the AU secretariat for incorporation in, and improvement of, future drafts of the ABSAP.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk identified several shortcomings – of which the following were the most apparent – in the ABSAP that Sida could highlight in its communication with the AU secretariat: Clarify how the tentative targets/objectives will contribute to the goals of the Kunming-Montreal

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in an African context, and complement with indicators; Clarify how the objectives will work in an “implementation context”. Results based management (or a theory of change) could help to highlight causal linkages between strategic pillars, objectives, indicators, activities, and budget. As well as adding clear responsibilities and means of verifications. Given the vast financial gap of around 700 billion USD annually it is a concern that the ABSAP does not provide assessments of the cost for implementing the ABSAP and from which financing sources and sectors resources will be sourced. A more detailed description of the challenges facing biodiversity in the sectors of importance for human wellbeing and ecosystem health are missing.

2023-113: Review of Asian Development Bank Safeguards

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok and HUMASIA asked for support to review the ADB Environmental and Social Framework [ESF], Consultation Draft of August 2023. The purpose of the assignment was to consider the environmental aspects related to effects on and from nature and on and from climate change.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk’s observations were as follows, and could be the subject of a constructive dialogue Sida-ADB: No clarification on the adaptation of the safeguards to the prevailing situation in each country; No reference in the ESF regarding early retirement of the fossil-fuel plants and safeguards relating to their operation and de-commissioning; The rights-based approach should be more emphasised given the relevance of human rights for sustainable natural resource management; The ESF’s compliance with, and active support for the implementation of, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should be more emphasised and outlined in the draft; Safeguarding water resources of importance for poverty alleviation such as wetlands and groundwater is hardly mentioned in the 142-page document, just a couple of notifications of each; The ESF only addresses dam construction in the context of dam safety, concerns related to the siting/operation and construction of new dams financed by the ADB in order to minimise negative impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods are not addressed.

2023-123: Review of GCF proposal on REDD+ results-based payments

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by INTEM/TEMA to briefly comment on GCF’s proposal on REDD+ results-based payment. It referred to GCF’s invitation for comments on the proposal to GCF Members and Alternate members of the Board. The set of documents comprised the Proposal for GCF REDD+ results-based payments explanatory note, Terms of reference for REDD+ results-based payments and the first stage and second stage scorecards.

Results/Findings: The comments from the Helpdesk referred to the eligibility criteria at subnational level, local communities that appeared missing in certain text sections, the conflict perspective and to some terminology (emission displacement etc).

2023-127 to 2023-134: Review of Green Climate Fund proposals, October 2023.

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA requested support from the Helpdesk to review eight GCF projects before decisions at the GCF board meeting no. 37 in October 2023. These GCF assignments are presented together, below:

- **2023-127 (SAP_033) Enhancing Climate Information Systems for Resilient Development in Sierra Leone.** The proposal is an adaptation public project with focus on enhancing climate information systems for resilient development and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters. The Helpdesk concurs with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP, without complementary comments that the assessor further concurs with iTAPs suggested recommendations for improvement.
- **2023-128 (GCF_FP215) Community resilience partnership program regional Asia ADB.** The Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) is a regional partnership program of ADB which aims to help countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific region scale up investments in climate adaptation, especially investments at the community level, which explicitly target the nexus between climate change, poverty, and gender. The Helpdesk identified no apparent environmental and climate change risks in the present funding proposal.
- **2023-129 (GCF_FP216) Scaling up flood risk management BiH, UNDP.** The proposal is an adaption project targeting vulnerable people and communities, food and water security, infrastructure, and ecosystem services. The Helpdesk concurs with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP, without any comments or issues raised, but notes that the use of EbA and NbS approaches could be further defined and targeted. Biodiversity aspects are to a large extent missing in the application. The project also misses a conflict analysis.
- **2023-130 (GCF_FP217) Building Resilience of Vulnerable Communities to Climate Variability in Rwanda's Congo Nile Divide through Forest and Landscape Restoration.** The proposal is a cross-cutting public project with focus on climate adaptation, landscape management and restoration, and adaptation through resilient livelihoods by development of alternative income sources and livelihood diversification. The Helpdesk concurs with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP, without any comments or issues raised.
- **2023-131 (GCF_FP218) Building climate resilience in Kigoma, Tanzania. UNEP.** The project intends to bridge the gap of the development–humanitarian–climate nexus. The project primarily aims to improve the resilience of refugee camps in the Kigoma Region and their host communities against the threats of climate change through an integrated landscape ecosystem approach. The Helpdesk identified no apparent environmental and climate change risks in the present funding proposal. However, it was noted that there is no conflict analysis included.
- **2023-132 (GCF_FP219) Staple Crops Processing Zone (SCPZ): Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains, implemented by the Governments in Togo, Senegal, and Guinea.**

The goal of the entire SCPZs program in Africa is to: (i) increase food production capacity and efficiency by promoting amongst others, the use of climate resilient practices and technologies adoption; (ii) enhance value addition to agriculture; (iii) promote local, regional and international trade; (iv) promote investments in agribusiness; and, (v) increase the contribution of the agriculture sector to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), wealth and employment creation. ITAP concluded that this funding proposal has addressed the key issues raised in the previous submission and endorses the proposal. But there are still a few issues which could be strengthened (see p.174 of the FP). The Helpdesk supports these recommendations made by the iTAP.

- **2023-133 (GCF FP221) Rwanda Green Investment Facility (RGIF).** The RGIF is designed to mobilise the financing required for investments in priority sectors of the Rwanda NDC and to contribute to the implementation and realisation of the NDC targets and national development plans. The Helpdesk concurs with iTAP's assessment and its recommendations to target small projects under the facility (in addition to large projects).
- **2023-134 (GCF_FP223) The Project GAIA,** implemented by the GAIA Climate Loan Fund Limited Partnership will establish a new fund called the GAIA2 Platform. The fund aim to facilitate the deployment of blended finance into long-term loans for climate adaptation and mitigation investments from institutional investors. Project GAIA is built on the theory of change that “If GCF and additional institutional, commercial and philanthropic capital is blended to create a scalable and replicable climate finance platform with a technical assistance facility, THEN low-carbon and climate-resilient growth in recipient countries will be catalysed and become more sustainable and inclusive BECAUSE successful climate mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting projects in emerging markets will be demonstrated to commercial and institutional investors.” In summary, the Helpdesk agreed with the assessment made by the iTAP which endorses this funding proposal for approval by GCF Board subject to a set of conditions.

2023-140: COP28, Review of pre-final Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA requested support from the Helpdesk to review, and propose a response to, the ‘pre-final Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace’ and the attached Briefing Note, prior to the COP28 discussions. The Declaration aims to manage some of the barriers to accessing climate finance that people living in poverty and fragile contexts experience.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk welcomed the declaration and found that it – if implemented – could contribute to a more equal access to climate finance. The Helpdesk suggested one addition to the declaration, in §7: that “the most vulnerable” are not only victims, but also important stakeholders that should be involved in problem formulation and identification of solutions.

2023-141: Global conference, gender and environmental data – takeaways.

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked the Helpdesk to participate (digitally) in the global conference on gender and environmental data, 28-29 November in Dubai, and to report back to Sida on key take-aways.

Results/Findings: As a result of the conference, a global *Call to Action* emerged from both the in-person and online conference discussions.

Category 4. Thematic analyses

2022-139: Biodiversity reporting 2022

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by INTEM/TEMA to provide a statistical summary of trends and targets in Sida's overall spending on Biodiversity during 2022. This is a recurring assignment to the Helpdesk as Sida is required to report on its activities regarding sustaining biodiversity in Swedish development cooperation as a contribution to Sweden's national report to the CBD. The summary is also one of the background documents for Sida's reporting on the Government Assignment on Biodiversity 2020-23. Sida spent around 2 billion SEK in support for projects and programs that aim to protect and sustainably use biological diversity in 2022.

2023-022: Update of the Climate change induced migration and displacement brief

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by INTEM/TEMA to update the brief "Climate change induced migration and displacement: A literature review of the global discourse". The brief contents related to UNFCCC were of specific interest.

Results/Findings: The updated brief provides a chronological stock-taking on the UNFCCC negotiations in terms of migration and displacement and how the discussions have evolved. Overall, displacement is closely associated with loss and damage and is organised institutionally as such under UNFCCC. Examples of milestones from the UNFCCC negotiations: A decision at COP 23 in 2017 refers to the importance of both internal and cross-border dimensions of climate migration, and includes climate change-related human mobility in non-economic losses, in addition to economic losses. At COP 27 in 2022, the new Loss and Damage Fund for Vulnerable Countries was agreed. The mandate of the Task Force on Displacement that was developed in 2015 has become broader by time. Additional sections of the brief were updated. In terms of updated numbers, notably, new displacements due to conflicts, violence and disasters are increasing each year and stood at 53,2 million in 2021.

2023-093: Analysis if an update of Sida's environmental review is needed

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked for support to conclude whether Sida needs to update the environmental review form 2021 due to the move to Rissne. Sida also wanted the Helpdesk to write an updated text about Sida's environmental management system to be attached to the environmental review.

Results/Findings: Through interviews with persons responsible for the Green Office at Sida, the Helpdesk could conclude that the move to Rissne has resulted in reduced negative impact from Sida's head office, which is positive. The review also showed that Sida's significant environmental aspects have not changed due to the move to Rissne. Even if certain environmental aspects have been affected (positively) by the move, they are not assessed to be of such an extent that a new environmental review needs to be carried out.

2023-101: Evidence brief on economic growth and environment

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked for support to develop an Evidence Brief on the interconnections between climate/environment/biodiversity and economic growth in relation to development and people living in poverty. The assignment was mainly undertaken by external experts at the University of Gothenburg, jointly with the Helpdesk. The assignment was delivered to Sida in draft format.

Results/Findings: In principle, economic development doesn't have to come at the expense of well-functioning ecosystems. In practice, however, traditional economic development has resulted in significant negative environmental impacts including pollution, deforestation, and habitat destruction. The draft brief submitted to Sida stressed the importance of looking at the *quality* of growth and assess its impacts on local ecosystems and human wellbeing. Sida was happy with the draft version from the Helpdesk and used it as background material to trig internal discussions, create ownership at different units. The final version is co-created internally at Sida.

2023-104: Evidence brief on the global energy transition

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA requested support from the Helpdesk to write a short (4-8 pages) report that gathers and summarises evidence on matters of significant global trends in value chains and resource allocation for the global energy transition with a focus on developing and emerging economies, also highlighting Swedish development cooperation and trade relations in the sector. The aim was to use the Helpdesk delivery as an input to a new Evidence Brief. The assignment was mainly undertaken by external experts at SEI. The Helpdesk reviewed and managed the assignment.

Results/Findings: The short report was delivered to Sida, after some draft versions had been submitted, reviewed (by Sida) and revised (by the Helpdesk).

2023-107: Evidence brief on social protection and climate adaptation

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA and the AFRICA departement requested support from the Helpdesk to write an Evidence Brief that gathers and reviews existing evidence to better understand the linkages and synergies between social protection and climate change adaptation, and if and how social protection can contribute to increased adaptation to climate change and increased environmental sustainability for Sida's target groups. The assignment was undertaken by the Helpdesk with input from external experts.

Results/Findings: The evidence brief included a description of the evidence-based knowledge of how social protection and climate change interplay, and is applied in practical terms, and especially how social protection can contribute to resilience, and increased adaptation to climate change, and increased environmental sustainability. In turn, how environmental sustainability can facilitate informed decision-making on possibilities for inter-connected support for enhanced impact for Sida's target groups. A final draft brief was delivered to Sida, after some draft versions had been submitted and reviewed. The final stage proceeded with close discussion between the Helpdesk and Sida.

2023-155: Just and green transition definitions

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by INTEM/TEMA to briefly review what definitions and interpretations there are of a Just and Green Transition (JGT). Is there a consensual definition of JGT that Sida could use?

Results/Findings: Based on the brief and limited assignment, the following conclusions were drawn: There is no consensual definition of Just Green Transition, yet, but many different definitions and approaches emphasising the interest/focus of each specific organisation. JGT aims to be an equitable process through which societies can transition to less carbon-intensive ways of sustaining themselves while at the same time considering potential negative social/rights aspects for sectors, countries and/or individuals. It is not a fixed set of rules, but rather a process that necessitates dialogue and participation of several groups of actors. To ensure that no one is left behind is central in just green transition. The concept of a just green transition is primarily about the transition to low-carbon economies and societies. Even though some actors have a wider definition/interpretation of just green transition to include environmental sustainability, biodiversity and climate resilience are seldom mentioned.

2023-159: Carbon credits and carbon markets mapping

Purpose: The AFRICA department asked for support to provide an overview and comparative analysis of the various standards for the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM).

Results/Findings: The Study's main conclusions were that Sida should solicit cooperation with The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market to help strengthen the poverty alleviation approach of standards for VCM. Field studies are required to assess the true benefits and impacts of VCM standards "on the ground". Judging from the Helpdesk's desk study, the standards appear to have similar levels of ambitions and safeguards. The reviewed literature provides little experiences on how the standards actually play out "on the ground" and how local communities and power alleviation interventions are affected by, or have benefitted from, carbon offset projects certified by the various standards. Apart from this reservation, some conclusions from the desk study can be made about the analysed standards, some stand out positively that might be of interest of Sida to investigate further in the above-mentioned field visits. The Helpdesk had exchange with researchers at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) for the assignment.

Category 5. Methodology development

2022-145: Support in the follow-up and reporting of Sida's Environmental Management System

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked the Helpdesk for support in the annual follow-up and reporting of Sida's Environmental Management System, and specifically the main environmental objectives as per Sida's Operational Plan for 2022.

Results/Findings: The analysis on the first objective showed that 77 % of the assessed contributions include a sufficient environmental analysis. Where in-depth environmental assessments (EIA) would be needed, 60 % of the contributions have made, or have planned for, an EIA. In relation to normative dialogue, 50 % of the contributions assessed include environment/climate change as a strategic dialogue issue.

2023-018: Revised instruction för MDPA

Purpose: The Helpdesk was assigned by INTEM/TEMA to provide feedback on the updated instructions for the MDPA, specifically the parts related to environment and climate, indicators as well as provide ideas on conversation starters.

Results/findings: The Helpdesk provided feedback on the draft and suggested ideas for conversation starters within areas; health, water, sanitation, and energy access.

2023-030: Update e-learning EMS

Purpose: The Helpdesk was assigned by INTEM/TEMA to suggest adjustments to the e-learning on Sida's Environmental Management System (the EMS) in order to update the e-learning to be in line with Sida's updated MLS system.

Results/findings: The suggested changes were accepted and the e-learning could be updated according to plan.

023-034: How can the NDC/NAPS processes be strengthened?

Purpose: The Helpdesk was assigned by INTEM/TEMA to provide analytic support in their work with Sida's assignment in Sida's letter of appropriation. First the focus on the assignment was to provide background information on how Sida work with capacity building and support in relation to NDC and NAP processes. The assignment later developed to also include development of a strategy overview of environment and climate goals as well as assist in an internal workshop on priorities within climate, especially around potentials for areas where Sida can work more efficiently with climate.

2023-043: Indicators for environmental markers & activities

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked the Helpdesk to select the most relevant activities in Sida's Statistical Handbook related to the Rio and Environmental Markers and, for these selected activities, suggests a number of (generic) indicators that can be used to measure and follow up these activities. This could in turn help programme/project managers when assessing and having dialogue with partners. The Helpdesk was also requested to advice on where in the appraisal process the indicators can be

anticipated to be documented (decision/appraisal). The earlier in the appraisal process the more likely it is that it can inform the programme/project.

Results/Findings: For each of the relevant four markers (Environment, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity) a number of actions that underpin and/or exemplify the nature of suggested activities under each sub heading of each marker in Sida's Statistical Handbook – such as "Water" under the Environment marker – was listed (all in all, a 30+-page document). A couple of examples of indicators to help the PO verify if the conditions for the marker was bona fide were also added under each heading.

2023-092: Step-by-step guide for core support

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked for support to develop a new step-by-step guide to Sida staff related to environmental integration in program and core support.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk delivered a final version to Sida, for setting and printing. Thereby, Sida was able to deliver on a recommendation made by the environmental auditors.

2023-160: Indicators for PARTNERS Work Plan 2024

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM/FORSK asked for support to develop indicators to Sida's six "förordningsstyrda förflyttningar" (results governed by regulation) concerning environment, climate, and biodiversity, to be used for PARTNER's work plan 2024.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk presented some suggestions on indicators for PARTNER to choose between.

Category 6. Capacity development

2022-127: Helpdesk digital information tour, Africa

Purpose: Team Environment Africa and INTEM/GLOBEN requested the Helpdesk to be a part of a digital information meeting tour in Africa, to inform about environmental integration and the services that the Helpdesk can provide. The digital tour, which was delayed one year, started during the spring of 2023 and offered two types of events: one large (1 hour) meeting per “geo-team”, or a Helpdesk digital visit to individual embassy section meetings (10-30 minutes). Next step: Team Environment will ask HoC for the embassies in Nairobi, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, and South Sudan, if they would like the Helpdesk to visit them at their section meetings. There are also possible plans for a final larger event for those that would like to attend but missed the previous events.

Results: Two geo-team meetings were held, one fairly well-attended event for West and Central Africa and one event for East Africa (where also staff working with the Horn of Africa was invited) that was only attended by 2-3 persons. Four embassy section meetings were visited (Harare, Regional Africa/Addis, Dar es Salaam, and Lusaka), and they were well attended by embassy staff.

2022-129: Workshop with Environment POs in Addis Ababa

Purpose: Team Environment Africa asked the Helpdesk to help organise and facilitate a workshop for environmental programme officers in Africa. The aim was to share experiences and challenges and help boosting the knowledge on success factors for effective support on environment and climate change, including biodiversity. The workshop was held during three days, divided into four blocks: i) environmental integration, ii) normative dialogue, iii) biodiversity, and iv) leveraging finance, and one day for study visits. Many of the POs prioritised to come to the workshop and they were glad to meet for the first time since the pandemic. Some of them had never met physically before. There were many discussions and experience sharing.

Results/Findings: One concrete output was a list of “Success factors” for environmental integration, to be further developed by Team Environment Africa after the workshop.

2022-144: Workshop on environmental integration for the Embassy in Kampala, Uganda

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Kampala asked the Helpdesk to develop a workshop on integration of environment and climate change for the whole DC section based on the portfolio analysis that the Helpdesk carried out in late 2022. The Helpdesk presented the findings from the portfolio analysis as well as Sida’s approach to environmental integration. The Helpdesk participated online.

Results/Findings: One concrete output of the workshop was an action plan for Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity Integration in Swedish Development Cooperation with Uganda which the Helpdesk also commented on.

2022-146: Workshop on green transition/green economy in MENA

Purpose: HUMASIA/MENA and the Embassy of Sweden in Amman requested support from the Helpdesk to plan and implement a workshop for programme officers working with environment and/or economic development in the MENA-region. As with the workshop in Addis, the workshop was prioritised by POs, and they were glad to meet for the first time since the pandemic. As some resource persons from Stockholm were not able to travel, the workshop was organised as a hybrid workshop. External experts from The School of Economics, Business and Law (University of Gothenburg) were engaged in the workshop as presenters and thematic support.

2023-060: Sida Biodiversity Day 2023

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked the Helpdesk to participate in an “info-blitz” at Sida Rissne on the International Day of Biodiversity with the purpose to talk about biodiversity with Sida employees, inform about available support material and what kind of services the Helpdesk can provide in relation to biodiversity, and in general answer questions.

Results/Findings: The day was well prepared and the biodiversity quiz prepared by the helpdesk was appreciated by the Sida employees. Many of the attenders were already aware about biodiversity issues and the services of the Helpdesk, but some were also new to both the subject and the Helpdesk. Most questions circulated around the services and processes of the helpdesk and not so much about biodiversity per se. Many attenders also took the opportunity to follow up on specific Helpdesk assignments. Both the Helpdesk and the requestor agreed that we should have these kinds of meetings more continually to improve the collaboration between the helpdesk and Sida.

2023-075: Examples of environmental integration in other sectors

Purpose: HUMASIA/MENA asked the Helpdesk for examples of contributions that have integrated environmental aspects in sectors such as human rights, gender equality, economic development, market development, etc. The examples should be used in a meeting with Sida colleagues in Jerusalem.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided Sida with four different examples: i) APWLD (Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development) – a human rights/women’s rights organisation that started to engage in environmental/climate change issues when they realized that women are negatively impacted by climate change and environmental degradation. Now, they have a specific programme on climate change with good results; ii) TechnoServe Rwanda that works with economic development and market development. They are working hard to integrate environment, climate, and biodiversity in this project; iii) Examples of environmental assessments of projects focusing on human rights, gender equality and market promotion; and iv) Information briefs (that the Helpdesk developed earlier to GLOBEC) about the linkages between biodiversity and a number of strategy areas such as om migration, private sector development, women’s economic empowerment, productive employment, social protection systems, ICT, tenure rights, and agriculture.

2023-096: Regional Asia partner meeting, preparation and facilitation

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok asked for support to prepare a workshop - Integrating research and action for sustainable and inclusive solutions - at the Regional Asia Partner Meeting in Bangkok September 26-27th. The assignment was later expanded to include interviews with Embassy partners working in the field of human rights and gender equality about integrating environment into their work, and challenges or gaps related to environmental integration.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk facilitated a break-out session at the workshop and documented the workshop, the interviews were summarised in a brief, and talking points on the Rio Markers were prepared, as well as comments on the WWF proposal.

2023-121: Summary of three reports

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA requested support from the Helpdesk to review three reports/articles and summarise key message of relevance for Sida, prior to “chefsveckan”. The reports included in the assignments were: i) Research article on planetary boundaries; ii) UN Report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and iii) a Global Stocktake of the implementation of the Paris agreement.

Results/Findings: The information was delivered as a ppt-presentation with speaking notes.

2023-157: Presentation and discussion on the CER of UNICEF

Purpose: INTEM/GLOBEN asked the Helpdesk to present the findings of the Central Environmental Review (CER) of UNICEF (assignment 2023-066) in an online workshop with Sida, UNICEF and the Helpdesk.

Results/Findings: The online workshop was successfully carried out with a broad representation from both Sida and UNICEF. The Helpdesk summarised the findings and recommendations from the CER.

Category 7. Information material

2023-094: Environmental and Climate change news – TEMA

Purpose: The Environment and Climate Cluster at Sida (INTEM/TEMA) strives to keep updated on environmental and climate change trends, issues, and global processes. The Helpdesk has been requested to provide support to Sida to undertake a global outlook for news, trends, and other information relevant to Sida (“omvärldsbevakning”) and summarising to Sida in a simple (e-mail) newsletter. The global outlook was initially undertaken as a part of the Helpdesk’s own global outlook, but the time to discuss the assignment with Sida, and the extra time to actually collect information and write a newsletter, was logged under this assignment.

Results/Findings: A first e-mail newsletter was distributed in December 2023.

2023-103: Notes from KSLA seminar on new genomic technologies for plant breeding

Purpose: PARTNER/FORSK asked for support to take notes from the KSLA seminar on new genomic technologies for plant breeding, to provide Sida with knowledge about the new technologies and its potential implications for development cooperation, as well as support the application process of a UN-organisation.

Results/Findings: The EU has proposed introducing new genome technologies that should be comparable to conventional methods instead of genetically modified organisms. The proposal now at hand is positively welcomed by many in the sector, but some issues remain that are relevant for Sida to keep track of; 1) *Traceability*. Marking products is important for transparency but impossible today with current methods. Some worries about administrative burdens with markings that have no real effect on traceability. 2) *Ecological farmers*. The proposal today excludes ecological farming from using the techniques, why listening to the opinions from the ecological farmers will be crucial. 3) *Field testing*. Some are worried that the processes for testing the techniques in the field will be too complicated, and testing in the field apart from in the labs will be important for assessing risks. 4) *Patent*. There seem to be consensus that products should not be patentable, only the technique. This is however important to monitor to make sure that patentable products will not be included in the final proposal.

Category 8. Facilitation and Dialogue support

2023-031: Central Environmental Review of FAO

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by INTEM/GLOBEN to undertake a Central Environmental Review (CER) of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This CER benefited from three project country reviews referring to South Sudan (2023-071), Mali (2023-072), and Georgia (2023-073). It is a small sample but gives an indication on how FAO's central environmental policies and systems are reflected at project level, decentralised offices.

Results/Findings: The CER concludes that FAO's governance, commitments, and systems address integration/mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and address environmental issues as a targeted objective. In comparison to a similar review of FAO in 2019, improvements were identified, for instance related to FAO's Strategic Framework (2020-2031). The review found that FAO's internal environmental management system considers Sida's three dimensions for environmental integration. However, there are also room for improvements, including the need for FAO to monitor and report on its environmental sustainability performance and to develop a more holistic approach that demonstrates how FAO addresses environmental issues in its humanitarian work. Recommendations from this CER triggered Sida to encourage MOPAN (through the Swedish Government) to include biodiversity in the coming MOPAN assessment of FAO. This recommendation is presumably valid for the overall assessment methodology used by MOPAN, i.e., to ensure that biodiversity is not left out. Combining a CER with case/country studies is a good approach to get an "on the ground" perspective of an organisation's actual capacity on country level as well as the actual use of guidelines and directives from HQ-level.

2023-038: Diakonia coaching 2023

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked for support to follow up on an environmental review of Diakonia and to support and coach Diakonia in their efforts to integrate environment and climate issues.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk has continued to support Diakonia with coaching since previous year. It has not been a project-type of assignment, more of a process. The Helpdesk has been available as Diakonia needed to discuss and to achieve next steps. The coaching during this period has been to support Diakonia in their work with a new Environmental Policy and to plan for guidelines and routines aligning with the strategies and central documents.

2023-047: Agriculture and food security dialogue and support

Purpose: Based on the frequent exchanges between INTEM/TEMA and the Helpdesk on agriculture and food security, especially in view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the interchange was formalised into an assignment that called for the Helpdesk's continuous support in sharing relevant literature - scientific and grey literature.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk has shared relevant publications on agriculture and food security, as well as reports on environmental damage in Ukraine due to the war, whenever it has come across relevant literature. From Sida's end they have shared updates from the newly established Sida

Committee (“Utskott”) for Sustainable food systems, which has served as a useful insight for the Helpdesk in the ongoing Sida discussions on food systems and activities ahead.

2023-053: Dialogue meeting Sida, OPC and Swedish Red Cross

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked the Helpdesk to participate in an early dialogue meeting with three strategic partners that are in the process to write a new proposal, including an environmental assessment, to CIVSAM.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk shared information and answered questions about what an environmental is, what it should include and how it can be conducted.

2023-066: Central Environmental Review of UNICEF

Purpose: INTEM/GLOBEN requested the Helpdesk to undertake a Central Environmental Review of UNICEF to be included in the revised edition of Sida’s Central Assessment of UNICEF.

Results/Findings: UNICEF are currently updating their environmental systems and will soon launch their own Environmental and Social Safeguards System (ESS) along with a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. The Helpdesk concludes that UNICEF shows a good understanding of the connections between environmental and climate change issues and child rights and are on their way to make considerable progress in its ambitions to integrate environmental aspects into its overall management systems. The success of the systems will however be subject to an efficient roll-out in the organisation and a thorough monitoring and follow-up of its usage. The Helpdesk finds it important that the new Action Plan and the ESS are fully integrated into the overall policies of UNICEF. The Helpdesk is of the opinion that results and indicators from the Action Plan needs to be reflected in the strategic framework, across different sectors and engagements, including procurement.

2023-071: FAO Country case study South Sudan (CER of FAO)

Purpose: INTEM/GLOBEN requested support to review FAO’s operations in South Sudan as an input to the CER of FAO (assignment 2023-031). A specific review was made in relation to Sida’s support to the project “Improving resilient livelihoods through food and nutrition security of vulnerable communities, especially women-headed households in Wau and Torit Counties of South Sudan”.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided a set of recommendations that referred to the risk mitigation measures of the project, its biodiversity and climate change contents, lessons learned, and the midterm evaluation. For example, Sida is suggested to maintain a dialogue on risks to the project, i.e., the vulnerabilities of the project to external factors (e.g., floods in South Sudan) and highlight to FAO, as appropriate, that risk management is vital also for projects classified as “low risk projects”. Further, FAO could improve the biodiversity integration. This observation at project level is made with the knowledge of FAO’s organisational-wide strategy and action plan on biodiversity, with reference to the undertaken FAO CER. Biodiversity is a technical mainstreaming issue across FAO’s operations.

2023-072: FAO Country case study Mali (CER of FAO)

Purpose: INTEM/GLOBEN requested support to review FAO's operations in Mali as an input to the Central Environmental Review of FAO (assignment 2023-031). A specific review was made in relation to Sida's support to the project "Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable agro pastoralists' households affected by security crisis and climate change in Gao, Menaka and Tombouctou regions". The main purpose was to give inputs to the CER from a project and country perspective.

Results/Findings: It is difficult to assess to what extent environment, climate change, and biodiversity have been integrated and managed in the project. The project documentation does not reveal an environmental analysis (or equal) which could have allowed the identification of activities specially adapted to contribute to environmental sustainability. Further, the same document does not give any information about how environment, climate change or biodiversity have been integrated. The project evaluation is only sparsely addressing the issues. The Helpdesk made a set of recommendations to Sida and the Swedish Embassy in Mali in view of its dialogue with FAO. These recommendations referred, among others, to the needed environmental assessment during the initial planning phase and description of how it has informed the project to understand not only possible risks but also opportunities to contribute to enhanced environmental integration. For similar projects in the future, it is recommended that Sida encourages FAO to make the pro-environmental features that can be read "between the lines" more obvious and includes monitoring and reporting of these issues over time.

2023-102: Dialogue questions for the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked the Helpdesk to give comments on how The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) has reported on dialogue issues concerning environment/climate change.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk gave some comments on what Sida could raise in upcoming annual meeting with SSNC.

2023-166: Planning Workshop Team Environment Africa

Purpose: Team Environment Africa/Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi requested support from the Helpdesk to facilitate a digital workshop for Team Environment Africa (Core Team and associated resources, in Nairobi and at HQ). The workshop aimed to develop input to the Team's future work of developing a detailed workplan for 2024.

Results/Findings: The planning session was organised as a "backcasting" exercise. Backcasting is a planning method based on working backwards from an *imagined future*. A significant part of the workshop contained group discussions (one group per goal), aiming at breaking down the vague strategy goals to concrete, measurable goals and expected outcomes.

Category 9. Learning

2022-138: CIVSAM environmental integration measures – interviews

Purpose: The Helpdesk was assigned by PARTNER/CIVSAM to support their efforts to assess the effectiveness of their measures to advance environmental integration in the CSO strategy. The assignment consisted of interviews with a selection of Sida's Strategic Partner Organisations (SPOs) and CIVSAM staff (POs) and is a complement to a previous desk study (2022-038).

Results: Based on the interviews and the analysis the Helpdesk concluded that: i) CIVSAM's measures have affected the SPOs' organisation and operations linked to environmental integration and the PO's appraisal and dialogue in various ways; ii) Both SPOs and POs state that clarity regarding CIVSAM's ambitions and Sida's requirements have been important; iii) The Environmental Reviews (previously referred to as spot checks) are perceived as helpful, but ought to allow for more co-creation in the development of the ToR and be careful to manage the potential trade-offs with dual goals; iv) There are opportunities to go beyond do-no-harm, but capacity constraints both at SPOs and CIVSAM are challenges that must be addressed; and v) Monitoring efforts related to environmental integration is perceived as challenging.

2023-046: Learning event Environmental Integration for the SRHR team

Purpose: In the first four months of 2023, the Helpdesk was asked to review five SRHR projects, to see if and how they have integrated environmental issues and to review the quality of the environmental assessments carried out by the partners. The AFRICA department asked the Helpdesk to present some lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations from the reviews of these five contributions, as a learning for the team in their continued work with environmental integration.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's findings from the five proposals and environmental assessments were that all contributions notice the linkages between SRHR and environment/climate; All have conducted an environmental assessment; There appears to be a big interest and ambition to integrate environment/climate change; All have identified both risks, opportunities and vulnerabilities to climate change; Only one describes the org's capacity to integrate and manage environmental issues; The identified environmental risks and opportunities are seldom visible in the project document; It is not clear IF or HOW risks and opportunities will be integrated or managed in the programme; and it is not clear how listed mitigation measures will be implemented or followed up.

2023-044 and 2023-152: Learning on environmental integration in the Health/SRHR sector

Purpose: INTEM/SOCIAL and HUMASIA asked the Helpdesk to map Sida's contributions with health and SRHR as a principal objective and to assess to which extent they integrate the environment, climate, and biodiversity aspects. More importantly, the assignment focused on providing Sida with a selected set of good examples where health/SRHR contributions have integrated environment/climate change and how it has been successful in the integration.

Results/Findings: The mapping, based on information from Sida's statistics showed that 21% of Sida's health/SRHR contributions have fulfilled one or several conditions of the environment policy markers. In financial terms, 12% of DAA within the sector is allocated to contributions that have integrated environment, climate change or biodiversity. Additional document review and through interviews with Sida program officers and partners, 5 contributions were in the end selected and presented as good examples (IPAS, UNICEF-Bangladesh, UNFPA, ReAct and WHO-TDR). The Helpdesk was also asked to present the findings at a network meeting for both the health network and the environmental network.

2023-105 and 2023-145: Good examples - an input to communication on Environment and Climate Change

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked for support to bring out selected contributions which could serve as good examples for how Sida works with environment and climate change. The examples were meant to support TEMA's internal communications strategy, which aims at accelerating Sida's systematic action on environment and climate change.

Results/Findings: As a first step (2023-105) two (2) sets of examples were selected based on Sida's Annual Report, Sida's external website and other sources. One set (4) of examples were selected based on these having environment, climate change or biodiversity as the main objective, but with clear co-benefits in relation to other sectors and perspectives. Another set (5) of examples were selected based on having integrated environment, climate change or biodiversity in a good way, while the main objective was within another sector. The second assignment (2023-145) added some more examples focusing on locally led climate change adaptation contributions. The examples were provided as a power point presentation so that they can be easily communicated.

2023-111: Results examples for the Sida's annual report 2023

Purpose: INTEM/TEMA asked the Helpdesk to go through Sida's 56 strategy reports to identify results and good examples to be used in Sida's annual report for 2023.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk identified a total of 115 examples from the 56 strategy reports. Out of these, 75 was presented in a short list to Sida. The Helpdesk also provided Sida with some general findings and lessons learnt on Sida's work on environment and climate change.

2023-151: Meeting with PARTNER - information from the Helpdesk

Purpose: PARTNER/CIVSAM asked the Helpdesk to present the Helpdesk and its services at a department meeting on November 16.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk presented who we are, what we can support Sida with and also gave some examples on earlier assignments that we have conducted for Sida.