

Annual Summary of Assignments Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change 2024

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:

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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 (see Box 1).

Box 1. Helpdesk service categories

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

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Category 1. Programme and project support

2023-150. Coaching: "Search for common ground", MENA

Purpose: The HUMASIA/MENA department asked for support to coach their partner 'Search for Common Ground', on how to do an environmental assessment (EA) according to Sida's requirements and, subsequently review the forthcoming draft. As a first step the Helpdesk organised two online 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 for Environmental Integration into Sida's Operations was made.

Results/Findings: The partner was not able to submit an EA in accordance with Sida's requirements requested by Sida at the provided deadline in December. Therefore, a process to support the partner to meet the requirements was resumed in January 2024.

2023-173. Coaching: YECAP 2024, Asia and the Pacific

Purpose: The Swedish Embassy in Bangkok asked the Helpdesk to support YECAP in their process to conduct an environmental assessment of the *Youth Empowerment for Climate Actions Platform in Asia and the Pacific* (YECAP), and to integrate the environmental/climate perspective in their Theory of Change.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk had several meetings with YECAP and provided relevant input for them to carry out the EA. The Helpdesk also read and commented on their draft EA. The Helpdesk found YECAP's environmental assessment of good quality, analysing both environmental risks, opportunities and vulnerabilities. Their suggested actions and mitigation measures seemed relevant for the programme, but it was a bit unclear to the Helpdesk how to follow up on these. The Helpdesk also provided comments on how YECAP could improve their Theory of change and results framework with clearer objectives and indicators. After revisions, the Helpdesk found both the ToC and results framework of good quality.

2024-015. Review of Plan Sweden's application to Sida 2024

Purpose: The Helpdesk got an assignment from the PARTNER/CIVSAM department, to review Plan Sweden's application for 2024-2029 from an environmental perspective.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concludes that Plan Sweden has conducted an EA that responds to Sida's requirement. Plan has listed several possible opportunities to contribute to environmental sustainability. The Helpdesk finds the identified opportunities relevant, although it is difficult to know which activities that will be implemented and to what extent. The Helpdesk finds it positive that Plan, in each country, intends to have a youth organisation specialised in climate change and environmental issues. Overall, Plan has integrated environment and climate change issues in a good way. The Helpdesk, however, recommends Plan to develop 'smarter' indicators for environmental and climate change that are more specific and easier to measure. What does Plan Sweden want to achieve with environment and climate change as a mandatory cross-cutting issue? The Helpdesk also recommends Sida to follow up on, and review, Plan's environmental action plan, and to review each country programme from an environmental perspective.

2024-031. Mapping of Actors for Technical Assistance for guarantee

Purpose: The EUROLATIN, EEP&WB department requested support from the Helpdesk to map organisations, institutions, and facilities that may hold the capacity to provide technical assistance (TA) support for effective operation of a Swedish guarantee to the Green for Growth Fund. The TA aims to create synergies with the investments, and thus leverage the guarantee to the fullest.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk collaborated with the external expert SEI to deliver on the assignment. Eleven potential organisations, that fulfilled Sida's established criteria, was identified, and presented in an excel-file to Sida.

2024-032. Environment and climate indicators for IFFEd

Purpose: The INTEM/SOCIAL department asked the Helpdesk for support to suggest a set of environment and climate indicators to include in the results framework of the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd). The purpose of the assignment was to suggest a smorgasbord of climate indicators that IFFEd could use based on their chosen level of ambition, and to find indicators that would follow the chain of actors involved in the IFFEd financing for education.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk suggested five different indicators for IFFEd to choose from based on their level of ambition, combined with a set of suggestions for implementation and follow-up up the results. Most of the suggested indicators were aligned with the official indicators of SDG target 4.7, which was an important aspect of the assignment. A driver for IFFEd to include indicators for environment and climate change was the possibility to also access climate finance for its operations. The Helpdesk recommended IFFEd to choose any of the suggested indicators, with the note that the more ambitious IFFEd is in its' climate work, the more likely they are to access climate financing. The Helpdesk also recommended IFFEd to consider the given suggestions for implementation no matter the chosen indicator. A positive "lowest level" for implementation and follow-up of environmental and climate change issues is to include follow-up of the environmental analysis from the investment case as a dialogue issue in the annual reporting.

2024-035. Joint UN project on SRHR, Mozambique

Purpose: The AFRICA department and the Embassy of Sweden in Maputo, requested support to review the Joint UN *Rapariga Biz Programme proposal, phase II - Action for Girls and Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique* and provide advice on environmental integration in the programme.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the environmental perspective, including climate change and biodiversity, had not been integrated in the programme. Neither had an environmental assessment been carried out by the UN organisations. In general, it was difficult to assess how, and to what extent environmental initiatives (no matter if it's about minimising risks (waste disposal) or managing climate change risks) will be implemented and followed up as they were neither included in the results framework nor the Risk and Mitigation Strategy. The Helpdesk provided the programme officers with some recommendations to further strengthen environmental integration in the contribution.

2024-039. Genome editing CGIAR and EU proposal on NGT

Purpose: The PARTNER/FORSK department, asked the Helpdesk to investigate potential effects of the new EU proposal on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) for Sida's operations within FORSK, to understand how the proposal, if passed, could affect funding opportunities within genomic techniques for Sida/FORSK, and especially with regards to the updated collaboration with CGIAR. The Helpdesk benefitted from in-kind support from Elin Rydström & Josefin Johansson (Ekologiska Lantbrukarna), Jens Sundström (Plant Biotechnology, SLU), and Gloria Jimwaga, (Afrikagrupperna).

Results/Findings: The EU proposal on NGTs has not been agreed upon and it is unlikely that decisions will be made before 2026. The Helpdesk's report should therefore be seen as a brief overview and support rather than strict guideline, including the assessment of which part of CGIAR activities that can be supported, or not. To add the perspective of the poor, the Helpdesk noted that Sida could add inclusion and build on a greater diversity of perspectives by promoting research that focus on including small-scale farmers and local perspectives in development and implementation of contributions relevant to the EU proposal. The Helpdesk recommended Sida to further investigate which initiatives and projects within CGIAR that include NGT1 or NGT2 crops, as well as to add an agreement condition with CGIAR that a dialogue and potential changes to the agreement regarding NGT1 and NGT2 plants will be needed once the EU proposal has been agreed upon.

2024-049. Marie Stopes Zambia, SRHR programme

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka, asked the Helpdesk to review the proposal ASPIRE – Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health, Partnerships, Inclusion, Rights, and Empowerment (referred to as the project in this document), submitted by Marie Stopes Zambia (MSZ) and to advice on environmental integration in the programme.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concludes that MSZ has conducted an environmental assessment that responds to Sida's requirement. Medical waste is identified as the main environmental risk and there are adequate mitigation measures in place. Opportunities to proactively contribute to environmental sustainability is also addressed to some extent. The Helpdesk's assessment is that these are relevant but that there might be more opportunities to explore, for example together with environmental /climate change organisations and/or SRHR organisations, such as e.g. Ipas, that has explored the interlinkages between SRHR and environment/climate change. Activities to enhance environmental sustainability also needs to be followed up on.

2024-051. Costal Erosion Lago Niassa, Mozambique

Purpose: Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change (the Helpdesk) was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Maputo to review *the inception report*: Study of costal erosion in Chuanga Beach, Lago District, Niassa province, Mozambique. The study was performed by a team of scientist from GeoMuzaza. The Helpdesk collaborated in its review with a team of experts from the Swedish geotechnical institute (SGI).

Results/Findings: Among the comments provided were; considering the data scarcity, it was recommended that a more simple, more conceptual model with fewer but more well-understood parameters be applied, and that the project would require additional time allocation in order to be able to accomplish the task.

2024-054. Review of IPPF's environmental assessment

Purpose: The INTEM/Social department asked for support to review the environmental assessment submitted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). This was a quick review due to the ongoing assessment process at Sida.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's assessment is that IPPF responds to Sida's requirements, but that Sida needs to monitor how IPPF commitments are carried out in practice, not least in relation to their partners. If the actions are being implemented as proposed, IPPF can be used as a good example within Sida's health/SRHR portfolio.

2024-063. Lutsk solid waste project, Ukraine

Purpose: Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change (the Helpdesk) was commissioned by the Sida Ukraine team to provide support in the dialogue with EBRD re the feasibility study in favour of Lutsk Solid Waste Project under the resilience and livelihood framework (RLF) of the Bank. The Helpdesk contacted the waste management expert Weine Wiqvist at Avfall Sverige to provide advice in the assignment.

Results/Findings: The summarised recommendation to Sida was to revert to the City of Lutsk and initiate a new planning procedure that will focus on waste management as a combined system rather than the construction of a MBT (Mechanical Biological Treatment) plant.

2024-066. Mozambique Off-Grid Electrification Accelerator +SOL

Purpose: Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change (the Helpdesk) was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Maputo to review *Mozambique Off Grid Electrification Accelerator +SOL*, a proposal from SNV.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's assessment is that SNV address the three "dimensions" (opportunities, risks, vulnerabilities) and that Sida's environmental integration requirements are fulfilled at a general level. However, the Helpdesk recommends the Embassy to include environmental and climate change issues in its regular dialogue to learn more about the actual challenges on the ground (for instance related to the contribution's typical negative environmental impacts, and the key challenges of their partners in relation to environmental management) and to follow-up environmental risks associated with +SOL.

2024-067. ZADT Causeway – follow up

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Harare asked the Helpdesk to join a discussion with their partner Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust (ZADT) in improving the environmental integration in an ongoing project (Causeway). The assignment was a follow-up of a previous portfolio analysis made by the Helpdesk.

Results/Findings: During the discussions the Helpdesk highlighted that ZADT already made a rather good environmental assessment covering risks, opportunities and vulnerabilities. That said, the Helpdesk expressed the need having issues noted in the environmental assessment to be reflected in the results framework and that there should be activities, targets, results, monitoring supporting the assessment. Further, the Helpdesk recommended ZADT to explore how they could strengthen its capacity in terms of environmental integration as an organisation.

2024-073. Kenya Energy Efficiency Programme KEEP

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi to provide comments specifically on outcome 2 and on the UNIDO environmental assessment.

Results/Findings: Outcome 2 includes developing an *Industry Cleantech Platform* which will focus on green transformation of the tea industry in Kenya. Among the expected environmental benefits presented is the reduced need for wood (eucalyptus) as a source of energy. The Helpdesk highlighted the importance to have control over the land freed up for alternative production, else it is very difficult to say whether the project will lead to any alternative (and preferably more sustainable) production and/or biodiversity gains. The Helpdesk recommended the project to clarify how these anticipated benefits will materialise. Further, as poverty reduction, job creation and gender equality are among the co-benefits it needs to be clarified if the eucalyptus production presently comes from small-scale farmers/local markets. If so, then they risk losing their income in short term. Hence, it is important that the impact on the local economy is taken into consideration in the suggested base line report.

2024-076. UNDP Portfolio proposal Bosnia and Herzegovina

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo to review the proposal from UNDP to introduce a “portfolio approach” to UNPD’s engagement in BiH. Within the portfolio, Sida was requested to finance 2 of the 4 portfolio pillars: i) decarbonisation and climate resilience, and ii) depollution.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the plan to have systematic approach to green transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina is commendable and that all 4 pillars are highly relevant to the context and to the environmental challenges in the country. The Helpdesk however noted that climate adaptation it integrated into the planned pillars and that an environmental assessment as per Sida’s requirements has not been submitted. Further, the Helpdesk concluded that it would be appropriate for UNDP to better describe how its own environmental policies and systems have informed the programming. In addition, the Helpdesk made some comments on the specific pillars for consideration by the Embassy.

2024-077. Market assessment E-mobility, Mozambique

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo asked the Helpdesk to review the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) component of the Terms of References for consultancy services to conduct a market study on E-mobility in Mozambique. The Helpdesk contacted the LCA expert Dr. Tomas Ekvall to provide advise in the assignment.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds it commendable that the partner organisation AECF plans to look at the whole life cycle of a product, including extraction of raw material, processing, transportation, use, and end-of-life procedures (waste management or reuse/recycling). An LCA can be an important source of insights and learning about the product’s lifecycle. However, an LCA can be done in many ways. The Helpdesk recommended the Embassy to advise the partner to clearly define the purpose of the LCA as that will determine the method, and hence the time and costs for the LCA.

2024-082. CGIAR, NGT and EU proposal

Purpose: The FORSK department asked the Helpdesk to investigate CGIAR's work with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and New Genomic Techniques (NGT), as preparation for Sida's updated collaboration with CGIAR. The assignment was a continuation of previous work (2024-039) to understand the potential effects of the new EU proposal on NGT for Sida's operations within FORSK; if adopted, how will the proposal affect the funding opportunities to genomic techniques for Sida's updated collaboration with CGIAR. The Helpdesk received support from our external expert Jens Sundström (SLU) during the assignment.

Results/Findings: The CGIAR initiative "Accelerating crop improvement through genome editing" includes techniques that would be okay for Sida to fund if the EU proposal is adopted. CGIAR have special funding windows for all work that include genetic engineering (e.g. both GMO and NGT) and ensured that no funds channelled through core support will go to genetic engineering if the funds are not clearly earmarked for this purpose. The Helpdesk, however, still recommends Sida to ask CGIAR to unpack which of the initiatives/platforms in the new CGIAR structure that solely include genome editing techniques that fall within the definition of the EU proposal NGT1 (i.e. that are okay to fund), and which that include classic GM techniques that are not part of the EU proposal.

2024-083. Serbia Solid Waste programme

Purpose: The Sida Ukraine team asked the Helpdesk to review the Serbia Solid Waste programme. The Helpdesk contacted the waste management expert Weine Wiqvist at Avfall Sverige to provide advice in the assignment.

Results/Findings: The main risks identified include:

(i) Low capacity of the stakeholders, (ii) Government's reluctance to facilitate the timely creation of the Regional SWM operator, (iii) Government's reluctance to timely introduce full-cost recovery tariffs, (iv) Project's underperformance with respect to the CO₂ savings due to the low rates of recycling among customers.

2024-084. Moldova Solid Waste programme

Purpose: The Sida Ukraine team asked the Helpdesk to review the Moldova Solid Waste programme. The Helpdesk contacted the waste management expert Weine Wiqvist at Avfall Sverige to provide advice in the assignment.

Results/Findings: The concluding recommendation was not to overinvest in the first phase and to instead invest more resources in institutional building and secure long-term sustainability of the operations. Sida should also ensure long-term influence when the project is built up all the way from the consultancy work to the finished system.

2024-093. National Waste Management Strategy Tanzania

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden Dar es Salaam asked the Helpdesk to review the Final draft of the National Waste Management Strategy of Tanzania. The Helpdesk contacted the waste management expert Weine Wiqvist at Avfall Sverige to provide advice in the assignment.

Results/Findings: The Strategy describes many of the most pressing issues. However, the strategic framework and the action plan consist of many items and plans in other domains and are not focused on the most important issues such as collection rate and safe disposal. The action plan is

very ambitious and includes almost 30 activities most of them to be conducted within the next 5 years and in parallel. It would probably be more efficient to reduce the number of activities and focus on realizing them, then after that start with a new set of actions. Finally, the Strategy lacks a Risk analysis to investigate the likelihood the Strategy and Action plan will prevail or not.

2024-094 Afrikagrupperna Environmental Action plan and risk assessment

Purpose: The PARTNER/CIVSAM department asked the Helpdesk to review Afrikagrupperna's environmental action plan and risk assessment, as well as to provide input to a ToR for their mid-term review.

Results/Findings: Since the Helpdesk carried out the Spotcheck of Afrikagrupperna it is clear that Afrikagrupperna has moved forward in their work on environment and climate change. Sustainable natural resource management and climate justice are now two of their strategic results areas and they have developed an environmental action plan with a lot of activities mainly focusing on internal and external capacity development, joint learning and exchange of experiences. Afrikagrupperna has also carried out an environmental mapping analysing the environmental context of their partner countries as well as looking at the environmental work of their local partner organisations.

2024-097. Analysis of UNICEF Environmental assessment for a Child protection program in Zimbabwe

Purpose: The Swedish Embassy in Harare asked for support to analyse an environmental assessment from UNICEF in Zimbabwe as part of a proposal for potential Sida funding.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that UNICEF's assessment covers most aspects of what is required by Sida but that it is focused on climate change and much less so on other environmental aspects. The Helpdesk also noted that much of the information and analysis in UNICEF's assessment were copied from other sources, included Sida's own Central Environmental Review of UNICEF. This prompted the Helpdesk to question the capacity UNICEF in Zimbabwe to make their own analysis of the envisaged program. The recommendations from the Helpdesk included the need to integrate the conclusions from the environmental assessment into the results-framework of the program, and to discuss with UNICEF on how to make use of other resources to strengthen environmental integration into the program.

2024-098. Costal Erosion Lago Niassa. Mozambique

Purpose: Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change (the Helpdesk) was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Maputo to review the Comprehensive report on erosion investigation of costal erosion in Chuanga Beach, Lago District, Niassa province, Mozambique. The study was performed by a team of scientist from GeoMuzaza. The Helpdesk collaborated in its review with a team of experts from the Swedish geotechnical institute (SGI).

Results/Findings: The report would benefit from a clearer presentation of the underlying data and findings that support the conclusions made in the report. Currently, several conclusions presented are not well backed up by data or underlying findings.

2024-101 Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods for Human Capital Project (GEWEL 2)

Purpose: The Swedish Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, asked the Helpdesk to review the Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods for Human Capital Project, phase 2, (GEWEL 2) to see whether the environment and climate perspective was adequately addressed in the proposal.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the GEWEL 2, focusing on social protection had integrated activities to become climate-responsive, specifically by addressing climate change resilience in component 3 (Women's livelihoods for climate smart productive inclusion). The project wants to strengthen girls' and women's' resilience to climate change by facilitating climate resilient and diversified livelihoods and increased income to avoid climate-harmful coping mechanisms, as well as additional training on climate-smart agriculture practices. The Helpdesk's assessment is thus that the project has integrated climate change in a good way with relevant climate change components. However, the climate activities mentioned above are not visible in the results framework, which makes it difficult to follow up to what degree the activities that focus specifically on climate resilience and climate resilient agriculture will actually be implemented.

2024-104. Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (YEE) Zambia

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka asked the Helpdesk for support to assess the environmental aspects of the project proposal "Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (YEE): Amplifying Enterprises and Trade in Zambia". The purpose of the assignment was to support the Embassy in the appraisal of the project, and to assess if the project will indeed benefit the environment, and how it can be strengthened in terms of this.

Results/Findings: The YEE project in Zambia has a relevant scope with potential to contribute to environmental and climate benefits for both people and planet. The proposal highlighted several environmental issues and aspects of relevance, but the Helpdesk found that these lacked clear integration in the proposal and were not deemed sufficient to constitute an environmental assessment, as per Sida's requirements. The main recommendation from the Helpdesk was for the project to perform an environmental assessment (EA). The Helpdesk suggested a few areas which the project could focus on, in its EA.

2024-119 Review Environmental and Social Impact, Due Diligence and assessment, Iraq

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (HUMASIA/Iraq team) to review the "Environmental and Social (E&S) Impact due diligence and assessment" from August 2024 for a proposed phytoremediation project (constructed wetland) in Missan Governorate, Iraq. This is a collaboration between The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concluded that the project is a promising example of a Nature-based solution (NbS) which deserves support and, if successful, duplication also in other parts of the country. WFP is an experienced and competent actor with developed performance standards which, if applied, will have the possibility to guide the development and implementation of the project in a sustainable direction. Important is that due resources are given to the monitoring and continued

performance improvement of the project in order to gather learning for duplication to additional sites in the country.

2024-120. Challenge fund textile industry, Bangladesh

Purpose: The Mena/Asia/La department requested Helpdesk support to review the Concept note (dated 3 October 2024), and later the Technical Proposal (dated 31 October 2024) of the “Initiative to Stimulate Private Investment for Resource Efficiency” (InSPIRE), developed by Swisscontact (the Fund Manager, FM). The contribution relates to a ready-made garment (RMG) challenge fund in Bangladesh. The purpose of the assignment was to provide support to Sida to assess if the proposal fulfilled Sida’s requirements for environmental integration. The Helpdesk carried out the assignment together with our external experts, Björn Johansson (Chalmers) and Gabriella Wulff (Högskolan Borås).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the InSPIRE project is ambitious, relevant, well developed and has the potential to contribute to an inclusive transition towards a less carbon intensive RMG industry in Bangladesh. The main objective is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Helpdesk recommended: i) to also include other types of environmental benefits (e.g. water use and pollution) in the monitoring; ii) to elaborate more on technological, financial, environmental, market, and climate risks; and iii) to involve tech providers in a dialogue at an early stage.

2024-133. Building Inclusive and Resilient Enterprises in Eastern Africa.

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi asked the Helpdesk for support to review the EA of the “Building Inclusive and Resilient Enterprises” (BIRE) project by Hand-in-Hand Eastern Africa (HiH-EA). The purpose was to analyse environmental aspects that could be undertaken in the project implementation process, recommend which areas the project should focus on, and to analyse alignment with the Kenya-Sweden development cooperation strategy and relevant Kenyan policies. During the assignment, the Helpdesk collaborated with our external expert Daniel Ddiba, SEI.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the program understands environmental issues well and how these can impact the project, but that they are not sufficiently integrated in the program and its components, and not sufficiently linked to the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) and their business plans. The Helpdesk suggested certain priority areas and issues to consider for HiH-EA, divided into critical and strategic recommendations for the program to focus on, and inspirational suggestions of what they could also include depending on ambition and resources. The Helpdesk believes that the project has opportunities to contribute positively to both the environment and beneficiaries’ income but finds it critical that the embassy continuously follows up the project’s development and results.

2024-135. ESIA of potential ADB-project

Purpose: Sida (Mena/Asia/La) and the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok asked the Helpdesk to review the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of a proposed ADB Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Project (waste-to-energy).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the ESIA aligns with the standards of both International Financing Corporation (IFC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and has been undertaken in accordance with good international practice. The potential negative environmental impacts are

assessed to be site-specific, with few (if any) irreversible impacts, that can be managed by adequate mitigation measures. However, the ESIA states that there may be some social risks during the collection phase, for instance related to the informality of the collectors in some waste streams. Risks include low revenue, exploitative labour practices. There are also, in general, risks for gender-based violence and children or forced labourers. The implementing actor is already working with waste-oil collection and is aware of the challenges and has developed a variety of mitigation measures. However, the Helpdesk notes that the social risk mitigation measures are likely more difficult to implement as they are not under the direct control of the implementing organisation. The Helpdesk recommended Sida to include social upstream risks in the dialogue with the implementing organisation.

2024-136 Review RFSU EIA

Purpose: The CIVSAM department asked the Helpdesk to review the EIA conducted by RFSU.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found the EIA to be of good quality, responding to Sida's requirement, i.e. listing both opportunities, risks and vulnerabilities as well as the capacity of RFSU to manage risks and opportunities. The Helpdesks recommendation is that RFSU now develops an action plan for all the suggested actions listed in the EIA. How will RFSU prioritise and implement suggested actions? The Helpdesk also recommends Sida to follow up on this in annual meetings.

Category 2. Country, Regional and Thematic strategy processes

2024-016. Environmental portfolio analysis MENA

Purpose: The HUMASIA/MENA department asked the Helpdesk to conduct a portfolio analysis looking at the level of environmental integration in ongoing contributions under the Regional MENA strategy. The overall purpose was to 1) get an overview of partners' environmental assessments (EA) and Sida's analysis of environment, climate change and biological diversity in decided contributions; 2) get an overview and quality assurance of the six environmental policy markers; 3) identify opportunities to strengthen environmental integration; and 4) identify good examples, if any.

Results/Findings: The portfolio analysis concludes that the level of environmental integration in the MENA portfolio is relatively high. 7 (of 11) program proposals (64%) are assessed as having included an EA which complies with Sida's requirements and to some extent discusses environment and climate change in the context analysis. The other 4 proposals, which lack specific targets on environment or climate change, do not include any analysis of the environment/climate change situation in the area of implementation. This is considered to be a missed opportunity and possible a risk for the sustainability of the programme implementation. The analysis done by Sida of the environment and climate perspective are considered of generally high-quality. Also worth mentioning is that 10 of the 11 contributions have a dialogue issue on environment/climate change. Several of these are related to contributions which already have a clear environment or climate change objective. The targeted programmes within environment and climate are strategic and often with broad partner engagement in the region.

2024-017. Portfolio analysis for Regional Asia

Purpose: Sida (HUMASIEN) asked for support to conduct a portfolio analysis looking at the level of environmental integration in ongoing contributions under the Regional Asia strategy.

Results/Findings: 14 contributions were selected and analysed as part of the assignment. Most of the proposals have included an adequate environmental assessment. The capacity of the partner organisations to manage identified risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities is less frequently discussed. Furthermore, most of the contributions have included an adequate environmental context analysis and most environmental policy markers are correctly tagged. It seems as if the dialogue with partners have contributed to positive results.

2024-019. Environmental portfolio analysis, Palestine

Purpose: Sida (HUMASIA/MENA) asked the Helpdesk to carry out an environmental portfolio analysis of Palestine. The overall purpose was to 1) get an overview of partners' environmental assessments and Sida's analysis of environment, climate change and biological diversity in decided contributions; 2) get an overview and quality assurance of the six environmental policy markers; 3) identify opportunities to strengthen environmental integration; and 4) to identify good examples, if any.

Results/Findings: The portfolio analysis concludes that the level of environmental integration in the Palestine portfolio is low. Only 1 of 8 contributions has conducted an environmental assessment, none of the proposals have made an environment/climate change context analysis, and none of the

contributions could be marked with 1 or 2 for any of the environmental policy markers. The portfolio analysis also concluded that all policy markers are correctly marked and that Sida's programme officers have, in general, made a good assessment of the environmental perspective. The Helpdesk concludes however that there is potential to increase environmental integration in the portfolio and recommends Sida to always ask for an environmental assessment, to include discussions on environmental sustainability early in the process, and to include environment and climate change as a mandatory discussion topic at annual meetings with partners.

2024-021 Mapping for waste and pollution

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok requested support from the Helpdesk to conduct a mapping with specific focus on the South and Southeast Asia region regarding the areas of waste and pollution management including plastic and chemical management, linked to relevant conventions. The mapping is taking the Strategy for Sweden's Regional Development Cooperation with Asia and the Pacific Region in 2022-2026 into account.

Results/Findings: The report includes recommendation about which regional organisations (actors) and/or programmes that Sida could consider for further assessment.

2024-034. Blue economy in Western Indian Ocean

Purpose: The INTEM/TEMA and Africa Department asked the Helpdesk for support with mapping and visualising Sida's support to Blue Economy (BE) projects and programs in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). The purpose was to help Sida staff get an overview of the contributions, how they fit together and provide support to identifying synergies or gaps and contribute to efficient collaboration between strategy owners at different levels (thematic, regional, and bilateral).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk analysed 47 contributions where 35 were categorised as BE in the WIO. The exercise included mapping BE themes, type of partners, level of implementation (global, regional, national, local), country implementation, strategies financing the contributions, and analyses at country level. Almost half of the contributions (49 %) are financed by the Global Environment Strategy, and almost a fourth (23 %) are financed by 2 strategies. Most of the contributions are implemented in Kenya (34 %) and Tanzania (31 %), and the main BE themes are marine policy (17 %) and marine governance (16 %) for all contributions (one contribution can address several themes simultaneously). The visualisation was delivered as an excel table with the possibility to perform additional pivot analyses, as well as a PowerPoint presentation with tables and figures.

2024-115. Mapping of organisations that can provide readiness support in Africa

Purpose: Team Environment in Nairobi asked the Helpdesk for support in mapping organisation that could provide technical assistance for climate readiness support in Africa. The intention from Sida was that the mapping could contribute to develop a contribution where organisation, or countries, in Africa could improve their readiness to access climate finance from global funds. The Helpdesk made use of external experts from SEI for the mapping.

Results/Findings: The review was delivered in the form an excel-sheet encompassing ten organisations active on the continent and in Sida partner countries. The mapping included, among

others, aspects relating to the type of organisation, its current areas of focus, expertise in banking and investment, and information on current and past projects.

2024-129 Analysis environment and climate change in Regional Africa Strategy

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi asked the Helpdesk to review all the contributions within result area 1: Environment, climate change and sustainable natural resource management, of the Regional Africa Strategy. The aim was to analyse how well the contributions respond to the three sub-result areas of the Strategy, and to the Reform Agenda. The reason behind is that the portfolio needs to be reprioritised and resources need to be directed from result area 1 to other result areas, to respond to the Reform Agenda.

Results/Findings: The study concluded that the portfolio is well aligned with the three environmental/climate change sub-goals of the strategy, but also that the portfolio contributes to other result areas, not least inclusive economic development but also migration and development. It also showed that the current portfolio is in line with several parts of the reform agenda, i.e. increased and effective climate aid, biodiversity, and migration. What does not come out as clear is the push for mobilisation of capital, sustainable procurement, and promotion of Swedish businesses.

2024-142 Results examples to Kenya strategy report

Purpose: The Swedish Embassy in Nairobi asked for support to collect results from contributions within the three strategy goals on 1) climate change, 2) natural resource management, incl. biodiversity; and 3) sustainable services. The purpose of the assignment was to support Sida in producing data for Sida's in-depth strategy report for Kenya.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk reviewed 9 contributions and listed 3-4 potential results for each strategy goal. While the Helpdesk managed to withdraw some results, the assignment showed that Sida and its partners often struggle in visualisation of results, especially at outcome level.

2024-147. Donor mapping Bangladesh.

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka asked the Helpdesk for support with mapping donor presence in the environment and climate sector in Bangladesh and what the five largest donors are financing. The purpose of the assignment was to identify potential gaps or leverage points for Swedish development cooperation and to inform the upcoming in-depth strategy report for Bangladesh.

Results/Findings: The brief mapping was performed using three different data sites (OECD Data Explorer, Aid Atlas, and the TOSSD Tool), and found that there is in general a low environmental support to Bangladesh, especially regarding site preservation, fishing, and oceans. For example, few to none of the main donors report on SDG 14 – Life Below Water. The largest share of support is directed to agriculture, but this is not necessarily regarded as environmental work. A leverage point for Swedish development cooperation could thus be to promote support to environmentally and climate smart agriculture.

Category 3. International processes

2024-006. Report back from a World Bank meeting April 2024

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/Multi) asked the Helpdesk for a brief report-back from a “World Bank Day” at the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) annual conference.

Results/Findings: The WBG made a strong effort to showcase how the WBG, including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), works on assessing environmental and climate change in their operations. The half-day was packed with presentations. In relation to the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), resettlement, possibly together with gender and biodiversity, continues to be challenging to apply as the gap to national policies and regulations often is big. Other topics that WBG will need to focus on for all investments include: transparency, support to national regulatory frameworks, to consider clients political will, and creating systems for common learning.

2024-007. Report back from UNDP meeting April 2024

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/Multi) asked for a brief report-back from a “UNDP meeting day” at the IAIA annual conference 2024. The three objectives of the meeting were to inform about the updated version of UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standard (SES), to present the opportunities and challenges regarding the standard, and how to understand and utilise SES in various contexts.

Results/Findings: UNDP presented their updated SES framework. UNDP was represented by three individuals, one from HQ and two consultants. The meeting was divided in two, whereas the first part was dedicated to presentations and the second part consisted of discussions. For the time being UNDP is putting efforts on the process to understand a human rights (HR) approach for practitioners, how to use it and how to include it in SES. The efforts include to develop guidelines and breaking down HR into national ‘language’ as HR are universal but understood very differently in various contexts. Another important effort is also to valuating the compliance of the SES standards.

2024-022 – 028. Green Climate Fund Board meeting B38, 4 – 7 March 2024.

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) requested support from the Helpdesk to review seven GCF projects before decisions at the GCF board meeting no. 38 in March 2024. A general observation is that few of the proposals referred to the respective country’s NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan) although several of the projects will be implemented in areas with rich biodiversity.

These GCF assignments are presented together, see below:

- **2024-022: SAP034: Akamatutu’anga To Tatou Ora’anga Meitaki (ATOM): Building a healthy and resilient Cook Islands Community – one block at a time.**

The proposal is an adaptation project run by Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), which will support an estimated 30 communities and 22 health facilities and/or emergency centres in 12 of 15 inhabited islands. The number of direct beneficiaries are 15,040. Indirect beneficiaries are 871. The Helpdesk concurs with the assessment and the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP.

- 2024-023: SAP035: Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sugarcane Farmers in Northern Belize (BaC-SuF)**

This adaptation proposal aims to increase the resilience of sugarcane farmers in northern Belize. They are becoming financially, physically and socially vulnerable due to erratic precipitation patterns. The number of direct beneficiaries are 5,013. Indirect beneficiaries are 87,007. The Helpdesk concurs with the recommendations made by the secretariat/iTAP. Although it is not clear how the most vulnerable people and communities will be reached. Positive to note that the project will develop vulnerabilities criteria in the implementation phase.
- 2024-024: SAP036: Sierra Leone Coastal Resilience Project (SLCRP)**

This adaptation proposal aims to increase the climate resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems by strengthening capacity for locally led climate change adaptation. The number of direct beneficiaries are 260,000. Indirect beneficiaries are one million. The Helpdesk concurs with the recommendations and suggested recommendations for improvement made by the secretariat/iTAP.
- 2024-025: FP226: Resilient Puna: Ecosystem based Adaptation for sustainable High Andean communities and ecosystems in Peru**

This adaptation project aims to enhance ownership and resources of Andean indigenous peoples and local communities to build their resilience to climate change. The number of direct beneficiaries are 60,715. Indirect beneficiaries are 2,011,896. The Helpdesk concurs with the recommendations and suggested recommendations for improvement made by the secretariat/iTAP.
- 2024-026: FP227: Increase Resilience to Climate Change of Smallholders Receiving the Services of the Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains Programme (DEFIS +)**

This proposed adaptation project will help to reduce the negative impact of climate change by applying adaptation measures. The number of direct beneficiaries are 447,201. Indirect beneficiaries are 3,543,719. The assessor concurs with the Secretariat's and iTAPs assessments, as well as iTAP's associated recommendations and conditions.
- 2024-027: FP228: Cambodian Climate Financing Facility**

The objective of this cross-cutting project is to scale up climate finance and accelerate NDC implementation, reducing GHG emissions and increasing climate resilience. Developed through the Readiness and Preparatory Programme and initiated by the RGC, the Cambodian Climate Financing Facility (CCFF) is cross-cutting in nature, designed for effective management and sustainability to tackle climate change. The number of direct beneficiaries are 785,263. Indirect beneficiaries are 490,675. The Helpdesk note that the project has clear environmental benefits, however it is important that the Accredited Entity assures that a monitoring and follow up on the benefits, is executed. Further, there is no reference made to the Cambodian NBSAP, although "Promoting healthy ecosystems and biodiversity" is mentioned among the environmental benefits. Apart from this, the assessor concurs with the Secretariat's and iTAPs assessments, as well as iTAP's associated recommendations and conditions.
- 2024-028: FP229: Acumen Climate Action Pakistan Fund**

(ACAP) Fund aims to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable farmers and their livelihoods. ACAP intends to establish a \$80 million first-of-its kind climate adaptation-focused investment

fund in Pakistan and provide patient capital to agribusinesses that will provide access to climate adaptation solutions for smallholder farmers. The number of direct beneficiaries are 1,993,266. Indirect beneficiaries are 11,062,627. The Helpdesk conclude that the target group is not expected to be the most vulnerable smallholding farmers, as they are likely not creditworthy. The project may have some systematic impacts that will be shared in various ways (both through researchers and in other ways). It is however good to take part of the lessons, once they are learnt. ACAP has identified a number of risks, including environmental and social. These will be managed in various ways. It is vital that also these be monitored and reported.

2024-033. Review of EU-Green Deal regulations

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/Tema) asked the Helpdesk to review EU's Green Deal and its following regulations and assess if and how the Green Deal might influence the work of Sida in different sectors, regions and countries.

Results/Findings: After having reviewed the Terms of Reference of the assignment, the Helpdesk and Sida had several discussions on the scope of the review. As EU's Green Deal is not a regulation per se, the legal complexity is vast, and it was agreed that the Helpdesk review only could be at a rather general level. The review resulted in a table with the eight Green Deal priority areas and gave examples on which sectors that are likely to be affected, as well as potential actions that could be taken to help countries adapt to existing and future EU-regulations.

2024-074. Input to the World Bank Group/IDA 21 negotiations

Purpose: Louise Herrmann, INTEM/TEMA asked for support to provide input to the Swedish position in relation to an upcoming meeting on WBG/IDA 21.

Results/Findings: For this assignment, the Helpdesk provided its comments through a short 2-pager with an additional follow-up call with Sida. The Helpdesk provided recommendations in relation to the role of IDA as an actor that can leverage more climate funds, the potential of WBG/IDA to be stronger in the integration of environment and climate change across priority areas, and the need to consider other critical issues such as pollution and loss of biodiversity.

2024-080. UNIDO Climate Change Strategy

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) asked for support to provide input to the Swedish position on UNIDO's new climate change strategy.

Results/Findings: This was a short assignment, and the Helpdesk provided its comments through email communication. In all major respects, the Helpdesk assessed that the draft strategy was relevant. That said, it was the Helpdesk opinion that by focusing solely on climate change, other important environmental issues, including pollution and biodiversity risks to be neglected.

2024-086 – 092. Green Climate Fund (GCF) assignments

The Helpdesk reviewed seven GCF proposals during the period, commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA):

- **2024-086 Ecuador (FP235): Mangroves for climate: Public, Private and Community Partnerships for Mitigation and Adaptation in Ecuador.** Mangroves play a crucial role as natural barriers against erosion and flooding and the proposed intervention aims to address these challenges by

engaging local communities, the private sector and government entities in the protection and restoration of the mangroves in Ecuador. The total ecosystem service value of mangroves, including biodiversity and other services, is estimated to be substantial, providing essential benefits to local economies. In addition to mitigating flood risks, the project will yield various social co-benefits, particularly for mangrove-dependent communities and associations. The Helpdesk generally concurred with the opinion of iTAP and GCF's Secretariat but highlighted that the project could likely improve gender equality by improving the support to participation and decision-making of women in family farms.

- **2024-087 Mexico (FP236): Basin approach for livelihood sustainability (BALSAS).** The projects aims to increase the climate resilience of the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and to reduce emissions from production systems in the BALSAS project area. The objective of the project is to enable community-level investment in adaptation and mitigation initiatives, through the climate-focused transformation of rural development incentives for the conservation of forest resources and the strengthening of local institutions and capacities to bring under sustainable management, conservation or restoration 324,578 ha of land. The Helpdesk generally concurred with the opinion of iTAP and GCF's Secretariat but noted that there were no specific reference to NAP nor NBSAP.
- **2024-088 Malawi (FP238): Ecosystems-based adaptation.** The project targets the acute needs of Malawi's rural population and agrarian economy, challenged by climate change, poverty, and food insecurity. The project will promote the locally-led Ecosystems-based adaptation (EbA) approach combined with Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) to repair degraded ecosystems, and low-carbon climate resilient agricultural practices to allow agriculture and other livelihoods to become resilient to climate change. The project objective is to increase the climate-change resilience of the most vulnerable rural communities at watershed level in Malawi. The vulnerable groups – who are rendered particularly susceptible to climate change by social exclusion – are women (52% of total population), the youth (30% for age 15-35) and 50% for the poor. The Helpdesk generally concurred with the opinion of iTAP and GCF's Secretariat, but Sweden could potentially recommend closer integration and mainstreaming with Malawi's NBSAP.
- **2024-089 Horn of Africa (FP239): Building Climate Resilience for Food and Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa (BREFOL).** The proposal is a cross-cutting public project aiming to address the pressing issue of climate change and variability in the Horn of Africa (HoA) by strengthening pastoral and agropastoral production systems' resilience and rural communities' capacity to adapt to climate change. Target countries are Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan. The Helpdesk noted positive interventions with robust agroforestry systems, improved extension services and best practices, as well as improved access to and use of water, and alignment to the target countries NDCs, NAPs and NAPAs. The Helpdesk however highlighted risks with overextraction of groundwater (as highlighted also by iTAP). The Helpdesk further noted that the FP had not performed a conflict analysis, although the FP recognised how the project would be implemented in a conflict setting with large threats of hazards, disasters, and famine. The Helpdesk concurred with the Secretariat's and iTAPs assessments, and iTAP's

conditions for the funding proposal, especially highlighting issues of reaching intended women beneficiaries.

- **2024-090 Bhutan (SAP038): Climate Adaptation, Resilience and Engagement in Local Governments (CARE-LG).** The project will scale-up the government's interventions to increase local communities' resilience and climate-change adaptive capacity. The project proposes supporting 60 of the country's 205 local governments at the level of gewogs (groups of villages) by allocation of small-scale adaptation investment grants to be accessed based on performance. The Helpdesk generally concurred with the opinion of iTAP and GCF's Secretariat but noted that more ambitious efforts could have been provided in relation to gender and climate change mitigation. The Helpdesk also noted that a conflict analysis has not been done as part of the proposal.
- **2024-091 Mozambique (SAP042): Building climate resilience by linking climate adaptation and social protection.** The project's build on the links between the Productive Social Action Program (PASP) and Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), as the primary entry point for the project's interventions to help poor and climate-vulnerable households' build their adaptive capacity to respond to drought impacts. Through strategic investments, the project aims to strengthen the resilience of impoverished and vulnerable families that confront the impacts of drought, i.e. to prepare for, cope with, adapt to, and transform their well-being, ensuring they do not slip further into poverty. The SAP targets two key result areas on health and well-being, and food and water security (54 %), and most vulnerable people and communities (46 %). The Helpdesk generally concurred with the opinion of iTAP and GCF's Secretariat.
- **2024-092 Senegal (SAP043): Upscaling "Naatangué" integrated family and village farms for a resilient agriculture in Senegal.** The proposal is a cross-cutting public project aiming to reduce vulnerability of small-scale and family farms in Senegal using the Naatangué farm model as a holistic instrument towards climate-resilient modernization, intensification of production systems, and improvement of market access. The Helpdesk noted positive interventions specifically targeting poor smallholder farmers with introduction of beneficial agroforestry production systems and improved access to and use of water through solar powered drip irrigation systems. The Helpdesk highlighted risks with overextraction of groundwater (as highlighted also by the Secretariat). The Helpdesk further highlighted that the project could likely improve gender equality by improving the support to participation and decision-making of women in family farms. The Helpdesk concurred with the Secretariat's and iTAP's assessments and stands positive to the funding proposal.

2024-109 Preparation for CBD COP16

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) asked for preparatory support in advance to the UN Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP16) that took place 21 October - 1 November, in Cali, Colombia.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided background information on topics relevant for Sida's participation at the conference and for Sweden at large. It also included collection of examples of Sida's support for phasing out subsidies that are harmful for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Related, after the conference the Helpdesk compiled a special newsletter with the main highlights from the negotiations and events, circulated within Sida (see assignment 2024-008).

2024-121 – 2024-127 Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) requested support from the Helpdesk to review seven Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals, as an input to the board meeting GCF/B.40/02.

- **2024-121 Pakistan (SAP047): Climaventures Pakistan.** The proposal is a cross-cutting project with primary objective to catalyse investment in scalable, financially viable climate solutions in Pakistan through direct venture investment and technical assistance to climate technology start-ups. The program consists of two components with the idea to enhance resilience against climate impacts and promote sustainable consumption and production. The Helpdesk found that the project could likely contribute to positive changes, such as reduced water stress, improved air quality, and soil conservation, but that the outcomes are heavily dependent on way of implementation. The Helpdesk further noted that the proposal lacked a conflict analysis, which the project would benefit from since Pakistan is not exempted from risks of conflicts. The Helpdesk concurred with the iTAP’s assessments and recommendations, and further suggested that the accredited entity (AE) should confirm how the issues raised by iTAP’s paragraph 53 have been implemented
- **2024-122 (FP246): Climate resilient agriculture Somalia.** This adaptation proposal will be implemented by the FAO and Government of Somalia (GoS) acting through (i) the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and (ii) the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) in a co-execution modality. Landscape management using improved agricultural, agro-pastoral and agroforestry methods is expected to cover an area of 41,800 hectares. 1,152,142 people is expected to directly benefit from the activities related to technology transfer. Less than 10% of these (108,180 people) will directly benefit from capacity building activities. The project expects to reach an additional 972,689 indirect beneficiaries. This represents 6% of Somalia’s total population. The many different actors and projects present in Somalia in combination with weak technical capacity of the GoS stresses the need for project/donor coordination in order to optimize resource use both as regards funds as well as capacity of the GoS. The Helpdesk generally agrees with the overall remarks by the iTAP, which finds that the proposed project is well designed and well aligned with the updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2024–2027 by accelerating climate action for the most vulnerable.
- **2024-123 (FP247): LoCAL+ West Africa.** The proposal “Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility Plus” (LoCAL+), covering the countries of Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Niger, is an adaptation project with UNCDF as the accredited entity. The project aims to promote climate-resilient communities and economies by enhancing access to adaptation finance, knowledge, and investment capabilities. The Helpdesk noted that the project focuses on local level and that it builds on a well-established concept (LoCAL) developed by UNCDF. LoCAL is a mechanism that channels climate finance to local governments in least-developed countries (LDCs) and in developing countries. It operates through a performance-based climate resilience grant system (PBCRG). The Helpdesk generally concurred with iTAP’s assessments and recommendations, but further noted that, for instance, the suggested methodology could risk leaving poorer and more climate vulnerable local authorities un-supported and that sustainability of results could be impacted from ongoing and potential future conflicts in the region.

- 2024-124 (FP249): Strengthening climate resilience of vulnerable agriculture livelihoods in Iraq.** The proposal is a cross-cutting project, with a comprehensive approach combining infrastructure investments (irrigation and solar panels), capacity building and policy reforms across the water, agriculture and energy sectors to create market opportunity and private sector engagement. The Helpdesk found the project to be climate relevant and concurred with iTAP’s assessments and recommendation. The Helpdesk finds however that the project could have a stronger biodiversity/environmental co-benefit focus as there are potential for the project to contribute with positive environmental co-benefits from improved agricultural practices, renewable energy and the nature-based solutions that will be implemented to mitigate environmental degradation
- 2024-125 (FP252): Acumen resilient agriculture fund II Africa.** The proposal is an adaptation-focused blended-finance venture capital fund that seeks to improve the climate resilience of smallholder farmers and the agriculture value chain towards promoting increased productivity and food security in Africa. An important aspect is that the proposal builds on ARAF 1 and provides evidence from this first fund. The Helpdesk concurred with iTAP’s assessments and recommendations. The Helpdesk found that conflict sensitivity is included to some extent, but it is rather fragmented.
- 2024-126 (FP253): Greening Financial Systems: Delivering Climate Finance for All.** The proposal was submitted to GCF by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Being a mainly mitigation project, the participating countries are Armenia, Egypt, Jordan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The project targets financial institutions and financial market stakeholders as its main beneficiaries. These will act as “intermediaries” to reach the ultimate targeted end beneficiaries, which include especially underserved groups, including the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME). In summary, the assessor agreed with iTAP’s conclusions that the project has a medium impact potential but that there are several risks with the suggested approach. It was suggested that some of these risks could be addresses through an improved monitoring-evaluation-learning (MEL) system. This would preferably also include more explicit targets on biodiversity and ecosystems. The Helpdesk further noted several of the target countries are socially and politically unstable and that the FP would have benefitted from a proper conflict analysis.
- 2024-127 (FP254) Scaling Resilient Water Infrastructure Facility.** The proposal is a multi-country (twelve countries in four regions¹) cross-cutting project designed to address water infrastructure challenges exacerbated by climate change, to help ameliorate water scarcity, poor sanitation, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions arising from inadequate water and sewerage services. The Helpdesk concurred with iTAP’s suggestion to focus first on reducing non-revenue water before making other investments.

¹ Africa: Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Morocco, Tunisia; Asia: India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Uzbekistan; LAC: Chile, Peru; and Europe: Azerbaijan

2024-128. EU regulation

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) asked for support to identify regulation at national and EU level related to environmental integration relevant to Sida.

Results/Findings: At national (Swedish) level, the two key regulations are: "Förordning (2009:907) om miljöledning i statliga myndigheter" and "Förordning (2018:1428) om myndigheters klimatanpassningsarbete". At EU-level, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), e.g. Article 11 states that "the integration principle requires that environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development." The Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) established the duty to integrate environmental protection into all EU sectoral policies with a view to promoting sustainable development. 'Combating climate change' became a specific goal with the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), as did sustainable development in relations with third countries.

Category 4. Thematic analyses

2023-156. Technical note: Nature-based solutions

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA) to assist in the preparation of a technical note on nature-based solutions (NbS), initially planned as a thematic/evidence brief.

Results/Findings: Based on a review of academic and grey literature, the Helpdesk compiled a draft technical note on NbS. It summarises existing policies and policy discussions and explains the theory and practice of NbS, their benefits and opportunities as well as risks to development objectives, including greenwashing. A set of examples from Sida supported initiatives was gathered and demonstrates good practices, as well as examples that don't meet the criteria for NbS.

The Helpdesk benefitted from a dialogue with external experts Dorsa Sheikholeslami (NbS Programme Officer, IUCN) and Barnabas Dickson (Senior Programme Officer, UNEP) concerning NbS standards and latest developments. The *IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions* contains criteria and addresses the pillars of sustainable development and project management. Sida is proposed to ensure that project proposals adhere to the criteria when 1) assessing a project that describes NbS; and 2) looking for opportunities for NbS that are not articulated in a proposal. It has a useful self-assessment tool for Sida partners.

2024-001. Sida reporting on food security and sustainable food systems

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA) to support the reporting in accordance with the government assignment from the Letter of Appropriation in 2023 on global food security and transition to sustainable food systems.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk acted as a sounding board in the preparation of the report to the government and provided written text. Proposed text concerned the catalytic potential of food systems for sustainable development and the synergies with other priority areas including environment and climate, economic development and trade, and peace and security. The Helpdesk provided examples from Sida's support that show a clear systematic approach to food systems and also mapped strategies that contain relevant goals and prepared a figure for conceptualising sustainable food systems.

2024-010. Sida Environmental Dialogues – analysis of outcomes

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) asked for support with analysis of the environmental dialogues that was conducted with the departments during the fall 2023. The dialogues, at management level, are a routine and fundamental part of Sida's Environmental Management System, to follow up on the environment related targets of Sida's operational plan.

Results/Findings: The insights from the dialogues were summarised and provided as input to Sida's environmental management report to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The analysis showed, for example, that in the majority of Sida's departments, work continues with capacity-building efforts in relation to environmental management and integration, including targeted lectures and joint study sessions during unit days. Portfolio overviews showing environmental and climate markers are used for increased learning, and ongoing quality assurance and follow-up of environmental assessments are undertaken.

2024-045. Climate finance and gender seminar April 17

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) asked for support to go through the report from ACT Church of Sweden “Climate finance and Gender: Lessons from Nordic efforts to Integrate gender equality in climate related development finance” as well as provide a draft of slides for a presentation at the seminar.

Results/Findings: The report highlights the importance that climate finance must be gender responsive in order to address the injustice experienced by those who have contributed the least to climate change but who are suffering the most from its impacts. In comparison with the Nordic countries Sweden is assessed to be ‘best in class’, and several Sida contributions are highlighted as good examples on a climate and gender integrated approach. Sweden/Sida are acknowledged for being a role model in climate finance reporting for transparency in reporting on gender integration in climate finance to the UNFCCC and having maintained consistently high levels of gender-responsive climate finance across sectors and objectives, including mitigation.

2024-060. NDC & NAP mapping, African partner countries

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (AFRIKA/Team Environment) to map how Sweden/Sida supports the cooperation countries’ undertakings towards the realisation of Paris Agreement Commitments through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plans (NAP) in Africa. Only contributions tagged for adaptation and/or mitigation were included in the assignment.

Results/Findings: *Alignment Mitigation:* The Helpdesk found that slightly over half (61%) of the 271 contributions marked for mitigation were possible to match with NDC mitigation priorities. 87% of the contributions in the regional strategy were possible to match with “default” mitigation priorities. Energy and AFOLU are key priorities in the contributions included in the study. Waste is a common gap in Swedish contributions even though it is a priority in most NDCs. *Alignment adaptation:* A majority (80%) of the 352 contributions marked for adaptation were possible to match with adaptation priorities in the NAP or NDC documents. AFOLU and Water/WASH are the most frequent priorities in the contributions included in the study. Also, Energy and Environment (Biodiversity/Ecosystem) are common priorities. Main gaps included: Health, DRR, Infrastructure, Tourism, Fisheries/Wildlife, and Industry.

2024-065 Evidence brief: Migration, forced displacement and climate change

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA and INTEM/Fred och mänsklig säkerhet) to prepare an evidence brief on climate-induced migration and displacement. Migration and development is an intersection that Sida will increasingly address in accordance with the Swedish Government’s Reform Agenda and Sida’s Strategic Plan 2024-2026. Climate change is foreseen to influence people, mobility and migration. The Helpdesk benefitted from an exchange with the following external experts: Christina Daszkiewicz (PO Migration, Environment, Climate

Change and Risk Reduction, IOM) and Mark Gnad (Head of Communications, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, IDMC²).

Results/Findings: There is no consensus that climate change itself leads to migration. But climate change, in interaction with other factors at multiple scales, impacts human mobility (migration, displacement, planned relocation, im/mobility). Most people move within their country of residence and become internal migrants. A smaller part cross borders and become international migrants in the near region. The processes are linked to sudden onset events and slow onset events, with the latter relating to processes of gradual outflow of people who move, often to urban areas. Migration can be considered an adaptation option to lessen people's vulnerability to climate change or boost their ability to withstand future shocks.

2024-070 Climate, Peace, and Security in Africa

Purpose: Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change (the Helpdesk) was assigned by Sida (AFRIKA/East and Horn of Africa) to provide support to the identification of opportunities for enhancing Sida's work related to Climate, Peace, and Security. The assignment referred to Goal Area 1 of the Team Environment's Terms of Reference 2024-2027: "Maximising the impact and adding value of the total Swedish support for sustainable development in Africa, through the strengthening of links and synergies between bilateral, regional and global support". This assignment was a first step of two (see 2024-132 in the first report of 2025).

Results/Findings: The first step was a mapping that included selected contributions (58) at global, regional (Africa) and country levels, involving nine (9) fragile and conflict-affected states. The mapping comprised a review of each contribution, including a word search methodology and complementary interviews with Sida and embassy staff to understand the support to climate change, peace and security at different levels (bilateral, regional and global) and the linkages between the levels. The output – a matrix with all details – was basis for the analysis in the second step mentioned.

2024-075. Mapping of actors engaged in Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/Tema) asked for support to map international and Swedish actors that have expertise and experience in areas related to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)-agreement. A focus was put to organisations with experience from capacity-building and from working with developing countries. The mapping was carried out as desk-study with information gathered mainly based on organisations own websites. Meetings were also held with experts at HaV and researchers at Gothenburg University, for which the Helpdesk is grateful.

Results/Findings: The mapping resulted in a document summarising some 68 organisations with interest in the implementation of the BBNJ agreement according to a number of criteria agreed with Sida. Six international organisations were highlighted as being of particular interest for a potential future Sida-support, one Swedish organisations stood out, two non-Swedish research bodies and four

² Sida provides support to IDMC.

CSO's think tanks were also assessed having the potential of providing support for capacity development in relation to the BBNJ.

2024-096 Evidence brief: Nature-based solutions

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA) to assist with the preparation of an evidence brief on nature-based solutions (NbS).

Results/Findings: The brief is a 4-page document that builds on the more elaborated technical note on NbS, prepared by the Helpdesk during spring 2024. The brief provides information related to the definition of NbS, the growing policy uptake, and opportunities and challenges of NbS. Particularly, there is a continuous need to use NbS correctly, following established criteria. Innovative interventions that address societal and ecological problems cannot be referred to as NbS simply because they are inspired by nature. They need to be grounded on functioning ecosystems. Examples of other interventions that should not be categorised as NbS include purely grey (traditional) infrastructure, actions that do not address all pillars of sustainability or cannot be implemented by local people or do not fit the local context.

2024-102 Technical Note: Carbon markets

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA) to provide overall comments on Sida's draft technical note on carbon markets, which was almost in its final stage.

Lessons learned: The Helpdesk found Sida's related seminar series on carbon markets inspiring and very valuable. It was a good way of increasing knowledge and sharing experience across global, regional and local levels, while gathering useful input for the brief. The Helpdesk also believes that the brief will be a useful document for Sida.

2024-113 NbS presentation

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) asked for a presentation of the new [technical brief](#) and [information brief](#) on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the GLOBEN Team at their meeting on 5 September 2024.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk summarised the aim and contents of the new Sida NbS resources. The GLOBEN Team had a short exchange on the resources in relation to their support to relevant partner organisations, such as IUCN.

2024-117 NbS seminar series

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) asked for support with the preparation of a seminar series on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the delivery of the first (out of three) seminar.

Results/Findings: Based on the experience from the carbon credit seminar series, a similar series was developed for NbS, with inputs from TEMA 1, Team Environment Africa, and the Helpdesk. The first seminar was held on 11 December³ and addressed NbS from a theoretical as well as a practical angle with examples from Sida's support, followed by reflections from participants and a discussion.

³ The dates for the coming two seminars are not yet decided.

Category 5. Methodology development

2022-104. Sample collection Environmental Assessments

Purpose: Since 2023, The Helpdesk has an ongoing assignment (Sida, TEMA) to collect environmental assessments (EA) of good quality that can serve as inspiration and good examples for Sida and Sida's partners.

Results/Findings: During T1, the Helpdesk has updated the sample collection with new EAs. The sample collection now consists of 14 EAs. They can be found at Sida's intranet: [Environment and Climate Change Network - Good examples environmental assessments - All Documents \(sida.se\)](#)

2024-038. Life Cycle Cost calculation for exclusion of fossil fuel investments

Purpose: Sida (TEMA/INTEM) asked for Helpdesk support to develop a model for Life Cycle Cost (LCC) calculations that can be used by partners and Sida/embassy staff to calculate and compare costs associated with electricity production from renewable vs. fossil fuel energy sources. The Helpdesk benefitted from support from the EE Agneta Persson, Anthesis AB, to develop the model.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk developed and delivered a simple calculation model (using excel) to compare the lifecycle costs between a diesel generator and solar power plus batteries, as Sida assesses that comparison to be most frequent. The calculation model is intended to be used by Sida programme officers and partner organisations.

2024-044. Development of a method to follow-up on Sida's Environmental Management System and the operational plan

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) asked the Helpdesk to suggest a method, that over time, can help Sida to monitor and follow-up on one of the objectives in Sida's operational plan. This referring to the requirement of partners to submit an environmental assessment as part of their applications. The Helpdesk has been supporting Sida during previous years' follow-up. This experience contributed with lessons that benefitted the proposed method.

Results/Findings: It was assessed that the previous years' method (few and large contribution) was not adequately representing the full variety of Sida-financed contributions. Therefore, the new method suggests a larger number of contributions and a randomised selection. To reach a good statistical significance and limit the margin of error, it is suggested that Sida should review approximately 60 contributions per year and to assess if these include a partner environmental assessment as per Sida's requirements.

2024-064 Template for CER

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) asked the Helpdesk to develop a generic report template for Central Environmental Reviews (CER).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk developed and delivered a template for the CER reports in order to facilitate similar structure and contents of the different CERs.

2024-116 Compilation of GCF reviews and review templates

Purpose: Before Sida/UD would develop a new template for GCF reviews in 2024, the need arose to conduct a review of Sida's previous templates over time, and of the Helpdesk's reviews over the years. Sida (TEMA1) therefore asked the Helpdesk to go through the review templates for GCF projects between 2017 until June 2024 to see how the content of the templates has changed over time, as well as an analysis of the Helpdesk submissions of the GCF project proposals that the Helpdesk reviewed to see what has been reviewed and commented on over the years.

Results/Findings: The compilation showed that the Helpdesk has reviewed 150 GCF proposals over the years and that the review template has changed around seven times between 2017 and 2024. Although the reviews have been adapted to current template, it is clear that questions concerning the environment in the larger sense, biodiversity and climate relevance are the core competence of the Helpdesk and thus the areas where we most often give more specific comments and recommendations. This also applies to the connection between environment and climate to other subjects and sectors, i.e. the Helpdesk uses its integration expertise. In other areas, where the Helpdesk has less experience and expertise, the Helpdesk has mainly summarised comments from iTAP. The helpdesk has also indicated when Sida's perspectives, e.g. poverty or the conflict perspective, have been particularly weak in the proposals.

Category 6. Capacity development

2023-161. Capacity building for Sida partners in Iraq (NPA and IMS)

Purpose: The HUMASIA/MENA department requested support from the Helpdesk in the development of a digital workshop for two of Sida's partners in Iraq – NPA and IMA, and their local partner organisations.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk participated in a number of meetings with NPA, IMS, Sida and external presenters to develop the agenda and content of the workshop. The result was a full day online workshop with 20-25 participants from Iraq (with simultaneous interpretation), discussing environmental challenges and opportunities to work with environmental and climate change issues through advocacy and media support in Iraq.

2024-042. Launch of Sida's brief on climate change and social protection

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the INTEM/SOCIAL department to present the new brief on climate change and social protection at a BBL.

Results/Findings: Overall, the presentation followed the Evidence Brief (Social Protection and Climate Change, Helpdesk log number 2023-107) context and described the evidence-based information for an increased understanding of the linkages between the issues, especially how social protection can contribute to resilience, adaptation to climate change and environmental sustainability. There was a great interest for this Sida brief among meeting participants.

The Helpdesk welcomed Sida's idea to develop a more practical guide, that would complement the evidence brief.

2024-047 Workshop on environmental integration for NPA and their partners in Syria

Purpose: Sida (HUMASIA/MENA) asked for support to develop, plan and facilitate a digital workshop for NPA (Norwegians Peoples' Aid) and their 9 local organisations in Syria. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen participants' knowledge of how environment and climate change relates to poverty reduction, conflict and peacebuilding, and provide tools that participants can use in work related to environment and climate change.

Results/Findings: The assignment resulted in a digital workshop divided in two half days with approximately 30 participants from Syria. The Helpdesk also prepared and held three presentations about why environment matter, Sida's environmental policy and approach, and environmental assessments. The Helpdesk also invited external experts from ACTED, Impact/Reach, PAX for Peace and NRC, to present their work on environment and climate change in Syria. The post-workshop evaluation gave at hand that the participants found the workshop relevant, inspiring and informative. The participants showed a willingness to start integrating the environmental perspective in the work that they do. Some found however that the workshop lacked practical knowledge and solutions.

2024-050. Presentation: What makes a good carbon project?

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by Sida (INTEM/TEMA), to give an input on carbon standards at the second seminar of Sida's seminar series on the carbon market.

Results/Findings: Based on a mapping of carbon standards for the voluntary carbon market, the Helpdesk delivered a presentation on how the standards work, an overview of the core carbon principles and main standards and highlighted some key issues for Sida's consideration.

Lessons learned: The Helpdesk finds that the well-prepared sequence of seminars on the topic and the good mix of speakers, representing both embassy experiences and external actors, are positive.

2024-071. Introduction for new staff at CIVSAM

Purpose: The PARTNER/CIVSAM department asked the Helpdesk for support with producing an introductory presentation to new staff at the CIVSAM unit, focusing on the units' extensive work with climate and environmental integration.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided a presentation with clear notes for the potential future presenter to follow, which highlighted both the urgency of environmental and climate issues, the importance of civil society and how particularly staff at CIVSAM can contribute, as well as where to find support in their work.

2024-072 Dialogue meeting with partners on environmental assessment

Purpose: The PARTNER/CIVSAM department asked the Helpdesk to update the presentation about environmental integration and environmental assessment, held for all CIVSAM partner organisations that shall submit a new programme proposal. CIVSAM has been holding this presentation since about 2020 with all applicant organisations at an early stage, at the latest one year before the application is submitted. The aim is to ensure that the partner organisation integrates environment/climate change aspects in an adequate way. For this to be possible, applicant organisations need to carry out an environmental assessment in good time before the program is designed, so that the analysis can form the basis for priorities and strategic path choices.

2024-105. Environment training media partners Zimbabwe

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Harare asked the Helpdesk to support Sida's partner organisation International Media Support (IMS) to plan and implement a workshop on the theme of media, environment and climate change. The purpose with the workshop was to inspire IMS' partner organisations to amplify their work with environmental integration and find concrete links between the media and environmental and climate change challenges.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk shared a presentation on how the triple planetary crisis (pollution, biodiversity loss, climate change) affects health, poverty, equality, and human rights, and the importance of media organisations in spreading awareness of these issues. The following discussions were constructive and revolved much around which narrative to use to get the message of environmental challenges out.

2024-141 Training material for Sida trainee presentation

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) asked the Helpdesk for support with producing an introductory presentation to Sida's new trainees, focusing on Sida's systematic work with environment and climate.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided a presentation that was discussed and edited together with Sida. A case was added to the presentation.

Category 7. Information material

2023-170. Summary of Sida's government reporting on climate aid

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA) asked for support to summarise the information from Sida's report to the government (government assignment from the Letter of Appropriation in 2023) on expanded and effective climate aid (in Swedish "Klimatskrivelsen").

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk developed draft Swedish and English versions, with information on how Sida can work to expand and streamline climate aid. Once TEMA has published the information in briefs it will enable TEMA to communicate priorities and provide examples on how to work with climate aid, with Sida and embassy staff.

2024-008 Environmental and Climate Newsletter

Purpose: Over the year, Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1), requested support from the Helpdesk to provide input to TEMA's environmental and climate change newsletter. The newsletter is shared with the network. The assignment is undertaken in tandem with the Helpdesk's own global outlook.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided input to eleven newsletters during 2024. During the autumn, two special issues were developed: one with key highlights from the UN Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP16), and one the UN Climate Conference (UNFCCC COP29). The other nine Newsletters have been broader in scope. The newsletters are saved on Sida's intranet (Environment and Climate Change Network Page).

2024-053. Summary of Sida's government assignment on biodiversity

Purpose: Sida (TEMA/INTEM) asked for support to summarise the information from Sida's report to the government (Sida's government assignment on Biodiversity 2020-2023).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk developed a draft document aiming to make the text informative and inspirational to Sida staff and partners, to share conclusions from the targeted investment to work with biodiversity.

2024-130 One pager Sida's climate finance 2023

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) asked for support to compile a One pager overview of Sida's reported climate finance 2023 to EU (reported in September 2024). The One pager should have the same format as previous years.

Results/Findings: It is a straightforward and easy process to compile the information in the format that was used previous years.

2024-150. Presentation of environmental/climate strategy goals Africa.

Purpose: The AFRICA/SÖRA department asked the Helpdesk for support to develop a power point presentation with an overview of the environmental and climate goals and targets of the different African country strategies, for her to present during an upcoming meeting.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided a short presentation with graphs of clusters of environmental/climate goals. The majority of the goals were directed towards Ecosystem and biodiversity (28%), Climate mitigation & resilience/DRR (22%), and Renewable energy (22%).

Category 8. Facilitation and Dialogue support

2024-002. Helpdesk open house at Sida

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/GLOBEN) arranged two occasions of Helpdesk “open house”, where Sida staff was invited to meet helpdesk representatives and talk about environmental integration, ask questions or discuss an idea. The Helpdesk representatives were present at Sida (the Sida Lab).

Results/Findings: The first occasion had some twenty visitors. Sida staff dropped in to meet the Helpdesk and talk generally about environmental management and integration, rather than discussing a specific contribution. The second occasion had fewer visitors (around ten) but a number, for the Helpdesk new Sida employees, who wanted to know more about the Helpdesk and the services the Helpdesk can support them with. The reason for low number of visitors may be inappropriate timing, or a late announcement.

2024-020. Green for Growth fund – Guarantee

Purpose: The Helpdesk was requested by Sida (EUROLATIN) to assist in an assignment related to analysing the Green for Growth Fund (GGF), managed by Finance in Motion (FiM). In preparation for a potential guarantee to GGF, the assignment aimed to assess if GGF’s environmental policies, systems and standards are aligned with Sida’s environmental requirements and standards. The assignment was undertaken together with the EE Emma Norrstad Tickner.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk assessed that GGF has robust systems that aligns and corresponds to Sida’s requirements for environmental and climate change management and integration. The Helpdesk recommended Sida: i) To use the indicators already in use by GGF (indicators of highest relevance are linked to emission reductions, energy savings and energy from renewable sources); and ii) To add the indicator “Number of beneficiaries with reduced energy costs” that highlights the socio-economic benefits of energy solutions. The Helpdesk also recommended Sida to include environment and climate change issues in the dialogue with GGF, particularly related to opportunities for enhanced positive impact and the capacity of the partners.

2024-074. Input to the World Bank Group/IDA 21 negotiations

Purpose: The RESULTAT/TEMA1 department asked for support to provide additional input to the Swedish position in relation to negotiations on WBG/IDA 21. This was a continuation of an assignment carried out in June 2024, in which the Helpdesk looked at draft documents from WB/IDA.

Results/Findings: For this addition to the assignment, the Helpdesk provided comments on new versions of strategic IDA-documents. The delivery was, similar to the first part, delivered both in writing and through an additional follow-up call with Sida.

2024-139. Update of the Central Environmental Review (CER) of WHO

Purpose: The GLOBAL/SOCIAL department asked the Helpdesk for support in updating the Central Environmental Review (CER) of WHO (dated 2022). The 2022 CER was drafted based on documentation and information available until April 2022, but since then WHO has continued to develop its climate and environmental frameworks and systems. The 2024 revision of the CER intended to support Sida in assessing a potential new global support to WHO.

Results/Findings: The update concluded that, since the drafting of the 2022 CER, WHO has continued

the positive path to strengthen its work on climate change, and to some extent also for other environment issues. The Helpdesk noted that some recommendations from the CER 2022 have been addressed by WHO but that several of the CER 2022 recommendations remain/or should be revised to reflect recent developments. The outstanding recommendations to Sida focuses on the need to strengthen WHO capacities and resources to *integrate* environment and climate change, strengthen WHO's work on broader environmental issues (including biodiversity and pollution), and to monitor and follow-up of the 14th WHO Global Program of Work objectives and the newly established Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework.

2024-140. Team Environment Africa – planning days

Purpose: Sida (Team Environment/Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi) requested support from the Helpdesk to plan and facilitate planning days for the extended team.

Results/Findings: Team Environment staff and “associates” from other embassies and Sida unites, discussed Team Environment’s role, added value and needed changes. They looked back over 2024 in a retrospective and discussed bilateral and regional embassy needs and challenges. These discussions were brought forward into 2025 planning.

2024-143 Support to Sida’s participation in BBNJ-implementation

Purpose: The RESULTAT /TEMA1 department asked the Helpdesk to provide input to the discussions on how Sweden (including Sida) is impacted by the new treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk reviewed several background documents and draft judicial text and gave input to Sida for use in the discussions with other Swedish actors. The Helpdesk sent two sets of written comments followed by oral discussions with Sida.

Category 9. Learning

2023-139. Workshop CIVSAM – results & lessons from environmental integration

Purpose: Sida (CIVSAM/PARTER) asked for support from the Helpdesk to prepare and implement a workshop to share lessons learned from the unit’s work on environmental integration.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide feedback and contribute to learning about the environmental integration work, to enthuse, inspire, and contribute to the operationalisation process of the upcoming CSO strategy.

Results/Findings: The workshop was initiated with a presentation of the learning from CIVSAM’s systematic work with environmental integration.⁴ Thereafter, in a world-café format, CIVSAM staff discussed four issues: i) Continued measures for strengthened environmental integration; ii) Need for support going forward (what is difficult, what type of support is important); iii) Support/dialogue with SPOs (how can CIVSAM provide support for (continued) work with environmental integration in a relevant and needs-based way?) iv) Development efficiency and enabling environment for civil society organisations (How can CIVSAM strengthen environmental integration in their Policy and Method (PoM)).

2023-165. Env-hub workshop on environmental integration

Purpose: Sida (INTEM/TEMA and PARTNER/CIVSAM) asked the Helpdesk to support them in planning and facilitating a workshop for the hub-members on environmental integration. The purpose of the workshop was to contribute to learning about, and provide inspiration to continue working systematically with, environmental integration.

Results/Findings: After a presentation of CIVSAM’s systematic work with environmental integration for inspiration, the hub members discussed preconditions, requirements, and measures to promote implementation of environmental integration. Measures include (but are not limited to) areas related to clarity of requirements and responsibilities, communication, monitoring/follow-up, developing a narrative, sharing good and inspirational examples, and making it easy for programme officers to do “right” and difficult to do “wrong” when it comes to environmental integration.

2024-081. Results examples – increased and effective climate aid

Purpose: Sida (RESULTAT/TEMA1) requested support to collect results examples relevant for the reporting of “Increased and more effective climate aid”.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk gather almost 80 results examples, categorised in the nine Areas⁵ identified by Sida. The Helpdesk noted that it continues to be challenging to identify and report on

⁴ Previous Helpdesk assignments “CIVSAM learning, document review” (2022-038) and CIVSAM learning interviews (2022-138)

⁵ **Område 1.** Stärka institutionell kapacitet på olika nivåer; **Område 2.** Tillgängliggöra finansiering och stärka kapacitet på lokal nivå samt öka deltagande; **Område 3.** Agera förebyggande och bygga motståndskraft mot kriser och katastrofer för att minimera skador och förluster, stärka social sammanhållning och dessutom minska risken för humanitär kris; **Område 4.** Stärka genomförandet och synergierna mellan det globala ramverket för biologisk mångfald (KM-GBF), Sendairamverket och Parisavtalet; **Område 5.** Stödja utvecklingen av nya marknader och affärsmodeller. **Område 6.** Genom mobilisering av inhemska och utländska offentliga och privata kapital samt involvering av andra aktörer. **Område 7.** Klimatsäkra utvecklingssamarbetet genom att stärka och utöka klimat- och miljöintegreringen i hela verksamheten. **Område 8.** Stärkt strategisk kommunikation och

concrete results. Geographically, most results are reported from the global and regional strategies. It also appears that bilateral teams/sections that have easy access to environmental expertise and advice (for instance through Team Environment or Regional Africa) are better at reporting results. The Helpdesk also notes that there are roughly the same number of results examples from Area 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, while somewhat fewer results reported for Area 7, 8, and 9.

2024-106. Gathering of results from Sida's evaluations in 2024 with a focus on environmental and climate initiatives

Purpose: The RESULTAT/TEMA1 department asked the Helpdesk for support in gathering results reported in Sida's evaluations during 2024. The purpose was to use the examples in Sida's annual reporting.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk reviewed 7 evaluations. Methodologically, the assignment was complicated and did not deliver as many examples as hoped. The reviewed evaluations largely focused on standard evaluation criteria, where effectiveness (results) is only one aspect. To that extent, these evaluations were somewhat limited in their analysis of outcomes. The Helpdesk also noted that quantifiable results are rarely mentioned in the evaluations. In addition, the Helpdesk concluded that many of the evaluations' conclusions regarding lack of reporting of results can be attributed to weak results frameworks and/or changed conditions and external factors (such as the Covid pandemic and political aspects in partner countries and organisations).

2024-107. Results examples Sida's Annual Reporting 2024

Purpose: The RESULTAT/Tema 1 department asked the Helpdesk for support with gathering positive examples and challenges of Sida's environmental work reported in 2024 within Swedish development cooperation. The purpose was to use the examples and challenges in Sida's thematic narrative annual reporting.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk was able to find several examples, with a focus on Biodiversity and Climate adaptation and resilience, where Swedish development cooperation have contributed to change, as well as examples of where results have been challenging for various reasons. More examples were identified than was used in the final version.

2024-144. Input till Sidas uppföljning och rapportering av Miljöledningssystemet 2024 - Mål om miljöbedömningar

Purpose: The RESULTAT/TEMA1 department asked the Helpdesk for support in Sida's annual reporting to Naturvårdsverket on the Environmental Management System, EMS, and more specifically on the goal that *a climate and environmental assessment shall be undertaken for all new contributions according to Sida's regulation.*

Results/Findings: The assignment was divided in two parts: 1) analysis of all new contributions Q3-Q4 to see whether an environmental assessment (EA) has been carried out and whether it responds

dialog med ett urval av partners om en rättvis omställning i linje med Parisavtalet. **Område 9.** Effektivt samarbete inom Sverigelaget

to Sida's requirements (44 contributions were analysed); and 2) analysis of the 13 biggest new contributions for 2024 to see whether an EA has been carried out and whether it responds to Sida's requirements. Part 1 showed that 17 out of 44 contributions (39%) have conducted an EA and another 14% are planning to undertake an EA. 18% of all contributions have not conducted an EA. In 43% of Sida's assessment memos, it is difficult to determine whether an EA has been conducted or not. Of the 17 interventions that have conducted an environmental assessment, 11 (65%) have conducted a complete environmental assessment and looked at both opportunities, risks and vulnerabilities. This means that only 25% of all 44 interventions have conducted an environmental assessment in accordance with Sida's requirements. Part 2 showed that 10 out of 13 initiatives (77%) have carried out some kind of EA and one more contribution is planning to carry out one. This means that 85% have either carried out an environmental assessment or are planning to carry out one. Out of these, all except of one have included all three aspects, i.e. opportunities, risks and vulnerabilities.