Summary of Helpdesk Assignments 2025

This document is an annual summary of assignments carried out by Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate change during 2025. For more information on specific assignments listed below, please contact: sidaenvironmenthelpdesk@slu.se. The assignments are presented based on their service category (see Box 1).

The numbers in the titles refer to the Helpdesk internal log system and are 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.

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

Category 1 refers to support that is linked to Sida's contribution management, for instance assessing environmental dimensions in programmes and projects, reviewing partners' environmental assessment (EA), or assessing their capacity to work with environment and climate change management and integration.

Category 2 refers to expert advice on environmental dimensions in development, operationalisation, implementation, and follow-up of strategy processes, including portfolio analyses or country-level gap-analyses.

Category 3 pertains to expert inputs supporting Sida in dialogue and negotiations related to international environmental processes. Examples include support to participate in OECD DAC processes or assess GCF proposals.

Category 4 refers to in-depth thematic background documents, discussion papers, synthesising of lessons learned, best practices, latest research and evidence as background material to e.g., policy processes, thematic knowledge development and, overall, to contribute to Sida as a learning organisation.

Category 5 refers to expert inputs to support development of methods, guidance, and tools for the integration of environment in Sida's work.

Category 6 refers to expert input in support of capacity development and training on environment, at Sida and its field offices.

Category 7 entails support to development of tailor-made information materials on environment and climate change, e.g., briefs, power points or other types of short information materials.

Category 8 services include support and coaching services to support Sida in its dialogue with partners.

Category 9 relates to support to Sida to take stock, assess, synthesise, document and share lessons learned regarding the integration of environment and climate change, with the aim to contribute to Sida as a learning organisation.

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Category 1. Programme and project support

Category 1 refers to support that often is linked to Sida's contribution management, for instance assessing environmental dimensions in programmes and projects, reviewing partners' environmental assessment (EA), or assessing their capacity to work with environment and climate change management and integration.

2025-021. Synthesis of CGIAR´s progress and lessons

Purpose: GLOBAL/FORSK requested support from the Helpdesk to summarise the Portfolio Narrative 2024 of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Sida plays an important role as a financier and partner to CGIAR and the support is considered central to research and innovation in sustainable food systems.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk delivered a summary of the 90-page Portfolio Narrative report that includes CGIAR´s progress from 2024, its cumulative progress during 2022–2024 and transition to the 2025–2030 portfolio. The summary highlights results from initiatives, impact platforms and Science Group Projects (SGPs), as well as lessons learned. In numbers, the portfolio´s geographic span covered 95 countries and reached over 20.6 million farmers and 24,711 agricultural extension agents. The report reports 16,600 results, and states that CGIAR´s research informed USD 3.27 billion in third-party investments and contributed to various policy changes.

Lessons Learned: Through CGIAR´s "report–reflect–replan cycle", CGIAR has continuously adjusted its strategies to improve coordination and address budget challenges. In this context it is relevant to highlight the cut of Sida funding for research collaboration by half in 2023. It resulted in a sharp reduction in support for research for agriculture and food systems, including the support to CGIAR.

2025-027. Review of UNU-WIDER's Environmental Assessment

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo requested the Helpdesk to review the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the phase III of the Inclusive Growth in Mozambique (IGM) Programme (2025-2028). The purpose of this assignment was to: (1) assess whether the EA aligns with Sida's requirements; and (2) provide recommendations on how the programme can better integrate environment and climate change issues.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the programme has strong potential to enhance sustainable economic development through environment and climate change integration. However, some aspects remain unclear, particularly roles, routines, and responsibilities for integrating and monitoring environmental considerations. The Helpdesk recommended clarifying that, as well as to strengthen the environmental and climate change risk analysis and management, and defining clear indicators and expected outcomes related to environmental and climate integration in the results framework.

2025-031. EarthRights International and the Mekong Regional Program

Purpose: Sida/MENALA and the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok requested the Helpdesk to review the environmental perspective of the organisation EarthRights International (ERI) and its funding proposal for the Mekong Regional Program (2025-2028). The Helpdesk was also tasked to review the

new proposal based on the findings from the external evaluation of Mekong Regional Program 2020-2022.

Results/Findings: Overall, the Helpdesk agreed with the 2023 evaluation findings of the programme, which found ERI's work to be highly relevant. At a time when freedom of speech and environmental justice are being questioned in many parts of the world, and when dominant leaders neglect the impacts of climate change, this work is needed more than ever. The Helpdesk highlighted opportunities for the programme to better capture expected nature-positive outcomes and articulate its environmental ambition more clearly. This is especially needed in its results-based management, including its Theory of Change. The Helpdesk also communicated the outstanding evaluation recommendations and the need to follow up on them.

2025-038. YEE environmental assessment Zimbabwe

Purpose: The Swedish Embassy in Harare asked the Helpdesk to review SNV´s proposal Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (YEE) and to give comments on the upcoming environmental assessment of the project.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the project demonstrated a clear ambition to contribute to environmental sustainability, specifically climate resilience and mitigation. At the same time, it was concluded that environment and climate change aspects could be much better addressed and integrated into the overall project design. The Helpdesk recommended SNV to consider the following:

- Strengthen the Theory of Change (ToC) and/or Logical Framework by incorporating specific goals, outputs, and indicators related to environment and climate, and establish a plan for monitoring progress.
- Broaden the focus beyond climate change to include biodiversity, natural resource management, and pollution.
- Use Zimbabwe's NDC 3.0, NAP 2024, and National Biodiversity Targets to align the project activities and enterprises with national environmental and climate priorities.
- Base the upcoming environmental assessment on the four value chains, and identify risks, opportunities, actions and monitor and evaluation for each.
- Define any environmental, climate, or biodiversity criteria for supported businesses and enterprises, and outline how compliance will be tracked.
- Develop an environmental/climate action plan with concrete measures to maximize opportunities and mitigate risks.

2025-051. Albania solid waste

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA1 asked the Helpdesk for an exploratory meeting regarding potentials to support the waste management sector in Albania.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk asked a waste management expert to set up a meeting with the Sida team in Tirana.

2025-055. Barnfonden: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in Barnfonden´s proposal "Unite for Children, Youth and Environment".

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found Barnfonden's proposal highly relevant from an environmental perspective. It clearly links climate change, environmental degradation, and the health and rights of children. The organisation aligns with national climate plans and shows strong commitment through its Child-focused Climate-Resilient Development Approach and Cross-cutting Issues Handbook, which provide clear tools for integrating climate and child rights into its work.

2025-056. Hand in Hand: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in Hand in Hand's proposal "Business Beyond Barriers".
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds Hand in Hand's proposal relevant from an environmental perspective, and it demonstrates ambitions to contribute to environmental outcomes, particularly in sustainable livelihoods, and promoting climate resilience. However, Hand in Hand does not clearly demonstrate *how* they work with environmental and climate issues, for example through systems and tools. The lack of an environmental assessment is a missed opportunity to identify opportunities to integrate climate change adaptation, resilience, and in building sustainable businesses and gender equality as well as a strong civil society.

2025-057. Afrikagrupperna: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in Afrikagrupperna's proposal "Solidarity and feminism for a just world, application to Sida 2025-2029".
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that the proposal and supplementary documents address environmental and climate change considerations and management adequately. In addition to the proposal's environmental objectives, the organisation describes its dedication to continuously learning how to successfully integrate different thematic areas, including environment and climate change, into its operations. The Environmental Action Plan emphasises capacity-building activities, both internally and with partners, including a mapping exercise of existing capacity related to environment and climate change. There are also areas for improvement. For example, information on environmental and climate-related risks in programme countries, as well as mitigation efforts, should be integrated into the overall programme. This would strengthen Afrikagrupperna's holistic approach and follow-up. Another comment from the Helpdesk concerns results-based management.
Lessons Learned: The Helpdesk has worked many times with Afrikagrupperna over the years, upon requests from Sida, and finds that there is an increased contextual understanding in Afrikagrupperna on the "why", "what" and "how" related to environmental integration. Sida could utilise Afrikagrupperna's experience in influencing and inspiring its partners and networks.

2025-058. We Effect: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in We Effect's proposal "Co-power – Civil society and cooperatives for resilient food systems, sustainable livelihoods and women's empowerment".
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds that We Effect will continue to apply a high ambition in the fields of environment, climate change and resilience (ECCR), which is well expressed in the application. Regarding environment and climate integration, We Effect demonstrates a

comprehensive and qualitative programme in this application. It is demonstrated by the tools, systems and routines that have been developed to strengthen programme implementation. It also demonstrates dedicated staff and commitment by We Effects leadership.

2025-059. MyRight's: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to review MyRight´s Environmental Assessment (EA) and proposal "Our Solution-Inclusion", 2025. The purpose of the assignment was to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in the proposal, and to suggest environmental, climate change and biodiversity policy markers score for this proposal.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds MyRight's EA satisfactory, mainly addressing environmental and climate issues through disaster risk reduction (DDR), access to information, and sustainable practices. While integration into the broader programme is limited, the EA shows strong interest and relevance, especially in areas facing extreme weather. Conducted via questionnaires to partners, it includes diverse perspectives. It identifies both risks and opportunities, offering measures like conflict resolution and climate adaptation guides. A deeper risk analysis would strengthen it. The rights-based approach, particularly for persons with disabilities, is seen as highly relevant. The initiative should be scored "0" for environmental, climate change and biodiversity policy marker at this stage.

2025-060. Forum Civ: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in Forum Civ's proposal "Transformative Partnership: Advancing Rights, Resilience and Sustainability 2025-2028",
Results/Findings: ForumCiv highlights the connections between environmental degradation and various forms of vulnerability, including human rights violations, gender inequality, financial instability, political repression, and conflict — all of which are intensified by climate change. The links are well expressed in the context analysis and in the environmental assessment. ForumCiv refers to the impacts of environmental degradation in the target countries and aligns its work to Sweden's 2025-2029 Strategy for Support to Civil Society.

2025-061. Svalorna Latinamerika: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to review Svalorna Latinamerika's, Regnskogsföreningen's and Föräldralösa Barn's, environmental assessment (EA) and proposal "Civil Society for Equality and Environment", 2025. The purpose of the assignment was to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in the proposal. The assignment was undertaken as a desk study. The Helpdesk was also asked to suggest environmental, climate change and biodiversity policy markers score for this proposal.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds the proposal and EA relevant and well-integrated, with strong potential for positive impact. The approach is holistic, linking environment, equality, and capacity development. For instance, the results framework outlines clear expected outcomes in these, such as improvements in air and soil quality through the implementation of productive, environmentally sustainable, and climate-resilient practices such as agroforestry. Collaboration among the three organisations can further enhance outcomes, especially in advancing rights through climate-related

initiatives. The initiative should score a “2” for Environment and Climate Change Adaptation, and “1” for Biodiversity.

2025-063. IOGT-NTO: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in the IOGT-NTO Movements proposal *Civic strength for sustainable change – From local communities to national policy, preventing alcohol harm and strengthening democracy*””.

Results/Findings: Environment and climate change are not central to IOGT-NTO Movement’s proposal. While considered a cross-cutting issue, the focus is mainly on reducing the environmental impact of alcohol production. This may have indirect positive effects, but the Helpdesk concludes that climate and environmental aspects are not integrated into the programme—an approach that seems reasonable given its primary goal of promoting democracy, equality, and freedom from alcohol-related harm.

2025-064. Oxfam: Review of environmental assessment

Purpose: The GLOBAL/CSO unit asked the Helpdesk to analyse how environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in the Oxfam’s proposal, the “Change Hub project”.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds Oxfam’s proposal very relevant from a climate and environmental perspective. Throughout the documents provided for the assessment, Oxfam clearly shows that they have an in-depth understanding of how climate change, natural resource management and other environmental issues link to human rights and the need for a vibrant civil society in Latin America. The Helpdesk finds that the main weakness in the proposal relates to the results framework which is not explicit on environment or climate change results. Secondly, sub-partners use of Oxfam policies and capacities in relation to environmental opportunities and risks could be further clarified.

2025-067. WFA and UAF-A&P in Asia & Pacific

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok commissioned the Helpdesk to review Women’s Fund Asia (WFA) & Urgent Action Fund-Asia & Pacific (UAF-A&P) joint proposal “*Resourcing Feminist Resistance and Resilience in Asia & Pacific”* and specifically to give comments on the submitted environmental assessment of the planned project.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's assessment is that the project demonstrates clear ambitions to contribute to positive environmental outcomes, particularly as regards environment and climate justice (ECJ). That said, the assessment is that environment and climate change aspects could be better addressed and integrated into the overall project design. This could be done by strengthening the ToC and/or logical framework by incorporating specific goals, outputs, and indicators related to environment and climate, and establish a clear plan for monitoring progress. The Helpdesk also noted that the partner’s environmental assessment was conducted by an external consultant, possibly limiting the ownership of the process.

2025-073. Review of Mekong River Commission (MRC) draft strategic plan

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden Bangkok, to review MRC's first draft of its Strategic Plan (SP) 2026-2030. The purpose of the assignment was to provide input to Sida's comments to the draft SP.

Results/Findings: Having in mind the mandate of the MRC, and challenges related to river basin organisations, the Helpdesk found that the draft MRC SP largely is addressing both current cross-border water issues and internal organisational development matters. Overall topics for Sida to consider in the further refinement of the SP include the potential to increase/support to: the uptake of technical work and guidance, stakeholder engagement and accountability (local communities), and a revision of the results framework and indicators. Specific recommendations were also made regarding defining outputs for biodiversity, linking MRC's objectives to the countries NDC's, and promoting nature-based solutions.

2025-084. Feasibility study waste management Moldova

Purpose: EUROPA asked the Helpdesk to provide comments on the planned feasibility studies (financed by Swedfund), focusing on the planning of the waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities in two locations in Moldova (Chisinau and Balti).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk asked an external waste management expert to provide comments. He found it is somewhat unclear how the EU's regulations on EPR and organic waste are integrated into the decisions, and there may be a risk that too much focus is placed on WtE before the recycling systems have been resolved. There is a lack of reporting on the market for heat, electricity, and biogas in the different scenarios, since the market is always local. Although it can be assumed that Swedfund's FS addresses these issues, it is recommended that Sida closely monitor the planned activities in Moldova.

2025-091. Action Aid Zambia

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka asked for support to review environmental assessments (EA's) for five different contributions, including Action Aid Zambia's (AAZ) from the phase II of the project proposal *"Strengthening Civil Society Effectiveness in Promoting Good Governance and Increasing Citizens' Awareness and Demand for Human Rights in Zambia Project",* 2024. The purpose of the assignment was to assess how AAZ can enhance their capacity as well as that of their sub-grantees around environment and climate change.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds the AAZ's environmental efforts to be relevant and well-integrated. The EA presents a clear context analysis with the main environmental challenges in Zambia, such as droughts, floods, extreme temperatures, deforestation, unsustainable agriculture and mining, and consequent loss of biodiversity. It also has a focus on the gender perspective. The EA clearly reinforces the environmental activities already proposed in the project.

2025-092. Transparency International Zambia

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka asked for Helpdesk support to review the Strategic Plan and the environmental assessment (EA) of Transparency International-Zambia (TI-Z).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that TI-Z integrates environment to a large extent, not least through a specific outcome area in the plan. While the submitted EA is simple, together with the

Strategic Plan, it covers the most important aspects. What is partly missing is a more detailed plan or policy for how TI-Z aims to handle potential direct negative effects of its operations. The Helpdesk therefore recommended the Embassy to request TI-Z to develop a brief but clear environmental policy, including targets and routines for implementation, monitoring and follow up.

2025-095. Capacity assessment of the Non-Governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC)

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka to review the Non-Governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, an Environmental Assessment (from July 2025) shared by Sida and other relevant documentation. The main purpose of the assignment was to explore how the capacity of the NGOCC and their sub-grantees can be enhanced with regard to climate and environment.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds the Environmental Assessment (EA) to align with Sida's requirements, accordingly, presenting opportunities for increasing NGOCC's positive environmental impacts, negative impacts and risk management, to fulfil EA criteria's. The measures described in the EA, only to a limited degree integrated into the Strategy Plan, raises concern on the capacity and the commitment to implement them. When enhancing the capacity of NGOCC in its climate and environmental work, it is important to consider both its internal operations and its engagement with member organisations.

2025-096. BBC Media action Zambia

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Lusaka asked for Helpdesk support to review the environmental assessment (EA) of BBC Media Action´s Funsani project 2025-2029.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that BBC MA demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and has successfully integrated environment and climate change considerations into the project in a relevant and thoughtful way. The environmental assessment is of good quality, and findings have been incorporated into the proposal. They have identified opportunities, risks, and vulnerabilities, all of which are relevant and appropriately addressed.

2025-118. Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Moçambique

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Maputo, asked for support to review the environmental assessment (EA), submitted as part of UEM's funding proposal for the period 2026-2028.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk concluded that UEM's environmental assessment was overly ambitious and that it might not serve as an effective tool for environmental integration. The Helpdesk recommended the Embassy to focus on a few short-term issues in the dialogue with UEM, as well as to use the EA as an entry-point for establishing a long-term environmental management system (EMS) for the university.

Category 2. Country, Regional and Thematic strategy processes

Category 2 refers to expert advice on environmental dimensions in development, operationalisation, implementation, and follow-up of strategy processes, including portfolio analyses or country-level gap-analyses.

2025-003. NBSAP Accelerator Partnership

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA1 requested the Helpdesk to review the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, especially in view of a potential engagement by the Swedish Government/Sida in the partnership.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk's view is that the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership (NBSAP AP) is needed to drive the biodiversity agenda and appears to be aligned with Sida's KM-GBF/NBSAP work at country level. It could be possible to draw lessons from the NDC Partnership. What Sida supports already within the focus areas of the partnership while not being partner, was further assessed under assignment 2025-018.
Lessons learned: A Swedish membership in the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership would send an important signal from Sweden, although the national discussion regarding Sweden's NBSAP continues.

2025-016 & 2025-045. Tanzania NDC deep dive

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Dar es Salaam and AFRICA/HORNOST requested the Helpdesk to assess how well the Swedish development cooperation support to Tanzania is aligned with Tanzania's strategic priorities as described in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The assignment aimed to identify what is currently being done as well as to identify what could be done to strengthen potential gaps, identify entry points etc., to further align the Swedish portfolio with Tanzania's mitigation and adaptation priorities. The deep dive included all bilateral, and selected regional, contributions. As a complementary assignment (2025-045), selected global contributions were added to the study.
Results/Findings: The research and regional contributions included in the study are well aligned with the Tanzania NDC priorities, particularly for adaptation. This is not surprising as they were selected due to their relevance. 82% of the selected global contributions were aligned with adaptation, mitigation or both. At bilateral level, about half of the contributions are aligned with NDC priorities for adaptation, mitigation or both. There are opportunities to enhance alignment with the NDC priorities through climate change integration in the contributions that currently are not aligned.
Lessons learned: It was time consuming to study all documents (proposals and appraisals) for all contribution, and it is not clear if the level of detail is necessary. It was agreed that the next deep dive (Kenya, 2025-069) will use statistical information with a few cases instead.

2025-034. MENA environmental indicators

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested support from the Helpdesk to identify environment and climate change indicators for the MENA region. The indicators would be used as an input to the regional MDPA analysis and to identify binding constraints.
Results/Findings: Most indexes and indicators are developed at national levels, and regional

indicators are difficult to identify, although there are some efforts to benchmark between regions. The Helpdesk therefore suggests indicators at country level, preferably by using established SDG indicators and the overarching SDG Index (by SDSN). Also relevant and good indicators are the Environment Performance Index, EPI (by Yale and Columbia universities). For adaption, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN Country Index) can be used, and for water management and water stress (the SDG indicators 6.4.2 and 6.5.1).

2025-035. NDC and NAP Bangladesh

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to undertake a light analysis of Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and to assess how Sida's country portfolio and supported interventions align with national climate priorities. The assignment aimed to provide analytical input and briefing material in preparation for Sida's field mission to Bangladesh**.**

Results/Findings: The analysis established a baseline for assessing how Sida's portfolio aligns with Bangladesh's NDC (2021) and identified both strengths and gaps. The Swedish-supported portfolio broadly supports national adaptation priorities, particularly in disaster risk reduction, health, water governance and community resilience, with a strong focus on gender-responsive approaches and enabling conditions such as institutional capacity, civil society engagement and access to climate finance. Alignment with mitigation priorities is more limited, with relatively low emphasis on technical innovation, private sector engagement, waste management and urban climate resilience. The assessment also highlighted the value of integrated, cross-sectoral programmes, while noting that most mitigation contributions remain indirect. Due to limited access to programme documentation, the analysis was conducted at an aggregate level and should be seen as a starting point for deeper portfolio review.

Lessons Learned: Portfolio-level mapping provides a useful basis for strategic dialogue on Paris alignment, but robust assessment of alignment and gaps requires access to full programme documentation and results data. More targeted and in-depth analysis could further strengthen strategic prioritization, learning and communication, particularly as national climate frameworks are updated.

2025-039. Portfolio analysis Regional Africa

Purpose: The Embassy in Addis Ababa/the Regional Africa unit, asked the Helpdesk to undertake a portfolio analysis to assess to what degree the current, and planned portfolio, has integrated environment and climate change, as well as to what degree those aspects could be strengthened. The assignment was expected to also contribute to a capacity-building exercise for the Embassy and selected partner organisation (planned for 2026).

Results/Findings: The analysis concluded that few contributions have included an adequate environmental assessment (43% had included some kind of EA but only 19% met Sida´s requirements); that climate change is often included in context analysis; that a majority of policy markers are correctly set; that there are opportunities to strengthen environment and climate change integration within all result areas; and that there are opportunities to contribute to Sida´s thematic priority in increased and effective climate aid.

2025-048. Update environmental review

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 and ADMIN/STYR asked the Helpdesk to do an update of Sida´s environmental review from 2021.

Results/Findings: The most recent environmental review was conducted in 2021. In light of Sida's new governance structure, organisational changes, and the relocation to Rissne, it was deemed necessary to update the review. An environmental review aims to identify an organisation's environmental impact and determine which environmental aspects are most significant.

The updated review concludes that, despite the move to a new office in Rissne, the reorganisation, and the new governance, Sida's core processes and activities remain largely unchanged from those in 2011. As a result, Sida's significant environmental aspects—and its overall environmental impact—are essentially the same as they were in 2011.

2025-053. Mapping of global water actors

Purpose: GLOBAL/KLIMAT together with other colleagues, requested the Helpdesk to undertake a mapping exercise in order to find potentially relevant actors to cooperate with in relation to water resources, WASH and other related strategic priorities for Sida. A requirement was that the mapping should include organisations with a global or multi-country approach. Purely regional and/or national outreach were not part of the assignment.

Results/Findings: The mapping, conducted as a desk study, resulted in two deliveries: An excel sheet covering 68 actors where aspects such as potential for climate adaption and mitigation, private sector engagement, mobilisation of capital etc. were included. Based on this broader mapping, the Helpdesk developed a shorter report, highlighting 11 actors which could be of specific interest for Sida.

Lessons Learned: Based on the request and need from Sida, the scope of the mapping was rather broad resulting in a vast number of actors, possibly limiting the use for Sida.

2025-069. Kenya NDC deep dive

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy in Nairobi and Sida Team Environment Africa to map how Sweden/Sida supports Kenya's undertakings towards the realisation of Paris Agreement Commitments through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The assignment aimed to assess the alignment of the whole Swedish-financed portfolio in Kenya, with Kenya's newly revised NDC.

Results/Findings: 100 contributions from various strategies[1] were selected for the study. 34% of the contributions are aligned with at least one NDC mitigation objectives, 50% are aligned with at least one NDC adaptation objective. 28% of the contributions reaching Kenya are cross-cutting and contribute to both mitigation and adaptation objectives. 44% of the contributions reaching Kenya were not aligned to any of the NDC objectives. The bilateral contributions show the highest level of alignment, and humanitarian contributions show the least alignment with Kenya's NDC objectives.

[1] 38 contributions from the bilateral portfolio (Kenya Strategy); 15 regional contributions (including six SRHR); 6 humanitarian contributions; 10 contributions with support to Civil Society; 17 contributions under strategies related to Innovation and Capacity Development; 14 contributions from thematic global strategies (previous GLOBEN, GLOBEC, GENDER, FRED, SOCIAL, DEMO). No (0) research contributions were included in the scope of the assignment.

Lessons Learned: The selection of the contributions to be included in the study continues to be challenging, and care should be taken initially to consult with strategy owners about the selection.

2025-072. Mapping of challenge funds in Africa

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, together with other colleagues, requested the Helpdesk to undertake a mapping exercise in order to find existing challenge funds based on various factors, such as type of partner, country, ticket size, potential for collaboration, and targeted sector (peace and security, migration, CCA, CCM, NbS, resilience, waste management, water, biodiversity, energy, digitalisation).

Results/Findings: The mapping, conducted as a desk study, resulted in two deliveries: An excel sheet covering 32 organisations. Following the specific interest of Sida, a selection was made below to highlight those that appeared to include peace and security, or migration specifically in their fund, or could have strong potential to do so. The mapping revealed limited attention to peace, security, and migration, indicating thematic gaps. Although the entirety of sub-Saharan Africa is covered geographically, there is a pronounced concentration in Eastern Africa, both in terms of project volume and financial allocation. Thematically, energy and resilience emerge as dominant areas of focus

Lessons Learned: As the assignment was a desk-study and mainly based on online sources, it provided limited clarity regarding the nature of funds and the functioning of their challenge mechanisms. Therefore, a more in-depth review and collection of additional information will be necessary should Sida want to proceed with the findings.

2025-088. NDC Partnership

Purpose: During the year GLOBAL/KLIMAT asked the Helpdesk to provide support to Sida to review documents that the NDC Partnership developed during the year. Documents included the Risk Matrix, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan, and thereafter the M&E Framework.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk finds that the NDCP was responsive to suggestions and that the latest version of the M&E framework document was well elaborated, clear, and in accordance with common Results-Based Management practices. The Helpdesk recommends that: NDCP defines some of the M&E concepts and methods to improve the usefulness of the information and make comparison (between countries and/or years) more feasible and relevant; the self-assessment of the partners could be validated in the mid-term and final external evaluations; and that NDCP reflects on the usefulness and adequacy of the M&E Framework once it has been tested (for instance in the MTR).

2025-097. Latin America NDC analysis of Sida's Portfolio

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to undertake a light mapping of how Sida's support to Latin America is aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation in the region. The countries selected for this analysis were Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, and Guatemala.

Results/Findings: Not only NDC's but also briefly NAP's and NBSAP's were part of the assessment. A total of 154 contributions were assessed, and it is noticeable that the Swedish-supported portfolio in Latin America broadly supports the adaptation priorities outlined in the countries' NDCs both directly and indirectly. This is particularly evident in areas such as forests and land use, water resources,

resilience of rural communities, and the rights of indigenous peoples. The contributions also align with many Swedish priorities.

2025-122. 4th Asia Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum

Purpose: The Swedish Embassy in Bangkok requested the Helpdesk to draft a brief including points to consider ahead of the 4th Asia Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum.
Results/Findings: Focusing on how Sweden has promoted rights-based approaches to biodiversity and climate governance, the Helpdesk provided a 2-page brief included general Swedish international commitments, as well as examples of Swedish contributions on global and regional level in Asia.

2025-126. Roundtable agrifood system COP30

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA1 asked the Helpdesk to comment and contribute with direct writings in a document for COP30 from a development perspective. It consisted of an outline for a roundtable discussion together with some companies focusing on Agrifood Systems in the Swedish Pavilion at COP30, which Sida was invited to participate and help develop a roundtable discussion together with some companies.
Results/Findings: There were some aspects missing, that the Helpdesk could contribute with, by strengthening Sida's perspective on development cooperation. For example, the Helpdesk added notes regarding climate change and environmental degradation impacts on agrifood systems and opportunities for agrifood systems to align with sustainable development internationally, for example through SDGs and NDCs. The Helpdesk also highlighted opportunities for jobs, new technologies and solutions for climate change.

2025-127 Peace Parks Foundation

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by GLOBAL/CSO Unit to conduct a study regarding Peace Parks Foundation and give comments on managing national parks. The purpose was to assess Peace Parks Foundation's capacity of mitigation and management regarding conflicts of interest related to natural resources.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk found that Peace Park Foundation has demonstrated commitment to mitigation of conflicts with adequate steering documents. However, it does not come through clearly how the commitment has been translated into practice at local level. One contributing factor is the high degree of complexity on the ground. The Helpdesk highlighted that Sida has an opportunity to support Peace Parks Foundation in implementing more conflict sensitive, inclusive and equitable conservation models.

2025-134. Ethiopia NDC deep dive

Purpose: The Helpdesk was commissioned by the Embassy in Addis Abeba to map how Sweden/Sida can support Ethiopia's NDC 3.0. The assignment was different compared to previous NDC deep dives as it did not look into the current portfolio. Instead it included 1) A mapping of Ethiopia's NDC 3.0, Sida's (draft) development offer, and Swedish business opportunities 2) An assessment of possible enabling factors/actions to address risks and opportunities in relation to the above.
Results/Findings: Ethiopia's NDC 3.0 and Sweden's priorities overlap strongly in renewables,

agriculture, forestry, and circular economy, offering clear partnership opportunities. There is great potential for co-benefits between adaptation and mitigation in most sectors and NDC priority areas but even activities with a clear mitigation focus often needs de-risking and a supportive enabling environment for private investments. Both mitigation and adaptation activities can benefit from a combination of market-based support and more traditional grant-financed support. There is a need to develop policies that are fit for purpose, support an enabling environment and to create common language which is understood by all actors. Finance do exist, but Ethiopia needs to continue to develop the right preconditions to unlock investments.

Lessons Learned: The mapping and analysis was something new and needed a somewhat different method. Close dialogue with the Embassy assisted in concluding the assignment.

2025-141. NDC 3.0 Roundtable Ethiopia

Purpose: Team Environment Africa at the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi, requested the Helpdesk to draft speaking points for the participation in a NDC roundtable discussion with Ethiopian and Swedish actors, held in Addis Abeba on December 18th, 2025. The assignment was linked to the NDC deep dive for Ethiopia (see 2025-134).

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided seven general points for consideration based on the findings from the NDC deep dive report and these were used in a PowerPoint presentation during the roundtable discussion.

Category 3. International processes

Category 3 pertains to expert inputs supporting Sida in dialogue and negotiations related to international environmental processes. Examples include support to participate in OECD DAC processes or assess GCF proposals.

2025-006 – 015. Green Climate Fund (GCF)

RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested support from the Helpdesk to review ten Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals, as an input to the board meeting GCF/B.41.

- **2025-006 (SAP048): Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities within high climatic and disaster risk areas in Togo.** The West African Development Bank (BOAD) is the accredited entity (AE) for the project, which will be implemented by the Ministry of National Security and Civil Protection. The overall objective is to improve preparedness capacities of national institutions and build climate change and DRR resilience of local communities. The proposal does not include conflict sensitivity, important for long-term resilience initiatives. The proposal does not sufficiently quantify the long-term impacts of slow onset events, limiting a comprehensive understanding of vulnerability. It is still recommended that the Board approve this funding proposal.
- **2025-007 (SAP049): Sustainable Communities for Climate Action in the Yucatán Peninsula (ACCIÓN).** SAP049 is an adaptation project that, through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures, aims to enhance climate resilience. Additional benefits are expected for 7,448,039 hectares in protected coastal and marine ecosystems, and marginal mitigation co-benefits include carbon sequestration through the restoration of mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs. The project is well aligned with national priorities, including Mexico's nationally determined contributions that also include adaptation, and the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 target. ACCIÓN will make a positive contribution to several of the NDC adaptation targets, such as the protection of ecosystems, strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities that are reliant on climate-sensitive livelihoods. The Helpdesk agrees with both the Secretariat and iTAP's conclusion, that the proposal is recommended to the Board for approval.
- **2025-008 (FP255): Transforming Livelihoods through Climate Resilient, Low Carbon, Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in the Lake Region Economic Bloc, Kenya (CRLCSA)**. The CRLCSA is a cross-cutting project, with focus on adaptation. The project has a value-chain approach and will work with cooperatives in the Kenyan agriculture sector, and also support individual smallholder farmers to build resilience and organise better. The Helpdesk agrees with iTAP and found that the project has both adaptation and mitigation benefits, with additional environmental and social co-benefits. If the project is successful and beneficiaries increase their income, it is not clear if the is a risk for increased inequality or conflict with the non-beneficiaries. The Helpdesk suggested that Sida would ask for a conflict assessment.
- **2025-009 (FP256): IAAT, Mali.** The project "Intensification of Agriculture and Agroforestry Techniques (IAAT) for climate resilient food and nutrition security: Tombouctou, Gao, Mopti, Koulikoro and Segou regions of Mali" is to be implemented by Save the children international (SCI) Mali, and Save the Children Federation, Inc. (SCUS) will co-Execute the project and

implement in collaboration with the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (ESDA – known nationally in French as AEDD) under the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation. The iTAP found that the current risk assessment framework seems to underestimate security challenges in the project area and the probability and impact of such security challenges to occur and may need to be updated. Further, to mitigate these risks it important to consider context-specific strategies. The Helpdesk concurred with this observation by iTAP. The Helpdesk further agreed with the assessments by the Secretariat and the iTAP, that the Board should approve this FP. The Helpdesk also supported the specific recommendation made by iTAP.

- **2025-010 (FP257): RE-GAIN: Scaling solutions for food loss in Africa**. The suggested project, to be implemented by AGRA, is an adaptation project that aims to support innovative adaptation of the harvest and post-harvest value chain in seven African countries. By doing so, it will strengthen food security by addressing climate change impacts on post-harvest food losses. The Helpdesk found that the project has high adaptation benefits but that there is additional potential to widen the scope which could add long-term adaptation benefits. Furthermore, the Helpdesk assessment indicates that the project has a strong focus on improved production but less so on sustainable ecosystems. It was also noted that there is no mentioning of the countries NBSAP's in the proposal. The Helpdesk finds that the project has a good potential to leverage additional funding and agrees with both the Secretariat and iTAP that conclude that the proposal should be approved by the GCF Board.
- **2025-011 (FP258): Multi-country Project Advancing Early Warnings for All (EW4All).** UNDP serve as both AE and executing entity (EE) for the project. This project is designed to address existing root causes and barriers to sustainable climate information services, MHEWS and Anticipatory Action in the most vulnerable countries among the LDCs and SIDS. The Helpdesk agrees with the ITAP comments on the available material. Please note that UNDP will provide additional information with more detailed information for all 7 countries.
- **2025-012 (FP259): Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change**. This project will focus on two primary threats. i) degradation of coral reefs, which provide animal-based protein required for nutrition across the region, and ii) climate-driven redistribution of tuna which many Pacific Island communities depend on heavily for revenue to fund basic services for their citizens. The Helpdesk finds that the project has a high adaptation potential but that it could be further increased with some revisions. Limited mitigation activities could also have been integrated into the project design. Potential co-benefits include improved livelihoods of fishers, processors, and transshipment vendors. Also, biodiversity and ecosystems could be strengthened through improved management and sustainability of oceanic tuna and other pelagic fish stocks. The Helpdesk also noted a risk with the suggested technical approach, i.e. high reliance on anchored fish aggregating devices. The project is highly relevant for the countries NDC's. The Helpdesk notes that biodiversity and references to the NBSAP's are missing. In summary, the Helpdesk agrees with both the Secretariat and iTAP that concludes that the proposal is recommended to the Board for approval.
- **2025-013 (FP261): Improving Climate Resilience by Increasing Water Security in the Amazon Basin.** The proposal is an adaptation project that seeks to enhance climate resilience by strengthening water management across the Amazon basin. The Helpdesk found the project to

be climate relevant and concurred with iTAP's assessments and recommendation. The Helpdesk concludes that it is positive that nature-based solutions will be used and that biodiversity targets are included in the results framework. However, the project´s contribution to increased biodiversity could possibly be strengthened by more clearly linking the project to the countries' NBSAPs. In this way, further activities and measures for increased biodiversity could be identified. The Helpdesk agrees with both the Secretariat and iTAP that concludes that the proposal is recommended to the Board for approval.

- **2025-014 (FP262) Green Climate Finance Facility for Fostering Climate-Smart Agriculture in Senegal.** The accredited entity, La Banque Agricole (LBA), will implement the project in collaboration with Baobab Microfinance for certain components. The Green Finance Facility aims to tackle the increasing need for concessional finance to bolster climate smart agriculture (CSA) in Senegal through various targeted interventions. The Helpdesk concurs with the iTAP assessment and is positive about the proposal.
- **2025-015 (FP263) Mirova Sustainable Land Fund 2 (MSLF2).** MSLF2 supports countries to achieve their climate mitigation and adaptation objectives in the AFOLU sector. The project targets investment in 7 countries: Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Ghana; Malaysia; Morocco; Peru and the Philippines. There are intentions to facilitate private sector investments in sustainable land management (SLM) practices in total across 11 countries, adding Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand and Uganda. The Helpdesk agrees with iTAP that the funding proposal is comprehensive and shows a credible pathway to achieving its outcomes. However, there are some risks and weaknesses identified that should be addressed.

2025-023. Support to Sida's Climate Reporting

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to provide support in relation to Sida's contribution to Sweden's climate reporting for the 2024 reporting cycle. The assignment included support to compilation of Sida's input to EU climate reporting, participation in selected coordination meetings.

Results/Findings: The assignment supported timely coordination, quality assurance and consistency of Sida's contributions to EU climate reporting processes. The Helpdesk provided input, supported data compilation and review, and contributed to alignment with reporting requirements and methodological expectations.

Lessons Learned: Continuous engagement in evolving reporting formats and guidelines, combined with close collaboration with Sida, enables the Helpdesk to provide timely, efficient and well-aligned support to the reporting process.

2025-131. COP30: Agriculture and food systems

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to follow UNFCCC COP30, with a focus on the agriculture sector, including crop production, forestry, fisheries, animal husbandry, aquaculture, food systems, and land tenure. The purpose of the assignment was to provide updates on key outcomes and decisions relevant to Sida's work within this thematic area following the conclusion of the conference.

Results/Findings: The agrifood systems did not stand out at COP30 and the sector remains critically underfinanced, even though agrifood systems could deliver up to one-third of global emissions

reductions. COP30 had historic representation of Indigenous groups and communities, but inclusion of representatives in key negotiations was sparse, which sparked demonstrations. COP30 placed significant emphasis on forests, especially with the launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), which Sweden has endorsed. Fisheries, animal husbandry, etc., were less evident. Attention to blue carbon in the context of ocean governance seems to be growing. The final document of COP30 does not include a phase-out of fossil fuels, and the anticipated roadmap to stop deforestation was postponed to next year. Forest/land protection also remains dependent on voluntary pledges and financing flows.

2025-136. Climate justice: event on states legal climate obligation

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked for a summary from the seminar "Climate justice from the law school to the ICJ and Right Livelihood", co-organised by the Stockholm Environmental Law and Policy Centre and the Right Livelihood on 2 December 2025, which the Helpdesk attended as part of its global outlook on climate justice. The Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) presented their work on advancing the call for climate justice at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), a process to which Sida has provided support.

Results/Findings: Grassroots advocacy efforts from the Pacific Islands have contributed to the ICJ clarifying that states have binding legal obligations to prevent climate-related harm, protect human rights, and provide full reparation for climate-related losses. This ruling has been widely regarded as a turning point in international environmental law and climate justice.

Lessons Learned. The event highlighted disappointment that UNFCCC COP30 did not pay more attention to the ICJ text. At the same time, participants noted that it is still too early to assess the full implications of the ICJ's legal obligation.

2025-047. Preparations for UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

Purpose: RESULAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to provide input to the upcoming UN Ocean conference held in Nice in June 2025.

Results/Findings: As Sida's engagement during UNOC 3 was not defined from the outset, the assignment was specified and carried out in close cooperation with Sida and adapted over time. In the end, two main deliveries were submitted. The first one suggested inputs to an overall memo as well as specific background information on one of the priority themes for UNOC 3: Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, including deep-sea ecosystems. The second delivery included an update on the above, plus input to the other themes for the conference; Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health, and; Mobilizing finance for ocean action.

Lessons Learned: As the assignment by intention was not clearly defined at the start it was regularly discussed, revised and agreed. It required a close coordination between the Helpdesk and Sida, and the flexibility of Helpdesk services was beneficial to the execution. Having the time for an adaptive approach is likely to benefit the use of Helpdesk services.

2025-078 – 083 & 2025-085 – 087. Green Climate Fund (GCF)

RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested support from the Helpdesk to review nine Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals (six FPs and three SAPs), as an input to the board meeting GCF/B.42.

- **2025-078 (FP265): Climate-resilient landscapes for sustainable livelihoods in northern Ghana Government of Ghana:** The project will be implemented by the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet). The project aims to improve resilience through investments in nature-based solutions such as riparian buffer restoration, agroforestry, and adaptive agricultural techniques. It also seeks to facilitate financial access for smallholder farmers through climate-resilient financing models, ensuring long-term viability beyond the funding period. Early warning systems will be developed to enhance protection of communities against climate-induced disasters, further strengthening adaptive capacity. While supporting the proposal, the Helpdesk highlighted the notes made by iTAP regarding risks that may affect the efficiency, effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the project. The issues pertain to gaps in the integration of digital innovation and digital finance, challenges in complex implementation processes, and the limited capacity of the EPA to effectively implement Output 4 (which focuses on increasing smallholder farmers' access to financial resources and private sector engagement). Additional concerns include weaknesses in the exit strategy, highlighting the need for enhanced financial access and stronger institutional support. Furthermore, the baseline data is outdated, and there is limited incorporation of the latest technologies in agriculture.
- **2025-079 (FP266): Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and populations in four regional hubs in northern Mauritania.** This UNEP project, implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), aims to enhance climate resilience among vulnerable communities and ecosystems in northern Mauritania, by reducing the impacts of climate change-induced desertification in the Sahara-Sahel boundary of Mauritania, enhance water and livelihood security, and promote sustainable land use through ecosystem-based adaptation, dune fixation, water resource management, and diversified climate-resilient livelihoods. The vulnerability of the population of Mauritania is high because of elevated levels of poverty and a strong dependence on climate change-sensitive sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, mining and livestock. The Helpdesk concurred with the assessment by iTAP and the GCF secretariat and suggests assessing the need for additional monitoring and assistance for project implementation from UNEP, to compensate the lack of physical presence in the country.
- **2025-080 (FP267): Scaling up ecosystem-based approaches to managing climate-intensified disaster risks in vulnerable regions of South Africa ("Eco-DRR"):** This proposal will be implemented by the accredited entity South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The project aims at creating a paradigm shift by upscaling Eco-DRR interventions to reduce the impacts of droughts, floods, and wildfires on communities and their livelihoods. The Helpdesk is mainly in agreement with ITAP's assessment and supports the approval of the proposal. The proposal is innovative, and likely to achieve important results in ecosystems, land management and disaster preparedness. The inclusion and focus on vulnerable groups, and women, is also positive. Given the context in South Africa, the Helpdesk recommends a more thorough risk assessment with regards to fraud and corruption and how this might hinder inclusion in national policy making and what can be done to mitigate this potential risk. The Helpdesk also

recommends a deeper analysis into how the results and impact potential can be scaled and sustainable.

- **2025-081 (FP270): Climate Adaptive Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture for Resilience (CAISAR) in Cambodia.** The suggested project, with IFAD as the accredited entity, is a cross-cutting project with mainly adaptation benefits. The CAISAR project seeks to make a departure from conventional, siloed approaches by integrating climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable agriculture and institutional reform. The Helpdesk finds that the project will leverage substantial additional funding. The Helpdesk also found that the project has potential to provide additional co-benefits but that issues around the selection of executing agencies and the implementation arrangements as concerning. The Helpdesk also questions the Secretariat's and iTAP's assessment of the possibility for the project's contribution to a paradigm shift and transformation of the agricultural sector in Cambodia.
- **2024-082 (FP272): Protecting livelihoods and assets at risk from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and climate change-induced flooding in glacial river basins of Nepal.** This UNDP project, will be implemented by Government of Nepal, represented by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) under Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI). By combining grey and green infrastructure and linking upstream risk mitigation to downstream early action, the project represents a scalable innovation in flood-risk governance that aligns with the national strategies and regional Himalayan frameworks of Nepal. The Helpdesk concurs with the Secretariat's and iTAP's assessment with emphasis on the opportunity to increase the project's impact and sustainability by following iTAP's recommendations.
- **2025-083 (FP274): Building the Climate Resilience of Children and Communities through the Education Sector (BRACE).** The suggested project, with the accredited entity Save the Children Australia (SCA) and executed by their partner organisations in Cambodia, South Sudan and Tonga, aims to take a fully integrated approach to climate resilience, ensuring learning continuity during climate disruptions and offering a transformative model for climate action in the education sector. The BRACE project seeks to drive a paradigm shift in school safety and climate education by leveraging the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF). The Helpdesk agrees with both the Secretariat and iTAP that concludes that the proposal is recommended to the Board for approval.
- **2025-085 (SAP050): Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilienT communities (TRACT) – Strengthening climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning in Maldives**. This project will be implemented by Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE), Republic of Maldives and UNEP. It will concurrently address capacity development needs across the four key components of multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS), which is essential to overcome the 'last mile' barriers that impede the full use and benefit of early warning systems. The Helpdesk concurred with the assessment by iTAP and has highlighted a few observations in different sections of this check list. No major risks have been identified.
- **2025-086 (SAP051): Increasing resilience to the health risks of climate change in the Federated States of Micronesia.** The accredited Pacific Community (SPC) will also implement the project through its Public Health Division. The project aims to reduce the high risk of vector-(VBD), water-(WBD), and food-borne diseases (FBD) linked to climate change by building a climate-

resilient health system, as outlined in the National Climate Change Health Adaptation Plan (NCCHAP). It will also carry out concrete health adaptation actions at the community level. The Helpdesk concurs with the iTAP and the Secretariat that the projects deserve support.

- **2025-087 (SAP053): FISH-ADAPT: Transforming climate resilience and sustainability in Saint Lucia's fisheries communities**. The suggested project aims to support scale-up of previous initiatives and help to make fishing safer and more productive despite a changing climate and help ensure that improved livelihoods do not require ever-increasing volumes of wild fish. FAO is both the Accredited Entity and the Executing Agency. While the Helpdesk agrees with iTAP that there are clear adaptation benefits, the Helpdesk also agrees with iTAP that the risk remains that, in the absence of deeper structural reforms (including stronger fisheries governance, market transformation and effective resource co-management) the project could entrench, rather than substantially re-orient, the sector. The Helpdesk finds the target for potential beneficiaries and implementation as reasonable but concurs with iTAP that the dual role of FAO can limit the country ownership and other long-term adaptation measures of the country.

2025-106 – 117 & 2025-119 – 120. Green Climate Fund (GCF)

RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested support from the Helpdesk to review fourteen Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals (five FPs and nine SAPs), as an input to the board meeting **GCF/B.43**

- **2025-106 (SAP055): Benin Strengthening the Health Resilience of Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change in Benin's ABD Zone (Adjohoun, Bonou, and Dangbo).** The project with the National Fund for Environment and Climate as accredited entity aims to address the high prevalence of climate-sensitive diseases with a systems approach. The project includes components of climate-proofing health facilities, equipping them for effective health interventions and strengthen the capacity of actors within the health system. The Helpdesk concurs with the Secretariat and iTAP's assessment and also outlines a few suggestions, including the opportunities to mitigate air pollution by, for instance, sensitizing communities on safe practices for cooking and waste burning. Further, there is an opportunity for making the construction of well-ventilated health facilities more scalable through prioritising locally produced, affordable materials and commonly practiced building techniques. The overall conclusion was positive, with no major risks identified.
- **2025-107 (SAP056). Strengthening the Health Resilience of Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change in Benin's ABD (Adjohoun, Bonou, and Dangbo) Zone, Burkina Faso GIZ.** The project proposal proposes a systems approach to addressing the high prevalence of the climate-sensitive diseases: acute respiratory infection (ARI), cardiovascular disease (CVD) and malaria in Benin. To this end, project components include (1) climate-proofing health facilities, (2) equipping them for effective health interventions and (3) strengthen the capacity of actors within the health system. The project's potential for achieving a paradigm shift depends on its ability to connect with national processes and to transfer skills and knowledge beyond the project area. The Helpdesk concurred with iTAP's assessment, although the proposal does not sufficiently describe the mechanisms for achieving this, and limited health sector resources risks hindering wider uptake of project approaches.

- **2025-108 (SAP058): Local Governments and Climate Change-III in Cambodia**. LGCC-3 aims to strengthen the climate resilience of communities in 25 target districts in Cambodia that are highly vulnerable to climate change. A majority of the GCF funds will be channelled to the targeted districts through the Performance Based Climate Resilience Grants which will enable local governments to plan, budget and execute some 90 investments. While the Helpdesk generally concurred with the iTAP assessment and was positive about the proposal, a recommendation was made as to include a cap on the level of hard (grey) infrastructure investments in each target district.
- **2025-109 (SAP059): Armenia EPIU Fuelling Green Recovery in Armenia – advancing forest infrastructure and creating sustainable jobs for rural communities.**
  The project aims to strengthen climate resilience and reduce emissions through reforestation, agroforestry and improved forest governance in Armenia. The proposed approach combines key elements of GCF's paradigm-shifting pathways for the forestry and land-use sector, including digital forest monitoring systems (MRV/NFMIS), modernised nursery and seed infrastructure, and community-based value chains for non-timber forest products. The Helpdesk assessed the proposal as well aligned with national climate strategies and Swedish priorities, with strong potential for mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity co-benefits, and sound institutional arrangements. The overall conclusion was positive, with no major risks identified.
- **2025-110 (SAP061): Mitigation and adaptation to climate change under agroforestry systems in cocoa production in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest biomes.** The project aims at transitioning from traditional farming to cocoa-AFS (cocoa agroforestry systems) across regions and particularly among smallholder family farmers, intertwining production, conservation, and social justice as pillars of a low-emission and climate-resilient future. The Helpdesk agrees with both the Secretariat and iTAP that the funding proposal is comprehensive and shows a credible pathway to achieving its outcomes. It also agrees with iTAP that the project's MRV system should be carefully monitored to avoid problems with the credibility and consistency of claimed climate benefits.
- **2025-111 (SAP062):** Dominica Community Resilience Enhancement Project (DOMCREP) is a five-year project with a lifespan of 15 years, which aims to strengthen community-level climate preparedness and resilience, focusing on agriculture and disaster management, while also enhancing the enabling environment through institutional development, awareness, and capacity building. The interventions are designed for long-term impact to ensure that benefits are sustained well beyond the life of the project. DOMCREP builds on these efforts by scaling successful interventions and addressing key gaps, ensuring more vulnerable communities are reached and better protected. DOMCREP aims to use GCF grant financing to protect Dominica's most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change and variability. The proposed measures are expected to have a transformative effect—safeguarding lives, securing livelihoods and economic activity, and creating a foundation for long-term climate-resilient development across the island, and to be replicable in other vulnerable communities and SIDS. The iTAP assesses the paradigm shift potential of the proposed project as medium to high. The assessor agrees.

- **2025-112 (SAP063): Scaling up of Caribbean Hydrometeorological and Muli-hazard Early Warning Services (CREWS) in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago**. The project with the Caribbean Development Bank as accredited entity aims to provide support to strengthen climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the three countries that are highly exposed to climate hazards. The support is through a holistic approach and focuses on institutional arrangements, policies and frameworks, upgrading early warning systems infrastructure and community preparedness. The Helpdesk concurs with the Secretariat and iTAP's assessment and also outlines a few suggestions, including a good potential to leverage private funding but that it is not sufficiently explored in the proposal. Further, the projects approach addresses multiple aspects relevant to the wider disaster risk management (DRM) systems – from generating reliable, accurate climate information to effectively communicating it to citizens. This more comprehensive approach appears highly relevant in the context. The Helpdesk's overall conclusion was positive, with no major risks identified.

- **2025-113 (SAP278): Adaptation of agricultural value chains to climate change in Madagascar – PrAda 2+**. The project aims to increase the climate resilience of smallholder farmers and other local value chain actors in rural Madagascar. The proposed approach combines key elements of the GCF paradigm-shifting pathways for the agricultural sector, namely: promoting resilient agroecology, and facilitating climate-informed advisory and risk management services. While the Helpdesk was positive to the project, it noted that an ongoing political turmoil in the country could seriously impact on the projects' feasibility and the possibilities for the GCF Board to approve the project during the upcoming board meeting.
- **2025-114 (FP279): South Sudan, WFP**: The project is focused on adaptation and aims to foster inclusive resilience, empowering women, youth, and displaced populations while contributing to peacebuilding. The support will help break the cycle of humanitarian dependency. Cost-effectiveness is supported by economic analysis and leveraging co-financing from WFP, UNHCR, and the Government of Japan. The Helpdesk supports the assessments of the Secretariat and iTAP, including recommendations, and supports an approval by the GCF Board of the project. Key risks include technical capacity limitations for ecosystem-based interventions, fragility and conflict, and sustainability beyond the 5-year implementation period. The Helpdesk finds that the foreseen support to South Sudan´s Climate Information and Early Warning Systems (CIEWS) include the pillars of Risk Knowledge, Monitoring & Forecasting, Response Capability and Dissemination and Communication.

- **2025-115 (FP283): Glaciers to Farms (G2F) Regional Program: Advancing Climate Resilience & Sustainable Development in Central and West Asia Regional western Asia, ADB.** G2F is a large programme covering nine countries in Central and West Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). The programme will address glacier retreat, erratic water flows and climate-induced risks through four integrated components: i) climate risk planning, ii) investment solutions, iii) financial ecosystem strengthening, and iv) regional knowledge platforms. The Helpdesk finds the G2F to be well aligned with national NDCs/NAPs, although there are no references to the NBSAPs. The Helpdesk agrees with the assessment of iTAP, that the adaptation potential is medium to large, while noting that it may be difficult to monitor results at beneficiary level. One of the G2F objectives is

to develop and integrate glacier-informed climate data systems into national planning and strengthen regional cooperation on data and early warnings. The Helpdesk finds this to be important, however also notes that the ownership and financing of the data systems post programme is not yet solved.

- **2025-116 (FP284): Amazonia Viva Program.** The Amazonia Viva Program targets Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Suriname, and Peru, prioritising innovative financing solutions at national and regional levels, supported by a robust analytical and knowledge base. It accelerates investment and policy operations, provides technical cooperation and advisory services, and fosters knowledge exchange to drive impactful climate and development outcomes. One example are the efforts for helping create an enabling environment that de-risks opportunities for private sector engagement while building local community capacities and advancing climate action and NDC implementation. The Helpdesk finds that the Programme is relevant for addressing the Amazon's high vulnerability to climate change by placing Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Local Communities (IPLCs) at the centre of conservation and resilience efforts, using a territorial approach, meeting both adaptation and mitigation needs. However, the Helpdesk suggest a better analysis of risks, in particular for conflicts and for climate change mitigation. Also, a better description on how coordination at regional level will happen, involving all countries that are part of the program.
- **2025-117 (FP286): Mandala Capital SSEA Food Programme**. To be implemented in three countries in South-East Asia (Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines) the projects' overarching objective is to strengthen resilience in regional food systems, improve food security and reduce vulnerability, by addressing challenges such as low agricultural yield and productivity, food wastage, price surges, malnutrition, and escalating protein demands. The project entails the establishment of an investment fund, plus a technical assistance facility. The Helpdesk found that the project has several potential adaptation benefits but that there is a risk of failure to mobilise sufficient funds, and questions about the robustness of claimed adaptation benefits if a subset of investments underperforms. The Helpdesk also found no evidence that biodiversity or inclusion of sustainable management principles is a priority for the project. To this effect the Helpdesk suggested a draft condition for consideration of the GCF-board.
- **2025-119 (SAP052): Oman, UNIDO** The project has an adaptation focus and aims to transform Oman's climate resilience architecture through integrated components; a national climate intelligence and data system; climate services for economic resilience and policy planning; community-centred early warning and early action; and climate innovation and risk-informed finance. The Secretariat and iTAP recommended approval of the proposal, but the Helpdesk expressed a reservation. The Helpdesk acknowledged the large amount of proposed co-financing by the Government of Oman and that the project could positively impact other countries, but at the same time raised concerns, given the significant adaptation finance gap and the critical financial needs of low- and middle-income countries, questions arise as to whether Oman should receive GCF financial support. This could be a matter of principle influencing future GCF Board

decisions. The GCF has a special role for *developing countries*, as outlined in its strategy[2], which is also reflected in the Swedish GCF strategy.[3] The proposal was not approved at the 43rd Board meeting in Oct 2025.

- **2025-120 (FP288): Jordan Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project**. The project aims to build one of the largest seawater desalination facilities in the world and is the largest direct GCF grant ever proposed in a private sector project. Jordan is experiencing severe water stress, aggravated by global warming and population pressure, and the project is expected to generate 40% of Jordan's domestic water supply by 2030. The Helpdesk identifies a need for a more comprehensive environmental risk analysis and impact analysis. It further highlights the importance of not only addressing risks but also looking at opportunities for pro nature benefits in a more extensive way. The Helpdesk agrees with the approach proposed by iTAP, which conditions disbursements to the Accredited Entity (AE) on satisfactory plans and a confirmation of key milestones for the transmission line being met. The Helpdesk also concurs with iTAP's request of an updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to ensure that social safeguards are adequately addressed and environmental risks are properly mitigated. Further, the Helpdesk highlights the important conditions from the Secretariat, referring both to the ESIA and to compliance with the GCF's Indigenous Peoples Policy.

[2] Strategic Plan for the Green Climate Fund 2024–2027 | Green Climate Fund

[3] 230907-svensk-strategi-gcf-2023-2026-regeringsbeslut.pdf

Category 4. Thematic analyses

Category 4 refers to in-depth thematic background documents, discussion papers, synthesising of lessons learned, best practices, latest research and evidence as background material to e.g., policy processes, thematic knowledge development and, overall, to contribute to Sida as a learning organisation.

2024-132. Climate, Peace, and Security in Africa

Purpose: The Helpdesk was tasked by Africa/HornOst and Team Environment/Embassy in Nairobi to explore opportunities for strengthening Sida's work at the intersection of climate, peace, and security in Africa. The assignment aimed to identify ways to enhance synergies between global, regional, and national support in this thematic field.

Results/Findings: Based on a review of nearly 60 contributions in fragile countries, the findings show that Sida's contributions in climate, peace, and security create important bridges between the global, regional and national levels. Several nodes of possible synergies were identified, which offer opportunities to strengthen alignment across the levels. The synergies are most evident from contributions at the global level to regional and country levels. Fewer synergies were found in the opposite direction—from country level to regional or global arenas. Thematically, the intersection of climate, peace, and security is complex and multi-dimensional, and the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus plays a central role in synergy efforts.[4] However, the linkages between the reviewed contributions and the African and global climate–peace–security policy agenda were weak. The Helpdesk recommended to build stronger synergies across geographical levels and strengthening Sida´s climate, peace, and security support. Enhanced support to locally driven actions and to systematically integrate migration and forced displacement in this thematic area are key.

Lessons Learned: The lessons that can be drawn from Sida´s dedicated HDP nexus work in Mali and Burkina Faso are important for further programming in fragile settings. Further, the thematic interface of climate, peace, and security is closely linked to natural resources, biodiversity, and a range of issues and sectors. Thus, it cannot be treated as a stand-alone thematic framework.

2025-004. OECD DAC/Environment: Workshop on private finance for biodiversity

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to remotely attend the DAC ENVIRONET workshop "Mobilising private finance for biodiversity in developing countries and emerging markets: Shaping action for development co-operation" held on the 3rd of February. The aim was to flag issues of interest for Sida and note-taking.

Results/Findings: Overall take-aways from the workshop were: i) There is a need for a more nuanced understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with investing in biodiversity. ii) The development of new financial instruments, the role of blended finance, and the importance of engaging with local communities and indigenous peoples, were identified as key areas for further

[4] The findings are aligned with the international commitment to increase investment and action for resilience in countries and communities affected by conflict, fragility, and humanitarian crises, as outlined in the UNFCCC COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace (2023).

exploration, and iii) A more coordinated approach to mobilising private finance for biodiversity is needed, including the development of a common framework for measuring and reporting on biodiversity impacts.

2025-018. Review of Sida´s biodiversity support

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested support from the Helpdesk to review Sida's support to biodiversity and ecosystem services across contributions where biodiversity is either a principal or a significant objective. The information was needed, amongst others, for Sida's annual reporting, obtaining a clearer overview of support to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and identifying thematic linkages (nexus) that include biodiversity. The background material was also used for assignment 2025-066.

Results/Findings: Clear interlinkages are visible between biodiversity and other thematic issues – such as the IPBES nexus elements (biodiversity, water, health, food, and climate change) – in contributions where biodiversity is a *significant objective*. Support to NBSAP efforts is evident in contributions where biodiversity is a *principal objective*. Knowledge management emerges as the most frequent type of support, followed by efforts to elevate NBSAPs into overall national development planning. The Helpdesk suggested that the Rio marker for biodiversity be reviewed in 17 contributions, for which suggestions have been provided. One of the Helpdesk's recommendations refers to NBSAPs: the information can support dialogue on potential contributions to the global NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and help strengthen Sida's support to NBSAP processes. As appropriate, Sida is also encouraged to prioritise the 12 contributions with the greatest potential for NBSAP alignment, using them as entry points should there be an interest in initiating dialogue with partners.

Lessons Learned: The background material for this assignment and for 2025-066 was extensive and required a substantial amount of time to review. At the same time, a systematic review of this kind can serve Sida in multiple ways. To the Helpdesk's knowledge, this was the first time Sida obtained such detailed information on its biodiversity support, combining both quantitative and qualitative data. One limitation was the reliance on OpenAid for part of the contributions, as it does not provide sufficient or high-quality information for analysis. A more in-depth review of contributions with biodiversity as a *significant objective*, using complete sets of documents, would strengthen the findings, if that is assessed to be relevant.

2025-028. Input to Sida position on NGTs and GMOs

Purpose: GLOBAL/FORSK and RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to provide information on the Swedish position and guidance related to the European Commission's proposal for a new regulation on crops and other plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs), hereafter referred to as the *NGT proposal*. The purpose was to outline the status of the proposal and the implications for Sida, and to present an overview of Swedish policies, regulations, and guidance on NGTs and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Results/Findings: The NGT proposal aims to exempt certain NGT-derived plants from EU GMO legislation, to better reflect scientific progress and support sustainable agriculture, food security, and climate resilience. The Swedish government supports the proposal, while organic farming actors call for stricter regulation. Sweden's GMO framework aligns with EU legislation. A key finding is that

international development-focused guidance on NGTs is limited within Swedish institutions, although relevant research and private-sector initiatives exist and offer useful information for Sida. Due to the limited literature, it proved difficult to elaborate in detail on what Sida can and cannot support should the NGT proposal be adopted. If adopted, the NGT proposal could simplify regulatory processes, reduce costs, improve access to improved plant varieties, and create new opportunities for international development cooperation. At the same time, regulatory frameworks globally, including those of Sida's partner countries, remain highly fragmented. The Helpdesk recommends Sida to assess any EU guidance in a development perspective and coordinate with like-minded EU donors.

Lessons Learned: The Helpdesk believes that it would be beneficial for programme officers if Sida could develop an internal guidance or policy related to GMO. The Helpdesk reports (from this and previous assignments carried out in 2024) could provide input. With regard to the next steps for the NGT proposal, both the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament need to approve the package agreed on 4 December, which may possibly take place in March 2026.

2024-033. Biosaline agriculture

Purpose: The MENA unit requested the Helpdesk to summarise opportunities and challenges of biosaline agriculture in the MENA region.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk describes approaches to address salinisation, and opportunities, experiences and challenges in the MENA region. To benefit the most vulnerable people, approaches to address salinisation need to be part of the overall efforts for sustainable agriculture and applied at landscape level. A webinar was planned but due to other priorities, it has been cancelled for the time being. The Helpdesk benefitted from the expertise of an external expert from the region being based as a researcher and lecturer at SLU.

2025-036. Klimat och sårbarhetsanalys

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to prepare an analysis of climate vulnerability in the regions where Sida is active. Through a review of existing research- and grey literature, a report was produced, in Swedish, outlining climate and vulnerability risks related to Sida's operations and the anticipated challenges in the regions and sectors. The report will contribute to the updated climate and vulnerability analysis (klimat- och sårbarhetsanalys), which will be used to reassess the direction and design of Sida's climate adaptation work, and serve as a basis for setting objectives for the agency's work on adaptation.

Results/Findings: Sida expressed satisfaction with the Helpdesk deliveries and found them to be of very high quality and served as excellent input.

2025-046. Webinar: Migration, forced displacement and climate change

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to support in planning and presentation of the evidence brief on 'Migration, Forced Displacement and Climate Change' on a Sida webinar. The brief Migration, Forced Displacement and Climate Change was compiled in 2024 with support from the Helpdesk's support.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk presentation provided a background on the links between migration and the environment, including terminology and concepts, migration as an adaption strategy, knowledge gaps and myths or common misinterpretations.

2025-049. Food security and sustainable food systems: Background paper

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk's involvement in reporting under the directive from the Swedish Government to Sida on food security and sustainable food system, based on an early concept note.

Results/Findings: An initial background paper was delivered. It will be further developed when Sida's process for its reporting work is ready, i.e. Sida's Report 2025. The Helpdesk support is benefitting from its experience from the similar reporting in 2023 (see also 2025-076).

2025-052. Global analysis prior to development offer

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to participate in the process of developing a global analysis to support the operationalisation of the new Global Thematic Strategy. The assignment included providing analytical and editorial support throughout the start-up, drafting and finalisation phases. This involved input to the structure and prioritisation of global analytical themes, updating reference material, and supporting coherence and communication of key messages.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk contributed to improved analytical depth and policy relevance of the global analysis by strengthening trend analysis, highlighting regional and sectoral hotspots and vulnerability dimensions, and ensuring alignment between global, regional and bilateral perspectives. Updated reference material and visual assets improved accessibility, while final editing and presentation materials strengthened the usability of the analysis for internal dialogue and strategic communication.

Lessons Learned: Iterative feedback processes and reference group engagement may increase complexity and timelines, but they strengthen quality, ownership and uptake of the final product.

2025-066. Review of Sida´s support for Nature-based Solutions

Purpose: The aim was to provide an overview of Sida's collective support to NbS, identify good examples for Sida's reporting and learning, and highlight contributions with potential for NbS.

Results/Findings: The review of 238 contributions resulted in a collection of NbS examples at various levels, as well as entry points for NbS in contributions that currently lack them. In numerical terms, NbS is present in a relatively high percentage (36%) of contributions with biodiversity as the *principal objective*. For contributions where biodiversity is a *significant objective*, only 3% refer to NbS. The Helpdesk suggests that Sida utilise this information to i) create a central Sida point of reference for NbS information, as this seems necessary; ii) inform reporting; iii) explore the identified NbS opportunities together with Sida officers handling the contributions and with partners, to strengthen Sida's NbS portfolio; iv) use the findings to share experiences and support learning, both internally and with partners as appropriate. It is also recommended that regular reviews be carried out to assess ambition over time and to encourage the use of IUCN's Global Standard for NbS, while remaining aware of its limitations.

Lessons Learned: To the Helpdesk's knowledge, this is the first time that information on NbS has been collected systematically and in such detail, including both quantitative and qualitative data. See also the limitations described in 2025-018.

2025-076. Food security and sustainable food systems: 2025 Reporting under government directive

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to support the reporting according to the Government 's Directive to Sida regarding food security and sustainable food systems.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk prepared text on global food security and the transition to sustainable food systems, focusing on the catalytic potential of food systems. It also highlighted synergies with other priority areas. The Helpdesk supported Sida in identifying, selecting, and summarising relevant results to illustrate Sida's support in 2025, and provided assistance with budget-related matters. The examples were aligned with the priorities of the Reform Agenda. The final output will be reflected in Sida's 2025 annual report.
Lessons Learned The collection of results from embassies and headquarters to the text has generated a highly useful resource hub of Sida-supported achievements, which the Helpdesk believes can be used for a range of purposes. There was a strong willingness among Sida staff to share results, and by emphasising early in the process that their input was needed, the response rate was high.

2024-078. Climate Smart Agriculture and the poverty perspective

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 requested the Helpdesk to undertake a review of climate smart Agriculture (CSA) and how the approach can benefit the most vulnerable and poor people. CSA experts at FAO reviewed a draft of report
Results/Findings: The review covers the origin of the term CSA and the definition, an evidence-based summary of the discourse on advantages and risks of the CSA application for the most vulnerable and poor people, as well as the concerns associated with CSA. Knowledge resources and a checklist that can support Sida's appraisals of proposals on CSA is included for further discussion.
Lessons learned: To benefit from CSA, the concept with its three pillars need to be used adequately and be monitored. It is a part of the wider agricultural system and to benefit the most vulnerable people, it needs to be programmed based on careful context analyses from the start.

2025-090. Key areas for people living in poverty, inclusive growth and green transition

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to edit an annex to the Global Analysis (see assignment 2025-052) on environment and climate change. The edited analysis included chapters on e.g., energy transition, food security and circular economy. The analysis aimed at guiding Sida program officers in these and other sectors and to find potential entry points for engagement.
Results/Findings: While Sida expressed satisfaction with the Helpdesk delivery, the assignment took a bit more time than planned as the chapters in the annex originally were written by different Sida-staff and therefore not harmonised in terms of structure and language.

2025-091. Results support Blue Economy FAO UNEP

Purpose: The Embassy of Sweden in Dar es Salaam asked for support to act as a sounding board to the results presented in the project's progress report of SWIOFC NC PP2 (SWIOFC Nairobi Convention Partnership for Resilient Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Livelihoods). The purpose of the assignment was to identify measurable goals achieved so far in the project's progress report and logical framework matrix.

Results/Findings: Overall, the Helpdesk found that information in the results framework is missing, particularly the baseline and the status of the project. It was not easy to find such information in the progress report either. Therefore, the Helpdesk recommended the Embassy of Sweden to request an update of the logical framework approach (LFA) and to report on the results achieved so far instead of activities.

2025-123. COP30 Background material

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 gave the Helpdesk the assignment to support Sida in preparing concise and accessible background material for the Sida delegation at COP30 in Belém. Three briefing notes were developed, aligned with the Paris Agreement objectives on mitigation, adaptation and climate finance. The briefs summarised good examples from Sida's portfolio, strategic approach and selected examples of ongoing interventions, providing a practical reference for dialogue and engagement during the conference.

Results/Findings: The briefing notes were well received for their clear structure, accessible language and communicative design, supporting quick orientation and consistent messaging across delegation members. It was later decided to publish these briefing notes.

Lessons Learned: Condensing complex portfolios into simple, well-structured formats can significantly enhance usability and impact. Prioritising clarity, focus and visual accessibility proved effective in translating technical content into operational decision support.

Category 5. Methodology development

Category 5 assignments refer to expert inputs to support development of methods, guidance, and tools for the integration of environment in Sida's work.

2025-021 Methodology development for NDC/NBSAP deep dives

Purpose: AFRIKA/HornOst and Team Environment asked for support to develop a methodology for NDC and NBSAP "Deep dives", that would benefit embassies interested in undertaking one.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk developed a general methodology to map alignment of Sida's development cooperation with a country's NDCs (or NBSAPs if available). During the year, the Helpdesk undertook some NDC lighter mapping assignments (Bangladesh ref. 2025-035, Regional Latin America, ref. 2025-097) and deep dives (Tanzania, ref. 2025-045 and Kenya, ref. 2025-069). An NDC deep dive was also undertaken in Ethiopia (2025-134), a bit different in design: instead of assessing Sida's alignment with the NDC, it focused on opportunities for synergies between the NDC, Sida's Development Offer, and Swedish NDC solutions (as identified by the Swedish Match maker).

2025-025 Increased and effective climate aid

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked for support to operationalise the priority area on *Increased and more effective climate aid* under Sida's Strategy 2024–2026. The assignment focused on translating strategic objectives and policy steering into practical guidance through background material, methodological support, illustrative examples and approaches for follow-up and learning, thereby strengthening internal coherence and implementation capacity.
Results/Findings: The assignment supported clearer operationalisation of the strategic priority and contributed to a stronger focus on communicating results.
Lessons Learned: Close collaboration and continuous dialogue between Sida and the Helpdesk facilitates clearer understanding of needs and improves the relevance and quality of the support.

2025-089. GCF deep dive CIEWS

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 commissioned the Helpdesk to thematically review Climate Information and Early Warning Systems (CIEWS) across the Global Climate Fund (GCF) proposals submitted to the 42nd Board meeting (B.42). The findings from the review is an input to the development of a guide or checklist that can be used in future assessments of GCF proposals that include CIEWS.
Results/Findings: CIEWS are increasingly integrated into GCF proposals. At B.42 53% of the reviewed proposals addressed the theme, primarily through adaptation-focused projects (resilience building). The review provided a useful background for the development of the checklist tool for assessing CIEWS content, with the final product to be delivered in January 2026.
Lessons Learned: The Helpdesk underscores the need to address the four pillars that constitute a so-called Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to ensure a holistic approach. Projects need to systematically address risk knowledge, monitoring and forecasting, dissemination and communication, and preparedness and response.

Category 6. Capacity development

Category 6 assignments refer to expert input in support of capacity development and training on environment, at Sida and its field offices.

2025-040. Regional Network Meeting Africa

Purpose: Team Environment Africa/Embassy in Nairobi and Power Africa asked for support to plan and facilitate a regional network meeting in Dar es Salaam, 20-22 May 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to build a joint narrative on how Sida and embassies can contribute to Just Green Transition in Africa through Development offers reflecting priorities in the Reform Agenda.
Results/Findings: The meeting covered several themes, including: i) NDCs as investment plans; ii) Climate finance; iii) Increased and effective climate aid including innovative finance; iv) Development offers, and v) Enabling environment for the just green transition. Over 40 Sida and Embassy staff working with environment, climate and/or energy, participated in the meeting.
Lessons Learned: A post-meeting survey indicated that regional network meetings are valuable but that the schedule was too tight, whereby there was too little time for discussion and networking.

2025-065. Webinar: Climate, Peace and Security in Africa

Purpose: Team Environment/Swedish Embassy in Kenya requested the Helpdesk to present the report "Climate, Peace and Security in Africa – Enhanced synergies between bilateral, regional, and global levels" on a Sida Webinar (see also assignment 2024-070 and 2024-132).
Results/Findings: The presentation provided a background to the assignment Climate, Peace and Security in Africa and the aim to identify ways to enhance synergies between global, regional, and national support in this field. The focus of the webinar was on the findings by describing the thematic analysis, providing examples and an overview of migration and partners and presenting the recommendations. At the discussion, the importance of anticipatory action was highlighted, among other issues.
Lessons learned: The focus was not to present the full report, but on the findings by providing examples to demonstrate the findings. This worked well.

2025-103 Workshop on waste management at Sida 60 years

Purpose: EUROPA asked for support in the preparation and facilitation of a workshop on waste management to be held in connection with the celebration of Sida 60 years, October 17. Also included in the assignment was to identify key participants
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk engaged a waste management expert to prepare a program for the workshop. The CEO at Avfall Sverige, was engaged to facilitate the workshop. The workshop was given on two occasions during the day and the attendance was high.

2025-104. Workshop and planning facilitation

Purpose: Team Environment/Swedish Embassy in Kenya requested support to plan and facilitate two events in December: i) a workshop at Sida to discuss and prepare for the new regional resource function/s for Africa (current Swedish Power Africa (SPA), Team Environment Africa (TE), and the Trade & Development function), and ii) Team Environment's planning for 2026. The workshop had

two main sessions: one retro, aiming to take stock of lessons from TE SPA, and one forward looking, to reflect on priorities, purpose and scope of the new function.
Results/Findings: The retro was appreciated and provided many insights and discussions. Key highlights include that it has been positive with: Strong embassy dialogues and responsiveness to needs ("push–pull" dynamic); Concrete initiatives that are catalytic and flexible; High adaptability and collaboration across themes; Clear goals and mandates that (once defined) supported results; Continuous learning and knowledge generation; Team building and critical mass essential for motivation; and Demand-driven work, with delegated funds and flexibility, increases ownership.
Lessons Learned: Detailed questions had been developed for the afternoon session, but the limited time made it difficult for the participants to respond to all. Despite that, the Helpdesk believes the details of the questions were better than too broad and open questions.

Category 7. Information material

Category 7 assignments entail support to development of tailor-made information materials on environment and climate change, e.g., briefs, power points or other types of short information materials.

2025-001. Environmental and Climate Change News

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to support drafting a newsletter for the climate network. The assignment is carried out in tandem with the Helpdesk's global outlook.
Results/Findings: During the year, the Helpdesk drafted seven newsletters, of which one was focusing entirely on the Climate COP30. The efforts made to include news from Sida HQ and embassies were appreciated by Sida and embassy staff.

Category 8. Facilitation and Dialogue support

Category 8 services include support and coaching services to support Sida in its dialogue with partners.

2025-020. WHO Deep Dive

Purpose: GLOBAL/SOCIAL asked the Helpdesk to present the findings of the previously concluded update of the Central Environmental Review (CER) of WHO (see assignment 2024-139). This was done in a joint "deep dive" seminar on Climate Change and Health with WHO, Sida and the Helpdesk.
Results/Findings: The deep dive was well attended both from WHO and Sida. During the meeting, the Helpdesk presented a power point of the conclusions and recommendations from the updated CER. Other issues discussed included how WHO work on institutionalisation of results within the area of climate change and health, and which elements can be sustained without Swedish thematic support, and which have the potential for further development.

2025-022 & 2025-102. EBRD and waste management

Purpose: EUROPA asked the Helpdesk to provide support in their ambition to promote Swedish views and policies on how waste management should be handled by EBRD as well as other IFIs, but starting with EBRD. It is important that there is a common understanding on how to introduce waste management policies and infrastructure which in line with EU policy.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk collaborated with a waste management expert in the preparation and execution of a workshop with EBRD at their headquarters in London in April. Comments was presented on the EBRD approach to waste management. As a follow-up to the workshop, a team from EBRD (from the HQ as well as from a few field offices) was invited to a meeting at Sida HQ in November. To show case the Swedish model for waste management, following the meeting a study visit was arranged to Tekniska verken in Linköping and to Motala plaståtervinning.

2025-062. Info meeting CSOs

Purpose: The Helpdesk was asked by the CSO unit, to participate in a meeting with CSO organisations and present Sida´s approach to environmental integration and how to conduct an environmental assessment.
Results/findings: There was great interest of the meeting. 50 organisations were invited and 65 people participated in the digital meeting that focused on Sida´s requirement regarding environmental integration, what an environmental assessment should include and hands on tips on how to carry out an environmental assessment.

2025-125. Input to Sida's participation in "Expertgruppen för internationella klimatutredningen"

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to review and provide input to Sida's participation in the above-mentioned Swedish expert group.
Results/Findings: The Helpdesk provided an analysis with six specific comments related draft texts provided for the expert group. The Helpdesk also gave a few more general comments for consideration and which, given Sida's mandate, could be relevant to bring forward.

Category 9. Learning

Category 9 assignments relate to support to Sida to take stock, assess, synthesise, document and share lessons learned regarding the integration of environment and climate change, with the aim to contribute to Sida as a learning organisation.

2025-017. Sample collection: Environmental Assessments

Purpose: RESULTAT/TEMA 1 asked the Helpdesk to update the sample collection of partners' environmental assessments that the Helpdesk has previously developed.

Results/Findings: The Helpdesk has updated the sample collection with some additional good examples of partners' environmental assessments. The Helpdesk has also updated the layout and presentation of the examples and provided suggestions on how sample collection can be presented in an accessible way on Sida's intranet.

2025-099. Input till Sidas uppföljning och rapportering av Miljöledningssystemet Q2-Q3 2025 - Mål om miljöbedömningar

Purpose: ADMIN/STYR asked the Helpdesk for support in Sida´s annual reporting 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 contained an analysis of all new contributions Q2-Q3 to see whether an environmental assessment (EA) has been carried out and whether it responds to Sida´s requirements. 43 contributions were analysed. The review showed that 42% of the assessed contributions have conducted an environmental assessment in accordance with Sida's requirements (i.e. considering both opportunities, risks and vulnerabilities). 53 % were seen as having conducted parts of, but not a complete EA. The Helpdesk also highlighted a few contributions that stand out, having made EA's of good quality, among those HelpAge International (contr.id.17402) and We Effect Sustainable Watering Systems and Value Chains (contr.id.17286).