



## Sweden's voluntary commitments

One of the objectives of the ongoing UN Ocean Conference is that countries and other actors should make voluntary commitments that contribute to achieving Goal 14 of the UN's 2030 Agenda and its targets.

Below is a compilation of the voluntary commitments that Sweden has decided on to date. These include national, regional and global initiatives, primarily in three areas: ocean and climate, reducing marine litter and a sustainable blue economy. The list will be supplemented during the week.

- 1. Sweden will develop a global climate, environment and ocean strategy**  
The Government has decided to task Sida with producing data for a global strategy for sustainable environment, climate and oceans, and also sustainable use of natural resources. The strategy will apply during 2018–2022 and compromise a total of SEK 4.5–7 billion.
- 2. Sweden will join the Global Ghost Gear Initiative**  
The aim of the World Animal Protection initiative is to reduce the amount of lost fishing gear, called 'ghost gear', which causes enormous ecological and financial damage by trapping fish and other animals.
- 3. National measures against plastic in the ocean**  
This commitment describes the domestic measures the Government is now taking to reduce the amount of plastic in the ocean. These include cleaning more coastal areas, finding new smarter materials and preventing the spread of microplastics to water. The Government has appointed an inquiry to consider possible materials to replace plastic and to present new proposals on how to solve the problem. (This commitment has not yet been reported since several aspects of it were only recently announced.)
- 4. Sweden will bring the Baltic and North Sea countries together to prohibit microplastics in cosmetics**  
Sweden's initiative means that acceding States will take action to prohibit microplastics in rinse-off cosmetics by June 2020.
- 5. Cooperation to reduce marine litter in the Arctic**  
Together with other countries in the Arctic Council, Sweden will help increase knowledge and awareness of the problems caused by marine litter in the Arctic region with the aim of reducing and limiting littering.

6. **The Baltic Sea – emissions control in HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission)**  
Stronger implementation in HELCOM of the Baltic Sea as an emission control area for nitrogen oxides.
7. **Sweden will contribute to partnership in the Western Indian Ocean**  
The partnership aims to reduce marine pollution and contribute to good governance and sustainable marine management for increased prosperity in the region.
8. **Sweden will implement the Marine Strategy (SEK 4 million/year)**  
Measures will be taken for the environment, security, knowledge, innovation, growth, planning, regulations and international cooperation.
9. **Sweden will draft a strategy for ecosystem-based management of fish and fisheries by 2018**  
The Government has tasked the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management with developing the strategy to be an integrated part of marine and water management.
10. **Sweden will invest in a new research vessel**  
This ocean-going research vessel will be used for marine mapping and in connection with the internationally coordinated fish surveys in the Baltic Sea, Kattegatt and Skagerrak.
11. **Sweden will develop selective gear**  
The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences will develop selective fishing gear to reduce by-catches.
12. **Sweden will combat ocean acidification and protect coral reefs (SEK 8 million)**  
Sweden will provide support to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to reduce the impact of climate change on oceans. International development cooperation will help protect coral reefs and strengthen the resilience of marine ecosystems. Research cooperation and capacity development will be strengthened.
13. **Provide support to the Ocean Foundation's Ocean Acidification Programme (SEK 4 million)**  
The aim of the programme is to enhance scientific networks monitoring ocean acidification and train researchers in measurement methods.
14. **Provide support to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) (SEK 3 million)**  
The initiative aims to sustainably protect and manage coral reefs and ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass meadows.
15. **Cooperation on protected Arctic areas**  
Sweden, Finland and Canada will take the initiative in the Arctic Council to increase knowledge of how networks of marine protected areas in the Arctic can reduce the negative impact of climate change and acidification.
16. **Sweden will contribute to a fund under the Convention on Biological Diversity (SEK 4 million)**  
The fund provides support to developing countries to identify areas of ecological and biological importance, and increase capacity of ecosystem-based and sector-integrated coastal and marine management.

17. **Sweden will surpass target 14.5 on marine protected areas before the target date of 2020**  
Sweden will surpass the 10 per cent target and achieve a 13.6 per cent coverage of protected areas. The action plan for marine protected areas will enable Sweden to ensure that the network of protected areas will be ecologically representative, continuous and functional.
18. **Sweden will develop tools for better marine planning**  
The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management will further develop the decision-making support tool ‘Symphony’, which takes environmental status and impact factors on the marine environment as a starting point. The tool can also be used by other countries and regions.
19. **Enhanced implementation of HELCOM’s action plan for the Baltic Sea**  
Measures will be taken to restore good ecological status in the Baltic Sea by 2021.
20. **Identifying areas worthy of protected in HELCOM**  
Work to identify particularly valuable areas for marine protection.
21. **Sweden will contribute to UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for marine educational tools (SEK 1.5 million)**  
The UNESCO-IOC global partnership helps States increase their awareness of the importance of protection, restoration and sustainable use of marine resources.
22. **Sweden will contribute to the FAO’s work against illegal fishing (SEK 50 million)**  
Sweden will provide SEK 50 million to the FAO’s work against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Measures will include support to developing countries for implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures, the establishment of a global database for fishing vessels and the development of international guidelines for labelling fishing equipment.
23. **Clean Seas and global efforts to reduce marine litter (SEK 14 million)**  
Sweden has joined the UN Clean Seas campaign, a global initiative to reduce marine litter. The Government will also provide SEK 14 million in special support to the United Nations Environment Programme to tackle plastic debris in the ocean.
24. **Measures to conserve fish in marine protected areas**  
Ensuring relevant and appropriate fishing regulations, including in areas where bottom trawling is prohibited, so that the conservation goal is achieved in all marine protected areas by 2020 at the latest. The Government will therefore instruct the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management to propose fishing regulations in both new and already established protected areas.
25. **Sweden and Monaco will organise a conference on future work on SDG 14 in the Baltic and Mediterranean seas**  
Sweden and Monaco to organise a follow-up conference in Monaco on 12–13 October 2017 on the theme ‘Connecting and protecting our oceans: initiatives in the Baltic and the Mediterranean’. The conference will actively include the business world.

26. **Swedish contribution to the new Blue Action Fund (SEK 50 million)**

The Blue Action Fund, launched at the Ocean Conference, aims to strengthen protection of marine environments in developing countries by enhancing conservation of marine and coastal environments, protecting endangered marine species and enhancing the sustainable use of marine resources, such as fishing and tourism. The Fund will also help small island nations and low-lying developing countries to be better equipped against the effects of climate change leading to rising water levels and extreme weather events that threaten the homes of millions of people. Sweden will contribute SEK 50 million to the Fund and take a seat on its board.