



PREVENTING NATURAL DISASTERS

– a question of cooperation



TOGETHER TOWARDS A SAFER WORLD

An extensive UN project is currently in progress for the prevention of natural disasters and the mitigation of their effects. At the 2005 UN World Conference in Kobe, Japan, a declaration was adopted, the Hyogo Declaration, as well as a ten-year plan - the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

The goal is the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

The 192 signatory countries to the Hyogo Declaration and the HFA have undertaken, among other things, to establish a national platform for disaster risk reduction.

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) exists to support cooperation between European countries, and there is a similar network just for the Nordic countries.

Sweden is active in the process of creating a new global framework. Sweden's first national dialogue meeting on a new framework was held in Stockholm in the autumn of 2012. A second national dialogue meeting was held in April 2014. A draft of the new framework will be negotiated in a process culminating in a world conference in Sendai, Japan, in January 2015. The new framework will gain final approval from the UN General Assembly in autumn 2015 and will come into force in 2016.

COMMISSION AND STRUCTURE IN SWEDEN

The MSB has the government's commission to be the national focal point for the Hyogo Declaration and the HFA. The MSB is also responsible for coordinating platform work in Sweden. For Sweden's policy work in accordance with the HFA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the focal point.

The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has 20 authority and organisation members. Participation on the platform is voluntary and is mainly funded by each organisation. The MSB finances the platform secretariat. Platform activities are funded by the participating members; and these activities are governed by a three-year action plan, which is updated annually.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

The aim of the Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is to improve the coordination of work on the prevention and mitigation of the effects of natural disasters in Sweden.

The objective is that platform members and by extension, their audiences at national, regional and local level should via the platform's work, experience:

- Increased awareness of other entities operating in this field.
- Better coordinated development and dissemination of knowledge, methods and data in this field.
- More efficient use of resources in this field.
- Increased opportunities for collaboration nationally and internationally.
- Tangible benefits from a strong national network.

ACTIVITIES

The national platform enhances coordination and cooperation between members of the platform. The activities that members agree to and conduct via the platform add further value to the collective work of the members.

Examples of activities carried out by the platform include studies using national elevation data conducted by Lantmäteriet (ordnance survey authority).

Another good example is the work on developing a geotechnical sector portal which via a pilot study and main study led by the platform is now being implemented by the Swedish Geotechnical Institute.

The platform also conducts activities that cover holes and knowledge gaps in the national work. The Swedish National Heritage Board has for example, conducted an initial study on the impact of climate and environmental change on cultural heritage.

FOCUS AREAS

With consideration to climate change, platform activities up to 2015 focus on the following natural events:

- Flooding, including high flows and rising sea levels.
- Landslides (in soil and rock) and coastal and waterway erosion.
- Risks on the increase, such as, biological threats, heat waves, and ash-clouds.

PUBLISHED

Below are the reports published so far by the platform, they are all in Swedish but contain an extra summary in English. More information and background reports can be found at www.msb.se/nationellplattform



Ansvar vid naturolycka MSB 0179-10 - December 2009 (Responsibilities during natural disasters)



Ny Nationell Höjdmodell vid havsnivåhöjningar MSB361 - April 2012 (The new national elevation model and rises in sea level)



Klimatanpassning i Sverige – en översikt MSB214 - August 2010 (Climate change in Sweden – an outline)



Riksinventering med stöd av nationell höjdmodell MSB625 - January 2014 (National inventory supported by the national elevation model)



NNH och naturolyckor MSB360 - april 2012 (The new national elevation model and natural disasters)



Riskinventering vid väg med hjälp av nationell höjdmodell och andra databaser MSB624 - January 2014 (National inventory for road and rail embankments supported by the national elevation model)



Att hantera över svämningsproblematik – inspirerande exempel MSB238 - April 2011 (Managing flooding problems – inspirational examples)

COMMENTS ABOUT THE PLATFORM

What has participation on the platform meant for your authority?



Bo Kristofersson, Swedish Transport Administration

Due to the platform, we have learned more about the big picture and gained a greater understanding of the complexity and necessity of cooperation with others when working with disaster risk reduction.



Dan Rydberg, Swedish Forest Agency

For us, the platform has meant that we have gained access to new knowledge and contact with authorities that we didn't have before.



Anna Hedenström, Geological Survey of Sweden

The platform meetings have contributed to making cooperation between us and other authorities more effective so that now it can be pursued with greater continuity and without slow start periods.



Erika Hedhammar, Swedish National Heritage Board

Our participation on the platform has meant that we have more knowledge about natural disasters and that we increase understanding for cultural heritage in other sectors.

NATURAL DISASTERS HAPPEN IN SWEDEN TOO

In Sweden extreme weather and natural events have caused several serious emergencies and crises. Marked on the map are examples of events in recent years, which have led to damage and injury and to disruptions in society and to the lives of individual citizens.

- 1. Forest fire, Bodträskfors, Norrbotten, August–September 2006
- **2. Spring flood,** Norrland, April—May 2011
- **3. Hurricane Ivar,** Jämtland and Härjedalen, December 2013
- **4. Forest fire,** Hassela, Hälsingland, June 2008
- **5. Hurricane Dagmar**, Southern Norrland, December 2011
- Torrential rain, Söderhamn, Hälsingland, July 2013
- **7. Torrential rain**, Hagfors, Värmland, August 2004
- **8. Flooding**, Arvika, Värmland, November–December 2000

- **9. Landslide,** Vagnhärad, Södermanland, May 1997
- **10. Landslide,** Småröd E6 main road, Bohuslän, December 2006
- **11. Torrential rain,** Orust, Bohuslän, August 2002
- **12. High watercourse levels,** Western Sweden, December 2011
- **13. Torrential rain,** Jönköping, Småland, July 2013
- **14.** Hurricane Gudrun, Southern Sweden, January 2007
- **15. Hurricane Per,**Southern Sweden, January 2005
- **16. Hurricane Simone,** Southern Sweden, Oktober 2013
- **17. Coastal erosion,**Southern coastline, ongoing









Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management













ADMINISTRATION























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