

# Partnership for Living Forests

Five joint projects between  
Sveaskog and WWF: 2008–2010

  
**SVEASKOG**

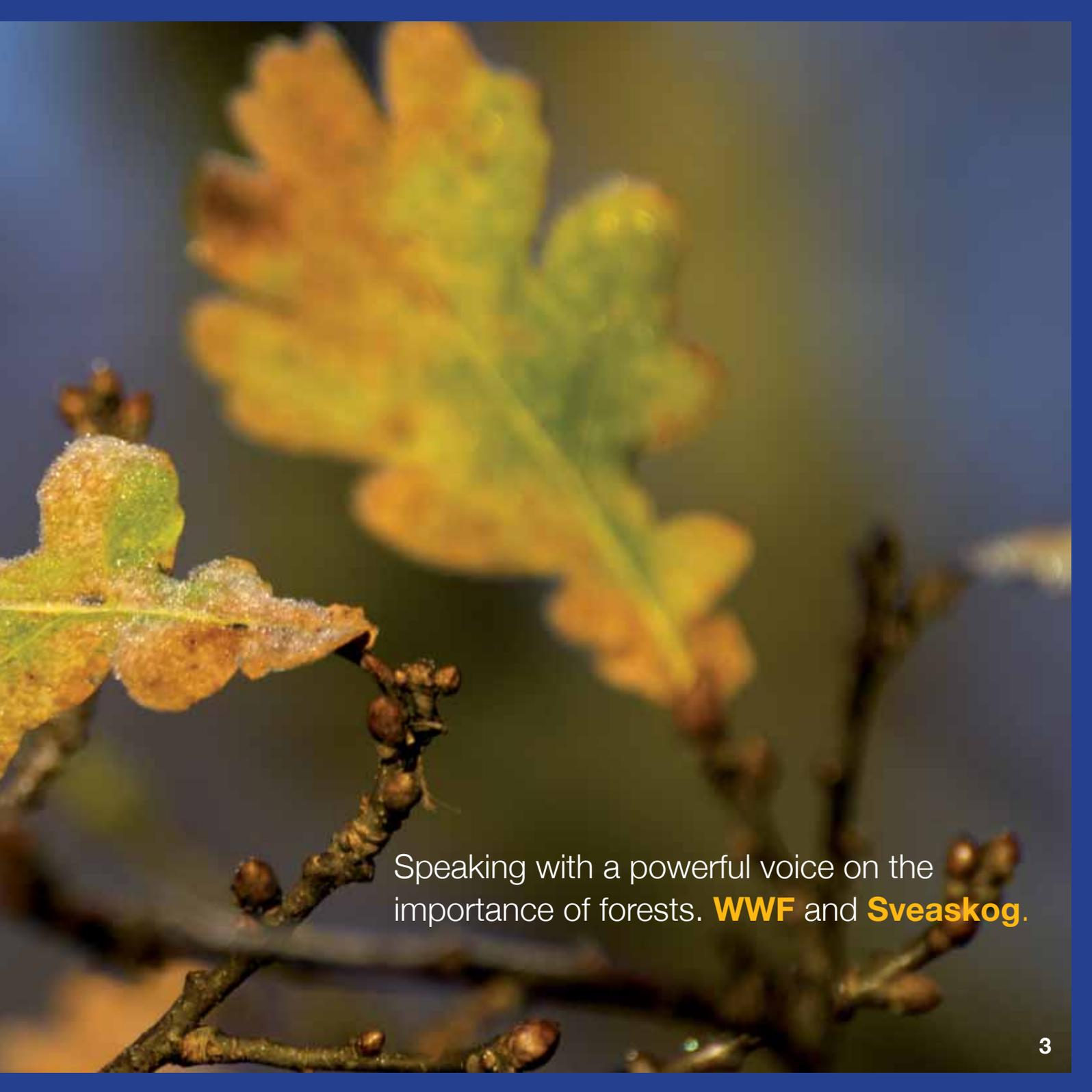


## **Sveaskog** and **WWF** share a common vision of sustainable forestry both in **Sweden and globally.**

Sveaskog is the largest owner of forest land in Sweden and its vision is to lead the way in promoting forest values. Sveaskog has set itself ambitious targets for production, the environment and nature conservation designed to ensure that both economic and ecological values are managed for future generations. The company aims to be a role model for sustainable forest management.

WWF has sound knowledge and experience as well as ambitions for responsible forest management, both in Sweden and globally. The organisation enjoys broad public trust and has a valuable global network that makes it one of the most influential environmental organisations in the world as a lobbyist and shaper of opinion.

Together, Sveaskog and WWF speak with a powerful voice on the importance of forests for all things living, both today and tomorrow. Our partnership involves a number of long-term projects which are briefly described in this folder.



Speaking with a powerful voice on the importance of forests. **WWF** and **Sveaskog**.

# 1 Project Effect 20



### **BALANCING ENVIRONMENT AND PRODUCTION**

The Swedish Parliament, the Riksdag, has decided that the environmental objective\* and production objective\* are equally important for Swedish forest policy, which means they are each given the same high priority. But how is this balance to be achieved? How can we care for the countryside and preserve biodiversity\* in the forest, while pursuing efficient forest management that is profitable over time? In Sweden we set aside land for national parks, nature reserves and voluntarily protected forests for nature conservation purposes. When felling, forestry considers natural values in each forest area in accordance with “the Swedish model”.

### **A 20% ENVIRONMENTAL TARGET**

Research shows that 20% of forest land must be set aside in order to preserve biodiversity. Sveaskog’s environmental policy includes a commitment to set aside 20% of productive forest land in each forest region for nature

conservation and environmental protection.

The nature conservation measures range from saving individual trees or areas during felling to setting aside extensive landscapes for nature conservation, such as Sveaskog’s ecoparks\*. Ecoparks are large, contiguous forest landscapes in which natural values come first and where the yield requirements from forestry are adapted to the landscape’s special ecological and cultural values.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECTS OF NATURE CONSERVATION?**

So what are the effects of Sveaskog’s nature conservation efforts? This is a pivotal question in the WWF/Sveaskog joint project Effect 20. The project is a pioneering initiative with its focus on natural values from a landscape perspective. The main work of this long-term project is to monitor birds and insects in the forest landscape, using a method developed in an earlier WWF project. Sveaskog funds the project and manages it jointly with WWF.

20% of forest land must be **set aside**  
in order to **preserve biodiversity.**

\* See glossary page 14.



Project

# 2 Climate adaptation strategies for nature conservation in Swedish forests

### **FORESTRY CHANGING**

We already have an idea of the effects of climate change on Swedish forests, with storms and warmer weather. Flora, fauna and our ability to conduct efficient timber production are all affected. We consider it likely that forests planted today will be exposed to climate change. Forests planted in one climate zone may well grow in another and possibly be felled in a third. But a tradition of long-term planning is one of forestry's strengths. This is something Sveaskog and WWF have in mind in a joint project which focuses on strategies for climate-adapted nature conservation in the Swedish forest landscape.

### **HIGHER DEMANDS ON NATURE CONSERVATION MEASURES**

The forest is expected to grow more in a warmer climate. The Swedish Climate and Vulnerability Assessment\* indicates growth increases of 20–40% compared with the current level. The risk of damage in the forest will increase and cancel out some of the

growth effects. More storms and forest fires are expected as well as more damage caused by insects and fungus disease. The ability of species and ecosystems to survive and spread will be negatively affected in many cases. One important question for forestry in the future will therefore be different requirements for conservation measures that these changes will bring.

### **GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF CLIMATE-ADAPTED NATURE CONSERVATION**

In the project Climate adaptation strategies for nature conservation in Swedish forests we will involve researchers who together with Sveaskog and WWF will raise awareness of how we can adapt nature conservation in Swedish forests to climate change. The aim is to put forward recommendations on how these strategies can be put into practice. Sveaskog will then examine opportunities for climate adaptation of its routines and policies for nature conservation planning in forestry.

Sveaskog funds this project and runs it jointly with WWF.

Climate is a **key question** for forestry in the future.

\* See glossary page 14.

# 3 Project

## Responsible timber trading with the Baltic states



### **STEPS TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY**

Forests provide the Baltic countries with important export revenues. Four trees out of ten harvested in Latvia are destined for Sweden's pulp mills where they are turned into packaging, paper and other products.

The Baltic small, private forest owners, who play such a key role in the region's timber trade, often have very limited knowledge of sustainable forestry. This means that forests with high natural values are not always given the protection they need.

The Baltic forest industry is also operated by a large number of small and medium-sized players with limited ambitions for the environment and the social role of the forest. Eco-

nomics crime exists in the forest sector and includes money laundering and illegal felling. The development of legislation, monitoring and awareness of responsible forestry still has some way to go, although steps in the right direction have been taken in recent years.

### **TRACING TIMBER SOURCES**

The Swedish forest industry can contribute to the development of responsible forestry in the Baltic countries, among other things by ensuring that the timber does not come from controversial sources. This can include raising the proportion of FSC\*-certified raw material and increased use of traceability systems.

Sveaskog's imports from Latvia mainly come

\* See glossary page 14.



from its own subsidiary SIA Sveaskog Baltfor Ltd, which has traceability certification (certification number: SGS-COC-0900) according to FSC\* standards. When Sveaskog buys timber from other countries, the company always seeks to check and monitor traceability.

#### **LOBBYING AND DIALOGUE FOR CHANGE**

In the project Responsible timber trading with the Baltic states WWF and its partner organisations in the Baltic region will continue lobbying, promoting responsible forestry, monitoring developments and proactively opposing illegal timber trading. Roundtable discussions in Estonia and Latvia will be

attended by representatives from authorities, the forest industry, environmental organisations, banks and other players. Sveaskog is actively involved in the project by providing funding as well as participating in roundtable discussions and networking.

Felling has increased substantially in the Baltic states and **economic crime** exists in the forest sector.

\* See glossary page 14.



# 4 Project Living forest waters

**Our vision** is to create better conditions for **biodiversity** in aquatic forest environments.

### **WATER GIVES LIFE**

Forests are not only green. They are blue as well. The blue landscape is forest wetlands: marshes, bogs, streams, rivers and lakes. Thousands of water-dependent plant and animal species enrich biodiversity in the forest. They are also highly beneficial since they perform ecological services for the countryside. Microorganisms that live in water and wetlands break down organic matter, absorb excess nitrogen and then are themselves food for many water organisms. So the forest wetlands act as nature's own purification plant, cleaning the water before it runs into the sea via streams, rivers and lakes. This makes preserving and protecting forest wetlands a natural part of nature conservation.

### **OUR VISION**

We want the Living Forest Waters project to raise awareness of the significance of water-related issues for sustainable forestry. Our vision is to create better conditions for biodiversity\* in aquatic forest environments and improve water quality in efficiently managed forests. At the same time this contributes to achievement of both Sweden's environmental quality objectives and the goals outlined in the EU's Water Framework Directive\*.

\* See glossary page 14.

### **SMALL MEANS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**

The project involves developing tools for incorporating water-related issues into Sveaskog's forest and nature conservation planning. The forest is viewed in a larger landscape perspective where living forest wetlands are an obvious part of the plan. These tools include practical application of indicators for classification of aquatic forest environments. We show how such plans can be implemented in the forest, for instance restoring more natural aquatic environments by filling in old ditches. The expertise that we develop together, in planning and practical application, is passed on to other players in Swedish forestry through reports, seminars, handbooks and site visits.

### **NETWORKS AND MODULES**

WWF is the project co-ordinator. Sveaskog contributes with funding and active participation in development work with employees who are skilled in sustainable forest management, nature and water conservation. Otherwise, the project operates in a network. The partners are the forest sector, authorities, researchers, stakeholder organisations and consultants.



Project  
**5** Forest as a source  
of energy

By 2050 **at least 70%** of global energy consumption must come from renewable sources.

### **A VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Global warming is forcing the pace of society's transition towards sustainable energy production and consumption. In its international vision report "*Climate Solutions: WWF's Vision for 2050*" WWF presents a model for how long-term sustainable energy transition can be achieved. One prioritised solution given in the report is to reduce energy consumption per capita through greater energy efficiency. By 2050 at least 70% of global energy consumption must come from renewable sources.

### **BIOENERGY IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE**

One of the most important energy sources identified in the vision report is bioenergy. The forest is a key renewable source of biomass\*. The forest provides raw material to produce heat and electricity and technology for production of biofuels from forest material is under development. The EU's goal of 20% of energy consumption being renewable by 2020 is expected to create a demand that will further the development of the forest as a source of energy. At the same time, the forests' other economic, social and environmental values must be taken into account. For this reason

objective data and assessments of potential and consequences are needed as a basis for considerations resulting in broad public support.

### **PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE**

Opportunities to use the forest as a source of energy vary considerably between different countries. Sweden as a leading forest nation in the EU has a high level of expertise in this field. In the joint Sveaskog and WWF project Forest as source of energy we will make every effort to spread relevant experience to the EU's decision-making bodies as well as making targeted efforts in the Baltic Sea region.

We will identify needs for new knowledge and research related to the forest as a source of energy. We will also publish reports that set out everything from attitudes to forest biomass, environmental considerations and possible requirements to revise guidelines and standards. At EU level we will seek to achieve a harmonised approach to the biological, social and economic role of the forest in the energy solutions of the future. In several processes we see the FSC\* forest certification system as a tool and platform for dialogue.

\* See glossary page 14.

# Glossary



## **BIODIVERSITY**

Biological diversity refers to the rich variety of living species from all origins and the ecological systems of which they are a part. Includes diversity within species, between species and ecosystems.

## **BIOMASS**

Material which has biological origins and which has not or only slightly been subjected to chemical processing.

## **CLIMATE AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

A Swedish public enquiry which in its 2007 report, *Sweden facing climate change – threats and opportunities (SOU M2007:60)*, recommended increased investment in research into climate change. The enquiry pointed out that forestry must be adapted to climate change.

## **ECOPARK**

A large, contiguous forest landscape with high natural values and which is managed so that it can function as a source for spreading biodiversity\*. In ecoparks ecological considerations take precedence over economic factors.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

The Swedish parliament has adopted a number of environmental quality objectives which describe a desirable state for the Swedish environment within different areas. Efforts to achieve these objectives mean that the overall objective of Swedish environmental policy, the environmental objective, will be achieved: to pass on to the next generation a society where the major environmental problems in Sweden have been solved.

#### **EU'S WATER DIRECTIVE**

The Water Directive is the popular name for the EU's Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EG) which was adopted in 2000 and will be implemented by 2015 at the latest. The directive provides a framework for all water planning and water conservation within the EU. It applies to all waters except open sea and is intended to preserve or improve both water quality and the aquatic environment.

#### **FSC**

The Trademark of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) indicates that the wood used to make the product comes from a forest which is

well managed according to strict environmental, social and economic standards. The forest of origin has been independently inspected and evaluated according to the principles and criteria for forest management agreed and approved by the Forest Stewardship Council. FSC is an international, non-profit association whose membership comprises environmental and social groups and progressive forestry and wood retail working in partnership to improve forest management worldwide. [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org), [www.fsc-sverige.org](http://www.fsc-sverige.org)



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Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

#### **PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF FOREST POLICY**

Swedish forest policy has two equally important objectives: the production objective and the environmental objective. This means that forests and forest land must be managed efficiently and responsibly so that the forest provides profitable, high yields while natural values are preserved.

**SVEASKOG**

[www.sveaskog.se](http://www.sveaskog.se)

Contact:

Linda Andersson. Director of Communications.

E-mail: [linda.andersson@sveaskog.se](mailto:linda.andersson@sveaskog.se)



**WWF**

[www.wwf.se](http://www.wwf.se)

Contact:

Siv Persson. Corporate Partnership.

E-mail: [siv.persson@wwf.se](mailto:siv.persson@wwf.se)

**WWF INTERNATIONAL**

[www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

