



Review of policies and current situation in Sweden and Oak District

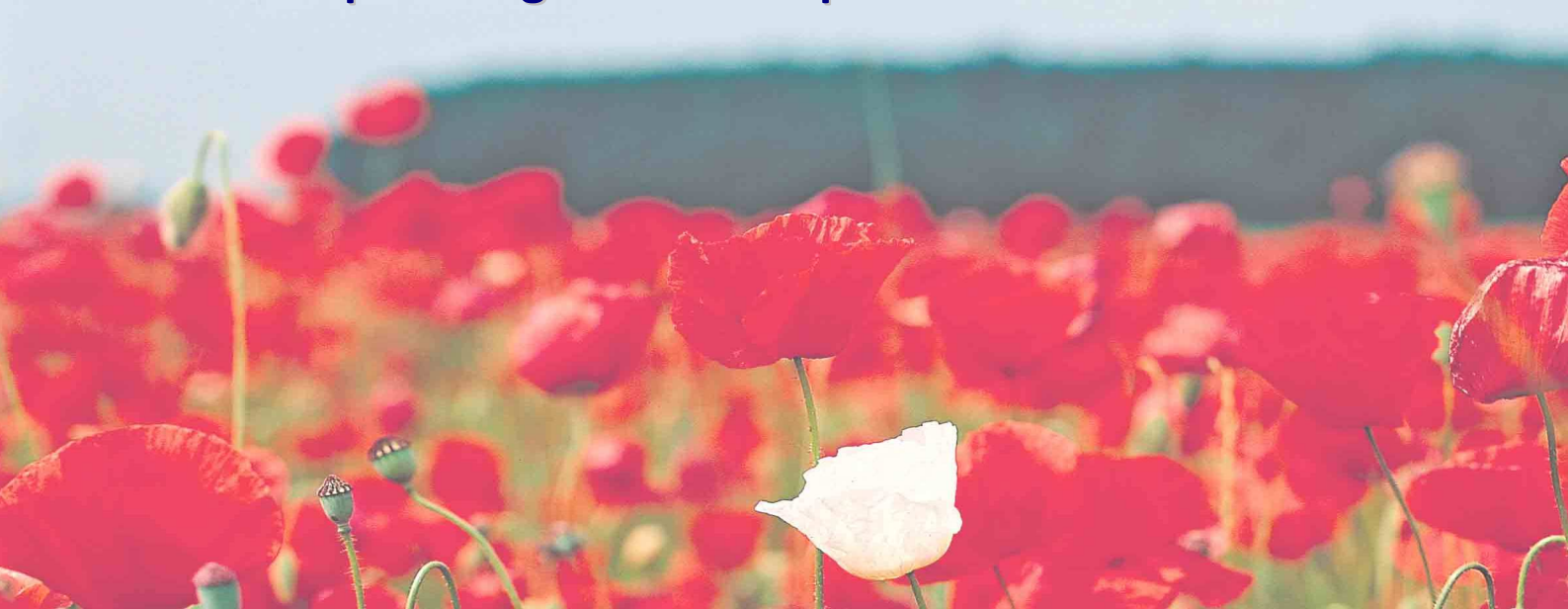
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1. POLICY ON NATURAL AREAS IN SWEDEN AND OAK DISTRICT

Map of Sweden and the southern region including Östergötland



Source: European Commission <http://europa.eu/abc/maps/>

1.1 THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION OF SWEDEN GOVERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF NATURAL AREAS

List of policies (e.g. for UK the Environmental Protection Act 1990)

Swedish Environmental Code. SFS 1998:808.

Ordinance concerning Area Protection (Förordningen om områdesskydd enligt Miljöbalken) SFS 1998:1252.

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Brief description

The Swedish Environmental Code came into force 1 January 1999. It replaced fifteen previous environmental acts which were amalgamated into the Code. The Environmental Code constitutes a modernised, broadened and more stringent environmental legislation aimed at promoting sustainable development. The Code contains

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33 chapters comprising almost 500 sections. However, it is only the fundamental environmental rules that are included in the Environmental Code. More detailed provisions are laid down in ordinances made by the Government.

The purpose of the Environmental Code is to promote sustainable development which will assure a healthy and sound environment for present and future generations. To achieve this, the code shall be applied so that:

- human health and the environment are protected against damage and detriment, whether caused by pollutants or other impacts
- valuable natural and cultural environments are protected and preserved
- biological diversity is preserved
- the use of land, water and the physical environment in general is such as to secure long term good management in ecological, social, cultural and economic terms
- reuse and recycling, as well as other management of materials, raw materials and energy are encouraged so that natural cycles are established and maintained.

Chapter 2 of the Environmental Code contains a number of general rules of consideration that express, for instance, the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, product choice principle and principles regarding resource management, recycling and suitable localisation of activities and measures.

The rules have a preventive effect since they place binding demands on anyone running a business or an operation or is taking action to gain knowledge on the environmental effects of such activities and express the principle that the risks of environmental impact should be borne by the polluter and not by the environment.

Regulations concerning different types of area protection, such as national parks, nature reserves, biotope protection and shoreline protection, have been brought together in the Environmental Code. Together with regulations regarding protection of species, the purpose is to preserve biological diversity.

The Swedish Environmental Code and the Ordinance concerning Area Protection together comprise the basis for government agencies work with legal protection on valuable natural areas. The current direction of nature conservation policy is laid out in the former governments position paper, En samlad naturvårdspolitik "A coordinated policy for nature conservation" (reg.no 2001/02:173) and two government propositions dealing with environmental objectives (2004/05:150).

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1.2 THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES OF NATURAL AREAS

Brief description of the designation (e.g. for UK National Parks, in France – Grand Sites)

There are four main ways of preserving valuable nature areas in Sweden, the three first are legal designation according to the Environmental Code. In addition to this comes the possibility to designate an area as a Natura 2000 site. This is described under 2.1. In many, but far from all, situations the Natura 2000 sites are also legally protected under national legislation, as described below.

- 1) **National parks** could be established by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) in large

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extraordinary areas of wild and undisturbed nature on state-owned land.

- 2) **Nature reserves** could be established by a County Administrative Board (CAB) or a Municipality (M) in order to preserve valuable nature areas of different size on both private and state-owned land. The landowners are fully compensated for the loss of incomes that may arise from the establishment.
- 3) **Biotope protection areas** could be established by the County Administrative Board or the Forest Agency in order to preserve small valuable nature areas, preferably on private land. The landowners are fully compensated for the loss of incomes that may arise from the establishment.
- 4) **No legal designation.** Valuable nature areas recognized by the authorities could often be preserved as so-called voluntary set-asides if the landowner so wishes. In that case an establishment of a nature reserve or biotope protection area will normally not take place even if the area has the natural values to qualify as a legally protected area. The principles for voluntary set-asides are described in the National Strategy for the Legal Protection of Forest Land. Examples of more organized governance of valuable natural areas without legal protection are UNESCO'S initiative The Man and Biosphere Programme and Sveaskogs Ecoparcs, see below.

(text limit: 2000 characters by designation)

How it relates to other administrative structures (hierarchy of responsibility)?

Generally speaking SEPA is the responsible national authority for nature conservation, including area protection. The regional authorities CAB and the local municipalities are independent authorities that by themselves could decide about the establishment of nature reserves. This should normally be done in co-operation with SEPA though, both because SEPA is the supervising authority and gives financing for nature reserves established by CAB and their management. CAB is also a supervising authority for the municipalities.

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How is it governed?

Basically there are two ways of governing and managing valuable natural areas.

The first way is for the legally protected areas, according to the Environmental Code, such as national parks, nature reserves and biotope protection areas.

- 1) National parks. Management plans for national parks are made and the areas governed and the management financed by SEPA.
- 2) Nature Reserves. Management plans for nature reserves are made and the areas governed by the establishing authority. The management is financed by SEPA or M.
- 3) Biotope protection areas. No management plans are made for biotope protection areas. These areas

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are governed by the establishing authority.

The actual management could be done by the landowner or companies. The management is often done by the landowner or local companies after instructions from the authorities in order to make the management fulfilling the objectives in the management plan.

The second way to govern and manage a valuable natural area is by voluntary means in areas without legal protection. The landowner then has to follow the general nature considerations in for example the Environmental Code and the Forestry Act. Often the management is done after discussions with the authorities. A possibility is to establish a Nature conservation agreement between the landowner and the state with some financial outcome for the landowner. An important factor for the management of the agricultural landscape is the agro-environmental subsidies financed by the European Union. See below for a description of governance through The Man and Biosphere Programme and Ecoparcs.

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Is there a link to the legislation in 2.2 above?

Yes, there is a strict link to the legislation for the three ways of legal designation. For voluntary governance of valuable natural areas there is not such a strict link to paragraphs in the legislation but there is still a clear linkage since these activities could be seen as examples of the responsibility that each sector has to take for a sustainable development which is clearly stated, demanded and expected within the environmental policy.

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Highlight activity that is good and why (e.g. partnerships working, management plans, autonomy of activity)

All National Parks and Nature reserves should have a stated management plan, that is revised every tenth year. The plans are made in order to fulfill the objectives stated in the legal documents following the legal protection. The management should be based on the best available ecological knowledge and the best knowledge of the area. In many cases the management plans are thorough documents that are useful in order to achieve a relevant management.

A partnership is often forming with the landowner when a nature reserve is established. In nature reserves that need a lot of management, for example the grazing of natural grasslands, it is common that the landowner or leaser is also doing the management after instructions from the authorities.

The governing authority is not depending on the income from the management for there salaries or other costs. They get financing for management directly from SEPA or the municipality. This decreases the risk for unsuitable management for economical reasons.

There are some promising initiatives for a more developed approach on the governing of valuable landscapes without legal protection. Two examples of this are the UNESCO initiative The Man and the Biosphere Programme

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(MAB) and Ecoparks. MAB proposes an interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building aiming to improve the relationship of people with their environment globally. Launched in the early 1970s, it notably targets the ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss. It uses its World Network of Biosphere Reserves as vehicles for knowledge-sharing, research and monitoring, education and training, and participatory decision-making. Kristianstads Vattenrike located in Skåne, the southernmost of Sweden's provinces is in many ways a success story for sustainable development in valuable natural areas built on MAB.

Ecoparc is a model developed by the state-owned forest company Sveaskog. Ecoparks are large connected ecological landscapes. They have high nature values. Each ecopark is unique and should provide both people and animals with a pleasant environment. They have created 36 ecoparks, covering on average 5,000 hectares, which they manage according to special plans compiled in cooperation with the authorities, non-profit organisations, Lapp representatives and other interest groups. There is a special ecological point with ecoparks. Because the parks are so extensive, threatened species with landscape ecological demands can be accommodate especially well in them. Ecoparks are also important outdoor pursuits forests, providing many opportunities for different activities, from long forest walks and the enjoyment of nature, to canoeing, fishing and hunting.

(up to 2000 characters)

2. POLICY ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMES DEVELOPMENT IN SWEDEN AND OAK DISTRICT

2.1 JUDICIAL FORMS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT IN SWEDEN

Sole Trader Business

As a sole trader you run and are responsible for the business as a private person. You are personally responsible for agreements being kept and liabilities being paid. No starting capital is required and the enterprise can be register with the Swedish Companies Registration Office.

Trading Partnership

The trading partnership has to have at least two owners. The partners have to make an agreement about the division of labour, how profits or losses are to be distributed and what happens if a partner wants to leave the trading partnership. No starting capital is required and the enterprise must be register with the Swedish Companies Registration Office. The partners are personally and jointly responsible that its debt are paid.

Limited partnership

The rules for a limited partnership are the same as for a trading partnership, with a few exceptions. The largest

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difference is that a limited partnership has at least one general partner, who is liable for all the debts of the partnership.

Limited company

To start a limited company a minimum of 5300 EUR (50 000 SEK) in share capitals is required. The share capital may consist of funds or of property that the company has a use for. The partners are not personally liable for company debts and other commitments, the risk is to lose invested capital. The enterprise must register with the Swedish Companies Registration Office and the company will be given a registration number. Limited company names are protected throughout Sweden.

Economic association

An economic association is formed by a minimum of three members. The association is created to enable members to benefit financially from the association's operation. Every member normally has a vote at the general meetings of the association. Every member pays a contribution and usually an annual membership fee. Members are not personally liable for the association's debts and other commitments in excess of their contribution. An economic association must be registered with the Swedish Companies Registration Office.

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2.2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SWEDEN

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis is the official provider of statistics on startups of new firms, bankruptcies, and the internationalisation of the Swedish business sector including foreign controlled enterprises in Sweden and Swedish controlled enterprises groups with subsidiaries abroad. The statistics on new enterprises differ from other statistics in the area. The statistics are based on new registration from the Swedish Companies Registration Office or direct extraction of new registrations from Statistics Sweden's Business Register and also cover different types of reconstructions. The method of measuring business registering and closures to charge industrial classification NACE rev.2. Some indicators are number of startups of new firms, number of enterprises in different sectors, number of employed in different sectors, distribution of companies in different size classes, distribution of women and men among new entrepreneurs, distribution of women and men in different sectors, distribution of women and men who run their business as a limited company, age distribution among entrepreneurs.

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Startups of new firms

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	1 995	1 733
Manufacturing Industry	2 926	2 921	2 511	3 012	3 253
Building industry	4 405	5 078	5 067	6 262	6 275
Trading, Tourism	10 552	11 532	10 616	12 624	12 698
Financial intermediation, company services	14 939	14 815	15 391	21 066	20 769
Education, health and medical care, social and personal services	8 971	9 587	10 801	13 569	13 073
Total	41 792	43 932	44 386	58 527	57 801

The average number of employees in newly started enterprises amounted in 2008 to 1.7 persons per enterprise. The number of enterprises started by one or more women amounted in 2008 to 18 368 or 32 per cent of all newly started enterprises. The total turnover of the companies that were started in 2005 and were still operational in 2008 amounted to 4,6 billion EUR (44 billion SEK), which represents just under 158 000 EUR (1,5 million SEK) per business.

Survival of registered enterprises 2005

Branch of business	Still active 2008	Started 2005	Survival percentage
Manufacturing industry	2 003	2 921	69
Building industry	3 827	5 078	75
Trading, Tourism	6 295	11 532	63
Financial intermediation, company services	9 985	14 815	67
Education, health and medical care, social and personal services	6 546	9 587	68
Total	29 795	43 932	68

In 2005, more than 69 000 people were employed by new companies. Those companies that survived until 2008 had employed over 29 500 persons when they started in 2005, but by 2008, they collectively employed 62 000 workers. When asked to what extent various factors appear to hinder growth of the business, fee, taxes and personal costs were stated as the most significant obstacles. Financing and especially the availability of

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management skills was viewed as having relatively little consequence of growth potential.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is responsible for statistics on tourism, and key tasks is collecting and disseminating information and knowledge about development of tourism and the travel and tourism industry in Sweden.

The total travel and tourism consumption in Sweden increased by 6.1 percent in 2009. Between 2000 and 2009, the total tourism consumption in Sweden has increased more than 67 percent in current prices. The added value and number employed within travel and tourism also increased significantly during the period.

Financing

Bank loans are the most important form of finance. To approve loans, lenders prefer businesses to be making good sales and turning over profit. New business often have to provide private security or name a guarantor for the loan. Banks can also offer leasing, factoring and instalments as variants of loans secured by collateral.

When the bank is not prepared to put up the whole loan, ALMI Företagspartner AB can provide complementary funding. ALMI is a state state-owned company which helps companies with capital and advice.

Almi Company loan can cover 50 per cent of the capital requirement and the financing is normally put together in cooperation with a bank.

For companies with smaller capital requirements, ALMI has a micro loan, which does not require a co-financier. With the micro loan, ALMI can lend up to 26 000 EUR (250 000 SEK) without collateral.

ALMI can also provide different types of guarantees.

Loan rates is between 6-9 percent and average waiting time for funding is two weeks.

In the rural district can new and business with less then 10 employees get a grant maximum 30 percent of the investment amount.

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2.3 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SWEDEN/COUNTY ÖSTERGÖTLAND/OAK DISTRICT

2007 Sweden national level

Number of business	895201	
Number of employed	2438513	
Turnover	6439446 MSEK	677836 MEUR
Production value	4788241 MSEK	504025 MEUR
Working up value	1825966 MSEK	192206 MEUR
Assets	12759350 MSEK	1343089 MEUR
Investments	293501 MSEK	30895 MEUR

Facts regarding business in the county Östergötland 2008	Number of	Number of	Production value		Working up value		Turnover	
	Business	employed	MSEK	MEUR	MSEK	MEUR	MSEK	MEUR
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	8036	2376	9775	1029	2892	304	9782	1030
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying	2674	33250	84099	8852	21143	2225	90691	9546
Energy and environment	146	1331	7492	788	3373	355	11454	1206
Construction	3021	10015	16090	1694	5951	626	16202	1705
Trade	4586	14998	16109	1695	8420	886	57998	6105
Transport	986	4947	7849	826	2692	283	8383	882
Hotels and restaurants	1256	5908	10112	1064	3158	332	10568	1112
Information and communication	100	2028	3141	330	1527	161	3093	326
Real estate services	2049	2562	11545	1212	5430	572	11723	1234
Credit institutes, insurance companies and business services	6374	18822	19968	2101	11348	1194	20761	2185
Education	572	1509	1216	128	664	70	1232	130
Healthcare and nursing	1149	5384	3365	354	2456	259	3387	357
Personal and cultural services	1465	1349	2102	221	781	82	2166	228
Unknown sector	1657	881	864	91	479	50	949	100

Facts are not available for business in the oak district

Number of micro business in the Oak district 2008 was 518 and SMEs was 44.

The population in the oak district 2009 was 9 341 persons and the number of households was 5 653. Number of jobs was 3 636.

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Population by age, 2009

Age	Percentage distribution Oak District		
	M	W	Tot
0-6	7	7	7
7-15	11	11	11
16-19	7	6	6
20-24	5	4	4
25-44	22	21	22
45-64	28	27	27
65-79	16	16	16
80-	5	8	6
Total,%	100	100	100
Total (thou)	6	6	11

Employment and employed, 2008-Total

	Oak District		Sweden
	Number	%	%
Industry			
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	207	6	2
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	818	22	15
Energy and environment	23	1	1
Construction	343	9	7
Trade	307	8	12
Transport	160	4	5
Hotels and restaurants	62	2	3
Information and communication	36	1	4
Credit institutes and insurance companies	35	1	2
Real estate services	37	1	1
Business services	196	5	11
Civilian authorities and national defence	140	4	5
Education	445	12	10
Healthcare and nursing	570	16	16
Personal and cultural services	179	5	4
Unknown sector	78	2	1
Total	3636	100	100

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Self-employed, 2008

Number of employed	Men Self-empl.in lim.comp.	Men Self-employed	Women Self-empl.in lim.comp.	Women Self-employed
1	27	233	4	82
2-4	60	31	18	12
5-9	35	5	9	2
10-	42	0	2	0
Total	164	269	33	96

Total income, 2008

	Men	Women	Total
Average income			
Oak District	33 000 EUR (313 000 SEK)	26 000 EUR (246 000 SEK)	29 500 EUR (280 000 SEK)
County	36 000 EUR (344 000 SEK)	27 000 EUR (254 000 SEK)	31 500 EUR (299 000 SEK)
Sweden	31 500 EUR (298 000 SEK)	23 500 EUR (222 000 SEK)	27 500 EUR (261 000 SEK)
Median Income			
Oak District	31 500 EUR (297 000 SEK)	26 000 EUR (247 000 SEK)	28 500 EUR (269 000 SEK)
County	31 000 EUR (296 000 SEK)	26 000 EUR (245 000 SEK)	28 000 EUR (267 000 SEK)
Sweden	30 000 EUR (283 000 SEK)	23 500 EUR (222 000 SEK)	26 500 EUR (250 000 SEK)