

# **NATIONAL REPORT OF SWEDEN**

## **1. Activities undertaken in the period July 2006 – May 2008**

### **1.1 Meetings of the IHP National Committee**

#### **1.1.1 Decisions regarding the composition of the IHP National Committee**

The Swedish IHP-IOC Program Committee, established in 2003 had its final meeting the 9<sup>th</sup> May in 2006. After that, a revision of the organization of UNESCO's scientific programs has been undertaken. It was decided to establish a working committee for collaboration between agencies (Agency Working Committee, AWC). Represented authorities include Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Swedish Environmental Protection Board (NV), the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) and the Swedish Research Council (VR) which also host the committee. The committee held its first meeting in March 2008. SMHI has since 2003 hosted the Swedish IHP secretariat, and will continue with this responsibility. In addition Berit Arheimer, who represents SMHI in the AWC, and Lotta Andersson, who is responsible for the Swedish IHP secretariat, has got the mandate to establish a new Swedish IHP-committee, based on cooperation with already established Swedish networks, such as the Swedish Hydrological Council (SHR) and the Swedish Water Houlse (SWH) and representatives from the two Swedish HELP basins (Motala Ström and Emån). It will also be assessed how cooperation can be organized between Swedish IHP and IOC activities related to coastal zone management.

#### **1.1.2 Status of IHP-VI activities**

Sweden has continued to be actively involved in HELP (Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy), with two Swedish HELP basins (Emån and Motala Strom) as well as within the Thukela basin, South Africa in a joint project with University of Natal. This activity includes contributions towards the interaction between science and policy, as well as other interactions, such as water bodies and aquatic systems, and also coastal zone issues. The work in the Thukela basin is focused on climate and water.

### **1.1.3 Decisions regarding contribution to/participation in IHP-VII**

The already initiated work within the cross cutting Programme HELP will be continued, with activities both in the Swedish basins Eman and Motala Strom, as well as in South Africa. Decisions about further contributions/participation in IHP-VII will be based on discussions in the new Swedish IHP committee that will be established in autumn 2008.

## **1.2 Activities at national level in the framework of the IHP**

### **1.2.1 National/local scientific and technical meetings**

14-15 December 2006, the Swedish IHP-IOC committee arranged the Workshop "*Natural*" as the goal for water management: *Problematizing a paradigm*". The workshop resulted in a paper, submitted to Ambio about the difficulties posed by having the concept of "natural" as the goal of water management and the implications for policy and decision making.

### **1.2.2 Participation in IHP Steering Committees/Working Groups**

No activities 2006-2008

### **1.2.3 Research/applied projects supported or sponsored**

No activities 2006-2008

### **1.2.4 Collaboration with other national and international organizations and/or programmes**

As mentioned above, the new Swedish IHP committee will be based on cooperation with already established Swedish networks, such as the Swedish Hydrological Council (SR) and the Swedish Water House (SWH) and the two Swedish HELP basins (Emån, Motala Ström). Berit Arheimer is the Swedish rapporteur to IAHS (International Association Hydrological Sciences) which will provide possibilities for identifying issues relevant to both IHP and IAHS and organize joint actions. SMHI represents Sweden in WMO, including work in the hydrological commission (CHy) which will be considered by the IHP secretariat, located at SMHI.

### **1.2.5 Other initiatives**

No activities 2006-2008

## **1.3 Educational and training courses**

No activities 2006-2008

#### **1.4 Cooperation with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and/or international/regional water centers under the auspices of UNESCO**

No activities 2006-2008

#### **1.5 Publications**

No publications 2006-2008

#### **1.6 Participation in international scientific meetings**

##### **1.6.1 Meetings hosted by the country**

##### **1.6.2 Participation in meetings abroad**

The Future of Rural Land and Water Management – Research Strategies to Underpin Integrated Decision Making. September 2006, Workshop arranged by UNESCO-HELP, The Environment Agency of England and Wales and the CHASM Team, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HELP in Action – Local Solutions to Global Water Problems. Johannesburg, South Africa, November 2007.

UNESCO Workshop – Comparative analysis of floods and droughts – Catchment and aquifer typology. April 2008, Smolenice, Slovakia.

#### **1.7 Other activities at regional level**

No activities 2006-2008

### **2. Future activities**

#### **2.1 Activities planned until December 2009**

- A “Global Forum” for dialogues between Swedish organizations and authorities in Sweden working with global issues in line with the Swedish UNESCO Strategy will be held in late October 2008. The suggested theme is “People, resources and environment”.
- Continued participation in HELP with focus on dialogues between stakeholders, decision makers and experts.
- Establishment of a new Swedish IHP committee with the following main tasks
  - Take initiatives towards dialogues between authorities and researchers in various fields, related to the work of IHP. When such a field has been

identified and agreed upon in cooperation with the Swedish AWC, a working group with representatives from authorities, researchers and other relevant groups will be established. The group should decide on a specific task, which has to be fulfilled in a limited time period.

- Getting Swedish researchers and other professionals in the water sector involved in IHP-VII activities.
- Suggesting field for local, national and international scientific and technical IHP meetings to the Swedish AWC.
- On request from the AWC, suggest participants in IHP Steering Committees/Working Groups
- Suggest fields for local, international and national IHP educational and training courses to the AWC
- Promote cooperation with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and/or international/regional water centers under the auspices of UNESCO
- On request from AWC suggest participants in international and national IHP meetings
- Cooperate with the Swedish IOC about issues related to coastal zone management

## **2.2 Activities foreseen for 2010-2011**

Activities for 2010-2011 will be planned after the new Swedish IHP committee has started its work in September 2008

## **2.3 Activities envisaged in the long term**

Activities in the long term will be planned after the new Swedish IHP committee has started its work in September 2008

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