



**SWEDISH
NATIONAL
PLATFORM**
for Disaster Risk Reduction

Dealing with natural disasters – a matter of cooperation



Natural disasters – what are they?

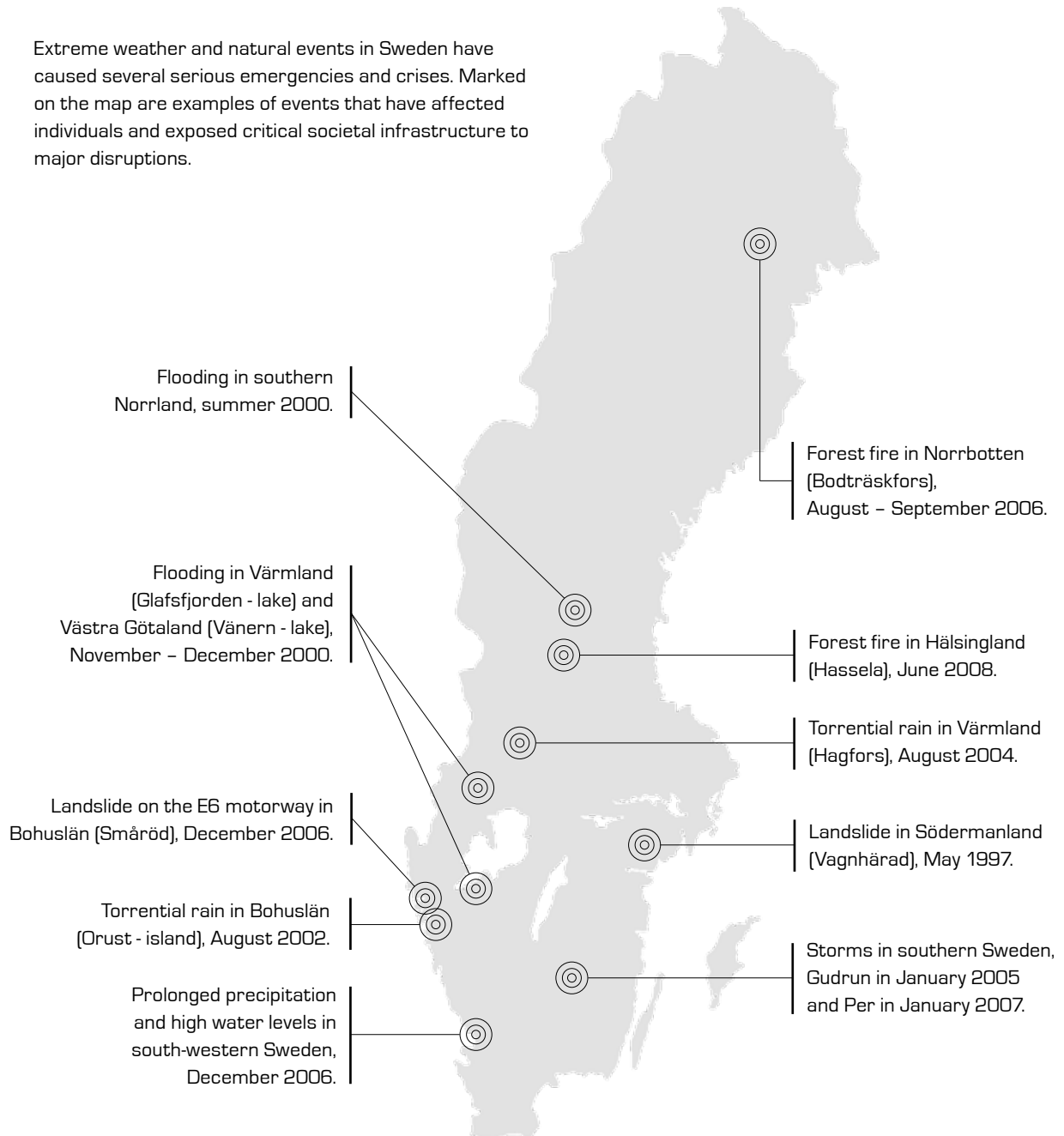
In recent years extreme weather and natural events have caused many disasters around the world. If preventive measures aren't taken then societal development and climate change will be the cause of more and even worse disasters.


In Sweden there is a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, on which 18 authorities and organisations cooperate. The purpose of which is to increase societal capabilities for preventing and dealing with the negative consequences of natural events, known in everyday speech as natural disasters.

When we use the term natural disasters in Sweden we mean 'natural events with negative consequences'. This term encompasses everything from limited natural emergencies to those natural events that result in more extensive or disastrous consequences, commonly known as natural disasters. There is no absolute demarcation between emergency and disaster and so the term 'natural disaster' is used without exception. When we in Sweden talk about preventing and dealing with natural disasters it is synonymous with the UN term, 'disaster risk reduction'.

Sweden also suffers from severe natural events

Extreme weather and natural events in Sweden have caused several serious emergencies and crises. Marked on the map are examples of events that have affected individuals and exposed critical societal infrastructure to major disruptions.



A large-scale forest fire is shown, with thick, billowing white and grey smoke rising from a dense forest. The fire is visible as bright orange and yellow flames at the base of the trees. A red helicopter is flying in the center of the smoke, dropping a bucket of water. The foreground shows a dense forest of green trees. On the left side of the image, there is a vertical column of seven white circles of varying sizes, with the largest at the bottom and the smallest at the top.

Large-scale events demand resources

Our cooperation can prevent and mitigate
the consequences of natural disasters.

It's about human life

– UN work on natural disasters

At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe in Japan in 2005 delegates from 168 countries assembled and adopted a 10-year plan, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015. The aim of this plan is to make the world safer by working on the reduction of risks for and the consequences of natural disasters. The main objective is a tangible reduction by 2015 of the loss of life, and societal, economic and environmental assets through natural disasters. The Hyogo Framework for Action outlines five priority areas to guide states, organizations and other actors at all levels in designing their approach to disaster risk reduction:

- Ensure that work on disaster risk reduction is viewed as a priority both nationally and locally.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
- Use knowledge, innovations and education to improve safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective emergency response operations and recovery at all levels.


By signing up to the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action Sweden and the other member states have undertaken to have established national platforms for natural disasters by 2015.

The UN defines three main groups of natural events that can cause emergencies and disasters:

- Geological
- Hydrometeorological
- Biological

These main groups are in turn divided into sub-groups. Not all are relevant for Sweden. Those events that have been assessed as being the most important on which to focus further work in the next few years appear in bold text in the table. Until further notice, events of a biological nature will not be included in the platform's priority areas as they are dealt with in other contexts.

GEOLOGICAL	HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL	BIOLOGICAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthquake - Tsunami - Volcanic eruption - Landslide – earth/rock - Earthslip - Erosion of coastlines and inland watercourses - Avalanche - Mudslide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flooding - Storm, cyclone, tornado - Extreme precipitation – rain, hail, snow, ice storm - Thunderstorm - Drought - Heat wave - Extreme cold - Forest fire - Desertification - Avalanche - Mudslide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Epidemic - Infectious animal and plant diseases - Insect swarms - Infestation by noxious/verminous insects



Resilient and long-term planning

When water levels rise a metre above sea level
- where will you go then?

A common strategy for the whole of Europe

Just as with the UN natural disasters are a matter of priority for the EU as well, which is why a lot of work is in progress to deal with climate change and the increasing number of natural disasters. In the spring of 2009 the EU Commission submitted a proposal for a common strategy for dealing with natural and other disasters. This strategy will be enhanced through continued discussions between the member states and the work being conducted by the EU Commission.

The EU also works towards strengthening the EU's combined capacities for response operations when one of the member states is hit by a natural disaster. The EU has also submitted a first proposal on how to support countries outside the EU in the field of disaster prevention work.

In many European countries work is in progress to establish national platforms. Additionally, there is an intensive programme of collaboration between existing platforms; and in November 2009 a European regional forum was established for disaster risk reduction work.

European countries with established platforms and points of contact for the Hyogo Framework for Action:


Bulgaria, Croatia*, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia (FYROM)*, Monaco*, Poland, Russia*, Switzerland*, Spain, Sweden and UK.

European countries with points of contact for the Hyogo Framework for Action:

Albania*, Austria, Bosnia Herzegovina*, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Georgia*, Greece, Iceland*, Malta, Moldova*, Montenegro*, Norway*, Portugal, Romania, Serbia*, Slovenia, Turkey* and Ukraine*.

* Not EU members

The list above is valid as of February 2010, for more information, please visit www.preventionweb.net



What should we focus our efforts on?

Knowledge, innovations and
education improve safety.

Sweden's national platform

Sweden's platform was established in September 2007 as a result of a government commission to the Swedish Rescue Services Agency. Today, the MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) is responsible, on commission from the government, for collaboration with other competent authorities and organisations for running a national platform for natural disasters. The platform should work towards preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural disasters in line with Sweden's undertaking in relation to the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action. The objectives for Sweden's national platform are:

To create a safer Sweden by reducing the risks for and increasing societal capacities for dealing with natural disasters.

To provide an arena for cooperation between organisations and existing networks so as to increase the collective capabilities of societal stakeholders.

To support stakeholders with data for their work on natural disasters at local, regional and national levels.

The overall purpose of work within the framework of the national platform is to prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters by improving coordination at local, regional and national levels.

The work of the platform is conducted in three target areas:

- Cooperation and coordination between authorities and organisations
- Effective data supply
- Research & development, and the supply of knowledge

Work is carried out in activities and initiatives, to which the participating authorities have contributed resources, or in activities initiated by the authorities responsible, or through the participation of other stakeholders. Activities can take the form of, for example, seminars, studies or projects.

Gudrun was a severe storm that hit northern Europe on 8th and 9th January 2005. Flooding, road traffic accidents, vast areas of woodland felled by the storm, and power cuts were just some of the consequences. In Sweden it took a month before railway services were completely back to normal.



We can influence the future

Identifying risks and responding.

The structure of Sweden's platform

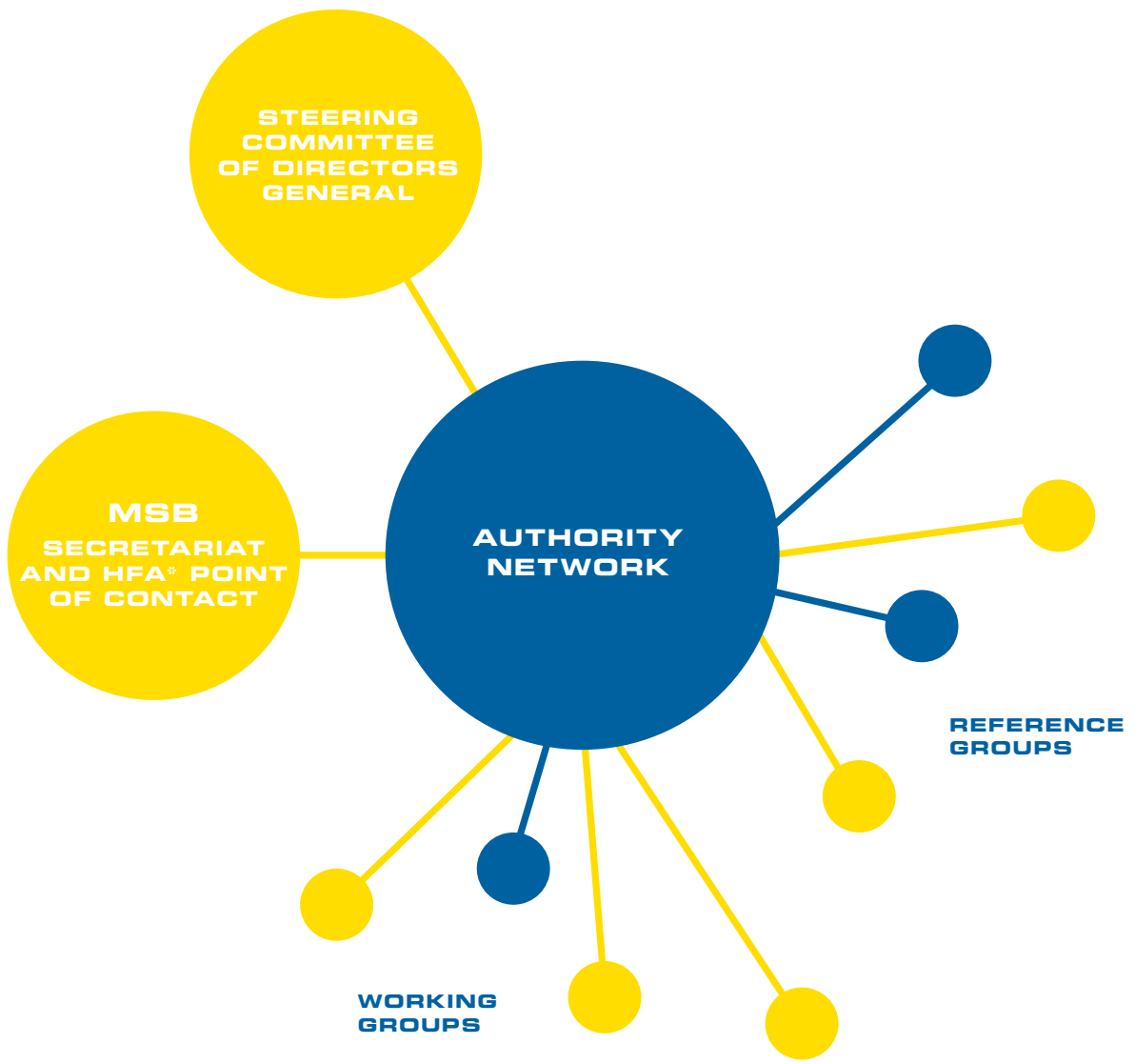
Sweden's national platform consists of:

- A steering committee – of directors general – which is responsible for the overall direction of the work. These directors general [or equivalent] are from the authorities and organisations represented on the platform.
- An authority network made up of representatives from the contributing authorities and organisations. The authority network carries out the day-to-day platform work.
- A secretariat at the MSB, which is responsible for the coordination, communication and administration of platform work. The MSB is also the point of contact for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)*.
- Working groups that can be formed to work on limited specific tasks.
- Reference groups can be formed when there is a specific need.

The following authorities are represented on the platform:

Swedish Rail Administration; Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning; Swedish Energy Agency; Lantmäteriet (the mapping, cadastral and land registration authority); Swedish National Food Administration; all the county administrative boards; MSB; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; Swedish Forest Agency; Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute; Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare; Swedish Geotechnical Institute; Svenska Kraftnät (the national grid); Geological Survey of Sweden; Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions; Swedish River Basin District Authorities; Swedish Road Administration.

* For Sweden's international undertakings within the HFA the point of contact is the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.





PHOTOS:

PAGE 5: FOREST FIRE IN HASSELA 2008. PHOTOGRAPHER: JONAS GRINDE, JÄMTLANDS FLYG. PAGE 9: FLOODING IN PRAGUE, AUGUST 2002. PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID NORLIN, MSB. PAGE 11: EROSION PROTECTION AND PRESSURE BANK IN PITEÅ MUNICIPALITY. PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSANNE EDGÅRD, MSB. PAGE 14: FLOODING IN EKSJÖ / EARTHSLIP IN MUNKEDAL / DAMAGE FOLLOWING HIGH WATER LEVELS IN BRUZAHOLM, EKSJÖ MUNICIPALITY. PHOTOGRAPHER: LARS-GUNNAR STRANDBERG, MSB / SHEET PILING AGAINST FLOODING IN MÖLNDAL / EROSION PROTECTION IN PITEÅ MUNICIPALITY. PHOTOGRAPHER: SUSANNE EDGÅRD, MSB.

SWEDISH NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

SWEDISH RAIL ADMINISTRATION • SWEDISH NATIONAL BOARD OF HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING • SWEDISH ENERGY AGENCY • LANTMÄTERIET (THE MAPPING, CADASTRAL AND LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY) • SWEDISH NATIONAL FOOD ADMINISTRATION • ALL THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS • MSB • SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY • SWEDISH FOREST AGENCY • SWEDISH METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL INSTITUTE • SWEDISH NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE • SWEDISH GEOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE • SVENSKA KRAFTNÄT (THE NATIONAL GRID) • GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SWEDEN • SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND REGIONS • SWEDISH RIVER BASIN DISTRICT AUTHORITIES • SWEDISH ROAD ADMINISTRATION

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