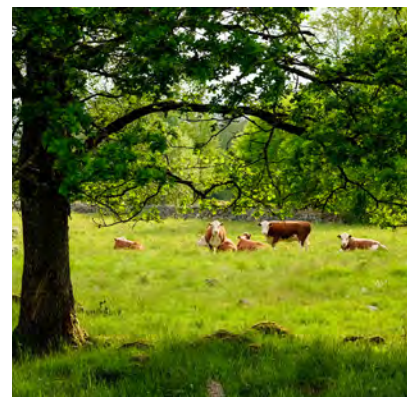
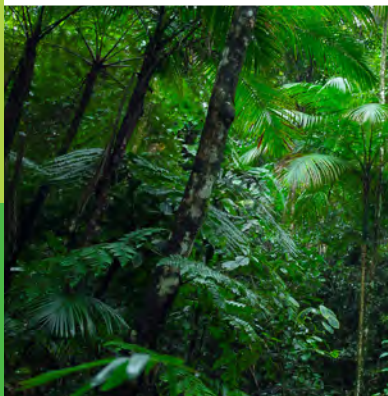
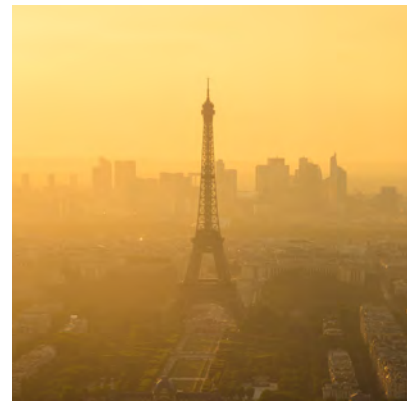


# SSNC's Positions for COP30 in Belém



Swedish Society  
for Nature Conservation

October 2025

# What is at stake?

COP30 in Belém will be a milestone moment for global climate action. It marks ten years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement—a decade in which the rules were written and the direction was set. With the rulebook finalised at COP29, the focus must now shift decisively toward implementation.

The first Global Stocktake confirmed that the world remains far off track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming to well below 2°C, aiming to limit it to 1.5°C. The window to secure a safe and sustainable future is rapidly closing. Against this backdrop, the COP30 Presidency has underscored that this summit must correct course and mark a real shift from promises to progress. The COP30 Action Agenda, guided by the findings of the Stocktake, aims to showcase solutions that can deliver transformation at speed and scale.

The formal negotiations must deliver several key outcomes, including an adequate response to the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a plan for mobilising climate finance under the Baku to Belém Roadmap, agreed indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation, and a strengthened Gender Action Plan. Success in Belém will be measured not only by these formal outcomes, however—but also by whether countries signal that they intend to deliver on their commitments.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), together with its partners in global civil society, calls for COP30 to advance the scaling of proven, science-based, and community-led solutions that cut emissions and build resilience. Such solutions include:

1. Implementing proven measures to achieve deep emissions cuts
2. Protecting and restoring ecosystems for mitigation and resilience
3. Mobilising and delivering accessible and effective climate finance
4. Advancing a just transition and people-centered adaptation
5. Shifting toward a sustainable and equitable global economy

These solutions cut across negotiation tracks and align with the COP30 Action Agenda. Implemented broadly, they can help correct the course toward the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal—while upholding human rights and respecting the planetary boundaries.



# Implement proven measures to achieve deep emissions cuts

# 1

If current commitments to reduce emissions are fully implemented, global warming will reach 2.6-2.8°C this century—far beyond the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5°C.<sup>1</sup> If only existing policies are followed, however, warming will likely exceed 3°C. This highlights not only the need for greater ambition, but also the urgent need to close the gap between ambition and action.

Science shows that it is still possible to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach, but only if countries accelerate the transition by implementing broad policy measures and concrete solutions proven to reduce emissions. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, stipulated by Article 2.2. of the Paris Agreement, requires high-income countries and countries with historically high emissions to take the lead in this acceleration.

The updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), due ahead of COP30, will be the first test of whether countries are prepared to implement solutions that deliver deep, near-term emissions cuts. In a July 2025 advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice emphasised that each NDC must reflect the country's "highest possible ambition," and that failure to regulate emissions may amount to an internationally wrongful act under international law.

## Solutions available and actions required

**Phase out fossil fuels.** At COP28, governments agreed to "transition away from" fossil fuels. COP30 must turn that commitment into time-bound targets and concrete policies that accelerate the phase-out—most urgently in high-emitting sectors such as heavy industry, energy, and transport—without outsourcing emissions to other countries. Proven measures include the elimination of harmful subsidies, emissions trading systems, strict efficiency standards, and transport policies that promote sharing and renewables. Crucially, the fossil phase-out must be fair and inclusive, ensuring protections for people living in energy and transport poverty or whose livelihoods depend on fossil industries.



**Reduce energy demand.** Due to rising energy demand, increased renewable energy capacity has not resulted in decreased production of fossil energy.<sup>2</sup> Renewables and electrification also increase demand for critical minerals, which often carry significant environmental and social costs. The shift to a fully renewable energy system must therefore be complemented by measures that lower overall energy demand and boost efficiency. Such measures should also promote fair energy distribution, correcting existing inequalities—today, the world’s top 10 percent of energy consumers use roughly 30 times more than the bottom 10 percent.<sup>3</sup>

**Transform food systems.** Food systems—from production and packaging to transportation and waste—account for more than one-third of global emissions and often externalise costs onto smallholders and the global commons.<sup>4</sup> Agroecology, agroforestry, sustainable small-scale fisheries and other food sovereignty measures cut emissions while enhancing natural carbon sinks, protecting biodiversity, and building climate resilience. At COP30, countries should commit to scaling these and other solutions, as well as integrating food systems into NDCs and phasing out harmful subsidies.<sup>5</sup>

**Promote sustainable lifestyles.** Production and consumption patterns—from travel and batteries to fast fashion and luxury items—drive significant emissions and resource use. Regulations and infrastructure can make low-emission choices the default in production and consumption, for example by incentivising public transit and facilitating circularity of products and materials.<sup>6</sup> At COP28, countries agreed to advance sustainable lifestyles.<sup>7</sup> At COP30, this commitment must be reflected as concrete policy measures in countries’ NDCs.

**Reject false solutions.** Overreliance on carbon markets, offsetting schemes, large-scale CCS and other unproven technologies risks delaying real emissions cuts and often shifts burdens onto vulnerable communities. COP30’s Action Agenda must focus on scaling up real, transformative policies and community-driven solutions—and not allow commercial interests to promote burden-shifting and unproven technologies.





# Protect and restore ecosystems for mitigation and resilience

# 2

Accelerating the transition requires—in addition to rapidly cutting emissions—strengthening the natural carbon sinks. Forests, oceans, wetlands, peatlands, and other ecosystems constitute essential climate infrastructure. They capture and store carbon, regulate water and weather cycles, sustain biodiversity, and serve as a buffer against extreme weather events. Yet destruction of ecosystems continues at an alarming pace.

Protection and restoration of ecosystems deliver climate mitigation and adaptation benefits, while also advancing the goals of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Under the CBD, countries have pledged to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030—including protecting at least 30 percent of lands, waters, and seas, restoring 30 percent of degraded ecosystems, and aligning financial flows with nature-positive outcomes.

*Stewarding forests, oceans, and biodiversity* is one of the six pillars of the COP30 Action Agenda, which aims to mobilise partnerships, investments, and financing. Ecosystem-based approaches also cut across negotiation streams. The Global Stocktake follow-up is an opportunity to embed nature-positive action in NDCs and adaptation plans; the Global Goal on Adaptation can integrate ecosystem resilience and nature-based solutions as indicators; and the Just Transition Work Programme can advance sustainable land use to protect both livelihoods and ecosystems.

## Solutions available and actions required

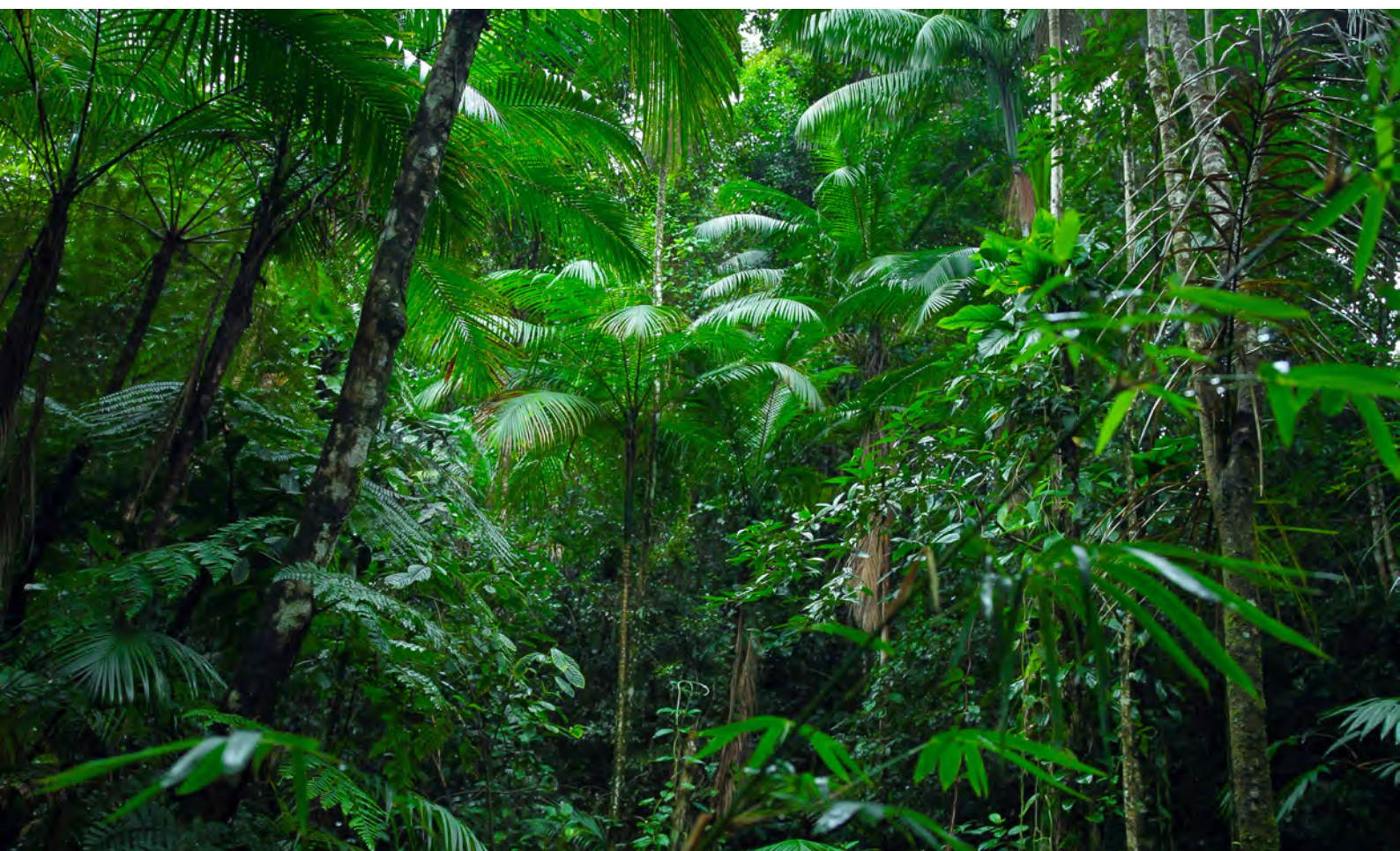
**Halt tropical deforestation.** Tropical deforestation is one of the largest drivers of climate change. Halting it requires stronger forest governance, strict enforcement against illegal logging, redirecting finance away from destructive industries, and addressing its root cause—the global demand for forest-risk commodities such as beef, soy, and palm oil.<sup>8</sup> Indigenous Peoples, whose stewardship is proven to curb deforestation and protect biodiversity, must have secure land rights and direct, predictable access to finance. The Tropical Forests Forever Fund (TFFF) could help mobilise such finance, but must be securely anchored in rights-based governance to avoid becoming a channel for carbon commodification.



**Protect oceans and coastal ecosystems.** Oceans, the planet's largest carbon sink, are under mounting pressure from overfishing, rising ocean temperatures, and pollution. The 2025 Planetary Health Check showed that ocean acidification has breached the safe boundary, putting marine ecosystems at risk and degrading the oceans' ability to act as a climate stabiliser.<sup>9</sup> COP30 should advance ocean-based mitigation and adaptation measures—including the protection and restoration of mangroves, seagrass meadows and other coastal ecosystems—while ensuring such measures do not become a cover for industrial exploitation or ocean grabbing.

**Strengthen community rights.** Indigenous Peoples and local communities safeguard climate-critical ecosystems, yet they continue to face land and ocean grabs, rights violations, and exclusion from decision-making. COP30 is an opportunity to reaffirm the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and to advance nature-based solutions based on Indigenous and local knowledge—while ensuring fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

**Regulate transition minerals.** Mining for minerals critical to renewable energy infrastructure often entails significant risks to carbon-rich ecosystems and human rights. In 2024, the UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals was established to develop shared principles for equity, transparency, and sustainability in mineral extraction. COP30 should acknowledge the need for such principles within the broader context of the energy transition and affirm that they must include strict protection of climate-critical ecosystems (“no-go zones”), respect for FPIC, and guidelines on responsible sourcing, circular material flows, and demand-reduction strategies.<sup>10</sup>





## Mobilise and deliver accessible and effective climate finance

# 3

Existing climate finance flows remain far below what is needed for low-income countries to adapt, build resilience, and pursue low-carbon development. At the same time, public subsidies and private finance continue to support fossil fuels and climate-harmful industries, locking in unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

Much of what is counted as climate finance is provided as loans, deepening already unsustainable debt burdens. Large-scale, bankable projects are often prioritised, while Indigenous Peoples and local communities—proven stewards of climate-critical ecosystems—face persistent barriers in accessing funds.

Climate finance will be a central focus at COP30. Negotiations will centre on operationalising the 2024 New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, which establishes a core commitment of USD 300 billion per year by 2035, alongside the broader Baku to Belém Roadmap that aims to mobilise USD 1.3 trillion annually from a wider range of sources.

### Solutions available and actions required

**Mobilise public finance.** Private finance cannot substitute for public climate finance. Adaptation, loss and damage, and other measures that deliver high social value but limited financial returns can only be effectively supported through public, grant-based finance. Such finance can be unlocked by eliminating climate-harmful subsidies—which still amount to an estimated USD 270 billion each year—and through polluter-pays mechanisms in high-emission sectors such as extraction, aviation, and shipping. These measures could collectively generate trillions in predictable public finance for climate action, while ensuring equity and fairness in burden-sharing.<sup>11</sup>

**Expand the contributor pool.** Under Article 4 of the UNFCCC, Annex II countries hold the primary responsibility for financing climate action. But in the 30 years since that list was set, several non-Annex II countries have become major economies with significant cumulative emissions. At COP30, these countries should commit to contributing to the delivery of climate finance under the NCQG, in line with their evolving capacities and responsibilities.



**Verify climate impact.** Given that finance flows fall short of identified needs, it is critical that available funds deliver maximum results. Funds labelled as climate finance should be subject to transparent tracking and independent evaluation to confirm mitigation, adaptation, and resilience outcomes. Institutions that channel climate finance, including multilateral development banks and the Green Climate Fund, must be held accountable for achieving demonstrable climate benefits.<sup>12</sup>

**Ensure dedicated finance.** Dedicated finance is needed to meet the increasing needs for adaptation measures, to compensate for climate-induced loss and damage, and to implement commitments to just transition, gender mainstreaming, and capacity building, among others. Countries must ensure that such commitments are backed by corresponding financial resources. At COP30, the Loss and Damage Fund must be fully operationalised—governed transparently, replenished equitably, and designed to guarantee access for vulnerable countries and communities.

**Ensure grassroots accessibility.** Public and private flows of climate finance typically bypass the communities most affected by climate change.<sup>13</sup> Climate finance must reach local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and women- and youth-led groups, whose locally owned projects often deliver greater impact, equity, and sustainability. This requires scaling up direct access windows and local government channels, simplifying applications and reporting, ensuring predictable multi-year funding, and providing capacity support.

**Align all financial flows.** Climate finance represents only a small share of global financial flows. Every year, trillions of dollars in public and private finance continue to support fossil fuels and industries that drive deforestation, ecosystem destruction, and unsustainable production and consumption. COP30 is an opportunity for countries to operationalise Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement by committing to regulate and redirect all financial flows toward low-emission, climate-resilient development.







## Advance a just transition and people-centered adaptation

# 4

The focus on reducing emissions has too often overlooked the needs of those most affected by climate change and by the measures taken to address it. Small-scale farmers and coastal populations are struggling with droughts and rising sea levels, while coal-mine closures have left workers without alternative livelihoods, and large-scale renewable projects have displaced or failed to benefit local communities.

Communities are adapting through locally led initiatives that protect livelihoods and strengthen resilience, but they are entitled to greater support and to equitable benefit-sharing. A just, inclusive, and democratic transition requires that rights are upheld, that the benefits and burdens of climate action are shared fairly, and that affected communities have a meaningful voice in decision-making.

Brazil has framed COP30 as a “global mutirão” – a collective effort bringing together governments, businesses, and civil society to accelerate climate action—and emphasised the need to make climate action relevant to people’s daily lives. This underscores the expectation that COP30 must deliver ambitious outcomes that are grounded in the realities of those most affected.

### Solutions available and actions required

**Deliver on adaptation.** The establishment of the framework of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) at COP28 was an important step toward placing adaptation on equal footing with mitigation. At COP30, negotiations should translate this framework into action by establishing indicators for the thematic and policy-oriented targets, including indicators on the provision and access of means of implementation—capacity development, technology transfer, and finance. The GGA aims to ensure an adequate response to the increasingly severe impacts of climate change. Under the UNFCCC, developed countries have a greater responsibility to support this effort. Public, grant-based finance is necessary as most adaptation measures do not generate direct financial returns.

**Operationalise Just Transition.** The Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) was established at COP28 to advance equitable, inclusive, and sustainable pathways for climate action. At COP30, it must deliver a concrete and implementable outcome ensuring that the costs and benefits of the transition are shared fairly, that workers are supported, and that communities have a genuine voice in shaping climate policy. Institutional arrangements, such as a Global Just Transition Mechanism, are needed to coordinate funding, capacity building, and technology transfer, and to guarantee meaningful participation by workers as well as marginalised communities. The JTWP outcome is also an opportunity to reaffirm that a truly just transition depends on the protection and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.

**Mainstream gender equality.** Climate projects that integrate gender equality are shown to be more effective and sustainable, yet less than 3 percent of global climate finance has gender equality as a principal objective.<sup>14</sup> COP30 is a critical moment to address this gap. Negotiations on a strengthened Gender Action Plan (GAP) offer an opportunity to embed intersectional, gender-transformative approaches across all pillars of the climate regime, ensuring that women, girls, and gender-diverse people can fully participate in and benefit from the transition. This requires capacity development, the inclusion of gender experts in decision-making, standardised reporting of gender-disaggregated data under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and dedicated funding for implementation.

**Protect civic space.** A just climate transition depends on a strong civil society, yet civic space is shrinking worldwide. Environmental defenders—who peacefully protect land, water, ecosystems, and communities from harm—are increasingly targeted by governments and corporate actors. Tactics range from restrictive laws criminalising defenders or classifying them as terrorists to harassment, surveillance, and even killings. Such repression violates human rights and undermines effective climate action. COP30 must send a clear signal that civic space and the safety of environmental defenders are non-negotiable, by reaffirming human rights obligations, committing to protect defenders, and ensuring that civil society can participate fully, fairly, and safely in climate decision-making.

**Democratise the UNFCCC.** Industry representatives often enjoy comparatively easy access to UN climate negotiations, while affected communities face barriers such as prohibitive costs, visa hurdles, and limited accreditations. Reform is needed both to guard against corporate capture—through full transparency on lobbyist access, clear limits on fossil-industry influence, and mandatory disclosure of engagement—and to expand meaningful participation for affected communities, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalised groups. The Belém People’s Summit, a community initiative held alongside the negotiations and endorsed by the COP Presidency, aims to increase the influence of civil society on the negotiations.



## Shift toward a sustainable and equitable global economy

# 5

In 2025, the Planetary Health Check confirmed that seven of the nine planetary boundaries have been breached—including those for climate change, ocean acidification, and biogeochemical flows—showing that humanity is already operating beyond the planet's safe limits.

These overshoots are not isolated problems but symptoms of a global economy that prioritises short term economic gains over long-term sustainability—while its benefits remain unevenly distributed.<sup>15</sup> For decades, GDP growth and linear business models have often been tied to rising emissions and environmental degradation. Addressing the root causes of the climate crisis therefore requires reorienting economies to operate within planetary boundaries while supporting human well-being.

The COP30 Presidency has emphasised that this year's summit must deliver implementation, concrete action and the sharing and scaling of solutions. This offers an opportunity to showcase and advance not only financial tools and technical solutions—but also practical pathways toward economic models that deliver prosperity within the planetary boundaries.

### Solutions available and actions required

**Regulate resource use.** Global resource extraction has tripled since 1970 and is projected to double again by 2060, driving emissions and placing increasing pressure on ecosystems.<sup>16</sup> This trajectory can be reversed by capping and regulating the use of materials and energy. Key measures include banning planned obsolescence and requiring that all materials entering the economy are free from harmful chemicals and designed for safe reuse and recycling—supported by regulation, transparency, and traceability of their chemical content.

**Promote sufficiency.** Increased consumption beyond a certain level does not lead to greater well-being. The IPCC has highlighted sufficiency as a key strategy with often overlooked potential to reduce both emissions and resource use.<sup>17</sup> The COP30 Action Agenda is an opportunity to advance sufficiency and promote ways of enjoying productivity gains that do not fuel further production and consumption.



**Redefine progress.** GDP growth does not capture climate stability, ecosystem resilience, or human wellbeing. The Pact for the Future, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2023, commits to moving beyond GDP as a measure of progress and to developing complementary indicators. At COP30, countries can advance this agenda by agreeing on a set of complementary indicators for use in NDCs, the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and the Global Stocktake—so that progress is measured by emissions reductions, ecosystem health, resilience, and equity rather than economic output alone.

**Ensure fair distribution.** Today, the world's wealthiest 10 percent are responsible for roughly two-thirds of global warming.<sup>18</sup> A global economic transition toward a sustainable economic system within the planetary boundaries must safeguard fairness and equity. While high-emitting countries and consumers must shrink their footprints, low-income communities must be guaranteed access to basic needs. This requires burden-sharing rules, such as differentiated national targets and stronger technology transfer. It also calls for integrating equity metrics into the Global Stocktake, to assess each country's fair share of global climate action based on factors such as historical responsibility, capacity to act, and development needs.



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The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) is the largest environmental organisation in Sweden and a popular movement that has stood up for nature since 1909.

We disseminate knowledge, shape public opinion and influence decision-makers – locally, nationally and globally.

Climate, forests, agriculture, environmental pollutants, freshwater, oceans, marine ecosystems and sustainable consumption make up our key focus areas. Bra Miljöval (Good Environmental Choice) is our ecolabel and Sveriges Natur (Swedish Nature) is our membership magazine.

You are welcome to become a member, get involved or make a donation. Together, we have the power to bring about change.

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