



# Sveaskog's conservation objectives

In order to achieve its nature conservation objectives Sveaskog uses three tools in its conservation strategy: Ecoparks, nature conservation forests and general consideration for nature in production forests.

## Nature conservation target 20%

Sveaskog is Sweden's largest forest owner and we take major responsibility for nature conservation. We have high aims and use 20% of our more than three million hectares of productive forest land for nature conservation. This means that we conduct nature conservation initiatives on 624,000 hectares, an average of every fifth square metre.

Sveaskog represents responsible forest management with a clear balance between production and the environment. 20% of forest land for nature conservation is a clear target. National and international research groups regard this level as essential for forestry operations to be combined with protection of the forest's diversity of flora and fauna.

In our nature conservation initiatives we increase the proportion of old forest while creating more varied and species-rich forests. We achieve beautiful forest landscapes that people can enjoy today and in the future.

## Three tools

Sveaskog's strategy is to work with nature conservation on different scales – from detailed to landscape level – which strengthen and complement each other. Our forest history reflects a varied pattern. The forests have been managed so that natural values exist as individual trees in production forests (forests primarily used for wood raw material), as widespread forest areas of major significance to forest fauna and flora, or as entire forest landscapes with high natural values.

The three tools we use in Sveaskog's nature conservation strategy are:

The three-toed woodpecker benefits from dead and dying trees and is one of the forest-habitat species that has increased in number recently.

- general consideration for nature in the production forests
- nature conservation forests i.e. forests used for nature conservation
- ecoparks i.e. large forest landscapes where nature conservation takes precedence over commercial interests.

In practice this means that we vary our initiatives in different forest landscapes and prioritise major nature conservation set-asides where they do most good. In this way we adapt our nature conservation initiatives to the habitat requirements of different species.

## General consideration for nature in production forests

Production forests are forests where we conduct forest management to obtain wood raw material such as sawlogs, pulpwood and biofuel.

Nature consideration in Sveaskog's production forests amounts to an average of 9% which translates to a nature conservation area of 250,000 hectares.

### ► In brief

Sveaskog uses three tools in its nature conservation strategy: 1. Consideration for nature in production forests which in practice is about what is left in the forest after felling. 2. Nature conservation forests, where no production-focused forestry is conducted. 3. Ecoparks, i.e. large contiguous forest landscapes with a unique ecological character where many threatened species can live and flourish. First we make a natural values assessment and then prioritise and decide how and where to show consideration.

In practice nature consideration in production forests – known as general consideration – is about what we leave behind in the forest after felling. First we conduct a natural value assessment of each forest area to be felled. Then we set priorities and decide how and where to exercise consideration. This might be tree groups, individual trees or zones adjacent to water. We base this work on our many years' experience and guidelines in the Swedish FSC® standard.

This general consideration is a nature conservation initiative that is highly significant for the preservation of biodiversity in the Swedish forest since the forests we use for production cover such large areas.

Prioritising the right consideration in production forests is important work in which Sveaskog is continuously engaged. To improve quality we have independent external audits, internal follow-up and controls, and nature conservation training schemes for employees and contractors.

### Nature conservation forests

Sveaskog's nature conservation forests, which are only used for nature conservation, are the largest initiative ever carried out below the montane forest region.

The nature conservation forests are also the biggest initiative in Sveaskog's nature conservation strategy in terms of size. They total about 300,000 hectares which is 10% of Sveaskog's productive forest land below the montane region and outside the ecoparks.

Nature conservation forests vary in size from half a hectare up to several hundred. Using Sveaskog's ecological landscape planning, nature conservation forests are distributed throughout our forest holdings from north to south and from mountain to coast. They include all our forests with high natural values.

We conduct no production-focused forestry in nature conservation forests but on the other hand we do conduct habitat management to enhance natural values.

The nature conservation forests also include restoration forests. These have an ecological potential for future high natural values which are lacking in Sweden today, such as hardwood and deciduous forests. We will manage these forests in a way that creates new and high natural values in the future. In the restoration forests we actively shape tomorrow's forest landscape.

### Ecoparks

Ecoparks are large contiguous forest landscapes with major natural values. Their average size is about 5,000 hectares (50 square kilometres). They all have unique ecological characteristics. In these

Sveaskog's 37 ecoparks



large landscapes where ecology takes precedence over commercial interests, many threatened species can live and flourish.

Sveaskog has decided on 37 ecoparks which combined correspond to 5% of our productive forest land, or a total of 156,000 hectares.

Of the total area of these ecoparks, over 100,000 hectares are protected as pure nature conservation areas through legally binding ecopark agreements with the Swedish Forest Agency. These agreements guarantee long-term protection for 50 years.

The ecoparks also contain several of our most important recreational forests which provide opportunities for increased eco-tourism.

### A model for quality assurance

The selection of conservation forests has been done in a way that provides the greatest possible ecological impact while key areas for outdoor recreation, the cultural environment and reindeer herding are preserved.

To ensure the right priorities when selecting nature conservation forests we have developed a unique prioritising model.

This model is our main tool when we classify forests from natural values and divide them into "locked" and "open" forests. In open forest areas we can exchange low natural values for higher ones over time. We manage the open areas so that natural values increase continuously, by restoring the forest for example.

The forest areas with the highest natural values are formally protected and cannot be exchanged for others. They are locked. We manage these forests as nature conservation areas.

Areas that we set aside in different levels for nature conservation play a key role in the future forest landscape that Sveaskog is creating. The trees and small biotopes that are left after felling today mean that the numbers of large old trees and deadwood will increase in the next forest generation compared with what we have in the forests established 30 or more years ago. Since this is about structures that take time to develop, it normally takes several decades before we see the effects on biodiversity. Already today, however, we see a trend reversal for some species, including several of Sweden's forest-nesting birds, from a steady decline to an increase in the last ten years.



Märket för  
ansvarfullt  
skogsbruk

FSC® is an independent international organisation for certification of responsible forestry. The aim is socially beneficial, environmentally appropriate and economically viable responsible forest management. FSC®'s logo-type on products represents independent certification of forestry and product manufacture according to the FSC®'s rules.

### More information

Martin Lindell, Business Developer. E-mail: martin.lindell@sveaskog.se  
More factsheets are available at [www.sveaskog.se/factsheets](http://www.sveaskog.se/factsheets)  
Customer Service: +46 771 787 100 | [info@sveaskog.se](mailto:info@sveaskog.se) | [www.sveaskog.se](http://www.sveaskog.se)