Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

SWEDISH NATIONAL PLATFORM for Disaster Risk Reduction

Annual Report 2012

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Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

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Table of Content

Introduction

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) has been appointed by the Government to coordinate, through a national platform, the work to prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural hazards and disasters. This is accomplished in cooperation with other relevant authorities and organisations. The work of the platform aims to fulfil Sweden's commitments to the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA).

Through Mette Lindahl Olsson, the MSB is the point of contact for Sweden's national commitments under the HFA, whereas other responsibilities for the HFA rest with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

This annual report covers the calendar year 2012, which is the fifth year of the work of the Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

During the year the following authorities and organisations have been part of the platform;

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Lantmäteriet: the Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority, the National Food Agency, the County Administrative Boards of Sweden, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), the Swedish National Heritage Board, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute, Svenska Kraftnät (the Swedish National Grid), the Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and the Swedish Transport Administration.

Purpose and Objectives 2012

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

To achieve this, activities has leen conducted within the following three areas for which strategic objectives have been set:

1. Cooperation and coordination between authorities and organisations

The objective is broader cross-sector cooperation between authorities and organisations in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the risks, the possible measures that can be taken and their consequences. The aim is to provide needs-based support for primarily the municipalities, County Councils and County Administrative Boards regarding matters related to natural hazards.

2. Effective provision of data

The objective is to identify the need for data as a basis for planning, to improve accessibility and to facilitate the exchange of information. This will provide increased knowledge for decision-making for preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural hazards and disasters.

3. Research, development and provision of knowledge

The objective is to strengthen societal capacity for the prevention and handling of natural hazards and disasters through research, development, information and education.

National platform in Sweden

In the appropriation directions for 2013, the Government has issued MSB with the following assignment:

"The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency shall be the national focal point for Sweden's commitment in the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 –2015. The Agency shall also coordinate the national effort through a national platform for work with natural hazards."

MSB represents Sweden in the European and Nordic networks of platforms and focal points. With respect to Sweden's policy work under the HFA, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (UD) is the focal point.

Sweden's National Platform consists of 19 authorities and organisations, hereafter referred to as **members**. Participation in the platform is voluntary and is mainly financed by each member. The Swedish platform is based on central government authorities, and collaboration with other actors in society takes place primarily through reference and working groups. Working groups can be appointed for work with defined tasks or activities. Reference groups may be established as needed. MSB finances the platform secretariat and the costs resulting from serving as a HFA focal point.

The national platform organisation consists of:

- **The Steering Group,** responsible for the focus and overall management of the work. It is made up of the Directors General (or equivalent) among the platform members. The Steering Group meets at least once a year.
- **The Authorities' Network,** which carries out the ongoing work within the platform. The network consists of one designated representative per member for which deputies have also been designated. The Network meets at least four times per year.
- **The HFA Focal Point and the Secretariat at MSB,** responsible for international contacts, coordination, communication, reporting and administration of the platform's work. The secretariat supports both MSB in its role as focal point and the platform.

Purpose

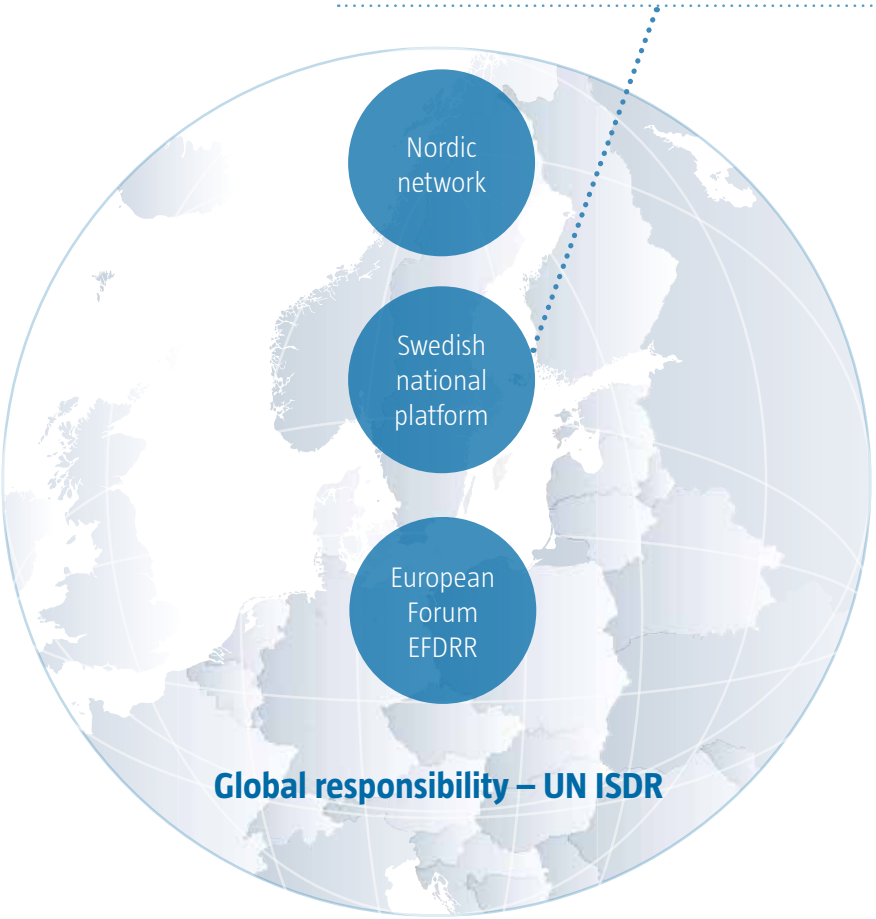
The overall purpose of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the building of national platforms for disaster risk reduction is the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries by the year 2015.

- The purpose of Sweden's platform is to improve the coordination of efforts to prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural hazards and disasters in Sweden.

The improved coordination through the platform and the action taken by the members are intended to make Sweden less vulnerable to natural events and to increase society's capacity to manage disasters.

The platform is an arena for collaboration and through its activities supports members and their target groups at the central, regional and local levels with data for the work of preventing natural hazards and disasters and of adapting Sweden to a changing climate.

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



MSB represents Sweden in the European and Nordic networks of platforms and focal points.

Objective

The objective of the platform's work is for the members, and by extension their target groups at the central, regional and local levels, to gain:

- an increased awareness of other actors' activities in this area
- better coordination for the development and dissemination of knowledge, methods and data in this area
- a more efficient use of resources in this area
- greater opportunities for national and international collaboration
- tangible benefits of a strong national network.

Activities in the platform

Sweden adheres to the Hyogo Declaration and the HFA through the combined Swedish work at all levels, carried out by all organisations – public, private and voluntary organisations – and individuals.

Within the framework of the national platform, coordination and collaboration are being developed between the platform members. The activities that members agree on and that are implemented within the framework of the platform add further value to the overall work. Discussions about activities and their implementation strengthen and develop coordination and collaboration between the platform members.

The national reports made to UNISDR every two years present an overall picture of Sweden's work under the HFA. The annual report for the platform only presents the activities undertaken to develop coordination and collaboration in the platform as well as the activities resulting from MSB's role as the national HFA focal point.

Prioritised natural events

The platform's activities during the period 2013–2015 will focus on the following natural events:

- floods, including high flows and sea level elevation
- landslides (soil and rock) and erosion of coast and watercourses
- increasing risks, such as biological threats, heat waves, ash clouds.

All platform work should take climate change into account.

Financing of activities

Platform activities that are linked with the ordinary responsibilities of a member are carried out and financed by that member. Activities of this kind are presented in each member's activity plan and annual report.

Activities can also be performed as activities in direct collaboration between network members. The activities may, for example, be investigations, projects or seminars and conferences and address different target groups. Such activities are financed jointly by the members participating in the activity.

It may also be a question of e.g., activities for collaborative learning in the network and for strengthening the network as a network. MSB finances the platform's secretariat and certain common costs. The overall picture of activities is presented in the platform's annual report.

Members

In 2012, The Authorities' Network consisted of:

Authority	Representative	Alternate
Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning	Patrik Faming	Vacant
Swedish Energy Agency	Urban Bergström	Mikael Toll
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Tomas Johansson	Jessica Hjerpe Olausson
Swedish Board of Agriculture	Catrin Molander	Anja Bertilsson
Lantmäteriet – The Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority	Stigbjörn Olovsson	Martin Ehrlén
Swedish National Food Administration	Christina Nordensten	Erika Lind
County Administrative Boards	Karin Klasa	Staffan Edler
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)	Mette Lindahl Olsson	Håkan Axelsson
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Tor Borinder	Lars Westermark
Swedish Heritage Board	Erika Hedhammar	Camilla Altahr-Cederberg
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	Patrick Kratt	Knud Falk
Swedish Forest Agency	Dan Rydberg	Johan Eriksson
Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute	Lena Lindström	Per-Olof Hårsmar
Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare	Eva Sköld	Vacant
Swedish Geotechnical Institute	Bengt Rydell	Karin Lundström
Swedish National Grid	Anna Engström Meyer	Maria Bartsch
Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	Ann-Sofie Eriksson	Emilie Gullberg
Geological Survey of Sweden	Anna Hedenström	Mats Engdahl
Swedish Transport Administration	Håkan Nordlander	Bo Kristofersson

The Swedish National Platform's secretariat at MSB consists of Mette Lindahl Olsson, the HFA focal point; Åke Svensson, the national coordinator; and Janet Edwards, the international coordinator.

Activities

Completed Activities

National Platform Meetings

The Authorities' Network held four one-day meetings and one two-day meeting, including a field visit to the Falsterbo Peninsula hosted by Vellinge Municipality. The focus during the field visit was the protection of the Falsterbo Peninsula against rising sea levels. Smaller working groups were formed for the activities mentioned in this annual report.

The Steering Group met on 15 November at the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions in Stockholm. Invited guests were Helena Molin Valdés, Deputy Director at UNISDR; Michiko Hama, alpS, Austria; Fredric Jonsson, Jönköping Municipality and Bengt Rydell of the Swedish Geotechnical Institute.

Helena Molin Valdés, Deputy Director at UNISDR in Geneva, spoke about the process that has been initiated to develop a new agreement after the HFA. She pointed out in particular that this is a broad process whose impetus comes from below and will only involve negotiations to a limited extent. It is intended that by the UN World Conference in January or February 2015, an agreement will be proposed that can then be approved by the General Assembly in October 2015. Accordingly, the new agreement will apply from 2016 onwards. Helena Molin Valdés was also able to relate that what has emerged so far is that many countries and parties desire as little change as possible and that it is now a case of HFA II rather than of a completely new agreement.

Michiko Hama of alpS and Fredric Jonsson of Jönköping Municipality presented the exchange relating to risk assessments that has been established between Tyrol in Austria and Jönköping Municipality. A first exchange of experts has been held in Jönköping and in winter 2013, a second exchange will take place in Tyrol, Austria. Both Tyrol and Jönköping are involved in the campaign Making Cities Resilient, and their exchange is an inspiring example of what participation in the campaign can produce at a local level.

Bengt Rydell of the Swedish Geotechnical Institute presented the result of the main study for a Geotechnical Sector Portal implemented within the framework of platform cooperation. The study and the pilot study were carried out using emergency management funds from MSB's appropriation 2:4. The portal will be implemented starting in 2013, and also then with funds from appropriation 2:4.

Åke Svensson of MSB presented the action plan proposal for the platform during the period 2013–2015. The Steering Group approved the draft action plan and mandated the Authorities' Network to approve the final version, after additions, at its first meeting in 2013.

The National Platform annual planning days with field trip were held at Falsterbo peninsula with Vellinge municipality and Hans Folkeson as host for a field visit where protection against rising sea levels were studied and discussed.

The Steering committee meeting was held in Stockholm with Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions as host. The Steering Group was among other things taking part of a presentation by (bottom, right) Helena Molin Valdes, UN-ISDR. The Steering Committee also approved the new workplan drawn up during the year.

Photo: Åke Svensson

National Dialogue Meeting Post HFA 2015

Sweden's dialogue meeting for Post HFA 2015 was held on the 14th of November in Stockholm. The meeting was attended by about 40 people including representatives of five ministries in the Government Offices, authorities in the national platform, municipalities, the industry organisation Insurance Sweden, the Swedish Red Cross, research institutions as well as some students. The meeting was chaired by Helena Molin Valdés, Deputy Director at UNISDR, and Nils Svartz, Deputy Director-General at MSB. Lena Malm, Chair of the City Council in Göteborg spoke about the importance of disaster risk reduction.

The method used dialogue charts with six questions on each chart and six participants at each dialogue table. The Secretariat received many good comments via the dialogue charts used by the various working groups. These comments have been summarised in a report to UNISDR (ref. no. 2012-3916)

The dialogue emphasised that a key success factor for Sweden has been that the Government has assumed responsibility for the Hyogo Declaration and the HFA and has appointed MSB as a national focal point and the body responsible for the national platform. This clear mandate to MSB has enabled a strong and well-functioning national platform which has developed cooperation between authorities at the national level.

Another strength has been that the framework provided a common language for collaboration and exchange on issues of disaster risk reduction, something which among other things has led to an increase in international exchange from the national level down to the local level through the campaign Making Cities Resilient.

Sweden's national dialogue meeting for Post HFA 2015 was held in November in Stockholm and attracted some 40 participants from ministries, agencies and organizations. The meeting was chaired by Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director General at the UN-ISDR and Nils Svartz, Deputy Director General at MSB.

Photo: Åke Svensson

Many participants at the dialogue meeting raised the need to broaden participation in the work to also include voluntary organisations such as the Red Cross, private actors and various academic institutions and research centres. Another area highlighted is the importance of being able to demonstrate that DRR efforts are worthwhile, for example through indicators and cost-benefit analyses.

The participants at the dialogue meeting was unanimous that national platforms must also be retained in a new framework. From a Swedish perspective, there are also calls for clear indicators and a better adaptation of the framework from the national to the local level. In Sweden, the debate on DRR and the link to climate change adaptation has been very active in recent years. The dialogue meeting called for a better and clearer integration of climate change adaptation and DRR in a new framework. There is also a general need for many more good examples of how to work with the framework at different levels of one's own organisation. Many also saw it as important for the framework to continue being a framework and not develop into something that is overly detailed and controlling.

New Action Plan

The work to develop a new action plan for the platform has continued throughout the year. Three different sessions have been held at the network's ordinary meetings. This work was carried out with the support of an external consultant, Karin Lönn from Connecta AB. The work has reduced two governing documents, the action programme and the activity plan, into one integrated document. The focus of this effort has been to clarify the purpose, objectives and target groups for the work of the platform and to simplify activity planning. The work was based on the results of previous evaluations and reviews.

The new action plan clarifies the platform's area of activity and gives a clearer priority towards three areas of natural event:

1. floods, including high flows and sea level elevation
2. landslides (soil and rock) and erosion of coast and watercourses
3. increasing risks, such as biological threats, heat waves, ash clouds.

Until further notice, the platform will also focus on any consequences of ash clouds following volcanic eruptions outside Sweden. The activity list in the action plan marks all activities with their link to the priorities of the HFA in order to visualise these activities' link to the framework and contribute to bringing the framework closer to each member's ordinary activities.

Campaign – Making Cities Resilient

The purpose of the campaign initiated and run by UNISDR is to support cities around the world in their efforts to prevent and reduce the effects of natural disasters. Three objectives characterise the campaign:

1. To increase knowledge and awareness of the risk of disasters and the role played by local authorities.
2. To raise the level of political support for risk management at the local level. To achieve stronger collaboration between local and national politics.
3. To develop a "HFA" at the local level, provide tools, training, capacity building etc.

Swedish municipalities participating in the campaign are Göteborg, Jönköping, Karlstad and Kristianstad. All of these are active at the second highest level of the campaign, role model city, and have participated in international exchanges, study visits and conferences. These opportunities are offered by UNISDR or were created by the Secretariat for the Swedish National platform in collaboration with other international partners that are introducing the HFA at the local level. The Swedish municipalities in the campaign have also formed a national network for experience exchange.

National Activities
The national platform has worked to get more municipalities to join the campaign Making Cities Resilient and to exchange experience with municipalities in other countries. Gothenburg joined the campaign in September 2012. The Secretariat of the national platform has helped Stockholm, Sundsvall, Vellinge, Malmö and Jokkmokk with the application procedure and other municipalities with general questions about the work of the HFA at the local level.

The Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT) is used to assess how far the municipality has come in creating resilience against the potential negative consequences of natural events. To enable all Swedish municipalities in the campaign to use the tool, it has been translated into Swedish.

International Activities
Through the platform's secretariat, Sweden has participated in the drafting of UNISDR's "How to Make Cities More Resilient – A Handbook for Local Government Leaders". The handbook published in March 2012 is a tool for the Making Cities Resilient campaign that can be downloaded from Prevention Web. It was used during the exchange between Jönköping Municipality and Tyrol, Austria.

Lena Malm, Chair of the City Council in Göteborg, and researchers from Mistra Urban Futures presented their DRR work at the World Urban Forum in Naples in September.

Lena Malm, Chair of the City Council in Göteborg (at the far right), signed the Making Cities Resilient certificate with Margareta Wahlström (third from right), the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction. Also in the picture is a representative from the authorities in Canberra, Australia (to the left), and Liu Baochun, Director General, Guangzhou Municipal Government in China(second from right).

There, Lena Malm also signed the Making Cities Resilient certificate with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

In September, Jönköping Municipality conducted part one of an exchange with Tyrol, Austria on risk assessments. It was funded by the EU Exchange of Experts. This exchange included a visit to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Instituteand a field trip on Lake Vättern. There were discussions on risk assessments and future work to improve resilience. The Making Cities Resilient campaign coordinator for Jönköping Municipality is Fredric Jonsson at the Safety and Security Department.

Anders Pålsson from the emergency services in the Municipality of Kristianstad attended a meeting at UNISDR in Geneva about the launch of the World Bank handbook on flooding. This handbook is relevant to conditions in Sweden and has therefore been distributed to stakeholders in the country.

Jonatan Jürisoo from 4C Strategies AB in Stockholm participated as a representative of the City of Stockholm, in the Resilient Cities Global Forum in Bonn on 13 –15 May 2012. The conference, which is the largest of its kind, attracted about 400 participants from all over the world. The conference brought together politicians, businesses and representatives from authorities and academia to discuss urban resilience and climate change adaptation.

Experts from Karlstad Municipality and the Karlstad Region's emergency services participated in a study visit to the Czech Republic in October 2012 to learn about flood protection in Prague. Milena Bohuslavska from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, and Petr Vodicka, fire chief at the Prague fire department, guided Karlstad's experts during their visit.

From left: Johan Asplund, Sofia Palmberg, Milena Bohuslavska by the Czech Ministry of Interior and Anna Sjödin from Karlstad municipality discussed flooding with Rostislav Guth, head of the crisis management department and Jiri Hovorka, a specialist in civil defense.

Ulf Nyqvist, Karlstad Municipality lectured in October during a DRR course for local decision-makers in Korea.

Ulf Nyqvist, Karlstad Municipality's Deputy Director lectured during the Disaster Risk Reduction Leadership Course for High Level Local Government for Korean Officials in October 2012.

Developed Risk Analysis using the NNH and Other Databases

Based on previous studies, an activity was carried out in 2012 that aimed to develop a desktop risk inventory model for high causeways that can be implemented over larger geographical areas The model will make it possible to combine information on high causeways, culvert locations and waterways with relevant data from other databases to facilitate and improve risk assessment. Developed methods have been successfully tested in the Swedish Transport Administration's operating area Bergslagen in northern Wermland. This activity was conducted by the Swedish Transport Administration, Lantmäteriet, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute, the Geological Survey of Sweden, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions the Swedish Forest Agency and the Department of Land and Water Resources Engineering at KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Inventory of Completed Applications of the New National Elevation Model

An inventory of completed projects that have used the New National Elevation Model (NNH) with a focus on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction has been carried out via an online survey. The survey was sent to those who had ordered NNH data from Lantmäteriet, and close to 90 responses were received from municipalities, county administrative boards, authorities, universities and private companies. In general, the NNH has been used predominantly for what its primary purpose was when the decision was made to begin scanning the country, i.e. for preventive work in climate change adaptation. The majority (75 per cent) of the survey respondents also saw more opportunities with the NNH than those they themselves had tried so far. The result of the inventory has been published in the National Platform Report Series, MSB360 - April 2012.

Studies of Effects of Sea Level Elevations with New National Elevation Model

During the period 2012 – 2013, an activity is being carried out that aims to use the New National Elevation Model to study and illustrate effects of an elevated sea level. During 2012, two sub-studies were carried out, Effects of Sea Level Elevations on Critical Infrastructure as well as Beach Erosion and Sea Level Elevations. An initial phase of a third sub-study, Erosion and Stability in River Valleys during Climate Change, was carried out in 2012. It is planned that this third sub-study will be completed in 2013 and that an additional sub-study, Effects of Sea Level Elevations on Natural and Cultural Values, will be implemented. The activity involves the cooperation of several National Platform members, including Lantmäteriet, MSB, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute, the Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions the Swedish Transport Administration and the Swedish National Heritage Board.

Update of the report Climate Adaptation in Sweden – an overview

The report was originally drafted in 2010 by a working group in the platform to provide an overview of which activities and assignments listed by the Swedish Commission on Climate and Vulnerability had become reality. The implementation of the update was started before the summer 2012 through an e-mail dispatch to relevant authorities with a request to update the information they had submitted for the previous report. During the autumn, the collection of data continued through telephone contacts with the authorities concerned, and the results were compiled. To reach the intended audience with the results, a process was initiated to incorporate the material at the Swedish portal for climate change adaptation, klimatanpassning.se. Quality control of the material and minor changes in the design of the web pages will be carried out during spring 2013. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute will continue to conduct an annual review of the material.

Geotechnical Sector Portal – Main Study

A system for a national data infrastructure that gives access to completed geotechnical investigations, a Geotechnical Sector Portal, has been developed during 2012. Lantmäteriet: the Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land registration Authority has led the work with the participation of Swedish Geotechnical Institute, the Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Transport Administration and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. The portal will be available via the national Geodata Portal and will assist in emergency management by facilitating information sharing and providing situational awareness in support of several agencies. The main study conducted over the year has addressed the technical data infrastructure, organisation, responsibilities and funding. The portal is implemented during 2013 within the responsibility of the Swedish Geotechnical Institute.

Coordinated Testing of Cases of Beach Erosion

The purpose of this activity was to produce a basis for an improved dialogue between conservation and development interests in coastal areas. The Swedish Geotechnical Institute has a government mandate to coordinate issues of beach erosion at authority level, and the issues have been discussed at a meeting of the Authority Network – Beach Erosion, of which several relevant authorities are a part. The basis used was results from a case study in Lomma Municipality on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The result of the meeting will be included in the project's final report and is expected to lead to a greater understanding of the issues that are essential for the sustainable development of coastal areas.

Pilot study on natural hazards and cultural heritage

The Swedish National Heritage Board has conducted a pilot study on cultural heritage and climate and environmental changes, which included natural hazards and disasters. The purpose of the pilot study was to create, within conservation work itself, an awareness of climate and environmental changes and natural hazards and to highlight the importance of cultural and historical values for other authorities. The work of the pilot study was carried out through visits to the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and internal workshops were held at the Swedish National Heritage Board. The focus of the study was placed on heritage risks divided into those for landscape, buildings, collections and archaeological remains. Among the risks that were highlighted were both rapid events, such as floods, landslides and extreme precipitation, as well as slow events such as mildew, pests and greater levels of vegetation. The work was presented in an internal report and will be disseminated externally in the form of an article.

Planning the meeting of researchers, authorities and practitioners

Together with the Centre for Natural Disaster Science (CNDS) at Uppsala University and the Centre for Climate and Safety (CCS) at Karlstad University, MSB has begun planning a joint day about research on the negative consequences of natural events for society. The meeting is intended to be a meeting place for researchers, authority officials and various administrators and experts working at municipalities, county administrative boards and in trade and industry. The meeting is planned for October 2013 in connection with a meeting of the National Platform.

International Cooperation

Cooperation in the Nordic Countries

On 27–28 March, the Secretariat attended the third Nordic annual meeting of platforms and HFA focal points. The meeting took place in Pori, Finland. Representing Karlstad Municipality were Klas Jansson, Chief Executive of Urban Planning and Anna Sjödin, Flood Coordinator. Sweden, Norway, Finland attended as members of the Nordic HFA Network and Estonia attended the meeting as an observer. The meeting was very well organised and yielded a rewarding exchange of experience, where the new Finnish national action programme in particular inspired the participants. At the meeting, an initial exchange also took place between Karlstad Municipality and the City of Pori.

The third Nordic meeting between platforms and HFA focal points was held in Pori, Finland. Participants were from left: Dag Olav Högvold, focal point, DSB, Norway, Åke Svensson, MSB, Sweden, Klas Jansson, Karlstad municipality, Sweden, Janet Edwards, MSB, Sweden, Kristiina Säntti, FMI, Finland, Anna Sjödin, Karlstad municipality, Sweden, Pekka Vuola, Pori municipality, Finland, Taito Vainio, focal point, Ministry of Interior, Finland, Tuuli Raim, Ministry of Interior, Estonia, Mette Lindahl Olsson, focal point, MSB, Sweden.

Cooperation in Europe

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
As part of the planning for the 2012 work of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) and for the third meeting of EFDRR in Croatia in October 2012, Sweden's point of contact Mette Lindahl Olsson attended a meeting with the "Friends of Chair" in Brussels on 24 February.

The third annual meeting of the platforms and HFA focal points was held in September in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Sweden's participants were Mette Lindahl Olsson, Janet Edwards and Åke Svensson, all from MSB, and Anna Hedenström from the Geological Survey of Sweden. The agenda included discussions around post HFA, Peer Review, climate change adaptation, exchange of information and experience. Support for the local level was also developed.

Within the forum, Sweden has for three years led the working group "Information Sharing and Exchanges". Besides Sweden, this group had the participation of UNISDR, Armenia and the European Commission. The working group completed its assignment with a session during the forum. During the meeting, Sweden also joined the working group on the introduction of the HFA at the local level. This group is led by Italy.

Peer Review
At last year's EFDRR meeting, it was proposed that national platforms and national DRR work should be subject to a voluntary external audit, a Peer Review. The United Kingdom announced its interest in being the first country to be evaluated. Sweden was part of the evaluation team along with Finland and Italy. The representative from Sweden and the National Platform was Anna Hedenström of the Geological Survey of Sweden. The European Commission and UNISDR served as Secretariat, and the OECD contributed to the process with its knowledge and experience of evaluations. The quality of the United Kingdom's DRR work under the HFA was surveyed on site. During one week in London, 75 organisations were interviewed. This was followed by two days of field visits to the Met Office in Exeter and the Environment Agency in Bristol. The results of the interviews, field visits and reviewed documents were compiled and analysed in a report structured around the five HFA priorities. In summary, participation in the UK Peer Review has increased knowledge at multiple levels, individual-organisation-evaluation team and between the team and the evaluated country. Participation provided examples of best practice to take home to Sweden's platform and to the Geological Survey of Sweden, but also great personal development and valuable experience of international cooperation.

Anna Hedenström (third from left) of the Geological Servey of Sweden was a member of the Peer Review team to the UK.

The old town of Dubrovnik is on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. Foto: Åke Svensson

Sweden participated in the third meeting with EFDRR in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 1-3 October. To the left Erling Kvernevik, DSB, Norway in discussion with Anna Hedenström, SGU, Sweden and Steven Barnes, focal point, UK.

Foto: Åke Svensson

Cooperation at the Global Level

International Advisory Group for Post HFA
The platform has supported UNISDR's long-term strategic work for the next action programme after 2015. Sweden's HFA point of contact, Mette Lindahl Olsson of MSB is part of the UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG), Margareta Walhström, Advisory Group on the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. 14 persons from different countries, disciplines and organisations are participating in this advisory group.

On 19 –20 March 2012, Mette Lindahl Olsson and Åke Svensson, MSB, and Erika Hedhammar of the Swedish National Heritage Board attended UNISDR's meeting, "Building Cities' Resilience to Disasters: Protecting Cultural Heritage and Adapting to Climate Change" in Venice, Italy.

Study visit from Moldova
In November, MSB arranged a study visit for representatives from Moldova. The study visit aimed to provide Moldova with experience from the work of The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Karlstad Municipality presented its flood management work. The visitors also travelled to MSB's Stockholm office for an insight into the authority's work with operational activities and capacity development.

Review of National Platforms
Through the Secretariat at MSB, Sweden has participated in the global evaluation "Review of National Platforms". The evaluation was designed to identify the opportunities and challenges facing the platforms as well as resources, skills or other factors required to enable national platforms to function well as a coordination mechanism. Sweden and Germany represented Europe in the working group, which also included representatives from Senegal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Ecuador and Mexico.

Along with representatives from countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas, Sweden also participated in the reference group for the evaluation. The final report will be presented in 2013 at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Mette Lindahl Olsson, MSB, Erika Hedhammar, National Heritage Board and Åke Svensson, MSB participated on 19–20 March at the UN ISDR's meeting "Building Cities Resilience to Disasters: Protecting Cultural Heritage and Adapting to Climate Change" in Venice, Italy. Åke Svensson (bottom, left) led one of the sessions during the meeting and Erika Hedhammar participated in a workshop.

Foto: Åke Svensson, Erika Hedhammar

Reporting to UNISDR

Every two years, the countries that have signed the Hyogo Framework for Action, report to UNISDR on how the implementation is progressing. The purpose is to evaluate the countries' progress in the work under the HFA during the period May 2011 to May 2013. The Secretariat issued UNISDR's questions to the Authorities' Network in April. The responses were discussed during the Authorities' Network meeting in May. The survey questions were answered by all authorities and organisations in the platform's Authorities' Network. Sweden's report was signed by MSB Director-General Helena Lindberg and sent to UNISDR in September. Together with the reports of other countries, Sweden's report forms the basis of a regional report for Europe and thereafter a global report. The reports will be presented in 2013.

Economy

MSB has been responsible for the cost of the work of the HFA focal point and the platform's secretariat including administrative costs and general information and communication. The other agencies and organisations in the platform finance their own costs for participation in meetings.

For the fiscal year 2012, the platform's operations (Secretariat and activities) were financed by MSB for SEK 1.1 million. Participating authorities have funded their own time and travel costs. The authorities that hosted Authorities' Network meetings and the Steering Group meeting have paid for the cost of food and drink at these meetings.

Platform activities that are linked with the ordinary responsibilities of one or more authorities are usually funded by those same authorities.

Activities that are initiated within the platform are funded through agreements within the Authorities' Network on a case by case basis, through collaboration with other organisations (in Sweden or abroad) or via participation fees or by emergency management appropriation.

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