





Naturskyddsföreningen

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The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation & (River) Restoration

River University, Västerås 24/8-26

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Today:

- About the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Plenty of water in Sweden!
- Anthropogenic influence
- SSNC and the restoration of rivers, lakes and wetlands





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The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation



Engagement for the environment in more than 100 years

- SSNC is a non-profit environmental organization founded 1909
- More than **200.000 members** – Sweden's **largest** environmental organization
- We are active throughout the country in the form of **270 local associations** (almost one in each municipality)
- All members may **participate** in influencing our work

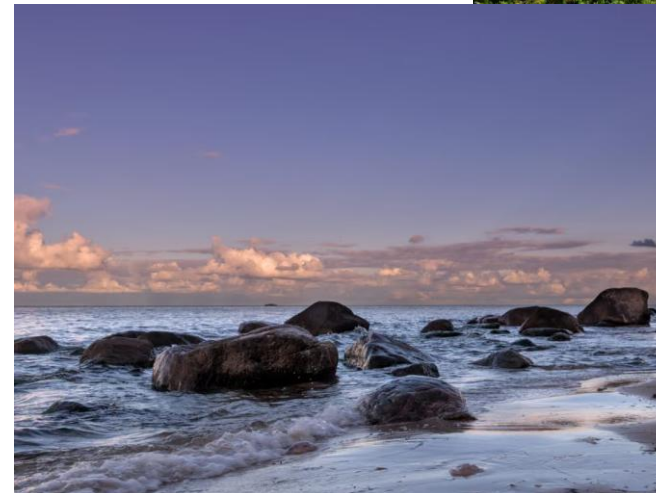
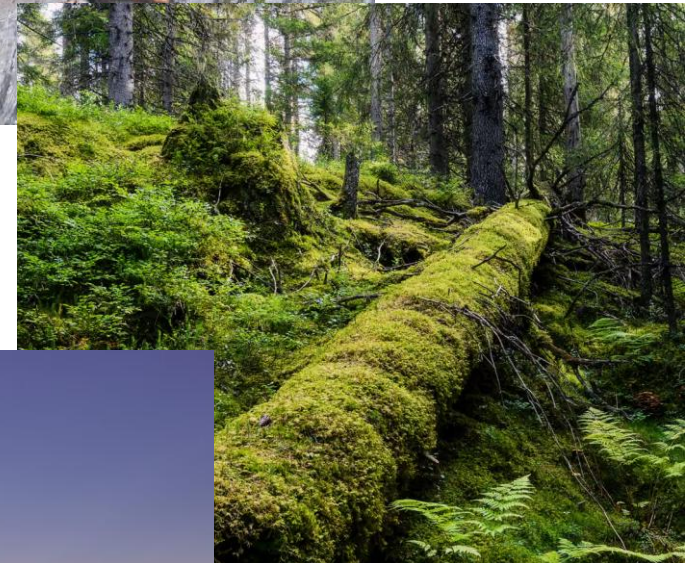




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SSNC has six prioritised areas:

- A rapid and just **climate transition**
- Vibrant and healthy **land-based ecosystems**
- Healthy **waters from source to sea**
- A **non-toxic environment** for healthy ecosystems and humans
- **Environmentally conscious people** in sustainable communities
- A **strong and influential popular movement**





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Our methods

- **Experiencing Nature** – love and respect for nature
- **Engagement** – a broad and inclusive popular movement
- **Advocacy** – current decisions affect future life on the planet
- **Consumer Power** – every action counts
- **Collaboration** – with other organisations etc in order to find sustainable solutions

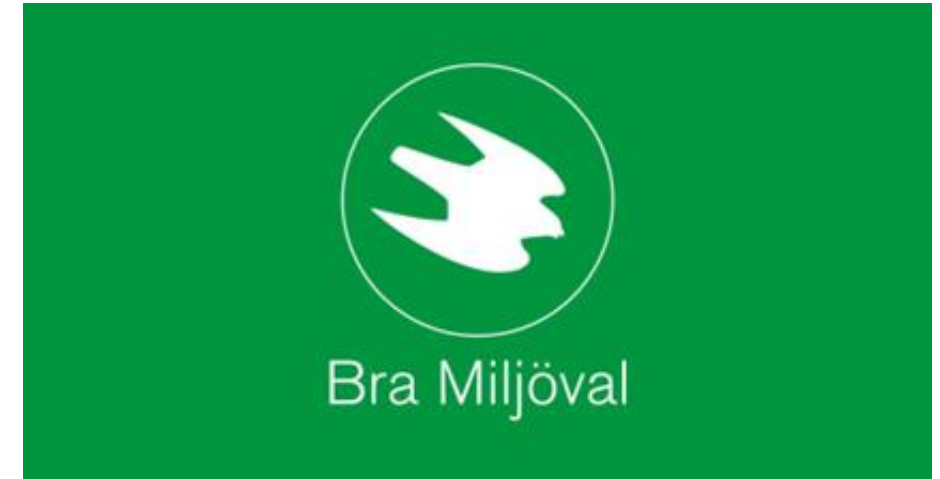




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We have our own environmental label

- **Good Environmental Choice** is an independent eco-label with **tough environmental requirements** that is constantly evolving
- Makes it easier for people to find the products and services that are **least harmful to the environment**
- When 'Good Environmental Choice' labeled electricity is sold it **funds aquatic biodiversity efforts** in running waters affected by hydropower





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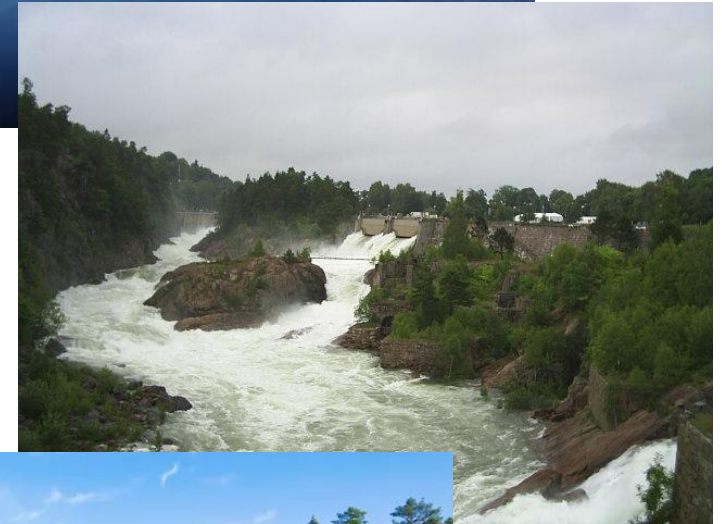
Plenty of water in Sweden

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Many lakes & rivers...

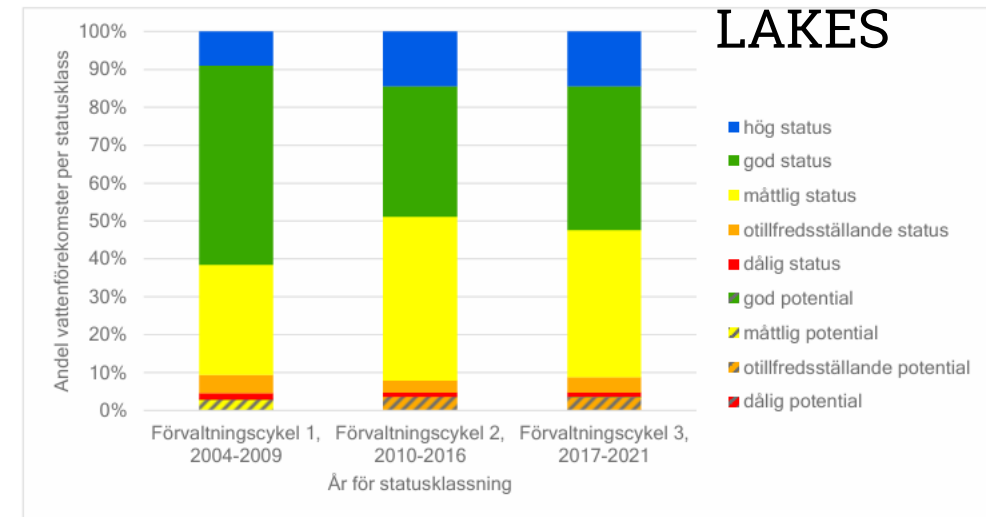
- Sweden is one of the countries in the world with **most lakes** (more than 100,000). They cover almost 9 % of the country's area
- We have more than 50,000 miles of **running water** in Sweden
- Sweden also is one of the most **wetland-rich countries** in the world (although large areas have been drained..)



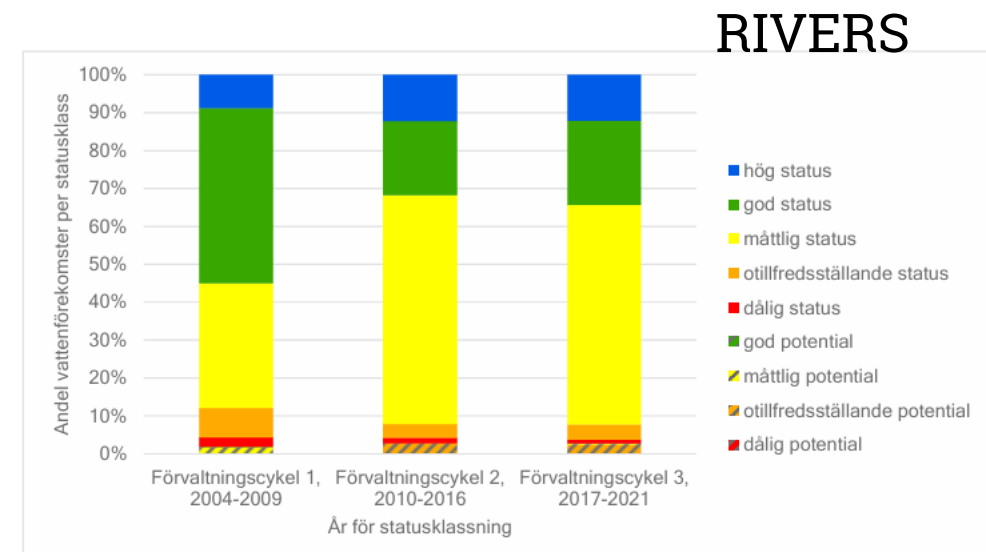


Ecological status

- Around half of the lakes and two thirds of rivers **do not** reach good or high ecological status in Sweden



Figur 1. Statusklassning för ekologisk status/potential för sjöar under vattenförvaltningens tre första förvaltningscykler. Källa: VISS





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Anthropogenic influence

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Meny aquatic environments are affected by human activities

- One of the most important reasons why Swedish rivers do not reach good status is **hydromorphological impact** and lack of connectivity
- We have over **2,000 hydropower plants**. Fish like salmon and trout cannot migrate up the rivers to reproduce
- Also extensive **timber-floating** in Sweden from the early 1800s to the 1980s
 - canalization of rivers, river branches were cut off and boulders and stones were removed





Other types of negative impact...

- **Agriculture** – leakage from fertilization causes eutrophication
- **Environmental pollutants** – pesticides from agriculture, heavy metals and other toxic substances from mines , PFAS from firefighting Foams etc





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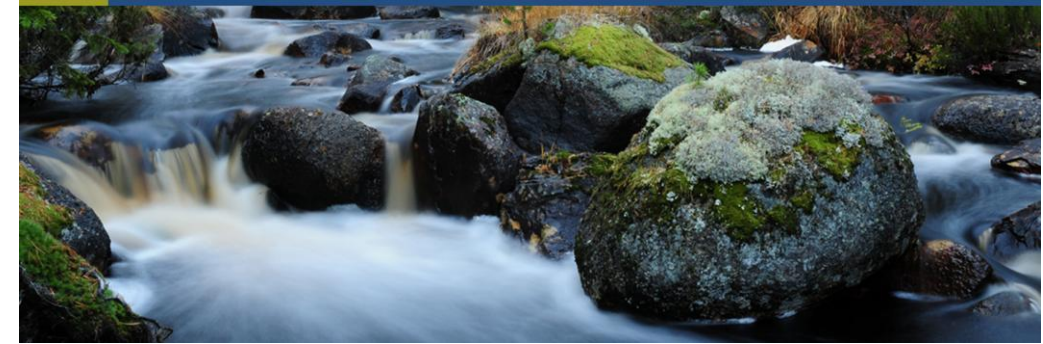
SSNC and the restoration of rivers and lakes

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Restoration of freshwater ecosystems in Sweden

- Important restoration activities already running all over Sweden
- Several major **LIFE projects** are run by the county boards and others to improve connectivity etc in Swedish rivers and streams
- SSNC is involved in several restoration projects



[Rivers of Life](#)

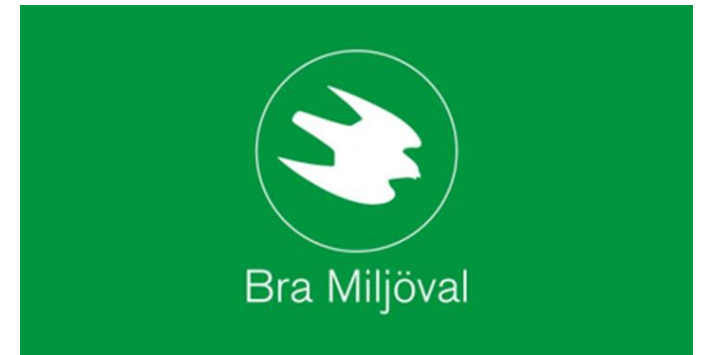


[Good Environmental Choice in River Emån](#)



Restoration projects run by SSNC

- **Good Environmental Choice** – finances measures in running waters affected by **hydropower**
- **Time for wetlands** – we also finance the restoration and construction of wetlands
- **Some examples...**





Trosaån, Södermanland County

- In order to **create free migration routes** between Lake Sillen and the Baltic Sea, Trosa municipality, with the support of the SSNC's environmental fund and others, has **removed three barriers**: Trosa mill, Husby mill and Nygårdssdammen
- For example, at **Nygårdssdammen** (see picture), free migration routes were created by **removing the dam gates** and **adapting the channel** so that **fish migration is possible** even at low water levels





Gräntjärnsdammen in Hammarskogsån, Örebro County

- The dam has been removed, and the running water environment has been
- In addition, biotope management that benefits the **freshwater pearl mussel** (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) has been carried out





Orust, Västra Götalands län

- A new wetland area with a **frog pond** has been created in the agricultural landscape
- In addition, the **modification of a straightened ditch** has been carried out





Mödänge wetland, Bollnäs

- The local associations, together with the municipality and land owner restored a wetland area that had degenerated due to overgrowth
- Today the area is an important area for migrating birds etc...





We are also engaged in restoration on policy level

- We have been a part of **EEB's work** with the Restoration Regulation on EU level
- We have participated in **consultations**
- We have participated in several **dialogue groups** in connection to the authorities work with Sweden's National Restoration Plan (more about this tomorrow...)
- We have been talking to almost all the main political parties in Sweden
- We arranged a national [NRL-conference](#) this spring





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We will continue to work on the restoration plan and with practical restoration together with other organizations

Thank You!

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