

INTENT

Memorandum of Understanding for biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Gothenburg region

Enhanced efforts in biodiversity and ecosystem services are crucial for preventing biodiversity loss and fostering sustainable development in the Gothenburg region. This is a declaration between regional actors, among the business community and academia, designed to facilitate the promotion of biodiversity, enhance citizens' well-being, and support business development. Through commitment, cooperation and knowledge dissemination, we can create a thriving region that promotes prosperous and sustainable development.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expresses a convergence of will, to strengthen and preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, which are central to the health and well-being of both nature and residents. Protecting and developing habitats for plants, animals and people is crucial to address the environmental and climate challenges we face. This requires efforts in many areas including responsible extraction of natural resources, urban planning, long-term ecosystem management, and an increased focus on circular processes. For the business community, this represents an opportunity to attract talent, enhance competitiveness, and meet current and future sustainability challenges. By promoting biodiversity, we create a region where nature, people and organizations can thrive together.

The MOU is between regional actors, such as the city of Gothenburg, the business community, and academia who jointly have agreed to collaborate to protect and promote biodiversity in the Gothenburg region. With a local focus, yet with a commitment to global responsibility, this creates opportunities to develop tools for goal fulfillment both at the stakeholder level and for the Gothenburg region as a whole. This MoU expires end of 2030.

The Purpose

Partners signing this understanding are committed to increase knowledge and enable actions to support biodiversity and ecosystem services. This is achieved by:

- Bringing together actors with control over biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Gothenburg region.
- Increasing efforts to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Collaborating to create the best possible conditions for achieving goals within the scope of this understanding.
- Raising awareness, knowledge, and engagement for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Creating processes to share best practices and offer guidance among the partners hereto.
- Creating conditions for more businesses and job opportunities where biodiversity and ecosystem services are prioritized.

Overall Content

The partners involved in this MoU for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services agree to create a powerful tool for achieving ambitions together and want to be role models in the field. The partners have stewardship over certain biodiversity in the Gothenburg region and together manage a significant portion of the region's total area. We therefore agree to:

- Invent and improve biodiversity and ecosystem services on our properties, prioritizing biodiversity by adhering to the consideration hierarchy in connection with operations, renovations, and new establishments.
- Jointly work to increase actions for the restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Collaboratively develop and strengthen cooperation among different stakeholders to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- Work together to ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem services become a prioritized area at the management level within our organizations.
- Establish internal networks and disseminate knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as share experiences, including lessons learned from both successes and failures.
- Annually share progress and results related to chosen ambitions and monitor key indicators on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Methodically work with quantifiable goals that contribute to real improvements in biodiversity and ecosystem services.

For definitions related to the above text, see Appendix 1 (which contains definitions of concepts such as biodiversity, ecosystem services, and sustainable development). An action plan for the MoU, for the parties to agree on, will also be

We who sign this MoU agree to work in accordance with the meaning of it.

Appendix 1 (version 2025-01-20)

Definitions

Biodiversity

The variety of living organisms in all environments, as well as the ecological complexes of which these organisms are a part. It includes the genetic variation among individuals within a species, variation between different species, and between different types of ecosystems.

Translated from <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/biodiversity>

Ecosystem Services

All the products and services that ecosystems provide to humans. They are usually categorized into regulatory, provisioning, and cultural services. Examples of ecosystem services include the regulatory ability of ecosystems to purify air, regulate climate, prevent floods, provision by producing food and drinking water, and cultural by providing opportunities for recreation and experiences. When assessing ecosystem services, it must be considered that what constitutes a service can be perceived and valued differently by different people. To reflect a broader understanding of what humans receive from nature, the term “nature’s benefits” is now used in international work and agreements.

Translated from <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/ecosystem-service>

Sustainable Development

The definition of sustainable development is based on the Brundtland Report:

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Our Common Future (Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future)

Sustainable development is also defined by the agenda 2030 document with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and associated 169 targets:

The goals are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In the event of inconsistencies of interpretation, the English text shall be determinative.