

Barents Forest Sector Network

Swedish chairmanship

Oct 2017 - Oct 2019

Priorities for the Swedish Chairmanship of BEAC 2017-2019

- **Regional development for the future**

Focus will be on Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Accord and on how regional cooperation can contribute to a sustainable and equitable future for the Barents region.

- **A stronger and more visible Barents cooperation**

It is important that the Barents-Euro Arctic Council successfully communicates its work to demonstrate the relevance of the organisation. During its Chairmanship, Sweden will prioritise communication and structural issues.

Overarching theme for the chairmanship

The forests' role and opportunities to meet key challenges and contribute to the development of a sustainable society in the Barents region.

Strategy suggestions - long term (4-10 years)

- Identify long-term themes and focus areas for the BSFN which could last for a longer period during the rotations of BSFN chairmanship.
- Strengthen cooperation with other organizations, forums and platforms and strengthening cooperation at regional level.
- The objective is to achieve a balanced and coherent view on forests as well as on products and services they provide to meet key challenges and contribute to the development of a sustainable society in the Barents region.

Strategy suggestions – short term (1-4 years)

- Coordinate the chairmanship rotations with next incoming country.
- Continue to take an active role in the formulation and implementation of the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents region (Barents 2050 study). Our focus in the Action plan should be on forest adaption to climate change, forest -based Bioeconomy and climate change mitigation.
- Continue support to the Working Group for Economic Cooperation (WGEC) in the development of a common Bioeconomy strategy for the Barents region.
- Possible input to the meetings of the NCM - and Circumboreal Ministerial meeting in Sweden in June 2018. Possibilities for a minister statement on forest and forestry in the Barents region should be explored

Barents Forest Sector Network meetings

The intention is to arrange all (two to three) meetings in the Swedish geographical Barents region as part of the efforts to strengthen the cooperation on regional level. Possible meeting places with good accessibility for international travel: Luleå, Umeå, Skellefteå, Piteå.

The following meetings are envisaged during the Swedish chairmanship:

- Forest Network meeting in Sweden, tentatively May 2018 (if possible in northern Sweden).
 - Forest Forum in Sweden, tentatively in September 2019 (Umeå), coordination / collaboration with SLU/NCM/SNS/EFINORD.
 - In addition Sweden could organize an intermediate meeting possibly in conjunction with another WG, e.g. WGEC (RWGIEC); WGE (RWGE), or in conjunction to activities under the Barents Climate Change AP.
 - ~~Skype?~~
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