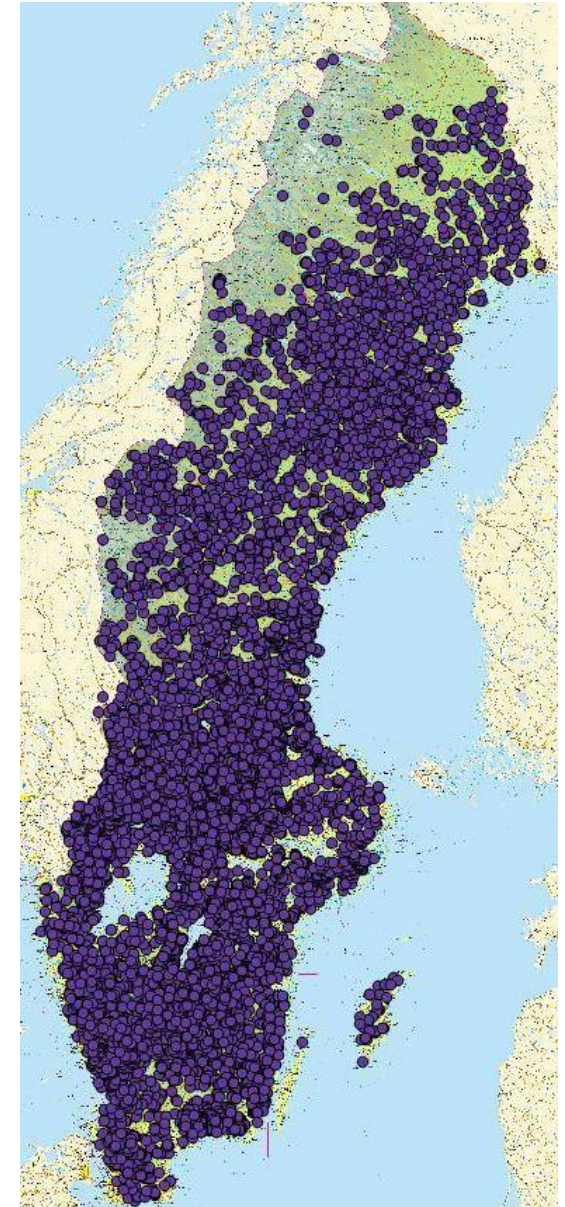
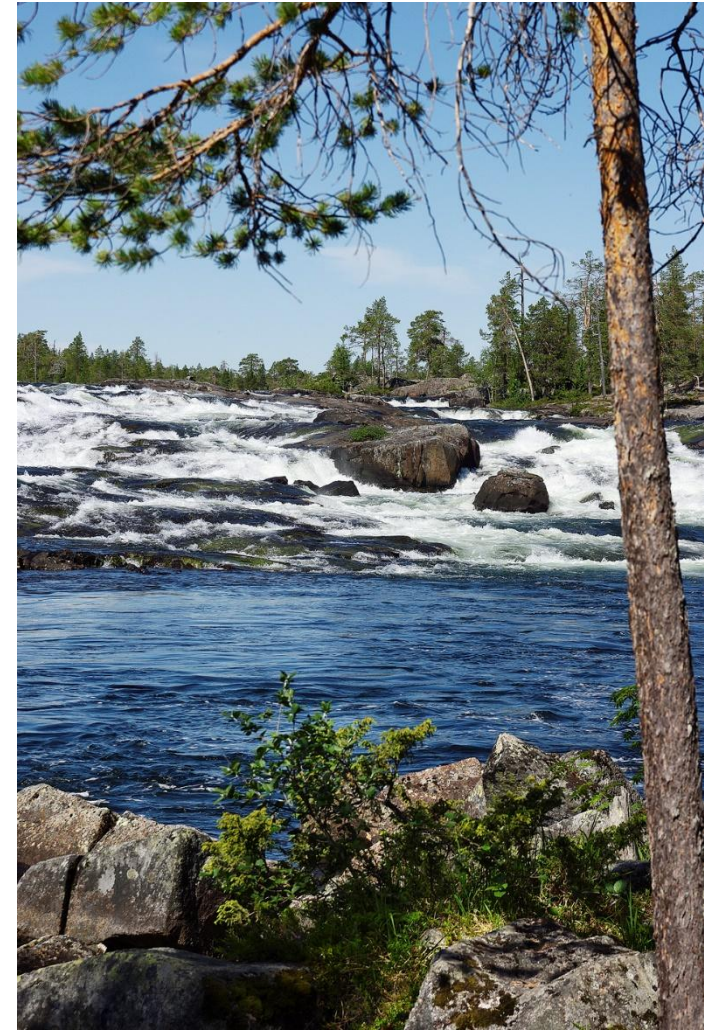


About "National Rivers" in Sweden

- **River Savers' Association, umbrella organization for groups against Hydro Power exploitation, formed in 1974**
- **12 000 + dams in Sweden, most often abandoned or without operations**
- **Around 3 800 dams connected to Hydro Power plants**
- **4 "National rivers", protected against HP exploitation, all in the north of Sweden**
- **Why?**



- **Big scale HP establishment started 1909 in Sweden Sweden had started towards industrialization.**
- **Not environmentally remarked until the 1960:s.**
- **The plans for Vindelälven (Vindel river) 700 km north of Stockholm was the starting point for resistance against HP exploitation, the government stopped the plans spring 1970.**
- **Local groups where founded to fight against other exploitation plans, 1974 our organization Älvräddarnas Samorganisation (Rives Savers´ Association) was established.**
- **The battle for our remaining rivers, free flowing or not, went on during 1970:s- end of 1980:s.**
- **River Savers´ participated in several governmental commissions over the same period of time.**



- **A national exploitation plan was formed where HP should contribute with 66 TWh of electrical energy.**
- **Which rivers should be exploited or which to be saved was the ongoing question.**
- **Formal protection from HP exploitation started in the 1980:s for certain rivers and parts of rivers.**
- **All formalized in our present environmental act from 1998.**
- **But already 1992 the name “National Rivers” was stated in our parliament.**
- **4 rivers; Torne river (at the border of Finland), Kalix River, Pite river and Vindel River stated as “National Rivers”, all in the north of Sweden.**
- **Several other rivers and stretches also protected under the same paragraph in the environmental act.**



My conclusions

- +
 - **A prohibition for building HP plants or divert water for HP to other rivers**
 - **Values of scenic views and other parameters as well as biodiversity, fishing and science research has become parts of public policy and law.**
- - **Exceptions for refurbishing existent HP plants.**
 - **New HP possible if proven environmentally safe. Application processes are open due to the legal frame of the full environmental act, which often leads to legal procedures of long duration (decades).**
 - **No protection against other exploitation projects as mining, lodging etcetera.**



Thank you!



Christer Borg, Secretary General River Savers' Association 2022-11-29

