Action plan

The action plan details the steps and timelines essential for the effective implementation of policy recommendations outlined in the Country sinthesis report for Sweden - October 2025

Level	Policy Area	Recommendation	Concrete Action(s)	Lead Actor(s)	Supporting Partners	Timeframe (high level)	Expected Output(s)
National	Strategic planning and monitoring	Embed island-sensitive approaches in national rural and regional strategies.	(1) Develop a dedicated Island chapter In Sweden's Rural Development Strategy; (2) create a coordination unit under the Prime Minister's Office; (3) co-develop performance indicators with Statistics Sweden (SCB) for island policy monitoring / facilitate a harmonised framework to link Island KPI data with decision-making; (4) Tailor environmental policy to island contexts, e.g. embeding	Ministry of Climate and Enterprise (Klimat- och näringslivsdepartementet), Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure (Landsbygds- och infrastrukturdepartementet)	Prime Minister's Office (Statsrådsberedningen), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), Statistics Sweden (SCB), County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna), Regional Councils, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR/SKR)	design, cross-ministerial consultation, and piloting the coordination mechanism before the	National strategy integrating island- specific goals (e.g. Rural strategy chapter, island dashboard); functional coordination office; set of agreed KPIs; baseline data report.
National	Strategic planning and monitoring	Build planning capacity for long-term, integrated development in islands	(1) Establish a national planning support programme with a suite of foresight tools; (2) offer training in scenario planning, evidence-based decision-making, and intersectoral coordination to island municipalities.	National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket)	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR/SKR), County Administrative boards, Swedish universities (e.g., Uppsala, SLU), National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), island municipalities.	0-4 years (four-year timeline for rolling out across at least 10 island municipalities, including pilot testing and institutionalisation of tools)	Municipalities equipped with long-term, integrated strategic plans; planning toolkit adapted for island contexts
National	Economic competitivene ss	Foster innovation ecosystems for island SMEs	for island economic resilience and innovation; (2) Establish innovation hubs on selected islands - supporting incubator services for tourism, blue economy, digital services, and crafts; (3) provide seed grants and mentoring programmes (4)	Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket)	Almi Business Partner (Almi Företagspartner), Swedish Incubators & Science Parks (SISP), universities, regional business development bodies, Business Sweden, municipalities/regions	0-3 years (allows design, implementation, and evaluation of incubator models across 4–5 pilot islands.)	Operational innovation hubs in islands; new SMEs supported;
National	Economic competitivene ss	Equip local populations with skills for the future economy	(1) Develop modular, in-island training programmes aligned to key sectors (e.g. tourism, construction, green tech); (2) establish apprenticeship pathways and blended learning platforms.	National Agency for Education (Skolverket), National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYH), Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen)		0-3 years (a 2–3 year rollout enables partnership building and embedding new curricula within local institutions)	New curricula
National	Infrastructure & Connectivity	Prioritise island infrastructure in national investment planning	(1) Establish an Island Infrastructure Envelope within the national transport and broadband strategies; (2) introduce mandatory island impact assessments in regional infrastructure planning.	Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), Post & Telecom Authority (PTS)	Swedish Transport Agency (Transportstyrelsen) , Swedish Maritime Administration (Sjöfartsverket), DIGG (digital public infra), regional transport authorities, municipalities, private operators/telcos	4-6 years (for budget programming, planning, procurement, and construction for key ferry and broadband upgrades)	Improved ferry reliability, broadband coverage, and multimodal transport hubs;
National		Promote land use coordination across levels of government	(1) Fund pilot projects using digital twin tools; (2) create guidelines for environmentally sustainable zoning across islands; (3) establish crossmunicipal land use taskforces.	National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket),	County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna), municipalities, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket), SwAM (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (HaV)), Swedish Geotechnical Institute (SGI)/SGU, Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket)	0-2 years (to pilot and evaluate planning tools in	Harmonised land use plans that incorporate climate resilience, tourism pressures, and water resource constraints.

National	Environment and green transition	adaptation and resilience planning	(1) Fund municipal climate risk assessments and adaptation plans (via establishing regional advisory units); (2) integrate climate resilience into land-use and water policies; (3) co-develop island-relevant metrics of environmental performance (e.g. localised ecological footprint and seasonal pressure tracking)	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna)		0-3 years (e.g. for capacity building, plan development, and pilot implementation across 8–10 island municipalities).	Local adaptation plans aligned with national strategies
National	Environment and green transition	sustainability into public investment and tourism.	(1) Develop green public procurement guidelines; (2) introduce sustainability standards for island tourism operators; (3) Launch a national Island Green Transition Facility to co-finance renewable and circular economy initiatives	Swedish Agency for Economic and		0-3 years (for pilot implementation and refinement of standards).	Guidelines, standards and facilitation facilities
National	Multilevel Governance	coordination platform for island development	(1) Launch an Island Development Forum chaired by [the Prime Minister's Office??]; (2)institutionalise biannual policy dialogues with municipalities, regions, SALAR/SKR, and agencies; (3) develop shared priorities and monitor progress.	Ministry of Climate and Enterprise (Klimat- och näringslivsdepartementet), Ministry of Rural Affairs & Infrastructure		design, legal set-up, and integration into the	Institutionalised intergovernmental platform; harmonised strategic goals for island development;
National	Multilevel Governance	capacity for cross-municipal	develop regional frameworks for shared services (e.g. waste, transport,	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket)		0-3 years (e.g. for piloting, capacity building, and scaling).	Operational island clusters;
	planning and	Co-design development strategies aligned with national goals	to develop integrated local strategies: e.g. providing technical assistance, guidance documents, and tailored planning tools; (2) Update local development plans with measurable KPIs and cross-sector goals; (3) Adopt Comprehensive Plans that align with national frameworks while reflecting local characteristics and priorities		Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket); National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket); County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna) (Länsstyrelser); Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR/SKR)		Island municipalities with operational, multi-sectoral strategies embedded in regional plans
	planning and	guide and monitor island	(1) Develop an Island KPI Dashboard for use by municipalities and national	RKA/Kolada, Statistics Sweden (SCB), Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR/SKR)	_	0-2 years (KPI frameworks designed and piloted in two years).	Consistent, disaggregated indicators

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. `	Economic competitivene ss	Improve youth attraction / retention through training	(1) Deploy mobile VET centres and blended learning models; (2) strengthen school-to-work links	Regions (Regioner) and Municipalities (Kommuner), MYH (Higher Vocational Education Agency)	Arbetsförmedlingen; local employers/clusters; National Agency for Education (Skolverket); YH providers/universities	0-3 years (for curriculum design, platform setup, and delivery).	Training offering more aligned to Island needs
Subnationa I (all islands)		Improve coordination of infrastructure investments	(1) Align regional transport plans with island mobility needs; (2) include island-specific priorities in broadband and ferry schedules; (3) formalise coordination with Trafikverket.	Regional Transport Authorities	Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket); Swedish Maritime Administration (Sjöfartsverket); municipalities; County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna), PTS	0-5 years (infrastructure projects follow multiyear cycles; five years allow integration and rollout).	Formalised Coordination mechanisms
Subnationa I (all islands)	Infrastructure & Connectivity	Strengthen integrated land use	(1) update zoning plans with environmental data (supported by National Agencies); (2) use (national) funding for digital twin and GIS platforms; (3) promote inter-municipal planning	Municipalities (Kommuner)	National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket); County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna); Regions (Regioner); Lantmäteriet	0-3 years (for tool adaptation, piloting, and training)	Resilient, coordinated spatial plans responsive to climate and demographic pressures.
•	Environment and green transition	Support resilience and biodiversity planning.	(1) Establish resilience hubs in regions covering island municipalities; (2) develop community-based biodiversity plans.	Regions (Regioner), County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna)	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB); Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket); Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI); municipalities; Water Authorities (Vattenmyndigheterna via CABs)	0-3 years (multi-year support needed to mainstream resilience into planning).	Operational resilience plans
l (all	Environment and green transition	Promote local experimentation	(1) Use pilot projects; (2) facilitate local grants to explore decentralised energy, circular economy, and nature regeneration; (3) Complement with community grants for green infrastructure and ecosystem restoration.	Municipalities (Kommuner)	Vinnova; Energimyndigheten; RISE; Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket); Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket); local NGOs/businesses	Permanent change	Experimental policy approach by more entrepreneurial local authorities
l (all		Align local environmental actions with national frameworks	(1) adopt nature-based solutions and climate resilience measures; (2) incorporate ecological carrying capacity into tourism and housing policies; (3) develope island-specific climate adaptation plans.	Municipalities (Kommuner)	County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna); Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket); Regions (Regioner); National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket); Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI)	0-3 years (for consultation ,design)	Local adaptation plans aligned with national strategies
l (all	Environment and green transition	Address tourism-related environmental pressures.	(1) Create carrying capacity assessments; (2) introduce tourist flow management tools and environmental fee systems.	Municipalities (Kommuner), Regions (Regioner)	Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket); County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna); destination organisations/Visit Sweden (Visit Sweden); Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket)	0-3 years (initial reforms can be introduced and assessed within two years).	Sustainable tourism plans

Multilevel Governance	Strengthen island municipal voices	(1) establish annual national consultation events, (2) Set up digital policy feedback tools for island municipalities.	Authorities, Regions (Regioner),	Regions (Regioner); County Administrative Boards (Länsstyrelserna); Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket); island municipal networks	Permanent change (e.g. annual events)	Institutionalised island dialogue;
Multilevel Governance	Build inter-island cooperation	(1) Facilitate inter-island partnerships for shared services, knowledge exchange, and joint lobbying.			III_3 vagre (nilot cluetare to davalon and ecala)	At least X (4?) operational inter-island cooperation frameworks
	Consolidate Gotland's strategic framework and implementation capacity	implementation board to align planning and delivery; (2) integrate KPIs linked to island development into all strategic	Region Gotland, County Administrative Board of Gotland	Ministry of Rural Affairs and infrastructure, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR/SKR)	0-2 years (e.g. to establish new governance architecture and harmonise plans).	Integrated development strategy with delivery oversight and results monitoring framework.
Strategic planning and monitoring	Expand foresight capacity for evidence-based planning.	(1) Reinforce a foresight unit within Region Gotland to conduct scenario analysis, horizon scanning, and strategic evaluations.	Region Gotland	Tillväxtanalys, Vinnova, RISE, Uppsala University – Campus Gotland, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/SKR))/Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/SKR)	0-3 years (for setup that allows capacity building and integration into policy cycles).	Regular foresight reports;
Economic competitivene ss	Diversify the local economy with sectoral incubators	(1) Create incubators in key sectors (e.g. green energy, creative industries, local food); (2) offer start-up grants and scale-up support	Region Gotland	Science Park Gotland, Almi, Vinnova, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), Business Sweden		Increased new firm creation;
Economic competitivene ss	Strengthen education- business alignment	(1) Create local VET councils; (2) align school curricula with business needs; (3) support apprenticeship and dual education models.	Region Gotland	MYH, Arbetsförmedlingen, National Agency for Education (Skolverket), Uppsala University–Campus Gotland, employer associations	•	Stronger local talent pipeline.
		(i) Implement dual water systems for households; (2) expand rainwater collection and wastewater reuse; (3) embed conservation in zoning codes.	Region Gotland	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (HaV), SGU, Naturvårdsverket, National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), Svenskt Vatten, Länsstyrelsen		More resilient urban and tourism water supply systems
Infrastructure & Connectivity	Improve multimodal transport connectivity	(1) redesign ferry coordination hubs; (2) improve inland public transport links; (3) introduce integrated ticketing systems??	Region Gotland	Swedish Transport Agency (Transportstyrelsen), Swedish Maritime Administration (Sjöfartsverket), Destination Gotland, Swedavia, CMP/Port of Visby	Multiyear coordination and procurement cycle.	Increased transport reliability and passenger satisfaction;
and green		(1) establish a Gotland Climate Board with cross-departmental mandates; (2) prepare a dedicated adaptation plan with budget and targets.	Region Gotland		adaptation into all major planning processes)	Integrated adaptation planning and governance; mainstreamed risk mitigation.
	Multilevel Governance Strategic planning and monitoring Strategic planning and monitoring Economic competitivene ss Infrastructure & Connectivity Infrastructure & Connectivity	Multilevel Governance Build inter-island cooperation Strategic planning and monitoring Strategic planning and monitoring Expand foresight capacity for evidence-based planning. Economic competitivene ss Economic competitivene ss Economic competitivene ss Address Gotland's water scarcity through smart infrastructure and conservation. Infrastructure & Connectivity Infrastructure & Connectivity Environment and green transition Institutionalise local climate adaptation governance	Multilevel Governance Build inter-island cooperation Strategic planning and monitoring Strategic planning and monitoring Expand foresight capacity for evidence-based planning. Economic competitivene ss Etrengthen education-business alignment Address Gotland's water scarcity through smart infrastructure and conservation. Enfirastructure scarcity through smart such conservation. Infrastructure scarcity through smart conservation. Infrastructure infrastructure and conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure la conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure scarcity through smart conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure la conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure and conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure la conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure and conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure and conservation in zoning codes. Infrastructure and conservation in zoning codes. Institutionalise local climate adaptation and analytics, 20 improve inland public transport links; (3) introduce integrated ticketing systems??	Multilevel Governance Strengthen Island municipal events, (2) Set up digital policy feedback tools for Island municipalities. Multilevel Governance Build inter-island cooperation Multilevel Governance Build inter-island cooperation Strategic Governance Consolidate Gotland's planning and monitoring Interest from the planning and delivery; (2) integrate KPIs linked to Island development into all strategic class. Expand foresight capacity for evidence-based planning. Expand foresight capacity for evidence-based planning. Interest from the planning from the planning and delivery; (2) integrate KPIs linked to Island development into all strategic class. (1) Reinforce a foresight unit within Region Gotland to conduct scenario analysis, horizon scanning, and strategic evaluations. (1) Create incubators in key sectors (e.g. green energy, creative industries, local group grants and scale up support into all strategic evaluations. Strategic planning and development into all strategic evaluations. Strengthen education-business alignment and green planning and development into all strategic evaluations. (1) Create incubators in key sectors (e.g. green energy, creative industries, local group grants and scale up support into all strategic evaluations. (1) Create incubators in key sectors (e.g. green energy, creative industries, local grant grants and scale up support grants and sc	Multilevel Governance voices Strengthen island municipal covers, [2] Set up digital policy feedback of tools for island municipalities. (1) setablish annual antional consultation severs, [2] Set up digital policy feedback of tools for island municipalities. (2) Seturation of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR/SKR) and Regions (SALAR/SKR	Strengthen island municipal Governance In Control of the Internation of Control Governance In Control of the Internation of Control Governance In Control Strategic Berning and Governance In Control Strategic Berning and Governance In Control Strategic Berning and Governance In Control Govern

	-	'	(1) Design biodiversity corridors; (2) apply ecosystem services valuation in land use and tourism planning.	Region Gotland	Naturvårdsverket, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (HaV), Skogsstyrelsen, Jordbruksverket, Länsstyrelsen, academia/NGOs		Land use policies aligned with biodiversity goals;
Gotland	Multilevel Governance	Use Gotland as a testbed for national island-sensitive policies	(1) Launch pilot projects under national frameworks (e.g. rural broadband, green procurement); (2) evaluate outcomes for national scaling.	Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure (Landsbygds- och infrastrukturdepartementet), Ministry of Climate and Enterprise (Klimat- och näringslivsdepartementet)	Vinnova, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), Energimyndigheten, Naturvårdsverket, Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), Swedish Transport Agency (Transportstyrelsen), Swedavia, Upphandlingsmyndigheten, Region Gotland	0-3 years (that allows time to pilot, monitor, and report back to national institutions.)	Documented best practices;
Gotland	Multilevel Governance	Enhance participatory governance and civic engagement	(1) Launch digital democracy platforms; (2) host regular citizen panels on transport, energy, and housing.	Region Gotland	DIGG, MUCF, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/SKR))/Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/SKR), local media/CSOs	Permanent change - but requires 18–24 months for platform design, outreach, and piloting	Citizen involvement in local development planning
	Strategic planning and monitoring		(1) Set up municipal planning team specialised in strategic foresight; (2) deliver foresight training to staff; (3) implement GIS-based planning systems.	Öckerö Municipality		0-2 years (enough for 18–24 months for	Improved strategic planning capacity and anticipatory policymaking within the municipality.
		Boost SME development (e.g. in the marine and tourism sectors)		Öckerö Municipality, Business Region Göteborg	Almi Business Partner (Almi Företagspartner) Väst, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), Västsvenska Handelskammaren, Turistrådet Västsverige (West Sweden Tourist Board), Region Västra Götaland, Vinnova, Coompanion		Better support on the ground for new business creation
Öckerö	Economic competitivene ss	nathways	(1) Expand collaboration between local schools and marine/tourism industries; (2) offer internships and skill-building projects.	Öckerö Municipality	Arbetsförmedlingen, Region Västra Götaland, Myndigheten för yrkeshögskolan (MYH), National Agency for Education (Skolverket), local employers & vocational schools, Chalmers / University of Gothenburg	ISCHOOI-INGUSITY COORDINATION AND DITOL	Training offering more aligned to Island needs
Öckerö		and intermodal coordination	systems; (2) integrate terry and bus	Öckerö Municipality, Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) Färjerederiet, Västtrafik	Region Västra Götaland, Swedish Transport Agency (Transportstyrelsen), Länsstyrelsen Västra Götaland, Swedish Maritime Administration (Sjöfartsverket)	Permanent change - but requires time to adapt with ferry coordination requiring inter-agency planning and infrastructure upgrades.	Reduced wait times; higher reliability

		Align housing development with local land capacity	(1) Introduce zoning restrictions aligned with carrying capacity; (2) incentivise year-round housing with tax breaks; (3) design guidelines.	Öckerö Municipality	National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), Länsstyrelsen Västra Götalands län, Öckerö Bostads AB / private developers, Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) (state roads interface), Havs- och vattenmyndigheten	U-2 years to review zoning plans and introduce incentive packages	Balanced housing development respecting environmental and infrastructure limits.
	Environment and green transition	Embed climate resilience in	(1) Conduct a vulnerability assessment; (2) update local infrastructure codes to reflect sea-level rise and extreme weather risks.	Öckerö Municipality	Länsstyrelsen Västra Götalands län, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), Naturvårdsverket	, , ,	Resilient infrastructure plans reducing long-term climate risk
Öckerö	Environment and green transition	Implement eco-friendly tourism practices.	(1) Introduce tourist capacity caps in sensitive areas; (2) develop a sustainability labelling system for accommodations and services.	Öckerö Municipality	Turistrådet Västsverige, Visit Sweden (Visit Sweden), Länsstyrelsen Västra Götaland, Naturvårdsverket, Havs- och vattenmyndigheten, local tourism businesses & associations	0-2 years e.g. for labelling and cap systems.	Reduced pressure on natural assets
Ockerö	Multilevel Governance		(1) Secure Öckerö's inclusion in key regional development platforms; (2) formalise liaison units with Västra Götaland.	Öckerö Municipality	Region Västra Götaland, Göteborgsregionen (GR), Länsstyrelsen Västra Götaland, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/SKR)	, <i>,</i>	Stronger island representation in regional decision-making.
Ockerö	Multilevel Governance	budgeting for community	(1) Allocate part of the municipal budget to citizen-voted projects; (2) run annual participatory budgeting cycles with digital tools.	Öckerö Municipality	DIGG (Agency for Digital Government), Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Regioner) (SALAR/SKR), local civil society organisations and associations, schools & libraries (outreach partners)	0-2 years but needs multiple annual cycles to	More transparent budgeting;