

*Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity*

*Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.*

Contracting Party:	Norway
<b>National Focal Point</b>	
Full name of the institution:	The Royal Norwegian Ministry of the Environment
Name and title of contact officer:	Ms. Tone Solhaug, Adviser
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 8013 Dep. N-0030 Oslo, Norway
Telephone:	+ 47 22 24 59 54
Fax:	+ 47 22 24 27 56
E-mail:	<b><u>tone.solhaug@md.dep.no</u></b>
<b>Contact officer for national report (if different)</b>	
Full name of the institution:	Directorate for Nature Management
Name and title of contact officer:	Mr. Svein Terje Båtvik, Adviser
Mailing address:	N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
Telephone:	+ 47 73 58 08 03
Fax:	+ 47 73 58 05 01
E-mail:	<b><u>svein-t.batvik@dirnat.no</u></b>
<b>Submission</b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	Mr. Ove Hokstad, Adviser (Ministry of the Environment)  Tel: +47 22 24 58 34 Fax: +47 22 24 27 56  <b><u>ove.hokstad@md.dep.no</u></b>
Date of submission:	30.05.2003

*Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.*

The Ministry of Environment has, in a letter of August 8, 2002, given to the Directorate for Nature Management (DN) the responsibility to follow up key decisions taken by COP 6 under CBD, and in particular to contribute to the various National Reports requested by COP 6.

DN is the national authority for protected areas and the Nature Conservation Act, and for the specific thematic Report on Protected Areas DN has involved the relevant departments of the Directorate, as well as consulted various relevant publications on the theme. It has not been considered necessary to formally involve other ministries in this work, other than collecting relevant information through telephone and e-mail.

The Ministry of Environment has taken the responsibility to coordinate various contributions to the thematic reports.

Most of the relevant literature on this topic, and cited in the information below, is in Norwegian language only (including white papers and action plans). This literature might be sent to the Secretariat on request. As far as possible, we have included addresses to actual pages on the internet where the documentation can be found.

**Additional information regarding Norwegian nature management can be obtained at:**  
**<http://www.environment.no/templates/themepage.aspx?id=2122>**

**Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity**

**System of protected areas**

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					X
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken					
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					X

**Regulatory framework**

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents					X
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets					X

2d. A national system of protected areas has been in place since a white paper in 1980-81 (ref. Report to the Storting no. 68 (1980-81): Protection of Norwegian Nature) for the first time gave an integrated perspective on the nature protection policy in Norway. This white paper still provides the general basis for the conservation work that is being undertaken in Norway.

However, the goals for protecting natural areas have later been followed up and developed through a number of white papers, e.g.:

- Report to the Storting no. 46 (1988-89): Environment and Development: the Norwegian follow-up of the Report from the World Commission on Environment and Development

- Report to the Storting no. 62 (1991-92): New National Plan for National Parks and other larger Protected Areas in Norway

- Report to the Storting no. 13 (1992-93): On the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro

- Report to the Storting no. 40 (1994-95): Expansion of the Protection of Coniferous Forests towards the Year 2000

- Report to the Storting no. 58 (1996-97): Environmental Policy for a Sustainable Development. Joint Efforts for the Future (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022005-040003/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

- Report to the Storting no. 43 (1998-99): Protection and Use of the Coastal Zone (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022005-040005/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

- Report to the Storting no. 8 (1999-2000): The Environmental Policy of the Government and the State of the Environment in Norway (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022005-040006/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

- Report to the Storting no. 33 (1999-2000): Supplementary Report to St.m. no. 8 (1999-2000) on the Environmental Policy of the Government and the State of the Environment in Norway (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022001-040005/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

- Report to the Storting no. 24 (2000-01): The Environmental Policy of the Government and the State of the Environment in Norway (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022001-040006/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

- Report to the Storting no. 42 (2000-01): Biological Diversity. Sector Responsibility and Coordination (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022001-040007/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

- Report to the Storting no. 12 (2001-02): A Clean and Rich Ocean (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022001-040013/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

3d. A number of thematic assessments have been undertaken, e.g. on forests (ref. Framstad, E., Økland B., Bendiksen, E., Bakkestuen, V., Blom, H. & Brandrud, T.E. 2002. Assessment of forest protection in Norway. – NINA Fagrappport 54: 1-146. (In Norwegian, but with an abstract in English.)

To some degree, assessments of national parks and other larger protected areas in Norway can be found in the Report to the Storting no. 62 (1991-92; ref. above), an assessment of forest protection, in addition to the report mentioned above, in the Report to the Storting no. 40 (1994-95; ref. above), assessments of marine and coastal zone protection in the Reports to the Storting no. 43 (1998-99) and no. 12 (2001-02; refs. above). However, the most general assessments of protected areas in Norway can be found in the “State of the Environment” reports in Norway, which can be found in the Reports to the Storting no. 8 (1999-2000) and no. 24 (2001-02; refs. above). A new Norwegian “State of the Environment” will be published as a Report to the Storting now in 2003.

4d. The legislative basis for the establishment and management of protected areas in Norway can be found in the “Nature Conservation Act” of 1970 with later amendments. This Act has also been translated into English (ref. “Act of 19 June 1970 No. 63 concerning Nature Conservation, as amended most recently by the Act of 14 June 1985 No. 77. Ministry of Environment, Norway, 1985. ISBN 82-7243.040-1) English

version of the Nature Conservation Act (not updated since 1995 on internet):  
<http://www.ub.uio.no/ujur/ulovdata/lov-19700619-063-eng.pdf>

5d. The Report to the Storting no. 68 (1980-81) Protection of Norwegian Nature constituted the basis on which the Norwegian thematic conservation plans have been developed. Such thematic plans have included:

- Conservation strategies and plans for wetlands
- Conservation strategies and plan for sea-bird habitats
- Conservation strategies and plans for deciduous forests
- Conservation strategies and plans for coniferous forests
- Conservation strategies and plans for marine and coastal areas (the work has just been started on this topic)
- Plans for expansion of existing National Parks and plans for the establishment of new National Parks
- National registration of valuable cultural landscapes.

Of the mentioned white papers, in addition to the Report no. 68 of 1980-81, the Report no. 62 (1991-92) on a National Plan for new National Parks and other larger protected areas in Norway, as well as no. 40 (1994-95) on the expansion of the protection of coniferous forests, are the most important related to this question.

The most recent Report dealing with this topic in an integrated way is “Nature Protection Areas in Norway” (DN Report 1995-3; with an English Summary on pp. 13-15).

For some policy areas in Norway, separate “National Policy Guidelines” have been worked out. One of these cover protected watercourses (ref. “National policy guidelines for protected watercourses.” Ministry of Environment, Norway. ISBN 82-457-0202-1. In Norwegian only.) Furthermore, the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management has worked out a handbook called “Protected areas and management” (DN Handbook 2001-17; only in Norwegian, see <http://www.dirnat.no/wbch3.exe?ce=11106>). Additional information can be obtained in the report: **Environment and Water Resources Management** (see: <http://www.dep.no/archive/mdvedlegg/01/16/T1411019.pdf>)

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	X
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

*Management approach*

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	X
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	X
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	X

6a. There are no direct entrance fees for park visitors. This tradition in Norway is based on the principle of free access to the Norwegian countryside, regulated in the “Open-air Recreation Act” of 1957. However, if there are particular establishments or guided tours or hikes related to protected areas, such services of course involve certain fees. There is, for example, an elaborate network of tourist houses with various services inside larger protected areas in Norway, many of these being owned and operated by the Norwegian Tourist Association (DNT), and others by regional or local tourist associations. Further information on this topic may be found in the Report to the Storting no. 39 (2000-01): On Open-air Recreation (ref. <http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022001-040009/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>)

7e. Some basic assessments of principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain can be found in the Norwegian “State of the Environment” reports of 2000 and 2001 (see under 2d above). Furthermore, there are at least four relevant publications that provide more information on this topic. All these publications are in Norwegian, but with a short English abstract:

- Status for protected areas where the protective values are threatened. DN Report 1996-1 (ISBN 82-7072-210-3)
- Management of national parks. DN Report 1996-3 (ISBN 82-7072-214-6)
- Management action plan for protected areas 1997-2003. DN Report 1996-4 (ISBN 82-7072-233-2)
- Management action plan for national parks 1997-2001. DN Report 1996-6 (ISBN 82-7072-240-5)

8b. One particularly good example may be the protected forest areas. See also the Report to the Storting no. 17 (1998-99): On increased value and environmental possibilities in the forestry sector (presented by the Ministry of Agriculture: <http://www.dep.no/ld/norsk/publ/stmeld/020005-040003/index-inn001-b-n-a.html>), and the brochure “Protected coniferous forests” (Directorate for Nature Management; ISBN 82-7072-249-4).

9b. Reference is here given to § 5d above, listing various thematic conservation plans in Norway, having basically similar objectives and management regimes.

Traditionally, Norway used to manage all protected areas at the central level. However, during the latter years various pilot schemes of local or regional management of protected areas, including national parks, have been initiated.

10c. All planning activities in Norway, including the establishment of protected areas, are basically regulated in the Planning and Building Act of 1985. This legislation assures a wide stakeholder involvement in the whole establishment process. In addition, some further basic provisions are given in the Nature Conservation Act of 1970.

However, the stakeholder involvement is less prominent in the development of management regimes for protected areas. For a large number of protected areas in Norway, no separate management plans have been worked out.

One relevant publication in this context is

- Directorate for Nature Management, 2001. Information on nature protection activities in Norway. Action plan 2001-02. Trondheim. (In Norwegian only.)

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	X
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	

**Available resources**

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

**Assessment**

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	X
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	X
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	



11b. There are not many examples of such protected areas in Norway. The most relevant systematic approach may be related to the certification under the “Living Forest” standards, that i.a. requires private forest owners to set aside at least 1% of the owner’s forest areas as key biotopes for important biological diversity based on an inventory. The “Living Forest” Project in Norway was established in 1995, and in 1998 it successfully completed a consensus among 13 stakeholders, including forest owner’s associations and forest industries, on 23 performance level standards for sustainable forest management in Norway, the “Living Forest Standards” (see further information on [http://www.levendeskog.no/Engelsk\\_Default.asp](http://www.levendeskog.no/Engelsk_Default.asp)).

12b. Generally, there are adequate resources for the carrying out of necessary processes for establishing new protected areas in Norway. However, the resources are limited for active management of protected areas, as well as for spreading information on protected areas.

14b. To some degree, such constraints have been assessed for protected areas outside national parks, ref. “Status for protected areas where the nature conservation values are threatened” DN Report 1996-1 (in Norwegian, but with an English abstract; ISBN 82-7072-210-3). The findings that were reported in that report were followed up in an “Action plan for protected areas, 1997-2003” DN Report 1996-4 (in Norwegian, but with an English abstract; ISBN 82-7072-233-2). Within national parks, such assessments have been undertaken to a lesser degree, and the most relevant information is found in the publication “Management of national parks” DN Report 1996-3 (in Norwegian, but with an English abstract; ISBN 82-7072-214-6).

15b. At present, Norway is running a pilot project for local management in four of the protected areas that are included in the white paper on national parks and other larger protected areas (Report to the Storting no. 62 (1991-92), see under § 2d). Such local management regimes are being tried out in three of the national parks and in one of the larger landscape protection areas. Each of the four areas has different models for management. This pilot project will be evaluated over a period of 4-5 years. The first evaluation started in 2001, and the three remaining evaluations will be initiated during 2003. Also the experiences in other landscape protection areas and nature reserves in Norway to which local or regional authorities have been delegated the management responsibility, might be evaluated, but so far there has not been issued any guidelines for how this evaluation might be done.

16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	X

***Regional and international cooperation***

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X

*Further comments*

16d. An assessment on "Management and use of national parks in mountains" was issued by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research in 2003 (NINA-fagrapport 72) Abstract in English: (<http://www.nina.no/c2002/nina/applications/system/pagegeneration/generatescreen.asp>). The report assesses the activities from commercial interests based on natural resources within the national parks Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella, Femundsmarka and Reisa or in their vicinity. Tourism and pasturage constitutes the main income. Tourism can be divided into rental /sale of property, rental of holiday cabins, income from hotels, hunting/fishing, guiding tourists, rafting/canoeing, horse ridding, education etc. Table 1 shows gross turn over in Euro (Winter 2003) based on tourism and pasturage in selected national parks.

<b>National Park</b>	<b>Tourism</b>	<b>Pasturage</b>
Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella	5.05 mill Euro	1.78 mill Euro
Femundsmarka	0.66 mill Euro	1.84 mill Euro
Reisa	0.15 mill Euro	1.35 mill Euro

Norway has recently published a pilot study of such an assessment approach using the Glomma river basin as case:

- Norwegian Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – Pilot Study 2002. DN Report 2002-1b (ISBN 82-7072-448-3; in English.), see: <http://english.dirnat.no/wbch3.exe?ce=10948>

17a. Although there are no formal collaboration with neighbouring countries in the establishment of transboundary protected areas, there are certain collaborative and communicative efforts in the management of transboundary areas, including protected areas, e.g.:

- The Norwegian-Finnish-Russian Commission on watersheds at the national borders
- Cooperation with Sweden on transboundary watersheds
- Some collaboration with Sweden and Finland on transboundary protected areas. In a few cases (like e.g. Femundsmarka National Park) attempts have been made to develop joint management regimes between Norway and Sweden

Furthermore, other regional initiatives are relevant and important in this context:

- Under the Nordic Council a four years project on implementation of the European Convention on Landscapes is being undertaken
- Under the Nordic Council of Ministers the publication

Hallanaro, E.-L. & Pylvänäinen, M. 2002. Nature in Northern Europe. Biodiversity in a Changing Environment. Nord 2001: 13, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen (ISBN 92-893-0635-1)

includes a summary of 100 years of conservation work in the Nordic area

- The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) was established in 1991 with participation from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Canada, USA and Russia, and its programme for the "Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna" (CAFF) is of particular importance for protected areas. AEPS was fully integrated in the Arctic Council (established in September 1996) in 1997
- The Barents Cooperation between Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Russia and the EU Commission was established in January 1993
- Norway is a signatory to the UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

18b. Yes, five key protected areas professionals in Norway are members of the IUCN World Commission

## on Protected Areas

20. The most recent Norwegian publication dealing with this theme is:

Nature Protection Areas in Norway 1911-1994. DN Report 1995-3 (In Norwegian, but with an English Abstract and Summary. ISBN 82-7072-183-2).

Since 1994 a number of additional protected areas have been designated, and some other important developments have also taken place in relation to the Norwegian policy within this theme. The most updated information is probably found in the official homepages for each of the relevant international conventions or programmes. Norway has recognised or designated the following protected areas or other sites under these relevant international conventions or programmes:

- Under the Ramsar Convention: Norway has designated 51 protected areas under the Ramsar Convention. These are wetlands of international status, and particularly important for waterbirds (ref. <http://www.ramsar.org/>).

- Under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, Norway has four cultural sites on the list. An application to include the Vega Archipelago, both for cultural and natural reasons, has recently been worked out. Additionally, Norway is working on two further applications for inclusion on the World Heritage Sites list, i.e. Western fjord landscapes (Nærøy Fjord and Geiranger Fjord), and Northern fjord landscapes (Tysfjord-Hellemo). Ref. <http://www.whc.unesco.org/>.

Formerly, Norway recognised one protected area under the UNESCO “Man and the Biosphere” programme (Nordaustlandet on Spitsbergen), but that area has later on been removed from this list.

- Under the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species there is formally a possibility to include protected areas, but Norway has so far not designated any protected area under this convention (ref. <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms/>).

- Under the OSPAR Convention there has recently been adopted an appendix to the convention on protection of ecosystems and biological diversity in the marine environment. As a part of this addition, a network of marine protected areas will be established. The work of establishing protected areas under the OSPAR Convention has not yet been initiated in Norway. Ref. <http://www.ospar.org/>, (see also information under § 5d above).

- Under the European Berne Convention a decision was made in 1999 that the Convention’s “Emerald Network”, designated to be a network of important protected areas for biological diversity among its member states. This work is just being initiated in Norway. Eleven earlier designated “biogenetic protected areas” might be candidates for such Emerald Network sites (ref. <http://www.nature.coe.int/english/cadres/emerald.htm>).

- Under the Arctic Council (see also under § 17a above) a strategy and action plan for protection of areas in a “Circumpolar Protected Areas Network” (CPAN) has been worked out, aiming at establishing a circumpolar network of protected areas in both terrestrial and marine environments. Ref. <http://www.caff.is/> and <http://www.arctic-council.org/norway.html>.

21b. Such information might include the working out of a general tool for the management of protected areas, like the publication “Protected areas and management” (DN Handbook 2001-17; only in Norwegian).

Additionally, the establishment of the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate (SNO) in 1998 as a separate department of the Directorate for Nature Management, pursuant to the Nature Inspectorate Act, is relevant here. SNO has been given the task of coordinating and improving all the nature inspection work taking place in Norway. SNO has a central administrative unit based at the Directorate in Trondheim, and local offices dispersed throughout the country.

-----