From words to action
– some examples

Development of new regulations for EIA in South Africa. The Ministry of the Environment has taken part in a 5-year institutional co-operation programme on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) with the Department for Environment and Tourism in South Africa. The co-operation covers development and implementation of new regulations for EIA as well as capacity building at national and provincial level of government, training of practitioners and development of guidance.

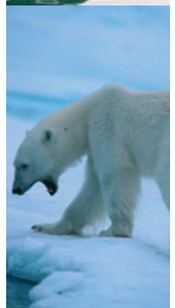
Mine clearing in Croatia through digital mapping systems. With assistance from the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority, the Croatian Mine Action Centre is establishing a new system to localise the 300 000 mines buried during the civil war. By scanning documents and maps that describe the mines' positions, information can be digitised and placed in a geographical information system. The information saves lives and makes mine clearing more efficient and more cost-effective.

Restoring the Shish Mahal, Pakistan. Shah Jahan built Shish Mahal in 1631 as a part of the residence of the Empress and her court. The Directorate for Cultural Heritage was asked to develop a new method for securing the fragile plaster ceiling. The Directorate recommended to suspend a steel mesh between the wooden beams, and attach it to the original plaster from the topside. This restoration method was successfully applied.

Institutional cooperation with Zunyi province, China. The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority and Zunyi Environmental Protection Bureau started an institutional cooperation programme in January 2005. The programme focuses on developing improved systems for compliance monitoring and environmental information. This includes both formal reporting requirements and the dissemination of information. A "Cleaner Production-programme" is also part of the project.

Implementation of the national biotechnology and biosafety policy in Zambia. In collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training (MSTVT) and the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR) in Zambia, the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN) is the main Norwegian partner in a project on capacity building for implementation of the national biotechnology and biosafety policy and the Cartagena protocol on biosafety in Zambia. The project will establish a national framework for handling biosafety issues including a biosafety bill and raising public awareness. The project also builds capacity and establishes a laboratory at NISIR for detection and analysis of GMOs. DN draws on other Norwegian institutions such as the National Veterinary Institute and the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board.

Cooperation with Russia in management of the joint polar bear stock. In 2004, The Norwegian Polar Institute headed a joint expedition aimed at establishing the numbers of polar bears in the Norwegian-Russian polar bear territory. The results show that there are around 3000 polar bears in the Russian-Norwegian Arctic.



MILJØVERNDEPARTEMENTET

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Co-operation for a better environment

A Guide to Norwegian Environmental Competence

MILJØVERNDEPARTEMENTET

Norwegian Ministry of the Environment

Committed to Sustainability

In the year 2000 world leaders drew up the Millennium Development Goals, thereby providing an important map for sustainable development. The World Summit in Johannesburg two years later again underlined the link between poverty and environment. Norway is determined to contribute towards international efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and disease and safeguard our common environment.

Norway was one of the first countries to establish a Ministry for the Environment (1972). The Ministry is responsible for developing policies and instruments to protect the environment and cultural heritage. It is advised by five executive agencies, each responsible for implementation of the acts, regulations and policy instruments within its area of expertise.

We believe that the development of strong and competent environmental institutions and integration of environmental concerns in sector policies is crucial in meeting present and future environmental challenges. We can contribute with our expertise in the development of environmental policy and management systems.

This brochure, produced by The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment and its agencies, aims to provide practical insights into the expertise that we can offer in relation to capacity building and policy development in the environmental field.

Core competence:

- Organisation of an efficient environmental administration at national, regional and local levels
- Mechanisms for sector integration, delegation of authority and cooperative relations between local and central authorities
- Introduction of economic instruments such as taxes and support schemes
- Development of legal instruments, such as laws, regulations and control systems
- International negotiations and implementation of environmental treaties and conventions
- Promoting transparency and broad involvement of civil society in environmental policymaking
- Development of the knowledge-base on the state of the environment

Thematic expertise

Our professional expertise covers the following fields:

- Climate change
- Air pollution
- Integrated marine and water resource management
- Safety at sea and coastal zone management
- Waste management
- Chemicals management
- Regulatory systems for licensing and compliance monitoring
- Environmental technology
- Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Systems in industry
- Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Mapping and monitoring of biological diversity
- Protected areas, including challenges associated with nature based tourism
- Biotechnology and biosafety (GMO)
- Impact assessments for the environment, natural-/cultural resources and society
- Land use planning, including geodetic network and environmentally sound urban planning
- Standardization of geographic information for environmental monitoring and planning
- Spatial data infrastructure
- Property information and management
- Regional planning
- Management and protection of archaeological and architectural monuments and sites, as well as traditional landscapes
- Restoration, conservation and maintenance of cultural heritage
- Preservation and development of traditional crafts and building techniques
- Research, environmental monitoring and mapping in the Arctic and the Antarctic
- Environmental monitoring and information

Norwegian Environmental Institutions

The Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority (NMCA) provides geographic and property information of the Norwegian land and sea territories needed for safety, planning and operational tasks. NMCA is the coordinator of the Norwegian Spatial Data Infrastructure, has a national service for accurate positioning and provides electronic charts worldwide. The International Centre for Property Rights and Development provides assistance to establish national cadaster and land registers.

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA) is responsible for the management of all archaeological and architectural monuments, sites and cultural environments in Norway, in accordance with the relevant legislation. RA ensures that cultural heritage considerations are taken into account in all planning processes. RA is responsible for the work carried out by regional administrative bodies in their capacity as regional cultural heritage authorities. RA is also responsible for increasing awareness among the general public of the value of their cultural heritage.

The Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI) is Norway's principal organization for research, environmental monitoring and mapping in the Arctic and the Antarctic. Pollutants in the Arctic, transported by wind and ocean streams, and the impact of climate change on the polar areas, are among the main concerns of the Institute. NPI collects data in collaboration with national and international research institutions, and delivers logistic services under the toughest climate conditions. The Institute also engages in basic research on polar flora and fauna, and has an advisory function under the Ministry of the Environment.

The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) works to ensure that pollution, hazardous substances and waste do not affect people's well-being or harm nature's powers of regeneration. SFT enforces the Pollution and Product Control Acts and related regulations. Equally important is environmental monitoring and information. SFT also instructs and guides the County Governors on pollution issues. In addition, the Authority lays down the framework and national goals on issues such as waste and local air quality.

The Directorate for Nature Management (DN) is the executive and advisory agency for conservation of biological diversity, establishment and management of protected areas, outdoor recreation and sustainable use of natural resources. The Directorate works to secure Norwegian biodiversity, to ensure that modern biotechnology does not have adverse effects on the environment, and to make sure that long-term concerns are considered in land-use planning, the use of freshwater resources, and other activities that may disturb wildlife and the countryside.