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Country Fact Sheet  
**NORWAY**



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## Country Fact Sheet: Norway (NO)

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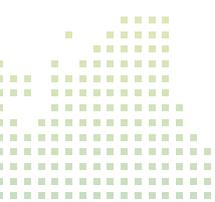
This fact sheet is based on what partners in SELINA know about what is going on in their country and some additional literature. If you feel there are ongoing or upcoming research projects, policy initiatives or legislations, concerning the use of biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services knowledge in decisions and policies, missing please contact [inge.lieken@vito.be](mailto:inge.lieken@vito.be) and we update the country fact sheet (until March 2027)

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# Update on projects concerning biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services assessment and accounting since 2022

Norway is not a member of the EU nor is nature protection and the EU biodiversity strategy part of the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement. Of these reasons, Norway is not legally committed by the EU biodiversity strategy. Consequently, Norway has not developed formal or specific plans for implementation or execution of this particular EU-strategy. Despite this, Norway seeks close collaboration with the EU on important environmental policy areas, including issues related to nature management. The Ministry of Climate and Environment therefore follows closely EU efforts on mapping and assessment of ecosystem services and on green infrastructure, and where appropriate they seek to harmonize Norwegian policy with EU and European follow-up measures.

The most comprehensive effort made so far on mapping and assessment of ecosystems in Norway is the development of the Norwegian Nature Index. An assessment of values of Norwegian ecosystem ser-

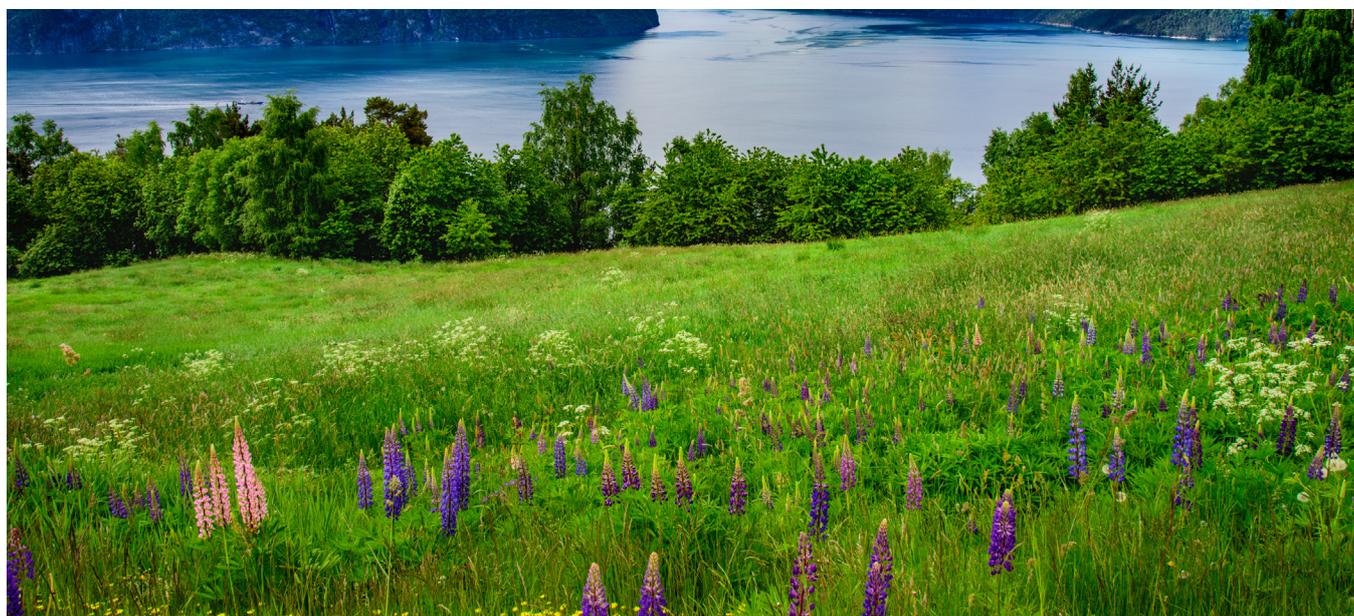
vices, published in 2013 by an expert Commission appointed by the Norwegian Government, concludes that the comprehensive set of data on which the Index is based can serve as a good starting point for further development of indicators for ecosystem services.

Since 2022 a lot of projects concerning biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services assessment and accounting took place:

- National Insect Monitoring program. (2021-ongoing, Extension of area coverage 2023) Norwegian Environment Agency (responsible organization), Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (technical and scientific responsibility).
- Government appointment of the Norwegian Environment Agency and Statistics Norway to co-ordinate the implementation of ecosystem accounting in Norway (2023).



- A map of ecosystem types with national coverage compatible with Eurostat's proposed typology (level 1) for SEEA EA reporting. (2023). Norwegian Environment Agency (responsible organization), Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy (lead).
- Overview of biophysical ecosystem services models and data sets compliant with SEEA EA accounting, with potential for national, regional and local level applications (2023-2024). Ecosystem services in SEEA EA accounts in Norway. Assessment of available models and data sets (in Norwegian). Norwegian Environment Agency (responsible organization), Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (lead of the report), Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy.
- Development of a platform for ecosystem accounting to inform county and municipal level planning. Exploratory process through five digital gatherings (2023) when County and Municipal technical staff shared advances in the field and discussed development needs. Piloting biophysical ecosystem accounts of selected ES at selected municipalities (2024-2026). The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) (lead), Asplan Viak and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (partners). Ca. 240 participants (technical and planning sections) from Counties and Municipalities, research institutes, the Norwegian Environment Agency (2023-2026).
- Overview of monetary accounting methods compliant with SEEA EA (2023). The Norwegian Environment Agency (responsible organization), Statistics Norway (report lead).
- Overview of compatibility of Norway's ecosystem condition sets of indicators (including WFD indicators), with the SEEA EA and Eurostat's proposed indicators for ecosystem accounting. Norwegian Environment Agency (responsible organization), Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (lead of the report), Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy.
- Statistics Norway participates in the testing the new ESTAT Guidance Notes for ecosystem accounting both for extent and condition accounts (projects are in progress)
- National Standard for Blue Green Factor calculations, incentivizing ecosystem services objectives and nature-based solution designs in urban developments (Standard Norge)
- National extent accounts revealed a five-year loss of nature types of 208 km<sup>2</sup> (2018-2023), reported by the National Broadcasting Corporation (NRK 2024) and widely disseminated in other media.
- Statistics Norway and NINA collaborate on developing standardised reporting tools for ecosystem accounting for extent, condition and services accounts, in ESA's PEOPLE-EA project and Eurostat-funded pilot testing of INCA-tool.





## 2

# Perceived barriers and needs to enhance uptake

- A common understanding of why ES assessments are important. Discussions ongoing about the relevance, issues of utilitarian view/values to manage nature, scepticism when data are incomplete of misleading actions (e.g. away from biodiversity conservation).
- Technical barriers: testing and validation of ES models, agreement on ES models and data to use, inclusion of ES models-relevant data in data sharing platforms (GeoNorge), development of RS enabled datasets.
- Technical capacity at many levels, county and municipal (for planning), consultants (for projects), research (make use of models from various disciplines, validation of models, and exploration of data sets).
- Reporting and assessment requirements. In standards and regulations.



# 3

## On the way to transformative change

The overall conclusion of the IPBES global assessment (IPBES 2019) was that Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond, may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.

Transformative or transformational change refers to “a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across

technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values” (IPBES, 2019). Simply said, doing things differently, rather than doing less or optimising the system.

A means to enhance uptake is bringing people of the quadruple helix together and exchange information and learn from each other. Another is to establish projects that can show that it works and lead to possible pathways of transformative change.

### 3.1 Community of practice

NINA/Norway's CoP is called: “Professional network for mapping ecosystem services – nature's goods.” It has a registration page [here](#).

The purpose of the network is to share experiences and discuss methodological issues about ecosystem services.

Our first event is the **SELINA Trondheim workshop keynotes** (Session 5, as a webinar for the network), followed by a first interactive meeting in August/September.

### 3.2 Seeds of transformative change

Through the online survey 2 projects were nominated as seed of transformative change:

#### ■ Tree Crown Project

Demonstrates a **method for mapping, assessing and valuing urban trees** that can be scaled to any urban area in Norway.

#### ■ Norway in Red, White and Grey

In January 2024 the Norwegian Public Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) published an article illustrating how during the last 5 years Norway has lost on average 79 m<sup>2</sup> of nature per minute, or 207 km<sup>2</sup> in total. The extent accounting research was conducted by Zander Venter, NINA. This figure includes the equivalent of two soccer fields of nature mapped as “valuable” according to different official categories. In a matter of a few days the story became one of NRK's top ten most read online news ever. It has led to a step-change in public perception of the urgency for action, supported by knowledge in ecosystem accounts, particularly at local project and municipal level. **Norway in red, white and grey**. Thanks to the nature extent accounting research by Z. Venter at NINA, and the NRK journalism the Minister of Climate and Environment decided to triple the budget allocated for ecosystem accounting in Norway for 2025: **Regjeringen gir 50 millioner til naturkart etter NRKs avsløringer – NRK Dokumentar**.

**Project duration:** 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2027

**Keywords:** biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services, natural capital accounting, evidence-based decision-making, transformative change

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## PROJECT PARTNERS

-  Leibniz University Hannover
-  Stichting Capitals Coalition
-  Ecostack Innovations Limited
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-  Pensoft Publishers
-  Centre for Ecological Research
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-  The Cyprus Institute
-  Wageningen University
-  The Finnish Environment Institute
-  Global Change Research Institute SarVision
-  Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
-  Gaspar Frutuoso Foundation
-  Flemish Agency for Nature and Forest
-  Municipality of Trento
-  Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
-  Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
-  Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources
-  University of Haifa
-  COHAB Initiative Secretariat
-  KTH Royal Institute of Technology
-  Croatian Forest Research Institute
-  SEAcoop
-  Macroplan
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