

Recreation and tourism - socio-cultural and socio-economic impacts on protected areas in Norway

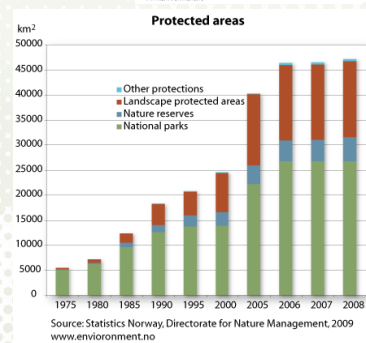
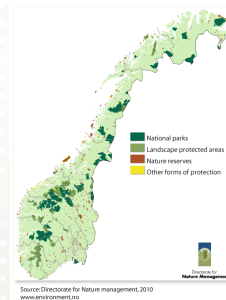
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Recreation and tourism – protected areas in Norway
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Protected areas in Norway

- Protected areas cover almost 15 % of mainland Norway
- The first National park established in 1962 (Rondane)
- Common right of access and simple outdoor recreation activities important
- Many new protected areas the recent years
- Mainly mountains areas, but now more focus on forests and the coastal zone
- Now the key question is: How shall the areas be managed?



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Protection policy and management

- Traditional policy on protection through top-down regulation
- Less emphasis on active management
- Management by the Environmental Department at the County Governor (the Directorate of Nature Management and the Ministry of Environment)
- Consultative Supervisory Board with participation from municipalities, local organisations, etc.
- In spatial planning much power is delegated to the local municipalities according to the Planning and Building Act



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Socio-cultural impacts

- Long traditions for huge conflicts
 - Between the state and the local remote communities
 - Between conservation and use/local development
- Socio-cultural impacts:
 - Protected areas have marginal influence on traditional agriculture, but on new businesses as tourism, etc.
 - Local feelings of distrust to the community's ability of managing landscapes
- A movement towards more participation and dynamic management
 - More participation from stakeholders in conservation processes
 - Local management models for larger protected areas (co-management)
 - Management plans are now more normal
 - But still marginal resources for active management

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Socio-economic impacts

- National parks are still poorly developed as tourism attractions in Norway
 - they are more like ‘wilderness areas’ with scant facilitation and visitor services
- ‘Traditional, simple outdoor recreation activities’ are accepted
 - in accordance with the principles of common access (*allemannsretten*)
- Recent political initiatives underline NPs’ branding effect on international tourist markets and their significance as regional development tools
 - the ban on commercial activities inside NPs was lifted in 2003
- Still management agencies lack the professional competence to develop tourist provisions in NPs
 - managers probably also lack the will to include tourism visions and goals for the NPs
- The ‘static-preservation’ approach still seem to prevail over the ‘dynamic-innovation’ approach (cf. Mose 2007)
 - leading to serious concerns and frustrations among local tourism entrepreneurs (cf. Haukeland 2011)

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Socio-economic impacts, continued


- **National parks have a great appeal to foreign tourists in Norway:**
A survey among German, Danish and Dutch motor tourists in the summer 2008 demonstrated that
 - 50 % of the respondents maintained that the NPs have a ‘very great appeal’
 - 28 % said that the NPs had (to a larger or smaller degree) influenced their decision to visit the country
- **The economic impact is significant:**
A study in a national park area in Norway, i.e. the alpine region *Nord-Gudbrandsdalen* in Southern Norway, revealed that
 - 25 % of Norwegian tourists’ expenditures in the area could be directly attributed to the NP status of the local mountains
 - 40 % of foreign tourists’ expenditures are explained by the NP status
- **Local residents acknowledge the significance of NP tourism:**
It was showed in a recent survey in *Nord-Gudbrandsdalen* that
 - 90 per cent of the local people deemed the importance of NP tourism as ‘rather’ or ‘very high’ for income/ jobs in their local communities
 - 80 per cent saw the importance of NP tourism as ‘rather’ or ‘very high’ for the level of services/ infrastructure in their local communities

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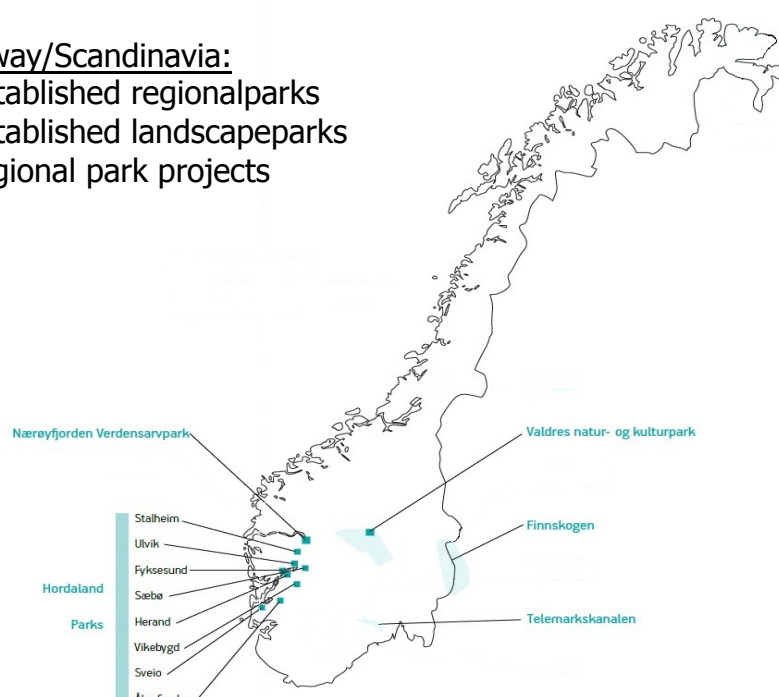
Regional parks – a new tool for dynamic management in Norway

- Kristian Bjørnstad



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Norway/Scandinavia:
3 established regional parks
8 established landscape parks
3 regional park projects



The map shows the geographical distribution of parks in Norway. On the west coast, several parks are marked: Nærøfjorden Verdensarvpark, Stalheim, Ulvik, Fykkesund, Sæbe, Herand, Vikebygd, Sveio, and Åkarfjorden. In the south, Valdres natur- og kulturpark, Finnskogen, and Telemarkskanalen are indicated.

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Regional parks in Norway

- Projects grown locally/regionally throughout the 1990s. Secretariat supported by 3 ministries (Regional, Agriculture, Environment)
- New national program for parks from 2012 (approx 1.5 mill. Euro). Inspired by Swiss model of Parks (local support required/no area protection)
- Interest and activity increasing. Newly formed Norwegian Parks Association.
- New projects: Haldenkanalen, Finnskogen (NOR/SWE), Numedal, and on Iceland.




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Ongoing research projects and education at UMB

- Prospects of Managing Tourism Development in Protected Areas in a Period of Transition. Norwegian Research Council
- Ideals, models and practice in natural resource management – does local management matter? Is Regional Parks based on partnership models relevant for nature and landscape conservation? Norwegian Research Council
- Reindeer management and regional planning
- Masters Courses: Strategic landscape planning (20 ects), Nature based tourism (20 ects)
- Will establish a resource group with focus on dynamic landscape management based at UMB

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