

Norway – SD Priorities

Source document: Norway's action plan for sustainable development (2004)

1. International cooperation to promote sustainable development and combat poverty (p. 26)

1.1. International and regional cooperation on environment and sustainable development (p. 26)

- 1.1.1. Play a part in efforts to halt the degradation of global common goods. (p. 26)
- 1.1.2. Play a part in efforts to continue the development of international rules for environmental and natural resource management, and strengthen their enforcement. (p. 26)
- 1.1.3. Seek to ensure that there is a strong environmental pillar in a future governance structure for sustainable development, and to strengthen the leading role of the UN in international cooperation. The Government will make use of Norway's chairmanship of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to revitalise the Commission in its role as the world's leading policy-making body for sustainable development and thus ensure that words are translated into action. (p. 26)
- 1.1.4. As part of international efforts to follow up the Johannesburg summit, play an active role in the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. The coalition's goal is to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources. The main focus will be on using tools that will ensure both greater energy efficiency and greater use of renewable forms of energy. Important elements include phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, pricing energy to include environmental and health costs, training and the development of technology. (p. 26)
- 1.1.5. Follow up the Johannesburg decision to encourage and promote the development of a 10- year framework of programmes in support of sustainable production and consumption. In cooperation with the EU and interested developing countries, the business sector and the voluntary sector, Norway will seek to ensure that coherent plans are presented for analyses of the current situation and trends, the development of indicators and benchmarks, greater eco-efficiency in business and industry, acceptance of life-cycle based eco-labelling and other consumption-oriented measures, and for the development of expertise in developing countries. (p. 26)
- 1.1.6. Seek to promote cultural diversity as a basis for sustainable development at national and international level, cf the recent white paper on cultural policy. (p. 26)
- 1.1.7. Promote environmental concerns in international trade and ensure that WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements continue to be given equal weight. (p. 26)
- 1.1.8. Play a part in the efforts to ensure that international finance institutions such as the World Bank make further improvements to their loan programmes in terms of incorporating environmental and sustainable development concerns, particularly through the use of strategic impact assessments. (p. 26)
- 1.1.9. Contribute to efforts to strengthen the role of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP): play an active role in the Global Environment Facility (GEF), including efforts to promote closer cooperation between the GEF and the private sector. (p. 26)
- 1.1.10. Promote concerns related to environment and sustainable development in cooperation with the EU and the OECD, and in the Baltic Sea cooperation and the Barents Sea cooperation, and continue work in the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group. (p. 26)
- 1.1.11. Contribute to implementation of the Nordic strategy for sustainable development and seek to strengthen its targets and intensify efforts for the period 2005-2008 to achieve further progress. (p. 27)
- 1.1.12. Seek to strengthen the international agreements on pollution control and ensure that they are implemented. Norway will play a leading role in ensuring that the industrialised countries support efforts by developing countries to implement the global Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Convention). (p. 27)
- 1.1.13. Make sustainable development a central priority in Norway's contributions to future EU member states in Eastern Europe. (p. 27)
- 1.1.14. Through bilateral and regional cooperation, support Russia's efforts to deal with its environmental problems and assist the country to reach a stage where it is capable of dealing with these problems itself. (p. 27)

1.1.15. Take part in efforts to promote corporate social responsibility. (p. 27)

1.2. The Government's action plan for combating poverty in the South (p. 27)

1.3. A better international framework for development (p. 27)

- 1.3.1. Work to ensure that developing countries gain better access to markets in industrialised countries, and use unilateral Norwegian measures to give developing countries wider access to Norwegian markets. Norway has already granted duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from the 49 least developed countries (LDCs) and will give priority to goods from developing countries when making further reductions in tariffs on agricultural goods. (p. 27)
 - 1.3.2. Work towards improvements in debt reduction schemes, for example by seeking to ensure that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative is fully financed and is expanded to include countries that have been affected by war and violent conflict. (p. 27)
 - 1.3.3. Work to ensure that extra debt reduction by bilateral donors benefits the developing countries and not other creditors. (p. 27)
 - 1.3.4. Work towards a better international framework for investment in poor countries. (p. 27)
 - 1.3.5. Work to give the developing countries access to new knowledge and technology and to enable them to put them to use through international educational and research cooperation. (p. 27)
 - 1.3.6. Contribute to the fight against poverty through international environmental cooperation. (p. 27)
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1.4. Efforts to improve national framework conditions in developing countries (p. 27)

- 1.4.1. Increasingly organise Norwegian development assistance so that it helps developing countries to improve their own capacity and expertise and to build up their institutional and legislative framework. (p. 27)
 - 1.4.2. Organise Norwegian development assistance so that it helps recipient countries to improve their budgeting and accounting systems, reduce losses resulting from inefficiency and corruption and increase the resources allocated to poverty reduction in the budgets. (p. 27)
 - 1.4.3. Help to maintain a focus on health and education in developing countries' poverty reduction strategies. (p. 27)
 - 1.4.4. Help to reinforce the struggle against HIV/AIDS, which has a severe negative impact on development processes in many countries, and a particularly serious impact on the poor. (p. 28)
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1.5. Norway and international development assistance (p. 28)

- 1.5.1. Seek to influence other OECD countries to increase aid volumes so that more of them reach the recommended target of allocating 0.7 per cent of GNI to development assistance. (p. 28)
- 1.5.2. Increase the volume of Norwegian development assistance to 1 per cent of GNI by 2005. (p. 28)
- 1.5.3. Target Norwegian development assistance towards the poorest countries. (p. 28)
- 1.5.4. Target Norwegian development assistance towards the poorest countries. (p. 28)
- 1.5.5. Follow the principle of greater developing country ownership of plans and strategies, particularly of their own poverty reduction strategies. Norwegian assistance that is not in line with the Millennium Development Goals or poverty reduction strategies will be phased out. (p. 28)
- 1.5.6. Seek to ensure that development assistance is made more effective by donor coordination in accordance with the recipients' priorities and plans. (p. 28)
- 1.5.7. Actively follow up the untying of aid, among other things to ensure that business and industry in developing countries can compete successfully for contracts in the aid market as well. (p. 28)
- 1.5.8. Follow up the recommendations of the Johannesburg summit by strengthening international cooperation on environment and sustainable development. An additional NOK 375 million is being allocated over a three-year period to strategic efforts in four of the WEHAB areas (water, energy, agriculture and biodiversity). (p. 28)
- 1.5.9. Plan development projects so that they do not conflict with the rights of indigenous peoples. Support for indigenous peoples will also be important in following up the Johannesburg summit, especially as regards the conservation of biological diversity in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples. (p. 28)
- 1.5.10. Support the important role played by international institutions such as UNDP, the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. (p. 28)

- 1.5.11. Seek to improve understanding of the links between poverty, economic development and the environment and strengthen the capacity of developing countries to integrate environmental concerns into national poverty reduction strategies, for example through the partnership with UNEP on poverty and the environment. (p. 28)
 - 1.5.12. Take part in the development and implementation of UNEP's Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building to Developing Countries. (p. 28)
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1.6. The private and voluntary sectors (p. 28)

- 1.6.1. Make more targeted use of development assistance to strengthen the private sector in developing countries and to increase long-term commercial investments that can provide income and employment in these countries. Private sector actors in Norway and other industrialised countries are important partners in these efforts. (p. 28)
 - 1.6.2. Strengthen the role of NGOs and the media as watchdogs for democracy and human rights in Norway's partner countries. (p. 28)
 - 1.6.3. Stimulate and encourage companies to focus on corporate social responsibility and thus incorporate ethics, human rights and environmental concerns into all their activities. (p. 28)
 - 1.6.4. Seek to establish international partnerships between states and large enterprises to deal with important environment and development tasks. An example of this kind of partnership is the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Initiative, the idea for which was first launched by Norway. Statoil and Hydro are now both actively involved in this initiative together with a number of other companies. (p. 29)
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1.7. Consistency and coherence in Norway's policy for combating poverty (p. 29)

1.8. International peace and security (p. 29)

- 1.8.1. Take part in conflict prevention and peace creation, peace keeping and peace building efforts within and between states. Lasting and stable peace requires confidence-building between parties who are or have been in conflict with each other, and reconciliation measures in civil society. It also requires adequate security for the population, equitable distribution of material and social goods and burdens, including sustainable utilisation of natural resources, and opportunities to take part in political processes. Norway's efforts are based on recognition of the interdependence of peace and a sustainable, poverty-oriented development. (p. 29)
- 1.8.2. In bilateral fora and in regional and multilateral organisations, stress the importance of implementing the Millennium Development Goals and binding international cooperation as a strategy for achieving peace and security and for preventing terrorism. (p. 29)
- 1.8.3. Support efforts to have the environmental impacts of violent conflict and the environmental problems facing countries that are emerging from violent conflicts reviewed more thoroughly. (p. 29)
- 1.8.4. Continue work on economic agendas in conflict situations, for example related to illegal exploitation and illicit trade in natural resources. (p. 29)
- 1.8.5. Support efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts related to competition for natural resources that are essential to survival (water and agricultural land). (p. 29)

2. Climate change, the ozone layer and long-range air pollution (p. 29)

2.1. Climate (p. 29)

- 2.1.1. Put forward new national measures to achieve "demonstrable progress" by 2005, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. (p. 29)
- 2.1.2. Contribute to the objective of stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. (p. 30)
- 2.1.3. Introduce a domestic emissions trading system from 2005 limited to CO₂ emissions that are not currently subject to the CO₂ tax. Continue to levy the CO₂ tax scheme on all emission sources to which it currently applies. Introduce a broad-based domestic emissions trading system from 2008 as part of Norway's efforts to meet its Kyoto commitment cost-effectively. (p. 30)

- 2.1.4. Improve public transport, including the railways, particularly in the largest towns, cf. the Sem Declaration and the white paper Better public transport (Report No. 26 (2001-2002) to the Storting). In the 2003 National Budget, priority was given to measures to reduce congestion problems and make public transport more user-friendly in the largest towns. These focused particularly on the metro system in Oslo and reducing congestion for buses. Another priority area for the Government is to improve the quality of public transport through better coordination and organisation. Trials of alternative administration systems for public transport are therefore to be started in Bergen, Trondheim, the Kristiansand region and the Stavanger region. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.5. Include public transport in the VAT system from 1 March 2004. This will entitle transport companies to deduct 24 per cent input VAT, and increase their net revenue by about NOK 500 million annually and NOK 330 million in 2004. The business sector is no longer to be subject to the electricity tax, and this will also help to improve the economy of public transport companies, especially rail-based transport systems. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.6. Will introduce incentives for the larger urban areas to take steps to improve public transport and curb the growth in passenger car traffic. The Government proposes an allocation of NOK 100 million to these schemes in 2004. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.7. Will ensure that environmental attributes such as fuel consumption and CO2 emissions are given considerable weight in decisions on procurement of transport services and vehicles by the central government administration. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.8. Facilitate greater use of cycling and walking as alternative modes of transport. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.9. Expand the current requirements to provide information on fuel consumption and CO2 emissions for passenger cars to apply to other types of vehicles as well. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.10. Work towards the introduction of internationally harmonised policy instruments to reduce emissions from international air and sea traffic. These sectors are not currently subject to the Norwegian CO2 tax or to the quantitative commitments set out in the Kyoto Protocol. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.1.11. Work towards a more ambitious global climate agreement containing stricter and more comprehensive emission commitments, to apply after the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. *(p. 30)*
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2.2. The ozone layer *(p. 30)*

- 2.2.1. Comply with Norway's commitments under the Montreal Protocol and continue its efforts to ensure that phasing out ozone-depleting substances according to a faster timetable does not result in higher consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and other substances that enhance the greenhouse effect. *(p. 30)*
 - 2.2.2. Achieve the targets for phasing out ozone-depleting substances both under the Montreal Protocol and under the 2002 EU Regulation on these substances. Norway adopted new regulations in December 2002 that consolidate the rules for ozone-depleting substances and implement the provisions of the EU Regulation. *(p. 31)*
 - 2.2.3. Make active efforts to further develop framework conditions that will make it easier for developing countries and Eastern European countries to meet their existing commitments and take on new commitments under the Montreal Protocol. *(p. 31)*
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2.3. Long-range air pollution *(p. 31)*

- 2.3.1. Meet its commitments under the Gothenburg Protocol in a cost-effective and administratively effective way. *(p. 31)*
- 2.3.2. Continue Norway's active participation in efforts to reduce long-range air pollution in Europe. *(p. 31)*
- 2.3.3. Continue to levy a sulphur tax on mineral oils, grade fuel taxes according to sulphur content, limit the permitted sulphur content of mineral oils and regulate sulphur emissions in discharge permits issued pursuant to the Pollution Control Act. *(p. 31)*
- 2.3.4. Use the agreement between the authorities and the Federation of Norwegian Process Industries on further reduction of SO2 emissions from the process industries as a means of meeting Norway's SO2 reduction commitment under the Gothenburg Protocol. *(p. 31)*
- 2.3.5. Use effective instruments to reduce NOx emissions. Emission limits are imposed in discharge permits issued pursuant to the Pollution Control Act. There is a grading system for tonnage dues for ships according to their sulphur and NOx emissions. The Motor Vehicle Regulations include provisions governing NOx emissions from motor vehicles. These standards are being made stricter, in line with changes in EU legislation in this area. Low-NOx burners are being used when new gas turbines are installed on installations on the continental shelf. The

Norwegian Public Roads Administration has been promoting investments in NO_x reduction measures and testing of new technology as ways of reducing emissions from ferries that are part of the national road system. (p. 31)

- 2.3.6. Meet its VOC commitments under the Gothenburg Protocol. VOC emissions from loading and storage of crude oil offshore and from oil terminals onshore are regulated in discharge permits issued pursuant to the Pollution Control Act. VOC emissions from motor vehicles are governed by the Motor Vehicle Regulations. In 1999, the Ministry of the Environment laid down regulations relating to the reduction of emissions of petrol vapour from the storage and distribution of petrol, and regulations relating to limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) caused by the use of organic solvents. (p. 31)

3. Biological diversity and the cultural heritage (p. 31)

3.1. Biological diversity (p. 31)

- 3.1.1. Monitor and survey biological diversity in order to establish a knowledge-based management system, as described in the white paper on biological diversity (Report No. 42 (2000-2001) to the Storting). (p. 32)
- 3.1.2. Stop the loss of biological diversity by 2010. (p. 32)
- 3.1.3. Implement the protection plan for coniferous forest. The most recent decision on the protection of new areas was taken in December 2002. When the plan is fully implemented, 1 per cent of all productive Norwegian coniferous forest will be protected. In 2003, efforts to establish and expand national parks are being intensified. The Government is well on the way to completing the national park plan by 2010. When the national park plan, the coniferous forest plan and the county protection plans have been implemented, about 13-14 per cent of the area of mainland Norway will be protected under the Nature Conservation Act. (p. 32)
- 3.1.4. Establish a network of marine protected areas in order to safeguard a representative selection of marine habitats and of distinctive, threatened and vulnerable habitats and elements of the cultural heritage in the different biogeographical regions in Norway's marine and coastal waters. (p. 32)
- 3.1.5. Take the initiative for the development of a Nordic cultural landscape strategy to safeguard biological diversity and the natural, historical and cultural value of the cultural landscape. (p. 32)
- 3.1.6. Establish a system of national salmon rivers and fjords where special measures will be taken to protect wild salmon stocks. (p. 32)
- 3.1.7. Safeguard viable populations of the large predators (brown bear, wolverine, wolf and lynx). The Government will submit a white paper on policy relating to the large predators in 2003, including proposals to provide a sound basis for populations of these species with a minimum of conflict between conservation and other interests. (p. 32)
- 3.1.8. Promote sustainable management of the world's forests, and take part in efforts to stop deforestation, which is a particularly serious problem in tropical rain forests. (p. 32)
- 3.1.9. Follow up the decision made at the Johannesburg summit that an international regime is to be negotiated within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. (p. 32)
- 3.1.10. Continue to pursue a restrictive policy for the handling of genetically modified organisms, in accordance with the precautionary principle. (p. 32)
- 3.1.11. Support efforts to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. (p. 32)
- 3.1.12. Seek to ensure that guidelines concerning control of the introduction of alien species and mitigation of their effects adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity are implemented. (p. 32)
- 3.1.13. Take part in efforts to adopt international rules on the control of ships' ballast water under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2004, and ensure that Norway adopts national rules in 2004. (p. 32)
- 3.1.14. Take steps to ensure that Norway takes part in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, whose mission is to make the world's primary data on biodiversity freely and universally available via the Internet. The aim is to strengthen global knowledge of biological diversity. (p. 32)
- 3.1.15. Contribute to implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. (p. 32)

- 3.1.16. Support outdoor recreation by providing financial support for voluntary outdoor recreation organisations and for municipal efforts to safeguard and facilitate the use of outdoor recreation areas and to facilitate the use of national parks and other protected areas for recreational purposes. Statskog SF will in future give higher priority to facilitating recreational use by the general public of the large areas of land it owns. This will be done in close cooperation with outdoor recreation organisations and other user groups. *(p. 32)*
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3.2. Cultural heritage *(p. 33)*

- 3.2.1. Enhance the protection of the cultural heritage and improve access to monuments and sites and opportunities for people to experience them through the annual allocations to the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and through the Norwegian Cultural Heritage Fund, which was established in 2002. *(p. 33)*
- 3.2.2. Submit a white paper on cultural heritage policy including proposals for measures to counteract the threats to the cultural heritage. *(p. 33)*
- 3.2.3. Strengthen the position of the museums and the work they do in protecting and providing information on the cultural heritage, cf the recent white paper on cultural policy. *(p. 33)*

4. Natural resources *(p. 33)*

4.1. Energy production and use *(p. 33)*

- 4.1.1. Supplement the protection plan for water resources and adopt a reorganised version of the master plan for water resources. *(p. 33)*
- 4.1.2. Continue funding for the action plan for bioenergy through the Agricultural Agreement. *(p. 33)*
- 4.1.3. Provide additional funding for the Energy Fund and Enova's activities so that the goals for a shift towards more environmentally friendly energy production and use can be achieved. *(p. 33)*
- 4.1.4. To increase annual use of central heating based on new renewable energy sources, heat pumps and waste heat by at least 4 TWh by the year 2010. *(p. 33)*
- 4.1.5. Encourage the construction of wind generators with a production capacity of at least 3 TWh/year by the year 2010. *(p. 33)*
- 4.1.6. Increase bioenergy production. An introduction programme for biofuels will be considered. *(p. 33)*
- 4.1.7. Reduce the use of mineral oils for heating by 25 per cent in the period 2008-2012 compared with the average for 1996-2000. *(p. 34)*
- 4.1.8. Take the initiative for a mandatory green certificate scheme for energy generation, preferably in a joint Norwegian-Swedish market *(p. 34)*
- 4.1.9. Utilise the existing hydropower infrastructure better, and increase the number of mini hydropower plants. The Government has proposed increasing the size at which licensing becomes mandatory for power plants and raising the lower limit for estimating economic rent for tax purposes for power companies. These measures are expected to increase interest in building mini power plants. *(p. 34)*
- 4.1.10. Facilitate increased domestic use of natural gas. Natural gas is the fossil fuel that has least impact on the climate, and its use can help to reduce emissions of polluting gases. *(p. 34)*
- 4.1.11. Provide framework conditions that will make it possible to build gas-fired power plants with CO₂ reduction technology. Provide government grants for technology and product development, provide investment grants for gas-fired power plants with CO₂ reduction technology provided certain conditions are met, establish a state-owned innovation company and review state participation in the development and operation of infrastructure for natural gas. *(p. 34)*
- 4.1.12. Evaluate whether to contribute to electricity transmission from the mainland to offshore installations in order to bring about further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the continental shelf. *(p. 34)*
- 4.1.13. Take steps to ensure that the goal of zero discharges to the sea from the petroleum sector is achieved. *(p. 34)*

- 4.1.14. Establish framework conditions that make it possible to find a balance between the interests of the fisheries, aquaculture and petroleum sectors within the framework of sustainable development. To this end, the Government has initiated a strategic environmental impact assessment of the consequences for the environment, fisheries and society of year-round petroleum activities in the area from the Lofoten Islands and northwards to the Barents Sea. The impact statement was circulated for comment on 1 July 2003 and is to be discussed by the Government in November-December as a basis for discussion of conditions and requirements for permitting year-round petroleum activities in this area. Together with similar assessments for shipping, the fisheries and external pressures the impact assessment will be part of the basis for the management plan for the Norwegian part of the Barents Sea. *(p. 34)*
 - 4.1.15. Establish mandatory sea lanes for high-risk transport pursuant to the Harbour Act. The Government will also consider whether to establish mandatory sea lanes outside territorial waters, in accordance with rules adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). *(p. 34)*
 - 4.1.16. Give priority to environmental research, partly as a means of meeting challenges in areas where petroleum, fisheries and environmental interests coincide. *(p. 34)*
 - 4.1.17. Work towards zero-emission solutions in the transport sector, and focus on the use of hydrogen as an energy carrier. *(p. 34)*
 - 4.1.18. Review the possibilities of using hydrogen as an energy carrier for both stationary and transport purposes. In June 2003, the Government appointed a committee for this purpose. Its mandate includes drawing up proposals for a national programme for the use of hydrogen as an energy carrier. *(p. 34)*
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4.2. Forestry *(p. 35)*

- 4.2.1. Target the use of policy instruments in primary forestry by focusing on bioenergy and intensifying environmental efforts in forestry through the programme for registration of biodiversity in forests. *(p. 35)*
 - 4.2.2. Take steps to have a national forest programme drawn up as part of the process of reorganising forestry policy and as a means of following up international commitments. *(p. 35)*
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4.3. Agriculture and reindeer husbandry *(p. 35)*

- 4.3.1. Work to ensure that most of the cultivated area suitable for food production is protected against development for other purposes. *(p. 35)*
- 4.3.2. Support the establishment of the Global Conservation Trust, which provides long-term financing for centres that preserve plant genetic material of importance for food production. *(p. 35)*
- 4.3.3. Ensure that agricultural grant schemes are decoupled from production levels to a greater extent, and that they support the goal of maintaining settlement patterns and employment in rural districts and contribute towards sound management of the cultural landscape and biological diversity. *(p. 35)*
- 4.3.4. Require an environmental plan to be drawn up for each holding as a condition for receiving grants. *(p. 36)*
- 4.3.5. To achieve better results and make environmental policy instruments more effective in the agricultural sector, transfer administrative responsibility for some legislative and economic instruments to regional and local level. Regional environmental programmes are to be used to ensure that policy instruments are targeted more effectively towards problems that exist in each county. The objectives of transferring authority to local level are to increase local engagement in these issues, ensure that local knowledge is put to use and give the municipalities a more active role in agricultural policy. *(p. 36)*
- 4.3.6. Achieve the target that 10 per cent of Norway's agricultural area is to be converted to ecological farming by 2010. Broad-based efforts throughout the value chain have been started to this end. *(p. 36)*
- 4.3.7. Ensure that the water quality in fresh water bodies and marine areas is high enough to maintain species and ecosystems and to take account of the requirements of human health and welfare. *(p. 36)*
- 4.3.8. Work to reduce eutrophication. Coastal waters from the border with Sweden to Lindesnes (the southernmost point of Norway) are sensitive to eutrophication, which is mainly caused by discharges of phosphorus and nitrogen. The agricultural sector is the source of a substantial proportion of these substances, although discharges have been reduced in the past 20 years. The Government will therefore continue efforts to reduce discharges of nutrients and other pollutants from the agricultural sector. *(p. 36)*
- 4.3.9. Lay down a maximum permitted number of animals for each reindeer husbandry district so that the number of reindeer is adjusted to the grazing resources. *(p. 36)*

4.4. Policies and policy instruments relating to conditionally renewable natural resources Fisheries and aquaculture (p. 35)

- 4.4.1. Intensify its efforts to reduce the overcapacity of the fishing fleet and thus improve the profitability of the fisheries industry and reduce pressure on resources. A structural measure (unit quotas) has been introduced for almost all vessel classes in the ocean-going fishing fleet. In 2004, a structural scheme will also be introduced for coastal fishing vessels of length 15-28 metres, to reduce overcapacity in this category. These schemes involve permanently removing vessels from the fishing fleet A different type of scheme, in which vessels are only temporarily removed from the fishing fleet, will be tested in Finnmark and possibly other counties in 2004. This is intended as a means of increasing the efficiency of fishing operations. On 1 July 2003, a structural fund for scrapping fishing vessels less than 15 metres in length was established. This is partly funded by the industry. (p. 35)
- 4.4.2. Review the question of whether to introduce taxation of the resource rent from the fisheries. (p. 35)
- 4.4.3. Ensure that actual catches do not exceed the quotas that are allocated. Controls of catches have been intensified, the legislation has been simplified and the police and prosecution authorities are giving higher priority to breaches of fisheries legislation. (p. 35)
- 4.4.4. Intensify efforts to reduce environmental problems caused by the fish farming industry. Parasitic salmon lice and escaped farmed salmon have a negative impact on wild salmon stocks. The fish farming industry has drawn up plans for reducing escapes of farmed salmon from net pens. In the white paper Protecting the Riches of the Seas (Report No. 12 (2001-2002) to the Storting), the Government stated that it would intensify efforts to reduce the environmental problems associated with fish farming, for example by ensuring that environmental considerations are a fundamental basis for its further development and by intensifying efforts to reduce problems associated with escaped fish and salmon lice. (p. 35)
- 4.4.5. Play an active role in ensuring that as production of other farmed species than salmon is developed, environmentally sound standards are established both nationally and internationally. (p. 35)

5. Hazardous substances (p. 36)

- 5.0.1. Intensify efforts to reduce emissions of substances that are on the priority list. Both process emissions and the content of hazardous substances in products are subject to restrictions and regulations. Efforts to reduce damage caused by PCBs and other substances have been intensified through the collection scheme (government-supported) for insulating windows containing PCBs and clean-up operations for polluted fjords and harbours. Taxes have been introduced on two organochlorine solvents, trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene. (p. 36)
- 5.0.2. Expand the list of chemicals whose use is to be substantially reduced by 2010. In addition to named substances and groups of substances, the list is to include other chemicals that meet one or more of a set of criteria used to identify the substances that pose the greatest threat to health and the environment. This was proposed in the most recent white paper on the Government's environmental policy and the state of the environment in Norway (Report No. 25 (2002-2003) to the Storting). The reduction target can be made more flexible by linking it to a set of criteria: this means that if new information shows that a substance meets one or more of the criteria, it can be included on the list if phasing it out by 2010 is expected to provide social benefits. (p. 36)
- 5.0.3. Reduce emissions of brominated flame retardants. An action plan to achieve this has recently been presented. The Government will propose prohibitions on the use of the most dangerous substances, and ensure that products containing brominated flame retardants are treated as hazardous waste. (p. 37)
- 5.0.4. Internationally, the Government has advocated binding targets and regulation of the most dangerous organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals such as mercury. The decision from Johannesburg to ensure that chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimise significant adverse effects on health and the environment must be followed up. (p. 37)
- 5.0.5. Ensure that clean-up operations at the 100 most seriously contaminated sites are completed by 2005. Substantial resources have been allocated for this purpose by the environmental authorities, and a strategy was presented in the white paper Protecting the Riches of the Seas (Report No. 12 (2001-2002) to the Storting). (p. 37)
- 5.0.6. From 2004, implement a new action plan to reduce the risks associated with the use of plant protection products. (p. 37)

- 5.0.7. Take steps to prevent occupational use of chemicals from causing injury to employees' health. Efforts will focus on protective measures to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals at the individual workplace. (p. 37)

6. Sustainable economic development (p. 37)

- 6.0.1. Design budgetary policy to build up sufficient reserves to meet future expenditure. The Government's budgetary policy follows the guidelines for phasing in petroleum revenues on which broad consensus was reached during the Storting debate on a white paper on economic policy (Report No. 29 (2000-2001) to the Storting). (p. 37)
- 6.0.2. Carry out a broad-based reform of the national insurance scheme. This has three main objectives. The pension system must be financially sustainable, so that it provides a guarantee for the future of the national insurance scheme. The pension system must also provide incentives to stay in work. Finally, the pension system must continue to guarantee a minimum pension for everyone. (p. 37)
- 6.0.3. Take steps to improve the efficiency of the economy. The Government will modernise the public sector with a view to making it more productive and user-friendly and improving its quality, and will develop a more efficient taxation system. (p. 37)
- 6.0.4. Review the different forms of subsidies to industries to ensure that they in fact provide social benefits, eliminate or reorganise subsidies that have negative environmental impacts, develop the tax system to ensure that resource use, environmental impacts and other external costs are priced as correctly as possible, ensure effective resource use through active competition and design good regulatory systems. (p. 37)
- 6.0.5. Introduce a new degree structure in the higher education sector to improve the quality of education at universities and colleges. (p. 37)
- 6.0.6. Modernise the compulsory education system. (p. 37)
- 6.0.7. In cooperation with the business sector, gradually increase Norwegian research efforts to at least the average OECD level. To encourage research and development in the business sector, the tax relief scheme for R&D was expanded to apply to all companies in 2003. In the 2003 National Budget, allocations to the Research and Innovation Fund were increased by NOK 3 billion, and by a further NOK 1.8 billion in the Revised National Budget. The fund now totals NOK 31.8 billion. (p. 38)
- 6.0.8. Strengthen research on sustainable development. The Research Council of Norway is running a research programme called "Towards Sustainable Development: Strategies, Opportunities and Challenges" (p. 38)
- 6.0.9. Strengthen basic research, among other things through the Research and Innovation Fund. (p. 38)
- 6.0.10. Submit plans for an integrated innovation policy in the course of autumn 2003. The plan will be in line with the action plan for sustainable development. The importance of innovation for the environment, health and development is one of the reasons why an integrated innovation policy is needed. (p. 38)
- 6.0.11. Review the issue of ethical guidelines for the Government Petroleum Fund. The commission appointed by the Government to propose ethical guidelines submitted its report on 25 June 2003. The Government intends to present the matter to the Storting in the Revised National Budget for 2004. The Environmental Fund was established as part of the Petroleum Fund on 31 January 2001. The Government will evaluate the Environmental Fund in the context of other proposals that may be forwarded for ethical guidelines for the Government Petroleum Fund in the Revised National Budget for 2004. (p. 38)

7. Sami perspectives on environmental and natural resource management (p. 38)

- 7.0.1. Wherever appropriate in legislative work, take into account Sami custom, tradition and interests. In the field of environmental protection and in work on protection regimes, the Government will take into account Sami views and custom relating to the environment and the cultural heritage, as described in the white paper on Sami policy (Report No. 33 (2001-2002) to the Storting). (p. 39)
- 7.0.2. Provide a framework for development in Sami areas where traditional skills and modern technology together form part of the basis for economic renewal, new businesses and the maintenance of settlement patterns, and also ensure sustainable development. Purposeful efforts to develop commercial activities based on Sami

culture and closer cooperation between the business sector, research institutions and the cultural sector must be closely linked to a sustainable development policy. (p. 39)

- 7.0.3. Consider whether to transfer more responsibility for making use of the potential for development to regional political bodies and the Sámediggi. (p. 39)
- 7.0.4. Consider whether to transfer more responsibility for making use of the potential for development to regional political bodies and the Sámediggi. (p. 39)
- 7.0.5. Ensure that the role of the Sámediggi in determining the framework for Sami policy is reflected in policy formulation and in the administration of Sami interests in environmental, cultural and regional policy. (p. 39)
- 7.0.6. Recognise the importance of developing cooperation with the Sámediggi and other Sami actors that can be instrumental in developing Sami environmental management and a Sami environmental policy. It should be possible to make use of, codify and renew traditional Sami culture and knowledge of the environment and climate as part of this process. (p. 39)

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