

Norwegian adaptation policy: where is the research?

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Today's presentation

- How adaptation came on the agenda
- The role of research in getting adaptation on the agenda
- The Norwegian Commission on Adaptation to Climate change
- The relationship between research and adaptation policy in Norway

How adaptation came on the agenda

- 2003: Climate change framed as a matter of national security
- 2005: Several fatal extreme weather events
- 2007: Cross ministerial working group
- 2009: Governmental Adaptation commission

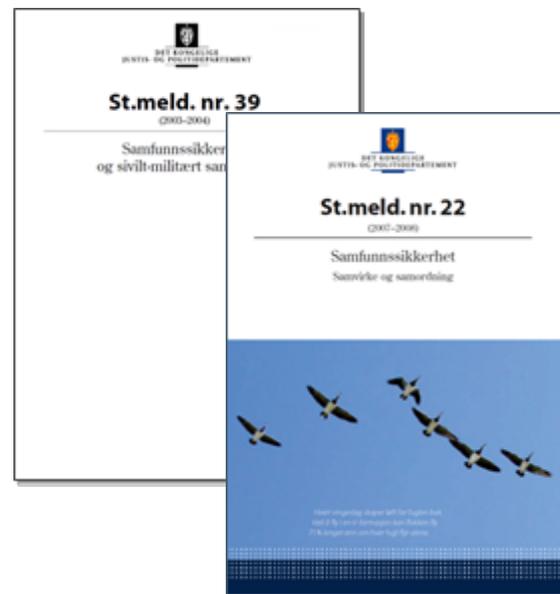


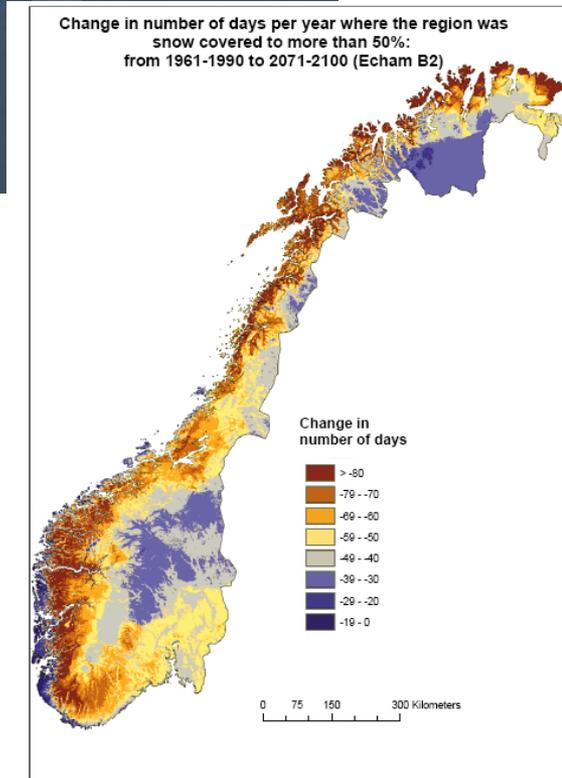
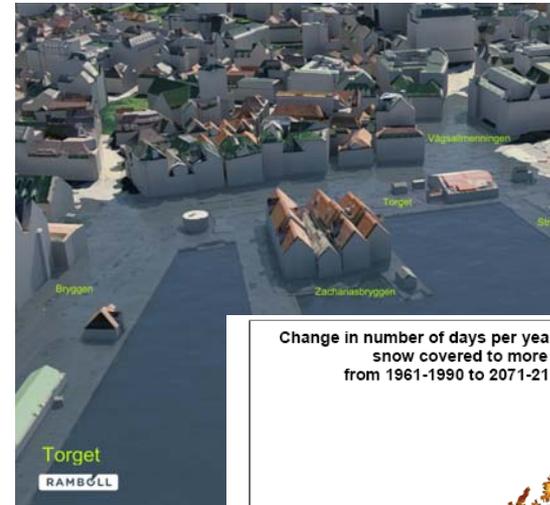
Photo: Jan M. Lillebø

Norwegian adaptation research

- One large program for climate change and impacts research 2007-2013 NORKLIMA
- Governmental committee on climate change research strategy established in 2008
- Currently no more funding – funding now goes to CCS and energy research.

Research for adaptation policies

- Participatory projects with broad stakeholder involvement
- How to use downscaled climate projections in local vulnerability assessments
- Local vulnerability studies
- Sectoral studies –(energy, transport, tourism)
- National socio-economic studies (indicator approaches)



The Norwegian Commission on Adaptation to Climate change

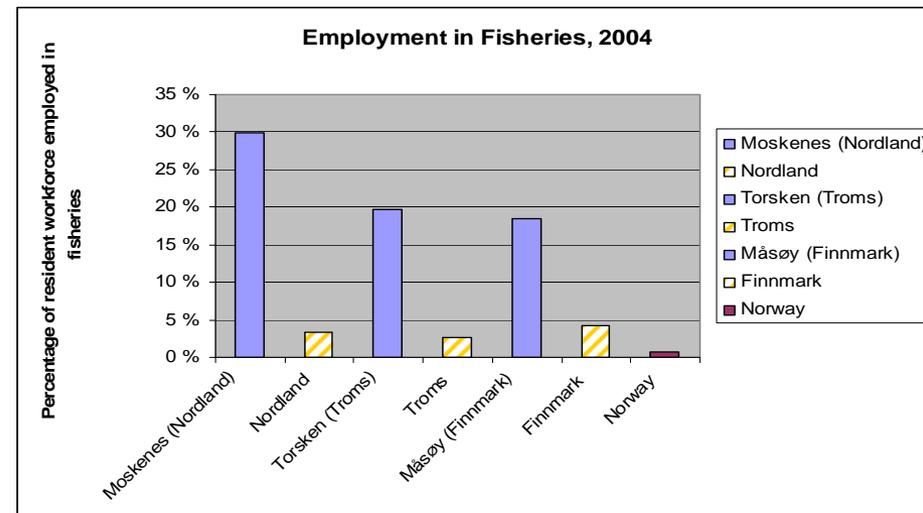
- Assess the risk associated with climate change
- Identify possible policy measures and actions
- Assess distribution of responsibilities between different authorities and levels of government.



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Challenges for a national adaptation policy- by a few of them

- Vulnerability and adaptive capacity varies with scale and geography.
- How to make a policy that works across different scales, sectors and regions?
- The commissions "top down" approach does not necessarily fits the realities at the local level across the country.



Concluding remarks – the relationship between research and policy

- The policy towards adaptation has until now consisted of acquiring knowledge
- Research has brought adaptation on the agenda, but not resulted in adaptation policy measures.
- High awareness and ditto funding in 2007 and 2008, but now the “funding tap” has run dry.
- Discrepancy between adaptation policy effort and research priorities.
- Challenging to bridge the gap between Governments top down approach and local adaptation needs