

National Forest Programme as a Continuous Process. The Norwegian Governance Process put on the rack. Does the process-orientated approach, as chosen in Norway, provide impetus for furthering nfp's?

Johan Barstad¹
Volda, Norway

The National Forest Programme in Norway is not supposed to result in a single, formal document but rather to be a process structured around the sum of policy relevant activities, including (the most significant) a white paper on forestry (endorsed by parliament in 1999), the Forest Act (2005) County Forest Strategies, The Living Forest Process (1995 – ongoing) and the Norwegian International Obligations regarding forestry.

This being described as a process rather than a project, one of the main issues will be if and how the different elements interact and contribute to the continuous development of the Norwegian Forest Programme.

The GoFOR project is a FP6-funded research project that has a special focus on National Forest programmes and a major aim is to evaluate new modes of governance as a basis for policy relevant conclusions. A series of country-based case-studies have now been carried out in the 10 European partner countries. The Norwegian case has been the ongoing Living Forest process (one of the core elements of the Norwegian NFP-process), and the study shows some interesting effects regarding participation, intersectoral coordination, expertise etc.

In this paper the main objective is to describe, analyse and discuss if and how the Living Forest process (LFp) has contributed to the overall goal of further developing the Norwegian nfp. Have tangible effects from the LFp caused effects, changes or discussion in the other core elements? Have the LFp been influenced from the other processes like international obligations.

For the Norwegian nfp to be functional, there has to be this kind of interplay between the various elements. If it can be proved that this interplay is taking part, that is an important indication that the high degree of process-orientation in the nfp is working, and would as such be important knowledge to transfer to other countries and situations.

National Forest programme
Governance
Case study
Planning processes

¹ Møre research Volda, boks 325, N-6101 Volda Norway. +47 70075212/+47 92037327, jb@hivolda.no

Johan Barstad
Master in Planning and Governance

Researcher,
Møre Research Volda
Boks 325
6101 Volda
Norway

phone: +47 70 07 52 12
fax: +47 70 07 52 01
mobile phone: +47 92 03 73 27
e-mail: jb@hivolda.no