

Norway's 11 voluntary commitments

UN Oceans Conference, 5 - 9 June 2017

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Reducing food loss and waste in the value chain for fish

Description: It is estimated that about one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally. Food losses represent a waste of resources used in production such as land, water, energy and inputs, increasing the green gas emissions in vain. Reducing food loss and waste is by far the cheapest and most environmental friendly way to increase food supply. Loss and waste occur in all food product groups, including seafood. In 2016, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) supported a Norwegian proposal to develop a FAO technical guideline addressing the causes of and remedies to food losses and waste in the fish value chain. Norway is contributing financially to the development of this guideline.

Deliverable: Ultimate objective: reduced food losses and waste in the fish value chain

Resources mobilised: Funding provided by the Government of Norway

Norway supporting the small-scale fisheries sector in developing countries

Small-scale fisheries make an important contribution to nutrition, food security, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation, especially in developing countries. Since 2015 Norway has been supporting FAO's implementation of the "Voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication". Now discussions are underway between Norway and FAO that could result in support to yet another project related to the small-scale sector; "Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods through better policies, strategies and initiatives". Possible project components include raising awareness and policy support, strengthening the science-policy interface and empowering stakeholders.

Deliverables: Enhancing awareness of governments and other stakeholders at global, regional and national level on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty reduction. Improving technical and organizational capacities of governments and stakeholders at local, national and regional level to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty eradication.

Resources mobilised: Extent of Government support yet to be decided

[The Nansen Programme - Strengthening the Knowledge Base for, and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to, Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries](#)

To manage our oceans sustainably, knowledge is key. For over 40 years, the Nansen programme has supported more than 60 countries in their efforts to promote sustainable fisheries management, most of them in Africa. The next phase of the programme, which started up with the new research vessel in 2017, will seek to expand its objectives to understand the combined effects of climate change, pollution, and fisheries, using the advanced scientific capabilities of R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen. The third R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen Research vessel was officially launched in Oslo, Norway, on 24 March 2017. It is presently the worlds most advanced research vessel, and as the core of the Nansen-programme, it will operate in the waters of developing countries in the years ahead, under the auspices of FAO. The vessel will conduct fish stock surveys and do marine research in order to enhance our knowledge of the serious challenges the worlds oceans are facing related to pollution, climate change and unsustainable fishing practices. As part of the surveys, local marine researchers and fisheries managers will receive training on board.

Deliverables: Develop local management plans and train marine researchers from developing countries. Increase marine science and fisheries management capacity in developing countries. Promote sustainable use of living marine resources and improved protection of the marine environment. Increase local knowledge on ecosystem based fisheries management.

Resources mobilised: Government funding: approximately 120 million Norwegian kroner annually.

[Measures to reduce marine pollution and microplastics in Norway by targeting their sources](#)

Ensuring clean and healthy oceans is a key priority for the Norwegian Government. The Government is stepping up its efforts to reduce the amount of microplastics ending up in the ocean and intends to target the most important sources of this kind of pollution. Measures are now being developed in cooperation with relevant governmental bodies and in dialogue with relevant stakeholders. The main focus will be on land-based sources of microplastics including wear and tear of car tires, artificial turf, paint and textiles. Concrete measures towards the diffuse sources are being examined and considered. The Government is also exploring the potential for extended producer responsibilities for certain product groups. Since fishing gear and other forms of plastic equipment used in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are among the sources that contribute to marine littering in Norway and regionally, extended producer responsibility schemes for these product groups are now being considered.

Deliverable: Reduced influx of marine litter and microplastics into the ocean from sources in Norway.

Resources mobilised: Multiannual funding provided by the Norwegian Government.

[Norway's MAREANO Programme - mapping of the seabed provides valuable new knowledge](#)
MAREANO maps depth and topography, sediment composition, biodiversity, habitats and biotopes as well as pollution in the seabed in Norwegian offshore areas. The Programme aims to provide answers to questions such as: How is the seascape of the Norwegian continental shelf? What does the seabed consist of? How is the biodiversity distributed on the seabed? How are habitats and biotopes distributed on the seabed? What is the relationship between the physical environment, biodiversity and biological resources? How much contaminants are stored in the bottom sediments? The program commenced its activities in 2005 and has among other things generated maps of predefined vulnerable and valuable bottom areas off western Finnmark, Troms, Nordland, Trøndelag and Mre and Romsdal counties. The Government is committed to continue the program in the years ahead.

Deliverable: Increased knowledge of the seabed in Norwegian offshore areas.

Resources mobilised: Government funding since 2013: approximately 90 million Norwegian kroner annually. Funds set aside for 2017: 105 million Norwegian kroner.

[Norway launching Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Ocean for Food Security and Nutrition](#)

By 2050 the world population may reach ten billion people. All these people have the right to healthy and nutritious food. The ocean has the potential to supply a substantial part of the world's future need for food. The Norwegian Government is calling for higher priority to be given to fisheries and aquaculture in efforts to improve global food security. Norway will establish a Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Ocean for Food Security and Nutrition which is a direct follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 70/259 on the proclamation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025. Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets is recognized as one of six action areas in the Nutrition Decades work programme. Sustainable food from the ocean contributes to food security and nutrition, high quality protein, micronutrients and fatty acids as well as income and livelihoods for local communities.

Deliverable: Sustainable food from the ocean for the world's population.

Resources mobilised: Funding from the Government of Norway.

[Norwegian commitment to fight transnational fisheries crime](#)

It is beyond doubt that many of the players involved in IUU fishing take part in transnational organized fisheries crime involving criminal activity along the whole value chain for fish. This may also include trafficking in human beings, use of violence, tax and customs fraud as well as corruption and document fraud. The problems are global and must be confronted as such. In November 2016, Norway entered into a NOK 39.6 million agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the aim of combatting transnational organized fisheries crime. The project will run from 2017 to 2020. Norway also supports the Interpol Fisheries Crime Working group. Through its current chairmanship of the Nordic Council of Ministers Norway is also providing financial support to the North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group and the fisheries crime research initiative PescaDolus. The efforts against transnational organized fisheries crime are a part of the Norwegian Fish for Development Programme.

Deliverable: Support developing countries in updating legislation and building the competence and capacity of the police, customs authorities and legal system.

Resources mobilised: Government support: 39.6 million Norwegian kroner.

Increased Norwegian support to fight IUU fishing

Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing is contributing to overexploitation of marine resources. An important tool in the fight against IUU Fishing is the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which entered into force in June 2016. In May 2017 in Oslo, at the first Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, the Norwegian Government announced that it will allocate up to ten million Norwegian kroner to help developing countries implement the agreement. The effort is a part of the Norwegian Fish for Development Programme.

Deliverable: Capacity building related to the provisions of the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement.

Resources mobilised: Government funding: up to ten million Norwegian kroner.

Norway combatting marine pollution and microplastics in partnership with UNEP

Ensuring clean and healthy oceans is a key priority for the Norwegian Government. Reports and studies point at staggering amounts of litter, including plastic and microplastics, in the world's oceans. Aside from potentially devastating effects on marine life, human health may also be compromised. The objective of the support granted to UNEP is to assess the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the relevant international, regional and subregional regulatory frameworks and identifying possible gaps and options for addressing them, including through regional cooperation and coordination, and to present the assessment to the UN Environment Assembly 3 in December 2017.

Deliverables: Promote the #CleanSeas Campaign nationally, regionally and globally by 2019. Promote the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. Support UN Environment's efforts to assist Member States, especially developing countries, with emphasis on small island developing States and least developed countries, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national or regional measures and action plans.

Resources mobilised: Government funding: 15 million Norwegian kroner.

Programme to combat marine litter and microplastics

Ensuring clean and healthy oceans is a key priority for the Norwegian Government. Reports and studies point at staggering amounts of litter, including plastic and microplastics, in the world's oceans. Aside from potentially devastating effects on marine life, human health may also be compromised. The objective of the programme, which will be multiannual, is to reduce the amount of marine litter and microplastics in oceans and seas. Its main focus will be on developing countries.

Deliverable: Reduced amount of marine litter and microplastics in the ocean.

Resources mobilised: Government funding: 100 million Norwegian kroner.

Enhanced clean-up efforts in Norwegian coastal areas

Volunteer beach cleans have been going on for years and are making a huge positive impact on the local level along the Norwegian coast. The Government is now increasing its support to these initiatives, in partnership with civil society and with financial support for voluntary action. The enhanced commitment is aimed both at marine litter prevention and clean-up efforts. The National Grant Schemes for measures against marine litter have been strengthened substantially. In addition to existing relevant government bodies, a new center is about to be established in the North of Norway and an important task will be to further explore effective clean-up measures to combat marine littering.

Deliverable: Reduced marine littering including plastic and microplastics along the coast.

Resources mobilised: Government funding: 35 million Norwegian kroner (multiannual).