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THE NORWEGIAN NATURE INDEX – A COMMUNICATION TOOL ON BIODIVERSITY

Signe Nybø, Erik Framstad, Bård Pedersen, Olav Skarpaas

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway

ABSTRACT

The Nature Index (NI) is a synthesis of information on trends in biodiversity to give an overview of the state of biodiversity in major ecosystems. It builds on about 300 indicators (species or surrogate indicators) from terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. It was launched in 2010. Method have since been refined and supplemented with updated information. From 2015, full updates of data and assessments are planned every 5 years, with selected thematic assessments e.g. state of birds of prey, state of wild games, presented in midterm years. The Ministry of Climate and Environment uses the NI as a headline indicator for the state of major ecosystems. The Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) is also discussing how information from the NI-database can be used to highlight the achievements of other sectors in their management of biodiversity. In late October 2015, results from the NI will be presented online. This will include thematic indices on commercial marine fish and the current effect of climate on biodiversity. An assessment report on biodiversity will also be presented. The NI framework is well designed to report on the state of the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biodiversity, especially those related to Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. Results from the NI was used in Norway's fifth national report to CBD in 2014 and the Nature Index will be important in Norway's action plan on biodiversity and ecosystem services towards 2020. Here the NI, will contribute to measure progress towards some Aichi targets. The Nature Index Framework and its database and statistical calculations are now tested as pilot projects in several other regions i.e. Costa Rica, Lithuania, Arctic areas (via caff.is) and possibly in Bulgaria. For more, see www.nina.no/english/Environmental-monitoring/The-Norwegian-Nature-Index.