

**The Trondheim Conference on biodiversity:**

## Loss of nature requires action from everyone

**Lack of action is costly and makes the loss of biodiversity important to all sectors. This challenge must be placed higher on the agenda of society and be seen in the context of climate change.**

– The connection between the mutually reinforcing and accelerating loss of biodiversity and climate change makes the situation for nature precarious. This will require completely new solutions where the importance of biodiversity is integrated into all parts of society. We do not have much time, but there is a great will to succeed and there is considerable knowledge about the challenges and how they can be met, says Nina Vik, who is co-chair of the conference together with Finn Katerås.

This is among the messages from the Trondheim Conference on Biological Diversity.

- [See the draft Co-Chairs' Report](#)

This year's Trondheim Conference is the central academic and informal meeting point towards a new agreement on global biodiversity goals in China next year.

The Report from the Conference Co-Chairs summarizes what has emerged in presentations and discussions during the four-day conference. The report will be an important input document in the international process until the world will agree on new common goals for biodiversity in China in 2020.

The report reflects presentations of the conclusions from IPBES, the IPCC and a number of other reports, initiatives and experiences from around the world.

The report also reflects that the conference is an arena where representatives from the governments of 115 countries and many organizations, experts and supranational bodies have been able to discuss freely what these findings mean for the further process and which changes need to be made.

## Risking fundamental changes

– The conference participants have been concerned that the world community must avoid fundamental changes in the Earth's ecosystems that jeopardize the livelihoods of large parts of humanity. The development is fast, and it continues despite the measures that have been taken so far. Immediate action is needed to create lasting solutions to the challenge, says Finn Katerås.

The driving forces that have created the negative development have accelerated over the last fifty years to levels we have never seen before in human history. The most important driving forces are changes in land use, over-exploitation of natural resources, climate change, pollution and the spread of invasive alien species.

Most countries will not reach the political goals for biodiversity if this development continues as before. The report reflects the fact that the cost of failure to create change will be large, which should make the loss of biodiversity an important issue for every part of society.

## Better integration of nature diversity considerations

The conference acknowledges that we have not fully succeeded in including the values of nature's contribution on an equal footing with other key considerations in economic decisions and planning in

both the public and private sectors, as countries have committed themselves to in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The final document of the conference points out that it is essential that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is integrated into plans and decision-making in all sectors of society and at all levels - globally, nationally and locally.

A more ambitious plan of action is needed to deal with the causes of the loss of biological diversity, ranging from increased land use, harvesting, climate change, pollution and the spread of alien species resulting from human expansion on the globe.

If we are to succeed, different actors, state and private, must understand how they depend on nature and take responsibility for preventing the loss they themselves cause. Society as a whole must make it worthwhile to take responsibility.

### Business is important

During the conference, organizations such as The World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development have both participated and stood on the pulpit. This shows an increasing involvement from the business sector.

– The challenges we face in relation to natural diversity must become something that is talked about in the boardrooms of the world's companies. This must be included in planning and policy development in all areas of society. This is necessary because business and public activities affect nature, and at the same time are completely dependent on natural resources, says Nina Vik.

### Holistic approach needed

The final report advocates comprehensive management of natural resources. One example that is highlighted is measures to reduce global warming. Such measures can go hand in hand with other objectives, but can also have undesirable consequences for natural diversity if not done carefully.

The report also shows that land use changes for food and agricultural production, and the degree of utilization of marine fishery resources, are significant driving forces that are exacerbated by climate change.

– This underlines the importance of coordinated efforts. One cannot talk about biodiversity without also addressing climate, food and health, says Finn Katerås.

The 450 participants in the conference have participated in extensive discussions on how a new framework for the international work on biodiversity can best be designed.

The input will be processed before it is included in the final version of the conference's final report which will be available in a week's time.

More detailed information on presentations and discussions at the conference is available on the conference web pages: <https://trondheimconference.org/>.

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