

# Status Norway 2000

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Norway is obliged by several international conventions, treaties and initiatives; for example the Pan-European Berne Convention and the global Rio Diversity Convention, to develop management strategies as part of sustainable development, to take care of biological diversity on all scales. These affects also practical fire fighting operations and safety strategies in our country.

The season 1999 in Norway was more humid than any other year during the last 125 years, which means few fires. This might indicate a new trend toward more humid summers, as predicted by several groups of climate researchers. In spite of these predictions, Norway wants to build and keep up an efficient fire prevention activity and management policy. This activity will demand and give high priority to further international cooperation, exchange of information and research as in Baltex 2000.

The basic infrastructure is based on municipal fire brigades. If fires are getting out of hand, a larger system of organized fire prevention efforts are activated. Massive efforts through helicopters equipped with "Bambi buckets" are then being considered.

But fire fighting has its costs. My first pilot Magne Fjelnset, who many of you knew from meetings in Siberia and Canada was leased out to Australia, Italy, Spain and thus got an excellent experience. This showed the value of international fire fighting, cooperation and experience in the field. I am very sorry to tell that Magne was killed in action. Wild fire costs!

It also shows that through cooperation small and large countries can achieve common goals in fire fighting and wild fire management.

Last year Norway had the pleasure to host a meeting in Trysil, in southern Norway, where we exchanged information and had a good international time.

We also had a fruitful and progressive transboundary cooperation with Sweden concerning fire fighting. Both civil and military aircrafts were involved. The Norwegians have designed a water bucket for helicopters, which has been internationally recognized. The resource situation in Norway at the moment is, as you know, a special one, but the forests are renewable resources that will be of great value for inland Norway also in the future. So our efforts and fire prevention will be kept at a high level also in the future. We therefore value highly the Nordic, European and even global efforts in these fields.



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## *Forest fire and environmental management*

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- A technical report on forest fire as an ecological factor
- Edited by Erik Bleken, Ivar Mysterud and Iver Mysterud



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## *Forest fire and environmental management*

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1. Introduction
  2. Natural ignition and fire ecology
  3. Climatic and natural geographic conditions
  4. Anthropogenic burning and impact
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5. Forest fire history
  6. The fire regime in this century
  7. Fire regions in Norway
  8. Effects of forest fires
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9. Management of forest and range fires
  10. Fire limiting measures
  11. Organization of forest fire prevention in Norway
  12. Acts and regulations
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## *Forest fire and environmental management*

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- Norway has a relatively wet and cold fire regime
  - Forest fires influence biological diversity on all three levels
  - The importance of forest fire history in the management of forest fires
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- A felt need for developing a standard set of data to be collected for individual forest fires; to be used in several countries
    - *size of fire*
    - *date and time of day*
    - *UTM coordinates*
    - *forest type; species, rich/poor, age of forest*
    - *exposition and inclination*
    - *cause, and kind of forest fire*
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