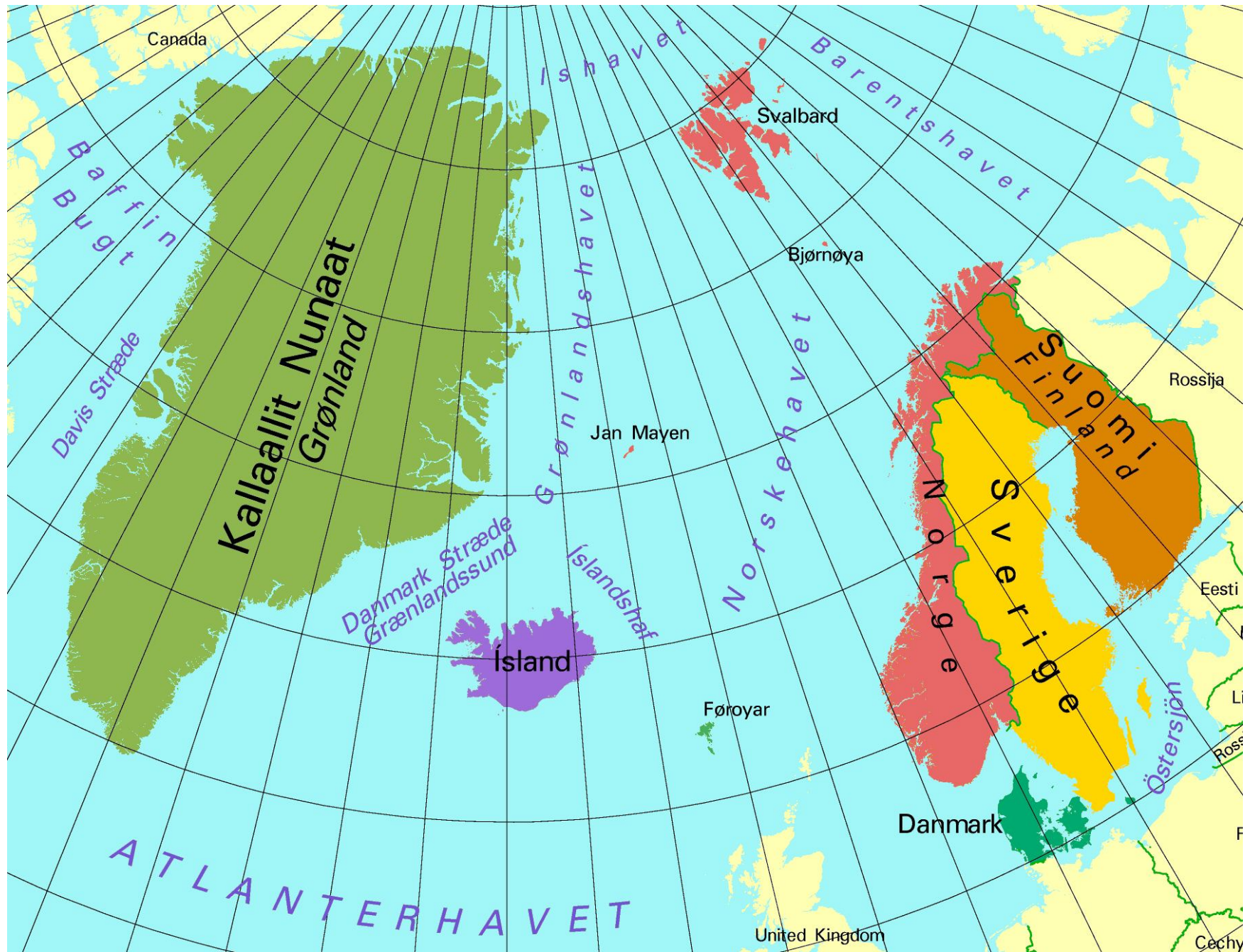




Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

Environmental cooperation



Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

Ministers of Environment
(Environmental Ministers Council)

Senior Officials Committee

Working Committee

12 working groups

wg

Environmental Monitoring
and Data (NMD)

wg

The Environmental Ministers Council

Environmental ministers from 5 countries
and 3 autonomous areas
Secretariat in NCM of 3

Environmental Ministers Council

- In charge of political cooperation to protect the environment in the Nordic Region;
- The ministers meet three times a year to discuss and determine:
 - the guidelines for Nordic environmental cooperation
 - pan-Nordic measures to protect the environment,
 - Nordic cooperation in international forums, and
 - financing and strategic issues.

Nordic Senior Officials Committee for Environmental Issues (OC-E)

- served by the NCM Secretariat
- makes all necessary preparations for the activities of the Ministers
- execute the decisions taken by the Ministers

Working Committee

Committee of country representatives
for Ministers and OC-E activities

Plans and coordinates activities
including follow-ups and
coordination of the activities of the
working groups

Working Groups

- 12 working groups
- act on the basis of approved activity plans
- have their own framework budgets to finance activities
- 5 main working groups have a central role in environment policy action:
 - Sea and Air,
 - Products and Waste,
 - Chemicals,
 - Nature, Outdoor life and Cultural environment, and
 - Environmental Monitoring and Data
- 7 inter-sector groups

Other Environmental Cooperation

- Other Nordic cooperation; sectorial/cross-sectorial, strategies for contaminants and Climate in the Arctic, etc.
- NEFCO – Nordic Environmental Financing Cooperation
- NIF – Nordic Investment Bank
- Arctic Council
- Barents Environmental Council
- Baltic Sea Council
- Cooperation with strong, growing economies like India, China and Russia
- Research cooperation

Nordic Environmental Action Plan

- four-year action plans for the environment
- form the framework for the Nordic countries' environmental cooperation within the Nordic area and in relation to the neighbouring states, the Arctic, the EU and other international forums
- environmental priorities of the Nordic cooperation
- formulates the political themes and areas of focus
- a targeted and result-oriented instrument for the cooperation
- an important part of the process for determining and disbursing the budget
- objective to strengthen both the inter-sector dimension and the contribution to promote sustainable development

Environmental Action Plan 2005-2008

Four major themes:

1. Environment and health;
2. Sea;
3. Nature, the cultural environment and outdoor life;
and
4. Sustainable consumption and production.

(a new Environmental Action Plan 2009-12 are under development and are supposed to be adopted autumn 2009)

Environmental Monitoring and Data (NMD)

- Support the development of joint monitoring methods to gain Nordic benefit and a positive overall resource economy
- Harmonization of the Nordic environmental monitoring through its activities
- Cooperation with other working groups in implementing analysis and publicising status reports based on national data of Nordic relevance
- Support development and testing of new indicators
- Indicator development should be organised in making Nordic environmental data and indicators comparable and applicable internationally, i.e. to EEA and OECD, and to avoid duplication
- Follow up international initiatives of relevance, produce proposals to OC-E about common Nordic initiatives on monitoring and data management, support the neighbouring states on similar activities, and support the Nordic influence to EU
- Follow up the Nordic Environmental Action Plan
- Information dissemination – actively and widely

Environmental Monitoring and Data (NMD)

EAP 2005-08 have main focus on:

- Biodiversity;
- Organic contaminants;
- Water environment.

Environmental Monitoring and Data (NMD)

NMD has in 2007 been involved in 16 projects focusing on:

- Improving the knowledge about contamination and distribution of organic contaminants infecting living organisms;
- Developing supportive tools for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, i.e. joint basis for evaluation (baseline), inter-calibration of definitions and references;
- Developing and presenting indicators for biodiversity monitoring.

Environmental Monitoring and Data (NMD)

Water Framework Directive (WFD):

- NMD supported 4 projects in 2007 with an average of 200.000 DKK/project of relevance to the WFD;
- This has contributed to our goal: *“Implementation of the EU WFD where an especially important Nordic issue would be to develop monitoring methods and methods to identify the water bodies to be monitored”*;
- Concrete projects has been dealing with determination of reference conditions for eutrophication in coastal areas;
- A cross-sectorial analysis of potential synergy effects between the European nature directives; WFD, Habitat Directive and the Marine Strategy;
- Definition of reference conditions in lowland rivers in the Baltic area as a baseline for Europe (WFD);
- Workshop on mapping and modeling of marine habitats and Landscapes as a tool for spatial planning in Nordic seas;
- Nordic intercalibration of hard bottom macroalgae monitoring methodologies (ALGAMONY).

Environmental Monitoring and Data (NMD)

Group members:

- Reidar Hindrum, Norway (Lead)
- Maria Mikkelsen, Denmark (coordinator)
- Jesper Fredshavn, Denmark
- Marja Pylvänäinen, Finland
- Manuela Notter, Sweden
- Yngve Brodin, Sweden
- Øystein Nesje, Norway
- Helgi Jensson, Island
- Maria Dam, Faroe Islands
- Mikael Wennström, Åland Islands

DRAFT MHP 2009-2012

Climate and Air

- Climate change (CC)
- Adaption to CC
- Air quality and Health

[Sea and Coast]

- Ecosystem based management
- Eutrophication
- Hazardous waste

[Biodiversity and Ecosystem Benefits]

- Biodiversity
- Genetic resources
- Landscape, Cultural environment and Outdoor recreation

Sustainable development and production

- Chemicals and distribution
- Resource efficiency and Environmental friendly markets

Sea and Coast

Secure the Nordic sea areas in good ecological status within 2020, and their sustainable use.

Important provisions:

- The EU marine strategy and WFD
- HELCOM
- OSPAR
- IMO
- CBD
- The EU Baltic Sea Strategy
- The EU Agricultural Policy

Sea and Coast – Ecosystem Based Management

Priorities:

- Coordinating measures to be taken according to the EU Marine Directive and the HELCOM action plan for the Baltic Sea as well as other sea areas;
- Harmonizing the OSPAR Quality Status Report with the EU WFD and the marine strategy directive;
- Developing and using administrative and financial mechanisms;
- Cooperation in the implementation of the EU WFD;
- International cooperation to regulate and reduce discharge from shipping (ballast water, air emissions and waste water) to protect the marine ecosystem;
- Support establishing a marine protected area network in Nordic seas.

Thank you!

