



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# NORWAY AND FAO

## A SHARED VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

FAO and Norway have enjoyed a solid partnership since the Organization was founded in 1945. Building on shared values, goals and global commitments, their cooperation has been directed towards food security through the eradication of poverty and hunger, including technical development interventions, and food and agricultural emergency and rehabilitation assistance. Norway's generous contributions — across most of FAO's areas of work — have enabled the Organization to deliver powerful results spanning forestry, fisheries, the right to food, climate-smart agriculture, and food loss and waste.

### Strengthening global food governance and safeguarding valuable resources

Norway is an active supporter of the international Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) — a groundbreaking treaty that prevents unscrupulous fishers from landing illegal hauls while making it more difficult for these hauls to enter national and international markets. PSMA acts as a highly effective and cost-efficient deterrent to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. FAO brokered the agreement with active participation from Norway after a multi-year negotiation process.

In 2017, Norway, the EU, Sweden, and the United States committed more than USD 10 million towards a FAO programme to assist 31 developing countries and small island developing states to fully implement and benefit from the PSMA. The programme has helped countries improve national policy and legislative frameworks, along with institutions and systems for monitoring, control and surveillance. This support enhances the countries' capacities to inspect vessels entering ports, along with their ability to take more effective action against individuals and entities engaged in IUU fishing. Norway's patronage of the initiative also supports the implementation of market access measures, such as catch documentation and traceability schemes.

### Streamlining cooperation

In 2016, FAO and Norway signed a new Framework Agreement, paving the way for a substantially streamlined cooperation in the coming years and an even closer level of partnership, with a particular emphasis on:

- ➔ Fisheries
- ➔ Right to food
- ➔ Climate-smart agriculture
- ➔ Deforestation
- ➔ Gender equality
- ➔ Food loss and waste
- ➔ Emergencies and response to natural disasters.

Moreover, a white paper issued in 2017 by the Norwegian Government, *"Common responsibility for a common future — the Sustainable Development Goals and Norwegian Development Policy"*, identifies these and other priorities as the driving force behind the country's development cooperation in the coming years.

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## Tackling deforestation with improved monitoring and information systems

Norway and FAO share strong views on the need to better manage forest resources, including through the prevention of deforestation. Together, they are committed to equipping developing countries with the technology and know-how to assess forest resources and build strategies for sustainable use.

With support from partners like Norway, FAO has developed innovative, open source technical platforms and tools to assist countries with the most up-to-date information in order to combat forest loss. Norway's USD 10.5 million contribution between 2014–2020 has been vital towards developing the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) — an easy-to-use platform for processing and interpreting satellite data on forest and land use. It enables users to query, access and process satellite data quickly and conduct geospatial analyses faster than ever before, while harnessing the power of cloud-based supercomputers to overcome barriers such as poor Internet connections and low computer power. In 2018, SEPAL's scope and partnership base were expanded, benefitting national and subnational forest management and international processes, while providing decision-makers with sufficient knowledge to inform policy on forests, land use, rural livelihoods and food production.

## Supporting sustainable fisheries through cutting-edge technology and data

Norway has been a steadfast partner for FAO's work to promote the sustainable management of marine ecosystems, particularly through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) — a comprehensive management process that addresses both the human and ecological dimensions of sustainability.

Since 2006, Norway has supported FAO's EAF-Nansen programme, which offers opportunities for countries to implement the EAF and work with regional organizations to achieve sustainable fisheries management on shared stock. With USD 44 million from Norway, the programme entered a new phase in 2017. During this year, the new research vessel *Dr. Fridtjof Nansen* was utilized by the initiative to conduct a survey of pelagic resources and ecosystems in the Atlantic coast of Africa. Equipped with the latest technologies, it serves as an important platform for improving knowledge on marine resources and ecosystems to support fisheries management in countries and regions not in a position to own and/or operate research vessels. In the same period, 145 scientists from 21 partner countries received on-the-job training, and various port call events were

held to raise the profile of the programme and highlight the long-standing collaboration between Norway, FAO and partner countries.

## Strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

Norway has adamantly supported FAO's efforts to bridge the divide between humanitarian and development objectives, backing the Organization's work in emergencies, re-building livelihoods and strengthening resilience to crises and recovery. Through a Standby Partnership agreement signed in 2018, the Norwegian Refugee Council's NORCAP roster deployed 29 specialists to support FAO's work in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.

Moreover, against a backdrop of persistent insecurity and armed conflict in South Sudan, FAO's Emergency Livelihood Response Programme strived to save lives by enabling immediate food production, while restoring livelihoods and building the resilience of affected populations. Norway's substantial contribution of USD 44.6 million between 2015–2018 enabled FAO to deliver time-critical emergency livelihood kits, often in hard to reach areas, to support crop and vegetable production, as well as fishing and livestock activities. During the project's first two years, roughly 3.7 million people received livelihood support and 2.5 million animals were reached with treatment and vaccinations thanks to Norwegian funding. Likewise, through Norway's support, FAO also implemented seed fairs — temporary markets where people receive vouchers for the purchase of crop seeds and where selected local producers of quality crop seeds are invited to take part — throughout the country.

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