

Coming to terms with geodiversity in Norwegian nature management

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The Norwegian Nature Diversity Act of 2009 defines nature diversity as the sum of biodiversity, landscape diversity and geodiversity. Within the framework of the Nature Diversity Act, there is a need to define the concept of geodiversity further. There is also a need to separate between the pure description of geodiversity and the value assessments connected to geoheritage. Both concepts should be fundamental and instrumental in the future management of environment and land use in Norway.

In 2005, a new way to classify nature types in Norway, NiN (Nature types in Norway), was published. In 2015, a new version of the classification system (NiN 2.0) was launched. NiN is the first complete classification system of nature in Norway, and was designed with the fundamental understanding that most of the variation in nature is gradual (continuous). NiN aims to give a value-neutral description of nature. NiN follows the Norwegian Nature Diversity act's definition of nature, and assigns geology to important roles in the classification system. Examples included as an environmental factor underpinning the landscape and biological diversity, or as a specific landscape element. The nature diversity act also identifies geology as a value in itself as the basis for nature protection and as special nature type relevant for management.

In this presentation, we aim to present how we define the terms geodiversity, geoheritage, geotope and geosite (in norwegian *geologisk mangfold*, *geologisk arv*, *geotop* and *geosted*), describe the importance of geology in the NiN classification system, and give some examples on why knowledge of geology is necessary to succeed with nature management in Norway.

References:

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