Norway’s Arctic policy and the focus on safety and preparedness

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Why is the Arctic the most important foreign policy area of interest for Norway?

- Rich in resources (fisheries, petroleum, minerals)
- Major changes (climate, sea routes, safety/security)
- Rising volume of shipping – 80% of maritime traffic in the Arctic
- Huge areas – substantial part of Norway’s sea areas lie north of the Arctic Circle
- Population – 10% of Norway’s population
- Better growth forecasts for North Norway than for the rest of the country
- Neighbourly relations (Russia, the Nordic countries)
- Increased international interest – Arctic countries, EU and Asian
**Norway's Arctic Policy**

**Rise in Volume of Shipping**
- 80% of maritime traffic in the Arctic panes through Norwegian waters. Maritime activity in the north is substantial, but only a few ships transit the whole Northeast Passage.

**Major Seafood Industry**

**Year-round Tourism**
- 206% increase in the number of overnight stays in winter by visitors from abroad from the 2005-06 season to the 2012-13 season. Strong focus on year-round tourism.

**Abundant Mineral Resources**
- 20% of turnover from the Norwegian mining and mineral industry is generated in North Norway and Svalbard.

**Clear Evidence of Climate Change**
- 50% loss of ice cover in the Barents Sea since 1980. The Arctic Ocean may be ice-free in the summer by 2050. Temperatures in the Arctic are rising two to three times as fast as the global average.

**Effective Monitoring**
- 2 Norwegian satellites, ANSATS-1 and ANSATS-2, detect and track vessel traffic in the north. The largest ground station in the world for polar-orbiting satellites is in Svalbard. It downloads data from more than 80 satellites on a daily basis.

**Vulnerable Environment**
- 3000 polar bears live around Svalbard and in the northern Barents Sea. The breeding population of seabirds in this area totals 15 million, and the walrus population in the Svalbard area is about 6000.

**Vital International Cooperation**
- 8 Arctic states are members of the Arctic Council. 12 non-Arctic states are observers. The Arctic Council is the only circumpolar forum for political discussions at government level, and is attracting increasing attention outside the Arctic.

**Millions of People**
- 4 million people live in the Arctic. Nearly 10% of Norway's population live north of the Arctic Circle, a greater proportion than in any other country in the world.

**Huge Petroleum Potential**
- 43% of undiscovered oil and gas resources on the Norwegian continental shelf are expected to be in the Barents Sea. These resources are the basis for the petroleum-related supply industry in North Norway.

**Extensive Research**
- Norway is ranked no. 3 in the world, after the US and Canada, in terms of the number of scientific publications in English on the Arctic.

**Busy Cross-border Traffic**
- 318135 border crossings between Norway and Russia in 2014.
norway's arctic policy

Facts & figures

The Arctic has a rich and diverse culture, with indigenous peoples playing a vital role in preserving the region's natural resources. The Sami, for example, are an indigenous group that has traditionally relied on reindeer herding for their livelihood. With climate change affecting the Arctic at an unprecedented rate, it is crucial to support their efforts to adapt to these changes.

Allocations for Arctic activities

The Norwegian Government's budget allocations for activities relating to the Arctic have risen since 2010. The figures are not exhaustive, but give an indication of the trend over time.

The business sector in North Norway is more export-oriented than the rest of the Norwegian economy and is responsible for some 8% of the country's exports other than oil and gas.

more information is available on the government website: regjeringen.no
Four main objectives

- Safeguard **peace and stability** and provide **predictability**
- Ensure an **integrated, ecosystem-based management regime** that safeguards biodiversity and provides for sustainable use of resources
- Strengthen **international cooperation** and the **international legal order**
nordkloden
Verdiskaping og ressurser, klimaendringer og kunnskap. Utviklingen nord på kloden angår oss alle.

nordområdene 2014

Regjeringen.no
Five priorities

1. International cooperation
2. Business development
3. Knowledge development
4. Infrastructure
5. Environmental protection and emergency preparedness
Safety and preparedness in the High North

What is the Government doing?

- MARPART
- SARiNOR I and II
- BarentsWatch
- Increased search and rescue capacity Svalbard
- Environmental base/oil spill response base in Lofoten and Vesterålen
- The Coast Guard - increased sailing activity
- Explore further the need for satellite based broadband for Arctic waters
- Polar Code
- Arctic Council: agreements on SAR and oil pollution preparedness and response
- Barents Cooperation: Barents Rescue exercise
- Arctic Coast Guard forum