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Effect of climate change on flux of N and C: air–land–freshwater– marine links

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effektforskning)
Held at: met.no, Climate Department
30 January 2003*

Effect of climate change on flux of N and C air-land-freshwater-marine links

- NFR 2003–2007
- Budget 12 mill
- Project leader:
Arne O. Stuanes, IJVF NLH
- Presented by Lars R. Hole, NILU



Background/Motivation

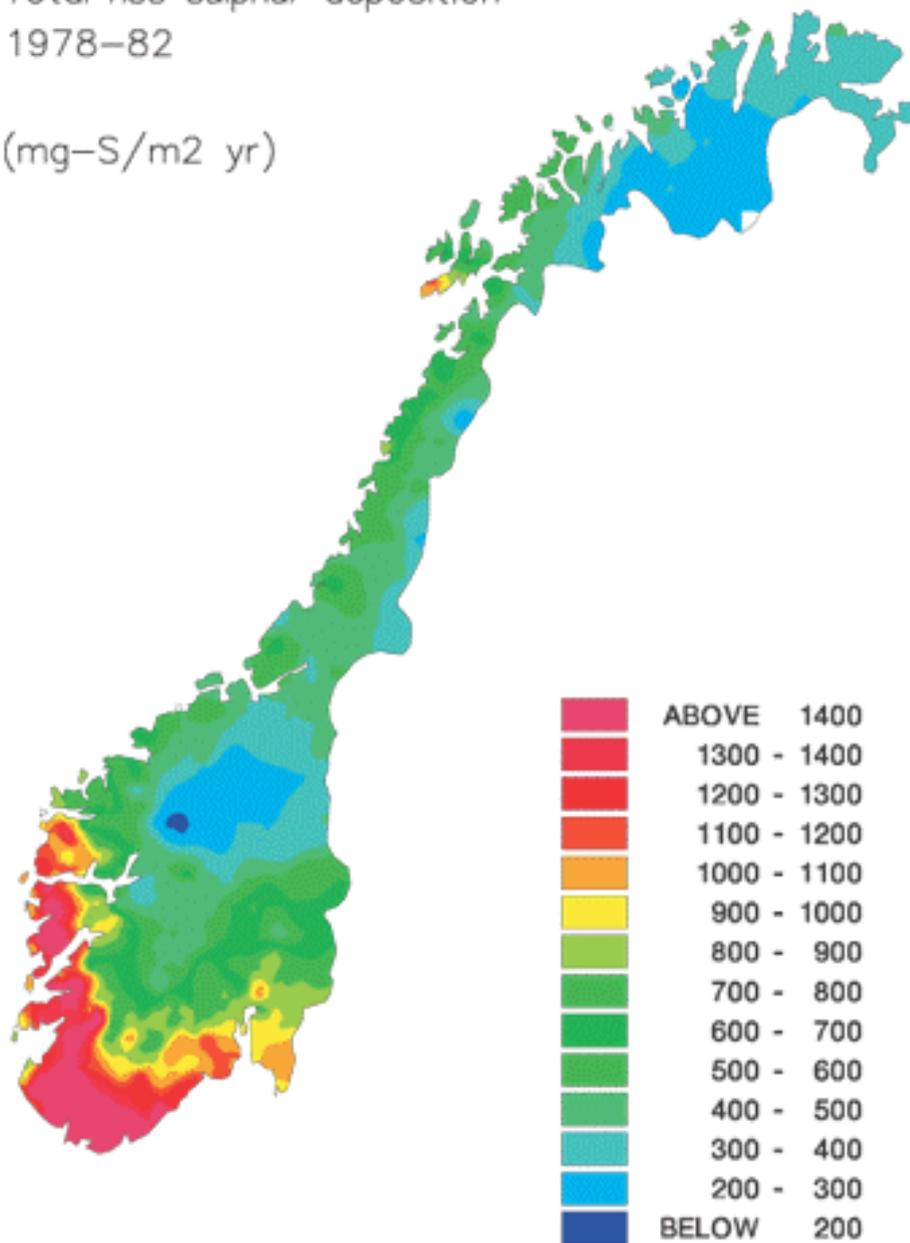
- *Nitrogen from mountains to fjords (93–95)*
- Significant reductions in ambient concentration of SO₂ (70–80% since 1980) have influenced the dry deposition rates for reduced nitrogen (NH₃)
- Total N deposition (wet + dry) to Norway reduced with only 16% in same period (peak around 1990)
- Changes in precipitation patterns will strongly affect total deposition loads on local/regional scale

Background/Motivation

- No scenarios made on effect of climate change on N and C budgets for Norwegian watercourses
- Changed precipitation pattern and more winter thaws will change N budget and release of C to catchments
- Altered climate can result in larger turnover of TOC and mobilization of N depots in soil

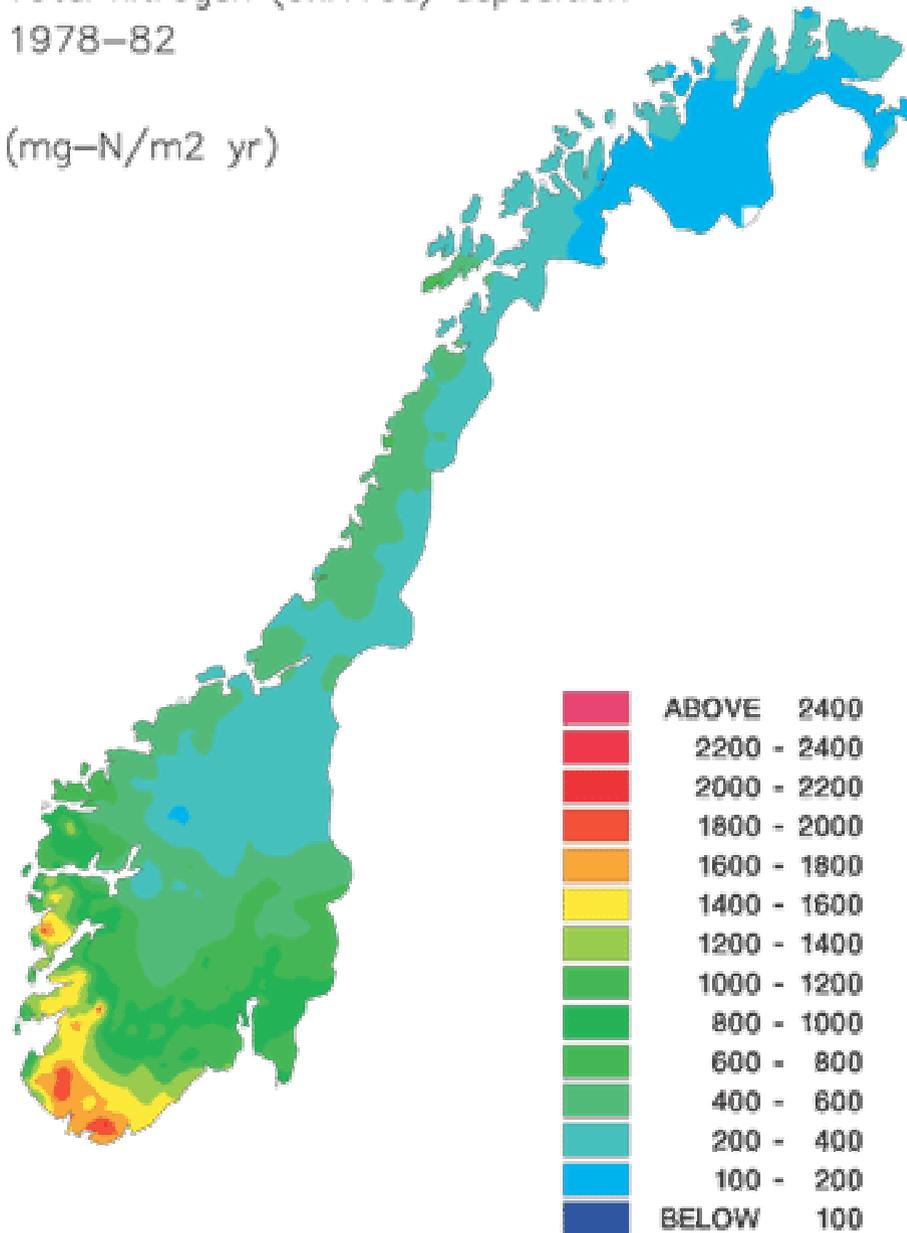
Total nss sulphur deposition
1978-82

(mg-S/m² yr)



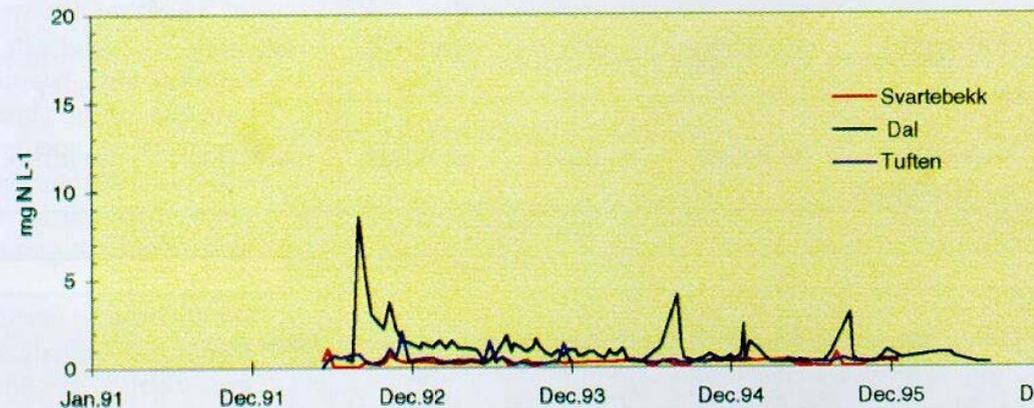
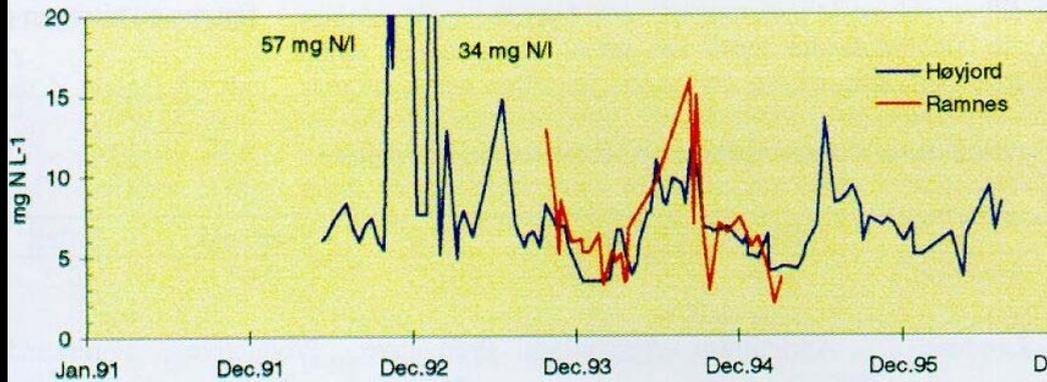
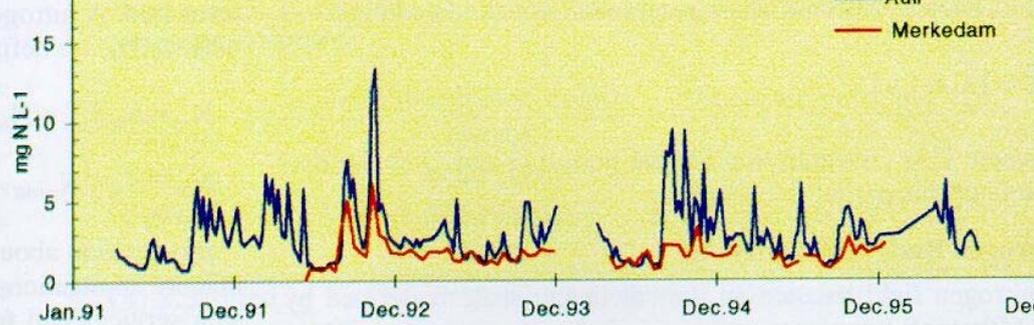
Total nitrogen (oxi+red) deposition
1978-82

(mg-N/m² yr)



N concentrations
in catchments
highly dependent
on land use and
weather
conditions

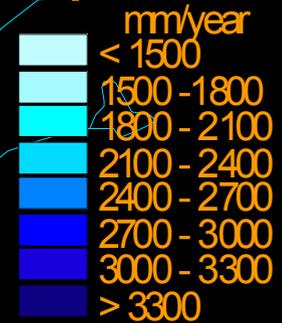
*Jordforsk – Nitrogen from
mountains to fjords*



Bjerkreim river catchment

N deposition
dependent on
precipitation
and land use

Precipitation amount

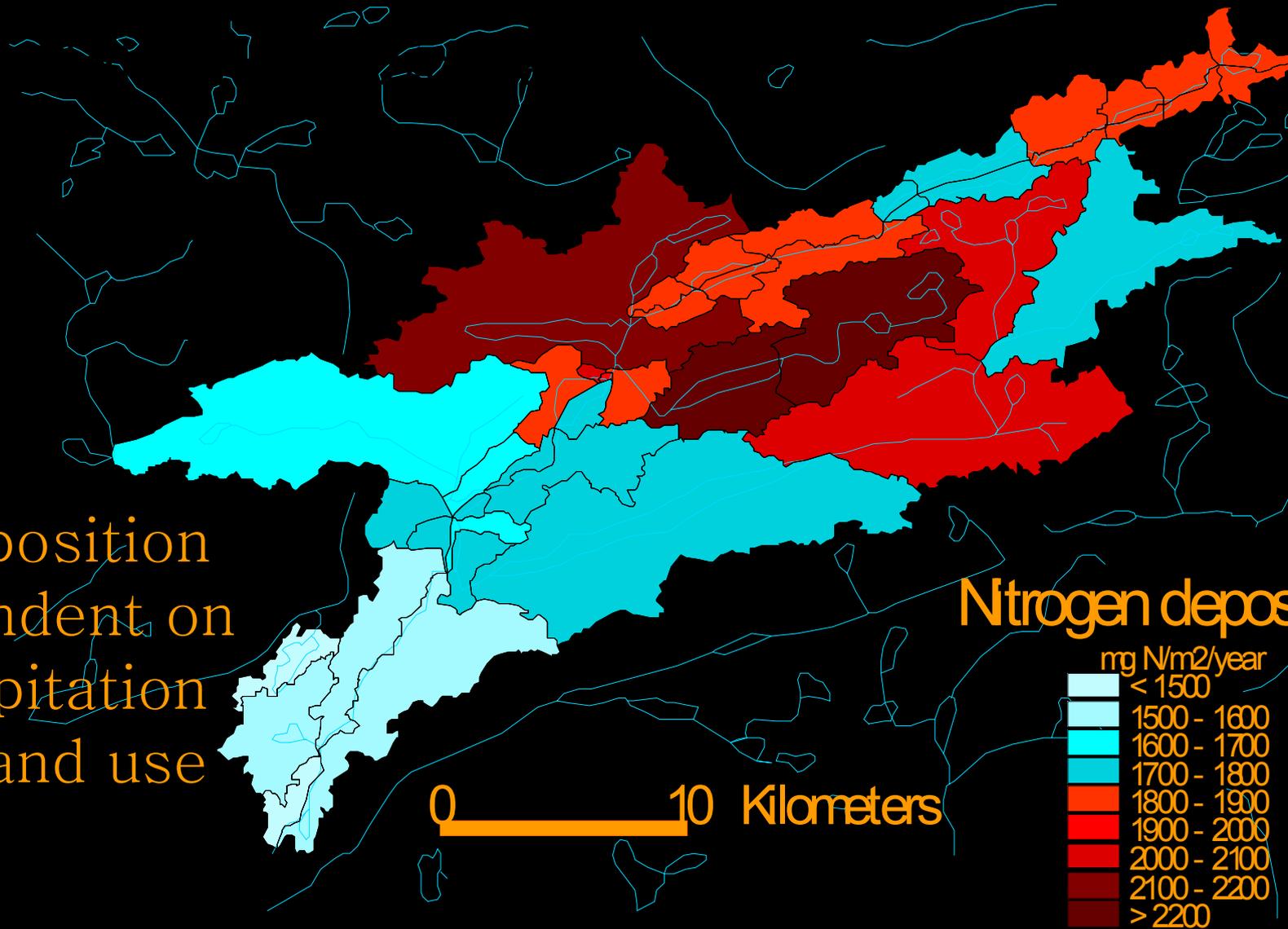


0 10 Kilometers

*NILU – Nitrogen from
mountains to fjords*

N deposition
dependent on
precipitation
and land use

*NILU – Nitrogen from
mountains to fjords*



Activities

1. Quantify the effects of climate change on N deposition to and flux of N and C from semi-natural terrestrial ecosystems to water
 - Changes in deposition mechanisms (physical and chemical) in an altered climate
 - Effects of melting episodes due to increased winter temperature
 - Effects of increased frequency of freezing/thawing cycles in winter
 - Modelling of NAO correlation with sea surface temperature episodes
 - Combined effects of changes in grazing pressure and climate

Activities

2. Assess effects of climate change on N and C fluxes at the river basin scale

3. Assess the consequences of changes in fluxes of N and C on freshwater and marine water quality and biology

4. Assess the implications for environmental policy and management of land and water resources

Application of RegClim results

- Scenarios for future deposition of nitrogen, sulphur and sea salts by Chemical Transport Modelling (CTM)
- Coupling of DOC and nitrate concentration trend in freshwater with NAO index
- Consequences of altered N and C inputs to marine environments

