



Forestry as climate redemption: the workings and practices of Norway's climate-forestry incentive schemes

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Panel 8b: Countering carbon: locating REDD+ contestation I

Climate forestry in Norway

- Forestry - a key element of Norway's climate discourse and policy abroad and at home
- Recent focus on forest carbon sequestration nationally (42 million/year vs. 2-3 billion NOK/year REDD+)
- 2/3 of emission cuts to be made nationally - argued that carbon capture and sequestration of Norwegian forests equals half of the national total emissions
- Policy guided by ideas of the *bioeconomy* - a malleable concept and leading discourse in forestry since 2010- industrial production of woody biomass, carbon sequestration and biomass for renewable energy (Püzl et al.2014)
- Involves assumptions about future economies and layers of uncertainty concerning potential climate gains

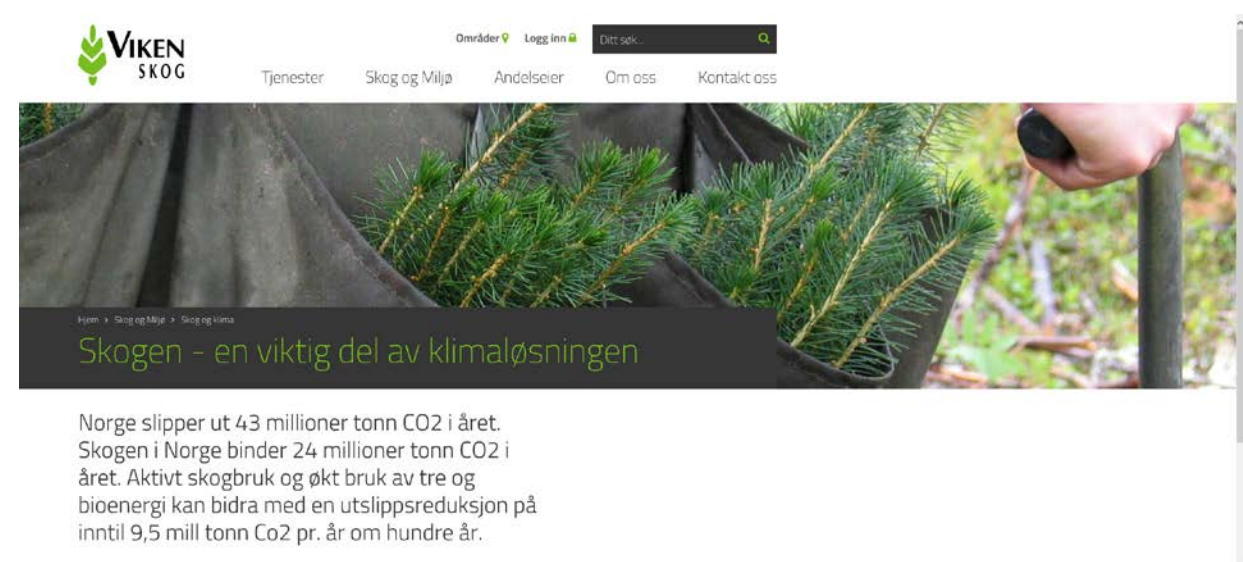
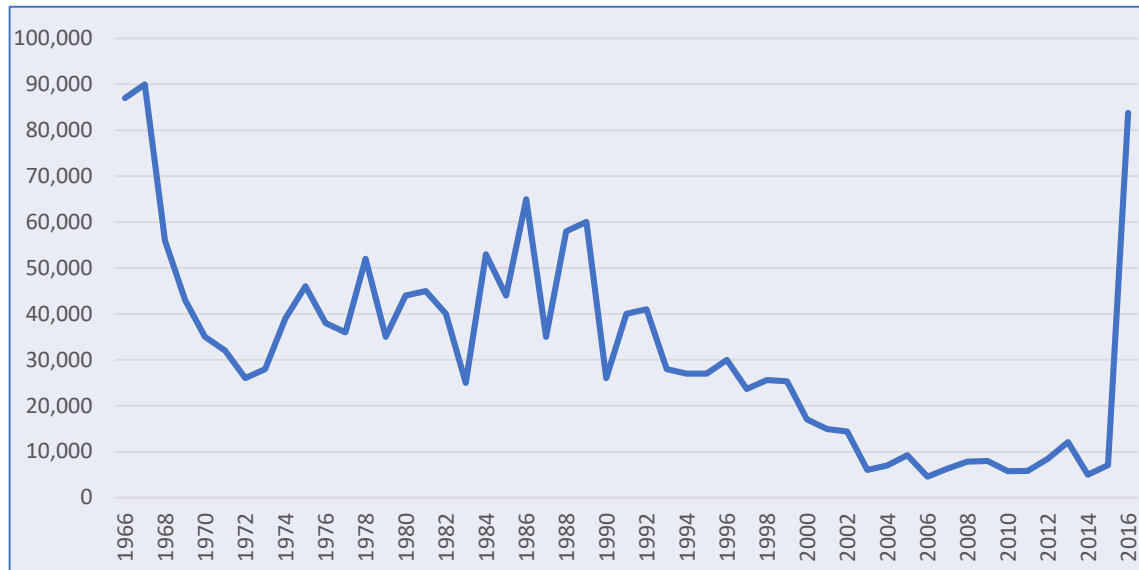
Aim: to explore how climate forestry through three schemes are framed, governed and operationalized

Methods: review of policy and forestry literature, 15 interviews with forestry actors and officials at the municipal, regional and national level



Three climate forest measures

Afforestation of new areas	Densification	Forest fertilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 million NOK/year 2015-2018• 3-year pilot in three counties• 100 % of cost reimbursed• Potential for afforestation: 25 to 5000 km²• Controversial measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 million NOK/yearly 2016-?• Seen as a long-term climate measure• 80 % of cost reimbursed-50 more plants/daa• Closely aligned with existing practices• Mixed views on whether the measure is beneficial for forest owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 million NOK/yearly 2016-2021• Short-term climate measure• 40 % of cost reimbursed + the remains by Forestry Fund• Well received by forest industry• But also criticized for potential environmental impacts



Seamless overlap between policy and practice

- Schemes as a continuation of long-standing forestry practices (afforestation differs)
- Climate funds to intensify forestry, more business for forest associations, helicopter firms and fertilization companies
- Forest industry embrace the bioeconomy framing - position itself as *the solution*: a climate actor and a driver for a green bioeconomy
- Industry argue for the importance of forestry products in a green economy to a greater extent than official discourses

Governance by certification and precision technologies

- Climate forestry measures fall within the existing governance regime- shaped by industry certification schemes
- «Soft-governance» industry standards stricter than formal regulations, expertise within industry rather than authorities
- Compliance driven by market access and demands, enforcement by municipalities but difficult to implement in practice
- Fertilization- high level of precision – mapping, automatization, helicopter flight logs
- “Water proof”- rendering technical conceal underlying uncertainties and questions about gains and impacts





Uncertainties- climate gains and environmental consequences

- Scientific uncertainty on climate effects and wider environmental impact
- Climate gains at times up against concerns for biodiversity and food security
- Harvest- timing and age/maturity of stocks will influence climate gains and impacts
- Uncertainty surrounding climate gains does not match the high precision technologies
- The assumptions of the use and importance of products of wood and forest residues as biofuel have yet to materialize in Norway
- Preconditions for the Norwegian forestry sector to make a bioeconomy transition appear unrealistic in the near future (fragmented production units, industrial facilities and market demands)

“Isn’t it good- Norwegian wood?”

- The workings and practices remain the same in a new climate framing
- Low hanging fruit for climate action at home- no major conflicts or required transformations
- Uncertainties under-communicated – overlap between the need for Norway to show national action and the industries need for increased productivity
- How do the framings and workings of Norway’s national climate forestry policy and framing differ and align with REDD+?



Thank you!

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