



Photo: Geir Mogen, Buckethaus

Torfinn Sørensen

Torfinn Sørensen, Deputy Director General, Water and Knowledge Department, Norwegian Environment Agency

Mr. Sørensen leads the Water and Knowledge Department at the Norwegian Environment Agency since January 2022. The Water and Knowledge Department has a broad portfolio of responsibilities ranging from water management and restoration, regulation of fishing including preservation of fish stocks in gene banks and combating *Gyrodactylus salaris* to regulation and measures relating to invasive species (e.g. CITES) and socio-economic assessments of environmental impact. The department has the coordination responsibility for the agency's monitoring programs and for environmental reporting at the national and EU level and on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The department coordinates the work for the Nature Index for Norway and for the assessment of status and trends in the ecological condition of Norway's main ecosystem types. The department has also a special responsibility for freshwater and forest ecosystems and for coordinating efforts aimed at addressing simultaneously both the climate and the biodiversity crisis. Furthermore, the department is responsible for research and development and for collaboration with the European Environment Agency.

Mr. Sørensen started his career at the Norwegian Mapping Authority and has subsequently worked at the Norwegian Environment Agency (and former Norwegian Climate and Pollution Agency and Norwegian Pollution Control Authority) between 1998 and 2018. During this time, he has held a number of leader positions such as Head of the Section for Environmental Data and for the Section for Water and Energy Resources. He has also held the position of acting Director for a short period of time. Between 2018 and 2021 he has been county governor in Nordland as Deputy Director General at the Department of Environmental Protection. During his time at the Agency and as county governor he has been responsible for the follow-up and implementation of environmental national policies on a

range of topics, such as data management and mapping, management of wild game, climate, managing licenses for the use of natural resources, establishment and management of protected areas, aquaculture, regulation of water resources and implementation of the water directive, decisions related to land-use, forest management and management of invasive or threatened species.

Mr. Sørensen holds a M.Sc. of geography from NTNU, Trondheim, Norway.