



WWF Verdens naturfond
P.O. Box 6784 - St. Olavs plass
0130 Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 22 036 500
Fax: +47 22 200 666
post@wwf.no
www.wwf.no
[facebook.com/WWF Verdens naturfond](https://facebook.com/WWFVerdensnaturfond)

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WWF-Norway's CEO is the new General Director at Norad

Bård Vegar Solhjell will leave WWF to become General Director at Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. Solhjell was appointed in a cabinet meeting today. Solhjell will start in his new job January 2, 2020.

Norad is an important global donor. The agency's main purpose is to ensure that Norwegian development aid funds are spent in the best possible way, and to report on what works and what does not work.

"One of the main tasks in my new position will be to strengthen climate and environment-related aid, and to include perspectives of mitigation and adaptation into the whole portfolio, and also to advise the Ministry and Government on the road forward on development policy", Solhjell says.

A natural next step

The position as Director of Norad he sees as a natural next move.

"After an exciting and educational time in WWF-Norway, I take all this experience - and my passion for nature and the environment – into my new job in development aid. Climate, energy and environmental questions are crucial for the development perspective of all countries, and I want to contribute to strengthening this connection in my new position. I am grateful for the opportunities and trust I have been given by WWF", Solhjell says.

Deputy CEO Karoline Andaur appointed interim CEO

WWF's chairman of the Board, Frode Hvattum, is sad to see the profiled CEO go, but at the same time a shift in CEO brings new possibilities to the Norwegian branch of WWF.

"WWF is a solid organization with technically skilled and engaged staff who will make sure that WWF-Norway continues to deliver great results on a variety of issues while the Board look for the ideal candidate to replace Solhjell, he says. Karoline Andaur will be the interim CEO as of today. She has been with WWF since 2009, holding various positions. She knows the organization well and is respected by co-leaders and staff", Hvattum says.

2020 – a year of opportunities

A new CEO will start his/her work in a very exciting year for WWF-Norway. Climate and environmental issues have never been more important, and WWF is well positioned to influence important decisions that will take the world in a more sustainable direction. It is the also the year of the Norwegian telethon "NRK TV Action", which will benefit WWF's work on zero plastic waste in the oceans.

"The telethon is a unique opportunity to raise money for and awareness around plastic pollution and waste management and how this can benefit people and nature. This is something we look very much forward to", says Hvattum.

For any questions, please contact interim CEO Karoline Andaur at +47 92819464, or kandaur@wwf.no.