

OpenPSD Use Case for Asplan Viak

Description of the company

Asplan Viak AS is a large engineering and architect consultancy company in Norway. The company has approximately 1000 employees across 31 office locations in Norway. Asplan Viak is organized as a foundation and originates from the merger (in 1991) of two companies established in 1958 (VIAK) and 1962 (Asplan), respectively. Asplan Viak maintains activities outside of Norway through the joint company Norplan (established in 1971 in partnership with Multiconsult). The mission of Norplan is based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals when improving the built, natural, and social environment around the globe. Asplan Viak has national and international experience with the digital transition and geographic data management for sustainable development that aligns well with the mission of GBIF.

The motivation for the publication of data

Asplan Viak has declared in their corporate statement and the environmental policy documents that they will contribute to sustainable development and that they aim to minimize the negative environmental consequences of their own activities. This ensured through an annual climate and environmental impact audit.

Large engineering projects in Norway are mandated to conduct a mandatory environmental impact study. To complete the reporting of biodiversity survey data, data must be published to the Norwegian Species Map Service (Artskart). Artskart is maintained in a partnership between the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre (NBIC, Artsdatabanken) and the Norwegian GBIF Participant node (GBIF Norway). All species occurrence data in Artskart are simultaneously published in the international GBIF infrastructure.

The initial contact to start data publication from the GBIF Norway IPT was made independently by Asplan Viak (presumably) after a recommendation from the national environmental authorities.

Actors involved

Data publication in GBIF from [Asplan Viak](#) was largely organized by one person, Per Gerhard Ihlen. Data is published by the GBIF Norway helpdesk after a request from Asplan Viak. Artskart maintained by NBIC facilitates the reporting of mandatory environment impact survey data to the national Norwegian environmental authorities.

Procedures

Asplan Viak is using the Integrated data Publishing Toolkit (IPT) service hosted by GBIF Norway when publishing biodiversity survey datasets to Artskart and GBIF. Per Gerhard Ihlen from Asplan Viak has a user account with login to the IPT. However, datasets are normally sent by email as a spreadsheet to the GBIF Norway helpdesk for data transformations and mapping to the international data exchange format required by the IPT.

Resources

Asplan Viak joined GBIF in 2016 as one of the first data publishers from the private sector in Norway. Asplan Viak has published in total 14 datasets and 3379 occurrences in GBIF.

Dataset	Occurrences	Created
E39 Lyngdal - Ålgård	381	13/05/2016
Lindesnes	50	13/05/2016
Kystfuruskooger 2015	184	28/07/2016
Artsrike vegkanter i Haugesund	109	04/01/2017
KU E16 Slæn - Tvinno	325	30/01/2017
Rekartlegging av skog i Kvam i 2015 og 2016	332	07/04/2017
Verdivurdering naturmangfold E39 Stord-Os	621	26/04/2017
ARKO 2014	166	09/06/2017
Konsekvensutredning naturmangfold E6 Åsen - Mære	401	08/01/2018
Tillegg Røtinga i Os	225	08/01/2018
Fv. 555 Kolltveit - Austefjorden	165	01/05/2018
Vegetation survey in Vestfold, Norway 2018	310	12/02/2019
Biodiversity survey of calcareous forests in Norway	243	29/04/2019
Biodiversity mapping in connection with a new road (Fv. 17) between Dyrstad and Østvik in Steinkjer, Norway.	267	01/07/2019

Limitations or recommendations

Data publication in GBIF from Asplan Viak was largely coordinated by one person, Per Gerhard Ihlen. The concentration of this competence and responsibility in one person is a major risk for Asplan Viak as is demonstrated by Per Gerhard Ihlen leaving Asplan Viak in February 2020 for new employment with the Norwegian Nature Research Institute (NINA). Even with the declared

intention from Asplan Viak to maintain open biodiversity data publication in Artskart and GBIF, the sustainable continuation of this is obviously uncertain.

An important recommendation must thus be to ensure that the competence and responsibility for biodiversity data publications from a private company are not concentrated on one single person. Routines for data publication should be well documented integrated into the company's daily routines protocols. Appreciation for open data publication skills should be included in the employee assessment appraisal to motivate additional employees to acquire these skills.