

# Life Outside Academia as a Biologist

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# Who am I: education and work experience

## Undergraduate:

- Lund University, Sweden
- University North Wales, Bangor
- Ecology
- Marine biology

## MSc:

- Gothenburg University, Sweden
- Marine ecology

## PhD:

- NTNU
- Biology (behavioural ecology)

Field and laboratory

Terrestrial and aquatic

Fish, birds, insects, mammals, plants

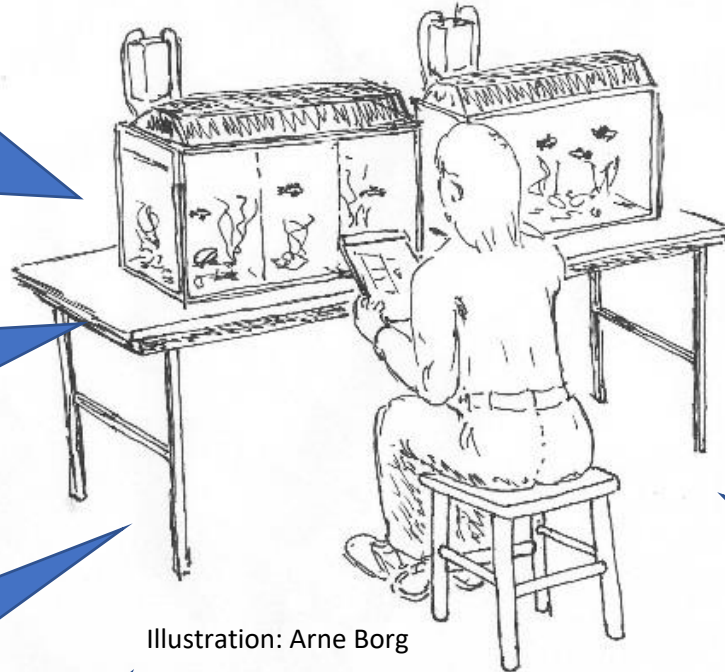


Illustration: Arne Borg

## Research:

- Postdoc Oulu University, Finland
- Postdoc at NTNU
- Behavioural ecology and molecular ecology

## Other University experiences:

- Teaching and dissemination
- Administration and coordination

## Natural management:

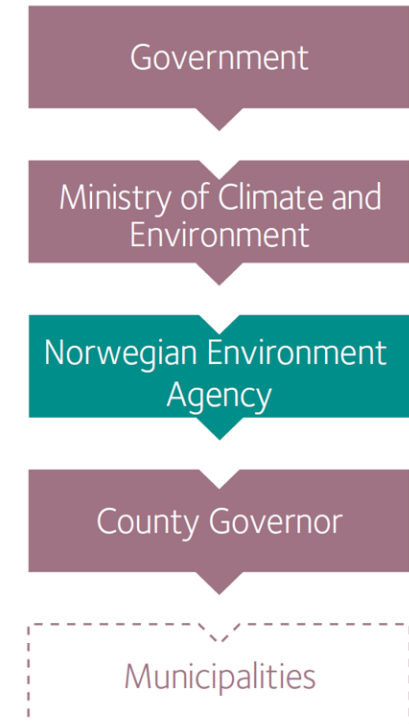
- Norwegian Environment Agency
- Climate change
- Biodiversity

# Life Outside Academia: Natural Management

## The Norwegian Environment Agency



- Agency under the Ministry of Climate and Environment
- Established 2013
- About 700 employees – mainly in Trondheim and Oslo



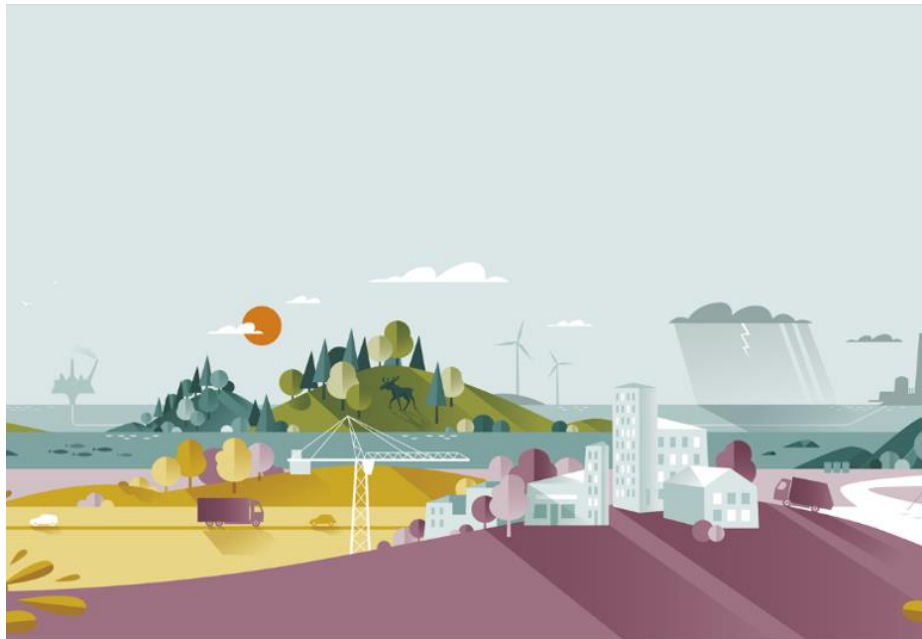
# Life Outside Academia: Natural Management The Norwegian Environment Agency



Priority areas

and functions

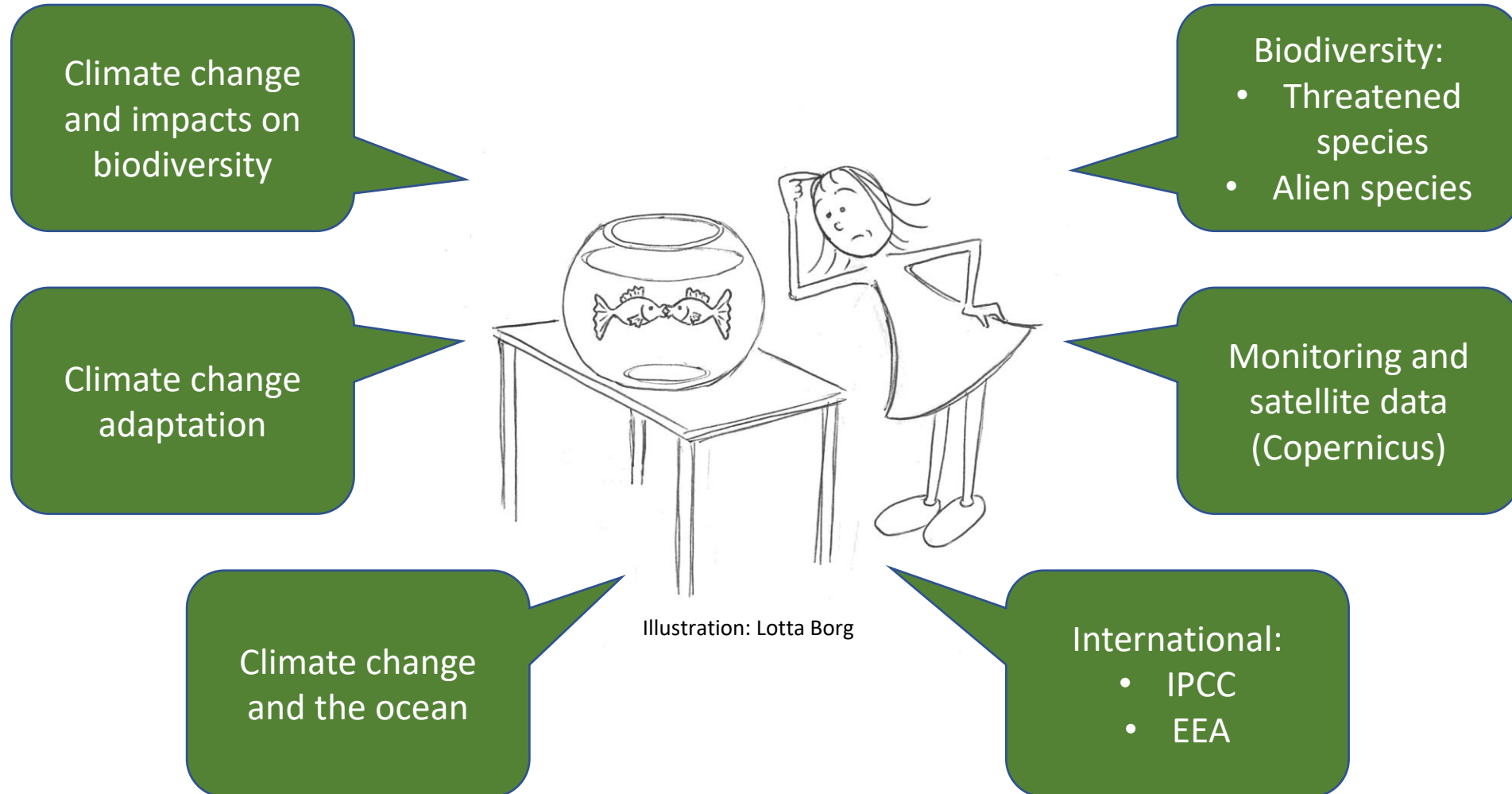
Climate Biodiversity Pollution Outdoor life



- Collate and communicate environmental information
- Exercise regulatory authority
- Supervise and guide regional and local government levels
- Give professional and technical advice
- Participate in international environmental activities

# Life Outside Academia: Natural Management

## What do I do?



# Benefits of a life outside academia?

- From specialist, but variable work days



Illustration: Lena Wester



Photos: Elisabet Forsgren, Trond Amundsen, Gunilla Rosenqvist, Åsa Pedersen

- To generalist, but more office based

# Benefits of a life outside academia

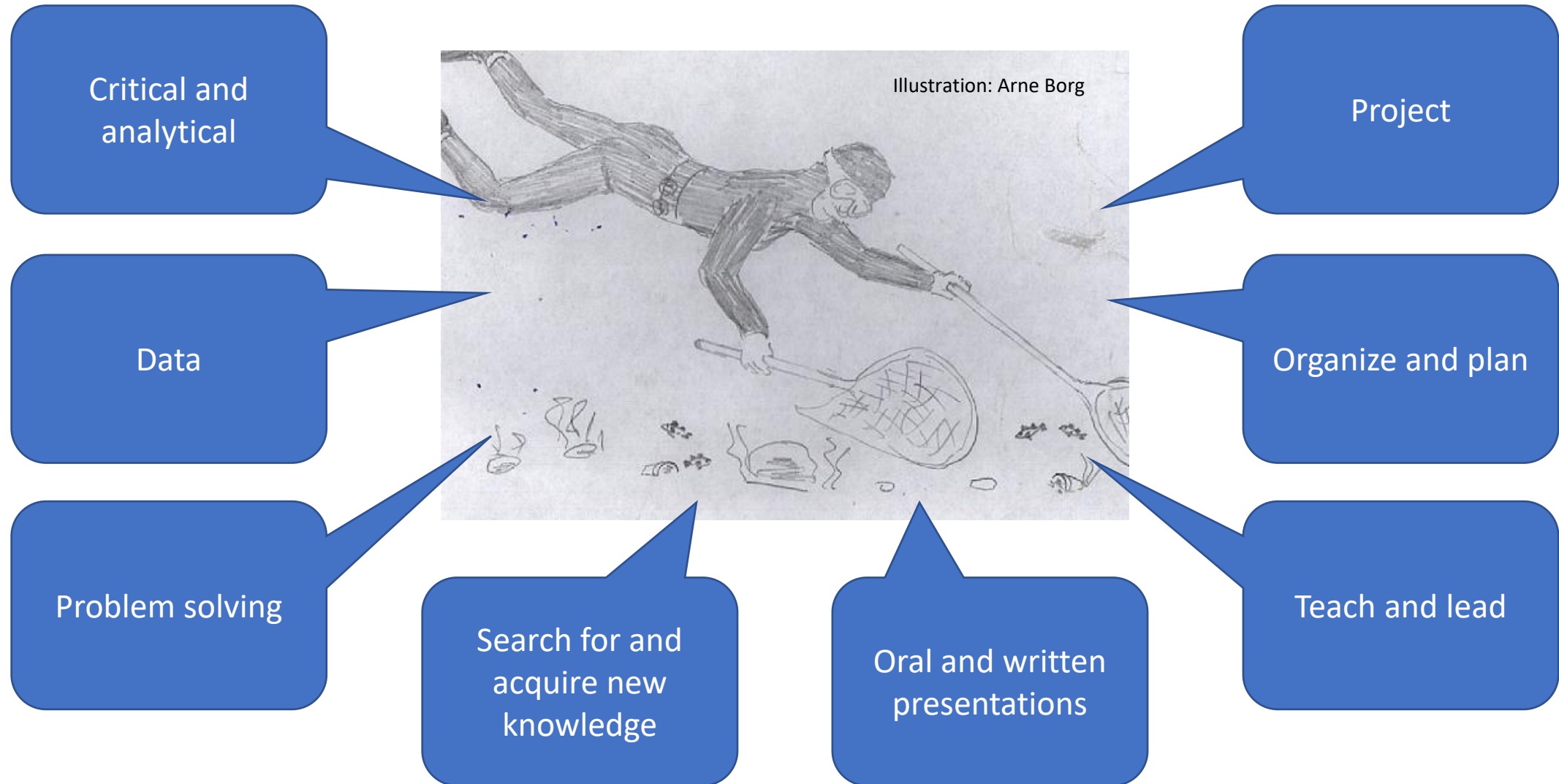
- Use scientific knowledge in a societal context
- Make a difference
- Draw on all previous experiences
- Your colleagues are not your competitors
- Work towards a common goal
- Do not need to find funding for your salary
- Learn a lot!
- Meaningful

# Challenges

- Political/democratic context
- You represent the government not yourself
- Time constraints
- Quality constraints
- Priority constraints
- Patience



# Personal skills acquired from academia



# What could I contribute with

- Competence in natural sciences
- Insight into science and research – science-policy
- Experience and contact network within science and dissemination
- Cooperation and collaboration
- Independent and innovative
- Argumentation and compromise
- Process and product
- Put my finger on the problem and find solutions