

# Development vs. conservation

- balance through locally based management?



# Study area: Conservation concerns

- Rondane massif:



- Fragile mountain eco-system: Wild reindeer main focus

Bern-convention (1979): Norway has a special responsibility to take care of the original wild reindeer

- Human traffic into grazing areas disturbs grazing and is a hindrance for migration between grazing areas

# Study area: Development concerns

- 14 municipalities: 150.000 inhabitants
- Declining population  
+ reduced activity in traditional rural economics  
= need for developing new commercial activities
- The study area is a popular recreation area:  
Large potential for development of second homes.

- **Development of second homes:**
  - + Important for the local economy
  - Generates increased traffic into wild reindeer habitat
- **How should the wild reindeer habitat be protected?**
  - Alt. 1: Management based on Nature Conservation Act: Strict, very limited possibilities for development
  - Alt. 2: Management based on the Planning and Building Act: Allows for development + continued local management

## 1991(revised 2000): Regional Plan for Rondane Massif (based on the Planning and Building Act)

Main objective:

Preserve the habitat of the wild reindeer

- Core area (green):

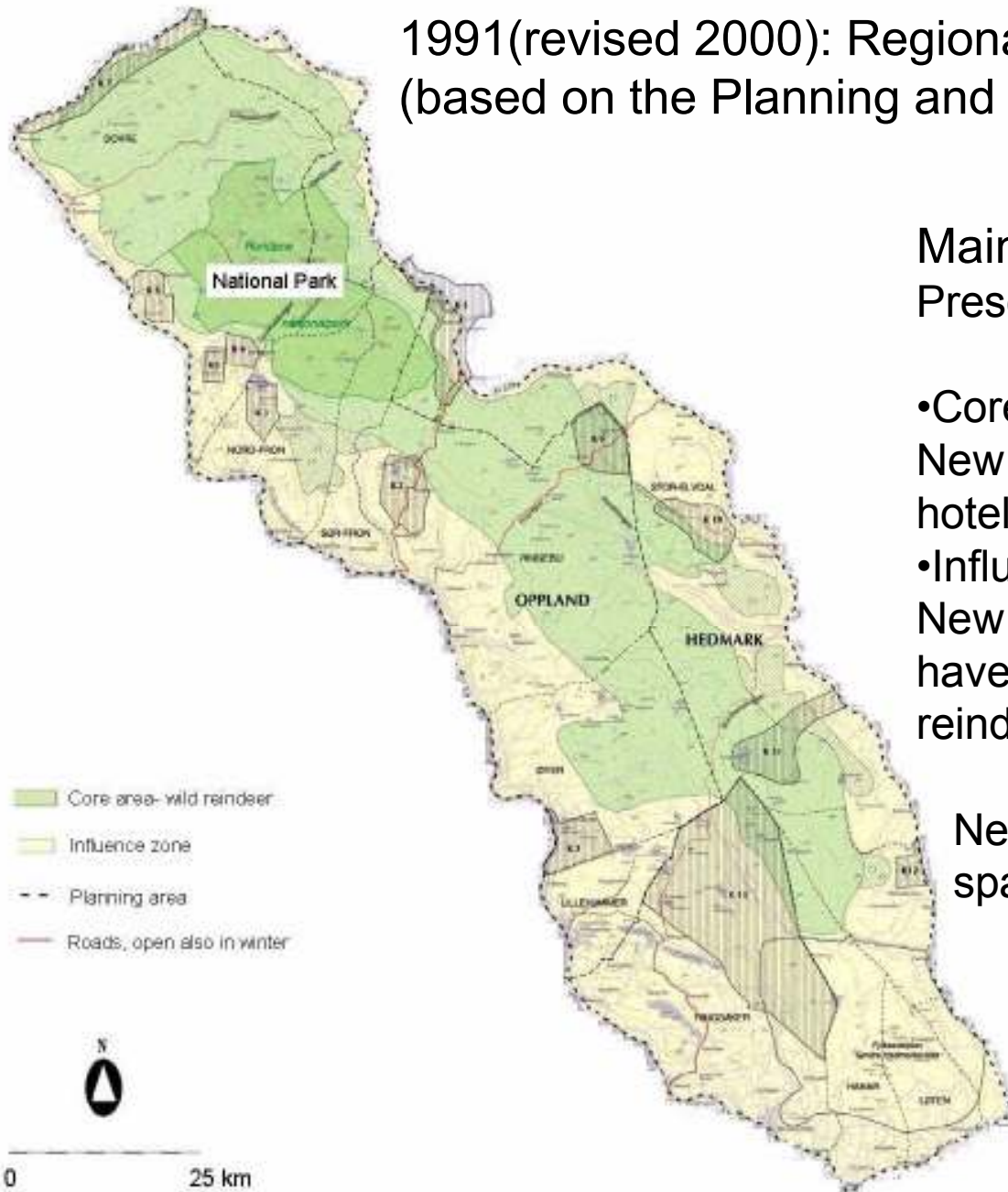
New developments like second homes, hotels and roads are not allowed.

- Influence zone (yellow):

New activities are allowed if they do not have any harmful impact on the wild reindeer habitat.

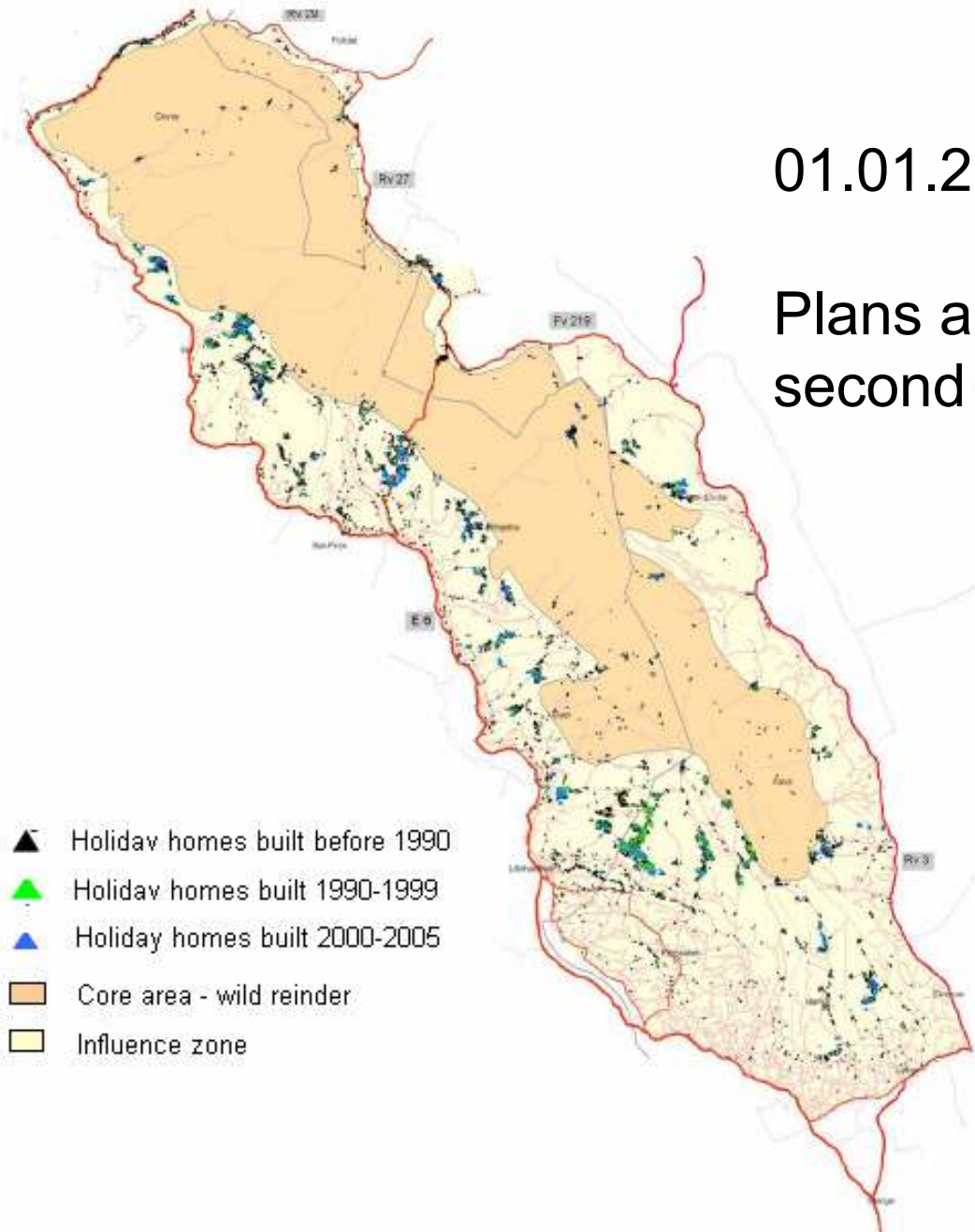
New developments are decided through spatial plans at the municipality level

Regional authorities can object to municipal plans if they are not in accordance with the guidelines of the regional plan for Rondane



01.01.2006: 17.816 second homes

Plans approved for another 5.000 second homes



# The regional plan a partial success:

- The reindeer herd is still a vital one
- The plan has allowed for economic exploitation of the area, BUT:
  - The municipalities have to a varying degree committed themselves to preserve the habitat of the wild reindeer
  - Uneven distribution between western and eastern parts of the planning area and municipalities (7-5.800 second homes)
- New development of second homes has been restricted:
  - Almost no new development within core area
  - New development have been concentrated to existing development areas
  - In many municipality plans: The number of second homes have been reduced through the planning process

BUT: By revision of the municipality plans (after 4-10 years): The municipalities expect to get a *new* development quota.
- Main result: The pace of new developments is slowed down, but continues

# Future challenges

Recent recommendations from reindeer researchers:

*"The limit of acceptable change for the reindeer habitat may soon be reached"*

Will the 14 municipalities be able to agree on:

1. A definite limit of development within the planning area?
2. How the remaining development quota should be distributed between the municipalities?

How this challenge is solved will be an important test on whether the balance between conservation and development can be solved through locally based management