

43rd Standing Committee meeting of the Bern Convention,
Strasbourg, November 2023.

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Follow-up to Recommendation no. 190 (2016). Update report from Government of Iceland.

Government of Iceland

Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate



Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland.

- Update report from the Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate on behalf of the Government of Iceland provided earlier in 2023.
- Report on the status of the 14 suggested actions in the original recommendation.



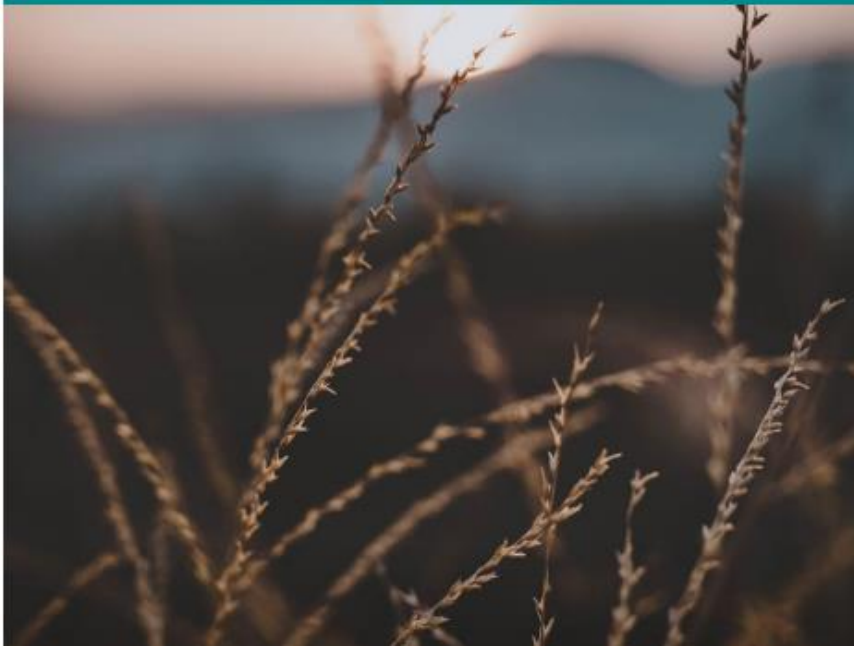
Land og líf

Landgræðsluáætlun
og landsáætlun
í skógrækt

Stefna og framtíðarsýn í landgræðslu
og skógrækt til ársins 2031

New combined strategy for land reclamation and forestry – Land and Life

- Published by the minister for food, agriculture and fisheries in August 2022 which is responsible for the public land reclamation and forestry sector.
- The strategy touches upon numerous recommendations in Recommendation no. 190 in particular recommendations nr. 1, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 13.
- Early days for the implementation of most actions. Most actions governed by the newly formed Land and Forest institute but many involve participation of public nature conservation research and governance institutes such as the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the Environmental Agency.





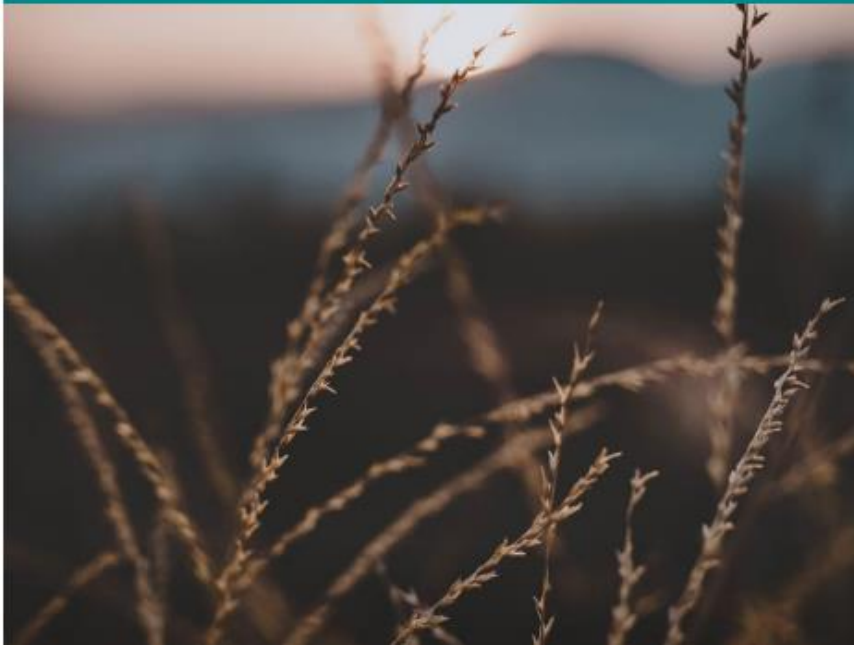
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New combined strategy for land reclamation and forestry – Land and Life

- A 10 year national strategy with a 5-year action plan -> *Rec. no. 5*
- Vision and focus of strategy to strengthen ecosystem quality and resilience and conserve biodiversity.
- Increased focus on research on impacts of land reclamation and forestry on biodiversity - > *Rec. No. 11.*
- Includes plans to create new criteria for land selection for forestry as well as risk assessment for alien tree species. Will impact EIA processes -> *Rec. no. 7 and 12.*
- Includes actions to support landowners for ecosystem restoration - > *Rec. No. 13.*





Update on other recommendations

- A special contract between the Ministry for EEC and the IINH supporting the implementation of AEWA has not been finalized but the Ministry supports various AEWA monitoring projects. Impact of forestry on waterbirds not been specifically addressed within the AEWA context in Iceland but monitoring and research on wader species impacted by forestry has increased in recent years in general. -> *Rec. No. 2 and Rec. No. 6.*
- No new Emerald sites been proposed since June 2022 -> *Rec. No. 3.*
- Legal foundation of national and regional plans for forestry require an inclusive and broad review process according to new Icelandic Forestry Act no. 33 (2019) -> *Rec. No. 9.*
- Update on Iceland's National Biodiversity Strategy in process. A Green Book status report published in 2021. Ongoing strategy work planned 2023-2024 -> *Rec. No. 10.*