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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

43rd meeting

Strasbourg, 28 November - 1 December 2023

Complaint on stand-by: 2017/6

**Follow-up to Recommendation no. 218 (2022)
on the possible negative impact on
Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve and its
surroundings from new road infrastructure
(Iceland)**

- REPORT BY THE COMPLAINANT -

*Document prepared by
Landvernd*

Landvernd regards that the Icelandic authorities still have not taken any steps towards assigning the Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve to the Emerald Network or increasing the protection of the area. The same can be said of the Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve Committee which has not, so far as we know, taken any measures towards making the Reserve an Emerald Network site as the recommendations suggest.

The monitoring of the road construction (bridges and dams) Gufufjörður-Djúpifjörður is not likely to lessen the impact of the construction. The whole project is experimental and is not likely to lessen the impact of the construction to any extent.

Landvernd is deeply concerned that at the same time as the Bern Convention recommends stronger protection of the Breiðafjörður area, ideas have been put forth about invalidating/cancelling protection of Vatnsfjörður, a special nature reserve within the Breiðafjörður Reserve, for road construction and hydropower plants.

Landvernd welcomes all further follow-up by the Bern Convention and feels that is quite necessary considering the current and previous cases reported to the Bern convention.