

Iceland – SD Priorities

Source document: Welfare for the Future Iceland's National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002-2020 (2002)

1. Healthy and Safe Environment (*p. 24*)

1.1. Clean Air (*p. 25*)

- 1.1.1. To ensure that Iceland's inhabitants breathe clean air, with air pollution levels below the strictest levels. (*p. 25*)
 - 1.1.2. To minimize air pollution caused by traffic, industry and other activities. (*p. 25*)
 - 1.1.3. To reduce air pollution in the greater Reykjavik area with the aim of significant improvement in the next few years. (*p. 25*)
-

1.2. Clean Freshwater (*p. 26*)

- 1.2.1. All inhabitants of the country should have access to abundant clean water unpolluted by chemicals and micro-organisms, for drinking and other uses. (*p. 26*)
 - 1.2.2. Incidents of drinking water contamination should be rare or non-existent. (*p. 26*)
 - 1.2.3. Pollution of rivers and lakes should be non-existent or so miniscule that it does not affect freshwater ecosystems, fish migration or the recreational value of an area. (*p. 26*)
-

1.3. Safe Food Products (*p. 28*)

- 1.3.1. Consumers should always be able to trust that they are offered only products safe for consumption. (*p. 28*)
 - 1.3.2. The labelling of food products should give sufficient information on the contents of the product. (*p. 28*)
 - 1.3.3. Iceland must continue to be esteemed as a producer of healthy and safe food products made in an unpolluted environment. (*p. 28*)
-

1.4. An Environment Free of Hazardous Materials (*p. 30*)

- 1.4.1. The use of chemicals and chemical products should not threaten the environment or human health. (*p. 30*)
 - 1.4.2. Consumers should have access to conclusive information on how to utilize products with chemicals, and information on potential hazards that may arise from chemicals in the product. (*p. 30*)
 - 1.4.3. The use of biocides and pesticides should be decreased. (*p. 30*)
 - 1.4.4. The disposal of materials hazardous to health and the environment should be limited as much as possible, and cease completely within 25 years. (*p. 30*)
-

1.5. Outdoor Activities in Harmony with Nature (*p. 31*)

- 1.5.1. The public's right to free access to common land should not be restricted, unless it is vitally necessary for the purposes of nature conservation. (*p. 31*)
 - 1.5.2. Outdoor activities considerations should be taken into account in planning and decisions on land use. (*p. 31*)
 - 1.5.3. The growth in tourism in Iceland should be further encouraged, and accompanied by preventive measures to protect nature from damage caused by increased traffic. (*p. 31*)
-

1.6. Protection Against Natural Disasters (*p. 33*)

- 1.6.1. All inhabitants of the country should live in reasonable safety from natural disasters. (*p. 33*)
- 1.6.2. The risk of natural disasters should be taken into account during planning of land use. (*p. 33*)

2. Protection of Icelandic Nature (*p. 36*)

2.1. Protection of Iceland's Biota (p. 37)

- 2.1.1. The diversity of species and habitat types should be conserved. (p. 37)
- 2.1.2. Further diminishing of wetlands, birch woodlands and other key ecosystems in Iceland should be avoided. (p. 37)
- 2.1.3. Attempts to reclaim wetlands and other important ecosystems should be made where possible. (p. 37)

2.2. Protection of Unique Geological Formations (p. 39)

- 2.2.1. The diversity of geological formations should be conserved by protecting those formations that are distinct or unique regionally, nationally or globally. (p. 39)
- 2.2.2. A methodical survey of geological formations in Iceland should be conducted, which will provide a basis for their systematic preservation. (p. 39)

2.3. Wilderness Conservation (p. 40)

- 2.3.1. Large areas of wilderness should remain untouched in Icelandic uninhabited areas. (p. 40)
- 2.3.2. Man-made structures should preferably be built outside of defined wilderness areas. When this is not deemed possible, care should be taken that the structures cause minimal damage and minimal visual effect. (p. 40)

3. Sustainable Use of Resources (p. 42)

3.1. Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources (p. 43)

- 3.1.1. The utilization of fish stocks and other living marine resources should remain on a sustainable basis and based on the best available scientific findings. (p. 43)
- 3.1.2. Fishing of stocks that call for a limitation of harvesting, according to scientific assessment, must be managed and a cautionary viewpoint taken to achieve the maximum yield of stocks in the long run. (p. 43)
- 3.1.3. Long-term policies for the utilization of certain stocks should be developed, for instance by applying catch rules and the use of a multi-stock approach where possible. (p. 43)
- 3.1.4. Methods and management for the utilization of living marine resources should take into account the diverse interplay of the marine ecosystem and should aim to minimize negative effects of utilization on other sections of the ecosystem. (p. 43)

3.2. Sustainable Use of Vegetation and Reclamation of Land (p. 46)

- 3.2.1. The land's soil and vegetation resources, including forests, should be sustainably utilized according to the best scientific information available. (p. 46)
- 3.2.2. Grazing should be controlled in accordance with the land's tolerance levels and the risk of erosion. (p. 46)
- 3.2.3. Systematic soil conservation activities should be conducted in eroded areas, in accordance with policies on land use and nature conservation in each area. Extreme soil erosion should be curbed, especially in settled areas and in the lowlands. (p. 46)
- 3.2.4. The development of farm forestry should strengthen rural settlements and employment, and fit in with the country's landscape and ecosystem. (p. 46)

3.3. Increased Utilization of Renewable Energy (p. 48)

- 3.3.1. Iceland's renewable sources of energy should be further utilized, using economic and environmental considerations as a guiding light. (p. 48)
- 3.3.2. The proportion of renewable energy resources in the nation's energy budget should be increased, and the use of fossil fuels should become insignificant within a few decades. The aim is that transport will use energy from renewable energy resources as soon as it is feasible to do so. (p. 48)
- 3.3.3. Electricity and geothermal heating systems should be managed in a way that ensures effectiveness, safety and optimum economic efficiency. (p. 48)
- 3.3.4. Increased energy efficiency should be encouraged. (p. 48)

3.4. Reduction and Improved Handling of Waste (p. 50)

- 3.4.1. Waste generation should be reduced as much as possible and the handling of waste should cause minimal negative impact on the environment. It should be ensured that hazardous waste does not find their way into the environment. (p. 50)
- 3.4.2. Current and future legislated targets for the recycling of different kinds of waste, including packaging, organic waste, electronic devices and equipment, should be met. (p. 50)
- 3.4.3. Disposal expenses should be taken into account in the pricing of goods. (p. 50)

4. Global Issues (p. 52)

4.1. Clean Ocean (p. 53)

- 4.1.1. The concentration of man-made pollutants in marine products from Icelandic waters should always fall below the strictest standards of domestic and foreign health authorities. (p. 53)
 - 4.1.2. The disposal of hazardous materials into the ocean by vessels and from land should cease - especially the disposal of persistent organic substances, radioactive materials and heavy metals. (p. 53)
 - 4.1.3. Iceland should continue to show leadership in international cooperation on marine pollution prevention. (p. 53)
-

4.2. Limitation of Climate Change (p. 55)

- 4.2.1. Iceland should participate actively in international cooperation to combat dangerous disturbance of the earth's climate by human activity through reduction of emissions and increased sequestration of greenhouse gases. (p. 55)
 - 4.2.2. The use of fossil fuels should be decreased. (p. 55)
 - 4.2.3. Icelandic expertise in the utilization of renewable energy sources should be transferred to developing countries. (p. 55)
-

4.3. Protection of the Ozone Layer (p. 58)

- 4.3.1. Iceland should continue to be at the forefront in the restriction of the utilization and emission of ozone-depleting substances. (p. 58)
 - 4.3.2. Iceland should cease using ozone-depleting substances by 2010. (p. 58)
-

4.4. Protection of Biodiversity (p. 59)

- 4.4.1. Efforts should be made to conserve the biodiversity of Icelandic habitat types and ecosystems by the protection of animals, plants and other organisms, together with their genetic resources and their habitats. (p. 59)
 - 4.4.2. All utilization of living natural resources should be sustainable. (p. 59)
 - 4.4.3. The precautionary approach and ecosystem approach should be applied in all operations that may alter or disrupt ecosystems, in order to keep negative impact to a minimum. (p. 59)
-

Total number of priorities: 72

Source document: Welfare for the Future Iceland's National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002-2020 (2002); URL: http://www.sd-network.eu/pdf/SDS_docs/docs/Iceland_SDS_2002.pdf

Contact:

Markus Hametner
RIMAS - Research Institute for Managing Sustainability
Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
Nordbergstr. 15
PO-Box 37
A-1091 Vienna

www: <http://www.sustainability.eu>
email: markus.hametner@wu-wien.ac.at

mobile: +43-650-9234935
phone: +43-1-31336-5135
fax: +43-1-31336-905135