Landscape classification for Iceland
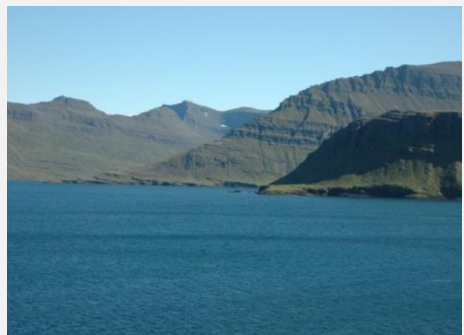
Landscape mapping and classification

Ólafur Árnason
Gréta Hlín Sveinsdóttir

Landscape classification for Iceland

Content

- Landscape classification
- Objective
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Landscape classification

- Classifying Icelandic landscape based on distinctive characters and features

- Mapping the landscape classes for all of Iceland

- An overview of composition, features and landscape diversity

- An overview of Iceland's landscape resource

Objective

- Information for decision support
  - Protection and nature reserve
  - Policies and priorities
  - Environmental impact Assessment
  - Land use planning
- Evaluation and monitoring
  - Comparison of the effects of different activities
  - Monitoring of changes

Objective

National Planning Strategy 2015-2026

Classification and mapping of landscape will contribute to the following aims of the NPS:

- Safeguarding the landscape of the central highlands

- To maintain the characteristics and natural quality of the central highlands, with a focus on landscape

- To sustain that development in the central highlands shall take its uniqueness into account

- As a decision support for the site selection for wind energy utilization and other energy developments, with regard to landscape

Methodology

The following references will be used in the process:

- Landscape Character Assessment methodology (LCA)
  - Landscape will be classified into types based on distinctive characters and features
- The Icelandic Landscape Project (ILP)
  - The ILP proposed some main categories of Icelandic landscape.
- All latest, relevant, GIS data that cover the whole country of Iceland

Methodology – Phases

The top down approach will be used where the first step is to classify landscape in small-scale

- **First phase:**
  - Identify areas based on their landscape characters
  - A map of Iceland (scale of approx. 1: 250,000) presenting all main landscape types
  - A report covering the methodology of the analysis and results

- **Next phase:**
  - At a later stage, it is desirable to conduct a more detailed analysis for specific areas / regions

Consultation and cooperation

- Emphasis is placed on collaboration with relevant parties:
  - The University of Iceland, especially in the preparation of the classification based on the ILP
  - LUC who has extensive experience in landscape classification in the UK
  - All relevant organizations and possible data providers, such as:
    - The Icelandic National Planning Agency
    - The Icelandic Institute of Natural History
    - The Environment Agency of Iceland
    - Icelandic forest service
    - The Soil Conservation Service of Iceland
    - …