

COMLAND meeting in Iceland August 16–23, 2003

Land degradation and mitigation — problems — solutions — conflicts

- Dates:** Meeting in Reykjavík, August 16–19, with one-day excursion and one afternoon tour, which is optional.
Excursion southern Iceland, August 20–23
- Topics:**
1. Land degradation (soil and vegetation), theories, processes and analysis
 2. Mitigation and reclamation; aims and methods — results, involvement of different interest groups
 3. Conflicts amongst different interest groups in reclaiming or mitigating degraded land

Early registration and deadline for abstract submission: May 1.

NB. For delegates who require earlier acceptance of their papers, this can be readily arranged. Please contact Dr Guðrún Gísladóttir at ggisla@hi.is

Excursions during the meeting:

Afternoon tour Þingvellir. An optional tour to Þingvellir and Nesjavellir geothermal area (<http://www.thingvellir.is>) will be offered in the afternoon/evening of August 16.

Reykjanes peninsula August 18

The excursion to Reykjanes peninsula will focus on land degradation land use and land use conflicts, active soil erosion, degradation of vegetation and land reclamation; At the end of the day we will visit the geothermal area at Svartsengi, take a bath in the Blue lagoon followed by a dinner (see <http://www.hs.is/english>).

Excursion August 20-23: A minimum number of 25 people, maximum number 40.

An excursion through different landscapes in the southern lowlands and highlands. We will travel partly on unpaved mountain roads, in a four-wheel drive bus.

We will visit a number of sites where natural and human-induced land degradation is an important issue. We will visit locations with active land degradation processes related to glacial fluctuation in the highlands, and settlement depletion and degradation of agricultural land caused by number of floods following frequent active subglacial eruptions. The role of volcanism, tephra fall and lava formation on settlement devastation and land degradation. Problems of rehabilitating vegetation in a fragile environment, and slow natural plant succession, different restoration experiments, conflicts amongst different interest groups regarding reclamation will be among the field sites visited. The headquarters of the Icelandic Soil Conservation Service at Gunnarsholt will be visited.

It should be mentioned that various geomorphological phenomena will be seen during the tour. We will be able to take a bath in natural hot water in the highlands, so please bring along bathing suite.

Excursion cost: 44500 Icelandic kronur (see the English version on the following website for the current exchange rate <http://www.sedlabanki.is>).

Included: Transport, accommodation for three nights (two persons per room). All rooms are without shower or bath, but those facilities are available in the buildings we will stay in. Those who prefer single rooms have to add a total of 5403 Icelandic krónur to the cost. Breakfast, food for the day (coffee, tea, water, and something with the drinks in the morning and afternoon, lunches in the field), and dinners (also on the final day), but not alcoholic drinks, are included. Icelandic tap water is very good to drink.