

Presentation to Government, agency and NGO staff, Reykjavik, July 2003

ICELAND'S ENVIRONMENT – WHAT FUTURE?

Introduction

Range positive and negative changes can be turned round through variety of actions in Iceland and wider world.

Where are we?

Some things getting better:

- land reclaimed, soil stabilised, trees planted, grazing pressures reduced,
- positive strategies and policies: Sustainable Development, energy, fishing,
- more protected areas.

Threats:

- industrial development pressures,
- disagreements locally and nationally,
- grazing from sheep and horses.

Therefore the 6 point agenda

1. Working with dynamic and adaptive nature

- stop just counting and thinking static
- use science to get answers to fundamental practical questions
- use ecosystem approaches
- change from designation and plans to sympathetic action

2. Changing blinkered sector approach

- assess real effects
- target resources to give dual/triple benefit
- make economic development benefit people and environment

3. Realising environmental opportunities

- more sustainable use natural resources
- jobs from environment- energy sector, scenery sector
- develop environmental technologies
- develop and market environmental expertise

4. Making better decisions

- deliver on the sustainable development goals and objectives
- stop pretending that market is best
- think through all consequences
- decide when enough is enough: hydro power, mercurial development smelters

5. Making people part of environment

- social and environmental justice
- economic assessments all embracing
- education for citizenship
- develop capacity
- local action

6. Reducing our impacts

- at home & locally – recycling/energy conservation/transport
- globally – consumption

Yes there is a future

- people must be part of environment
- progressive not reactionary approaches
- silos and sectors outmoded
- stop or do different
- cross check effects
- monitor, audit and report progress
- engage civil society effectively