

PUBLISHING AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Publications

The IINH disseminates research in the natural sciences in Iceland through scholarly and scientific publications, often in collaboration with other organisations. These include:

- **FJÖLRIT PUBLICATION SERIES:** Reports and papers authored by staff and collaborating scientists. Published in Icelandic with English summary and subtitles.
- **ACTA BOTANICA ISLANDICA:** Scientific journal focusing on the botany of Iceland. Published in English.
- **BLÍKI:** Journal on Icelandic birdlife (in cooperation with the Icelandic Rarities Committee, BirdLife Iceland, the University of Iceland Institute of Biology, and birdwatchers). Published in Icelandic with English summary and subtitles.

The IINH also publishes Icelandic red lists, annual reports, special research reports and educational material and maintains the website <http://en.ni.is>.

Community Involvement

The IINH organizes educational outreach and disseminates information on nature in Iceland. It is actively involved with schools and students of all grade levels, the general public and the scientific community at large. It also provides scientific and scholarly support for the Icelandic Museum of Natural History.

The IINH holds a public lecture series (**HRAFNATHING**) during the winter months. Lectures are generally held every other week and provide a forum for discussion on natural history topics. Staff members present their research and guest speakers are invited to give talks.

The role of the
Icelandic Institute of Natural History:

to research, record
and describe
Icelandic nature
to monitor,
conserve and
advise on sustainable
land use and
exploitation of
natural resources



<http://en.ni.is>

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ICELANDIC INSTITUTE OF NATURAL HISTORY

ICELANDIC INSTITUTE OF NATURAL HISTORY (IINH)

The primary role of the IINH is to conduct basic research on the zoology, botany and geology of Iceland; to handle systematic documentation of nature in Iceland; and to preserve research findings and specimens in scientific collections. The IINH maintains databases on nature in Iceland and is charged with maintaining an overview and providing advice and instruction on nature conservation and natural resource allocation. It also has a broad monitoring and educational role.

The IINH is the property of the Icelandic state and operates under Act No. 60/1992. It is under the aegis of the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources. The IINH has offices at two locations: in Garðabær and in Akureyri.



SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The activities of the IINH fall into three principal categories:

To document, preserve, categorise and map the biota and geological formations of Iceland and record this information in databases.

- To strengthen and support natural history museums in the country
- To develop and maintain databases on plant and animal species in Iceland, fossils and rocks
- To map the distribution of organisms, vegetation communities, and habitat types
- To map bedrock and surficial deposits in Iceland, including avalanches
- To carry out basic research in the fields of systematics, palaeontology and petrology

To monitor nature in Iceland, assess the conservation value of natural history sites and provide instruction on the responsible use of natural resources.

- To keep abreast of population changes for important species and stocks. Plan and take responsibility for systematic monitoring of the biota that addresses key aspects of biodiversity
- To assess the conservation value of individual species, habitat types and geological formations, establish protective policies and publish red lists
- To assess sustainable hunting levels for stocks, evaluate the need for controls on hunting and provide authorities with advice on sustainable hunting

To obtain, accept and disseminate information about nature in Iceland.

- To publish written material and maps of scientific merit
- To disseminate information and educational material
- To provide library and information services of a high calibre
- To act as a consultant, observer and investigating institution in matters concerning natural resource allocation, land use and conservation
- To monitor developments and trends within fields of study at the Institute and promote its work in Iceland and in international forums.

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS AND RESOURCES

Scientific Collections

The IINH preserves millions of specimens and samples of organisms, fossils, sediments, drill cores, minerals, and rocks found in Iceland. These collections are kept in sophisticated storage facilities that meet stringent safety requirements.

The IINH's scientific collections are an important foundation for research in the fields of petrology, mineralogy, geological history, palaeontology and systematics. They reflect the scope of natural diversity in Iceland and the history of the country and its biota. Many collection items are rare or no longer naturally present in Iceland. Some biological specimens form chronological sequences spanning many decades, with samples of the same type taken from the same location.

Scientists and students can access the collections for research purposes.

Library

The IINH has an extensive reference library in the field of the natural sciences, with an emphasis on nature in Iceland. Holdings include some 12,000 book titles and 35,000 off-prints of articles on Icelandic birdlife, botany and geology. The library has a map collection of around 2,500 items and also receives 450 current journals and series.

