

Act on the Environment Agency of Iceland

2002 No. 90 15 May

Legislative history in the Alþingi. Legislative Bill.

Entered into force on 1 January 2003. Amended with: [Act No. 167/2007](#) (entered into force on 1 January 2008). [Act No. 36/2011](#) (entered into force on 19 April 2011): EEA Agreement: XX. appendix Directive 2000/60/EC, 2006/118/EC, 2008/105/EC, 2009/90/EC). [Act No. 126/2011](#) (entered into force on 30 September 2011). [Act No. 157/2012](#) (entered into force on 3 January 2013). [Act No. 55/2013](#) (entered into force on 1 January 2014). [Act No. 60/2013](#) (entered into force on 15 September 2015).

If, in this Act, reference is made to the Minister or ministries without specifying the field specifically making reference thereto, the reference is to the **Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources** or the **Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources** which is responsible for this Act. Information on the fields covered by ministries according to presidential ruling can be found [here](#).

Article 1

The state operates an entity named Umhverfisstofnun, UST (The Environment Agency). The Agency is located in the Greater Reykjavík area but can carry out some of its operations elsewhere in Iceland.

The role of the Agency is:

a. To undertake the operations that Hollustuvernd ríkisins (National Centre for Hygiene, Food Control and Environmental Protection) is assigned in accordance with [Act No. 7/1998](#), on Hygiene and Pollution Prevention, as amended, [Act No. 52/1988](#), on Toxic and Hazardous Substances, as amended, [Act No. 32/1986](#), on the Prevention of Marine Pollution, as amended, ... ¹⁾ [Act No. 18/1996](#), on Genetically Modified Organisms, as amended, [Act No. 67/1985](#), on Restaurants and Hotels, as amended, [Act No. 74/1984](#), on Tobacco Controls, as amended, [the Medicinal Products Act No. 93/1994](#), as amended, [Health Security and Communicable Diseases, No. 19/1997](#), as amended, [Act No. 17/2000](#), on the Execution of the Agreement on the Ban on the Development, Production, Collection and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and [Act No. 75/2000](#), on Fire Protection Measures,

b. [to undertake the tasks that the Agency is assigned by the Act on Nature Conservation], ²⁾ [Act No. 36/1974](#), on the Protection of Mývatns and Laxá in í Suður-Pingeyjarsýslu, as amended, [Act No. 61/1992](#), on Burning Dead Grass and Handling of Fire in the Open, as amended, [Act No. 64/1994](#), on Protection, Conservation and Hunting of Wild Birds and Wild Mammals, as amended, [Act No. 54/1995](#), on the Protection of Breiðafjörður, as amended, [Act No. 32/1986](#), on Marine Anti-pollution Measures, as amended, [Act No. 52/1988](#),

on Toxic and Hazardous Substances, as amended, [Act No. 54/1990](#), on the Importation of Animals, as amended, [Act No. 60/1992](#), on the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and Nature Research Centres, as amended, [Act No. 117/1994](#), on the Organisation of Tourist Affairs, as amended, and [Act No. 18/1996](#), on Genetically Modified Organisms, as amended,

c. to undertake operations assigned to the Office of Fishing and Hunting according to [Act No. 64/1994](#), on the Protection, Conservation and Hunting of Wild Birds and Wild Mammals, as amended,

d. to be responsible for the operation of the Reindeer Committee according to [Act No. 64/1994](#), on the Protection, Conservation and Hunting of Wild Birds and Wild Mammals, as amended,

e. ..., ³⁾

[f. to undertake tasks that the Agency is assigned in the Act on Water Management]. ⁴⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 167/2007, Article 50](#) ²⁾[Act No. 60/2013, Article 95](#) ³⁾[Act No. 157/2012, Article 14](#) ⁴⁾[Act No. 36/2011, Article 32](#)

Article 2

The [Minister] appoints a Managing Director for the Agency ¹⁾ for a term of five years. The Managing Director shall have a university education and knowledge relevant to the Agency's field of operation. The Director shall manage the Agency, formulate its policies and is responsible for its financial operation.

The Agency is divided into Divisions, with a Director responsible for each Division. Directors shall have a university education and specialist knowledge or experience in the field in question. The Managing Director is responsible for recruiting Directors. One of the Directors shall serve as the Deputy of the Managing Director. The Managing Director, moreover, is responsible for recruiting the other employees of the Agency.

The Minister, having obtained the recommendations of the Managing Director, issues further provisions regarding the organisation of the Agency in a regulation.

¹⁾[Act No. 126/2011, Article 348](#)

Article 3

This Act shall enter into force on 1 January 2003.

Article 4...

Interim provisions

1. The employees of public bodies that have been responsible for the tasks that will be transferred under the Environment Agency of Iceland according to this Act shall have preferential rights to employment there for the first operating year of the Agency. The provisions of [Article 7 of Act No. 70/1996](#) on the Rights and Obligations of Government Employees do not apply to jobs that are filled under this provision.

2. Once this Act has been approved, the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources shall appoint a working group. A representative from the Ministry, the Managing Director of the Environmental and Food Agency of Iceland, the Managing Director of the Nature Conservation Agency and the Managing Director of the Office of Fishing and Hunting shall have seats on the committee. The working group shall prepare for the Act's entry into force.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3, the Managing Director of the Environment Agency of Iceland shall be appointed from 1 August 2002 and shall, from that time, participate in the working group appointed according to Item 2.