



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally-informed and evidencebased solutions to support sustainable development

Emily Lethbridge

Iceland:

A solid foundation for advancing geographical names standardisation

NMA maintains the Icelandic place-name database, with ÁMI in a consultative capacity



NMA

Natural Science Institute of Iceland



NNA

Icelandic Place-Name Committee

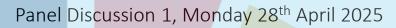


Support

Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Research Composition

Language specialists & place-name specialists, employees at Housing & Construction Authority, Icelandic Meteorological Institute, Natural Science Institute

ÁMI led development of online place-name archive Nafnið.is – and researches issues pertaining to geographical names as requested by the NMA & NNA





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Rapidly changing social demographics and land management practices



Consequences
of climate
change on
Icelandic
landscape +
the tourist
footprint

Impact on geographical naming practices and needs



Iceland:

Geographical names and 21st-century changes and challenges

Rural geographical names fall out of use, are lost and/or replaced by new names (some in English, e.g. at tourist sites)

Icelandic geographical names are not accessible to new residents or citizens without Icelandic as a first language; increasing diversification of Icelandic society is not reflected in naming practices A path to sustainable development that builds on inclusive, culturally-informed and evidence-based solutions to geographical names standardisation?

- Consultation between government/ public sector bodies, and forwardlooking policy-development and work-plans that address aspects of inclusivity, highlighting and celebrating the diversification of Icelandic society;
- Nation-wide outreach and education programmes to raise awareness and build emotional investment/ engagement for the future, with native and secondlanguage Icelandic-speakers alike.