

Bændur græða landið — Iceland's National Land Reclamation Payment Scheme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Iceland

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Iceland's 'Bændur græða landið' scheme pays farmers fertiliser, seed and cash to revegetate eroded land, run by the state Soil Conservation Service (est. 1907), now Land og skógur. About 600 farmers and 3,800 hectares were treated in the 2024 grant round alone.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Land og skógur \(Land and Forest Iceland, formerly Landgræðsla ríkisins — Soil Conservation Service of Iceland\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Government portal — 2024 grant figures](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Nyirenda et al. 2020, Heliyon — soil carbon study](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Icelandic farmers' association — scheme history](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

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