Campaigning for Iceland’s AFFORESTATION

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Lack of forestland in Iceland is evident

95% of native forests gone due to human activities

About 40% of the soil has eroded away
Possible forest cover 2040 with quadrupling of efforts

• Cultivated forests now cover 0,42% of the country
• Potential cover 2040 if efforts are quadrupled: 1,22% (0,42% + 0,8%)
• Native birch now covers about 1,5% of the country – and expanding
• Potential cover of cultivated and natural forests in 2040 if efforts are quadrupled: 3,75% to 4,0%
Two scenarios of net CO$_2$ removal by new forests from 1990

S1: Business as usual – 989 ha or 3.1 million seedlings pr. year

S4: Efforts quadrupled – 3.957 ha or 12.4 million seedlings pr. year from 2023

Based on data from Íslensk skógarúttekt, the Icelandic Forest Inventory
The 2017-2018 campaign
Joint effort of IFS, IFA and FOA

- Cell discussions (Forming of a working group with representatives from IFS, IFA and FOA)
- Writing of newspaper and online media articles, social media stuff and more
- Conference 5 December 2018 (Farmers Association, Icelandic Agricultural University, Icelandic Soil Conservation, Icelandic Forest Service)
- A memorandum to all members of parliament promoting quadrupled afforestation efforts
- Meeting members of parliament on the occasion of their annual constituency week
- IFS leaders meeting with three different parliamentary committees
- Soup meeting on the International Day of Forests inviting members of parliament and the minister of environment and natural resources
- 10 September 2018 – Government announcement of a new five year climate strategy including the idea of quadrupling afforestation efforts

Key to success – Direct communication with the politicians giving a clear proposal and action plan – ready for the busy politician
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January
- A memorandum to all members of parliament promoting quadrupled afforestation efforts

February
- Meeting members of parliament on the occasion of their annual constituency week

March
- IFS leaders meeting with three different parliamentary committees

April
- Soup meeting on the International Day of Forests inviting members of parliament and the minister of environment and natural resources

May
- 10 September 2018 – Government announcement of a new five year climate strategy including the idea of quadrupling afforestation efforts

June

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Takk fyrir! – Thank you!