

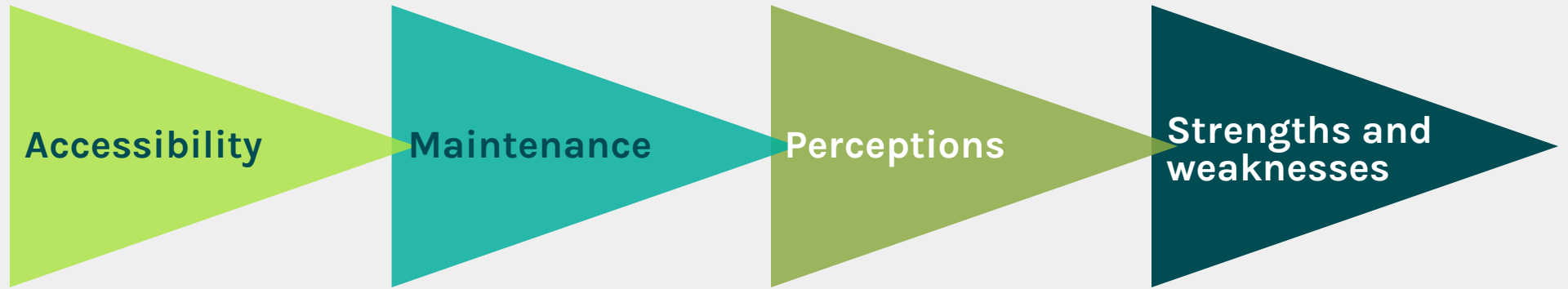
A Pilot Study to Assess the Accessibility of Southwest Iceland's Hiking Trails

Jesse Abeyta, Smith Edwards, Nicole Jutras, & Gabriel Katz

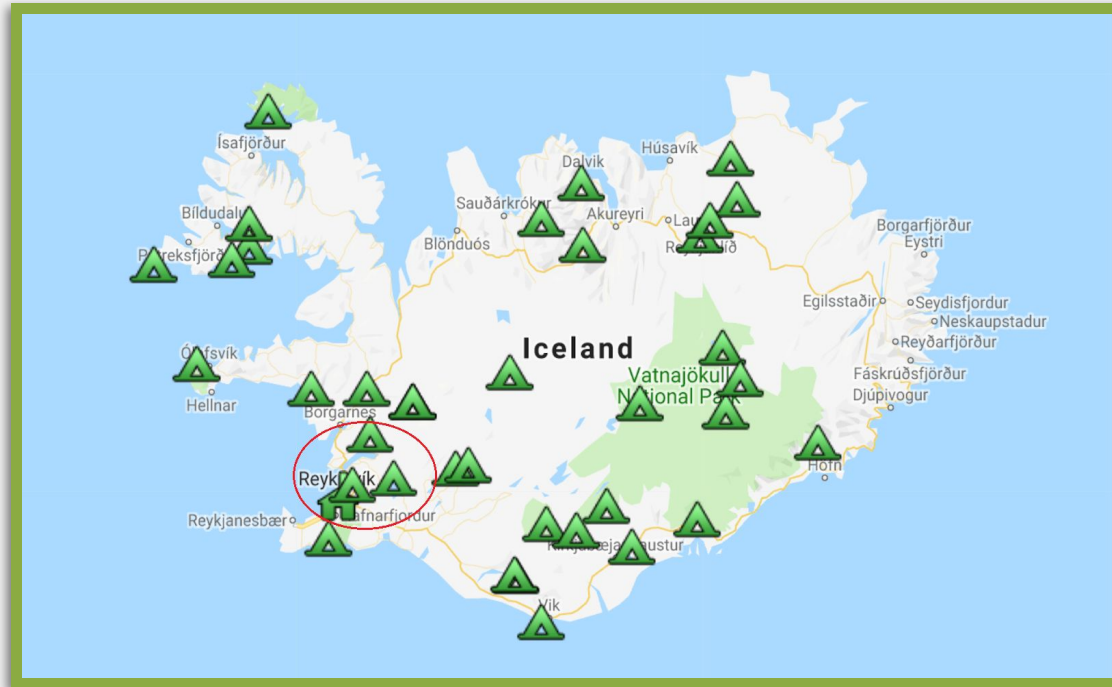
**There is an opportunity
to improve trail
accessibility to
international tourists**



Evaluate hiking trail markings and signage near Reykjavík to determine trail accessibility to international tourists

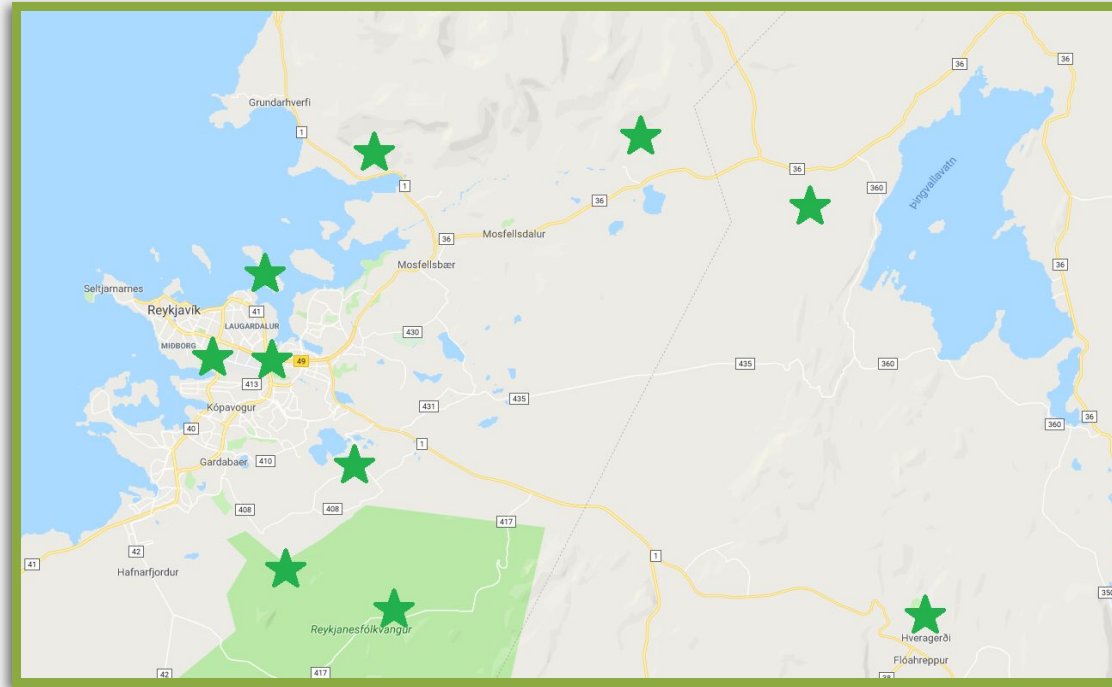


Standards for trail maintenance and stewardship already exist



<https://tinyurl.com/yyjmzta2>

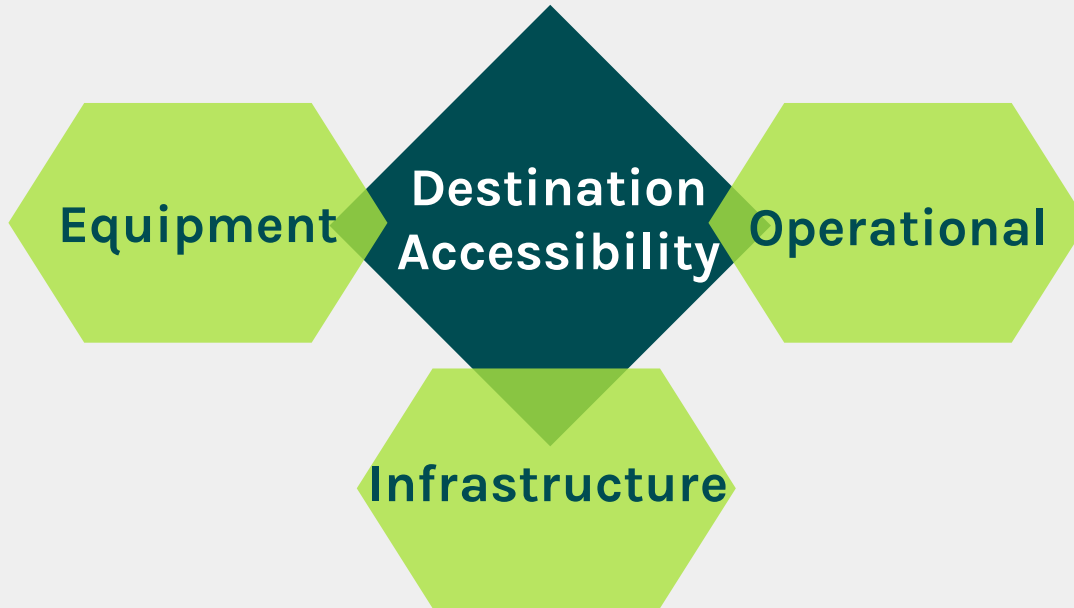
Standards for trail maintenance and stewardship already exist



**Tourism is a
critical
component of
Iceland's
economy**



Accessibility is complicated

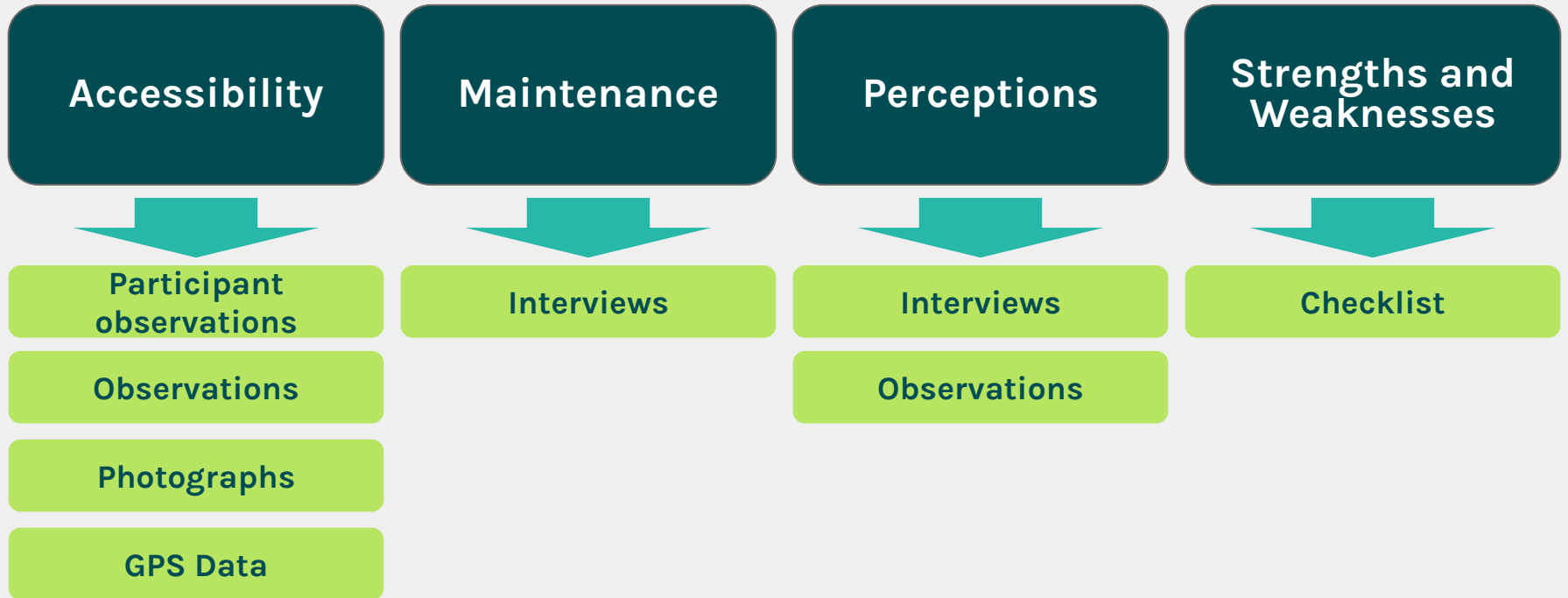


Standards already exist for quality trail maintenance around the world

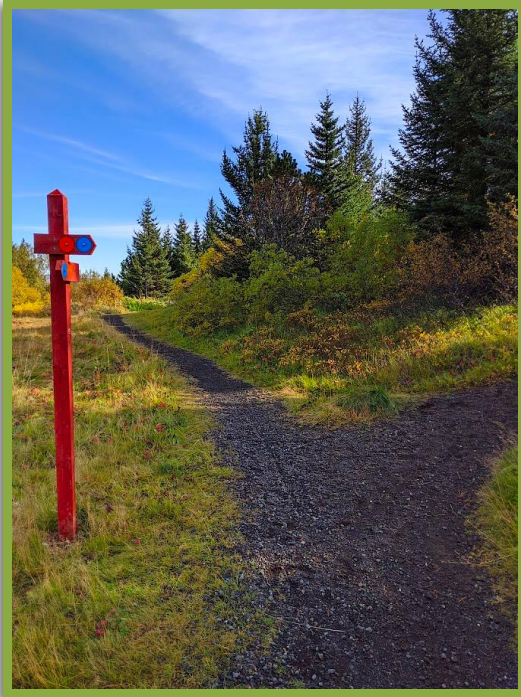


<https://www.alpenwild.com/staticpage/trail-signs-in-the-swiss-alps/>

<https://www.nps.gov/biri/playourvisit/hiking.htm>



We found that the trails varied widely in upkeep



**Some hikes
required
considerable
walking just to
reach the
trailhead**



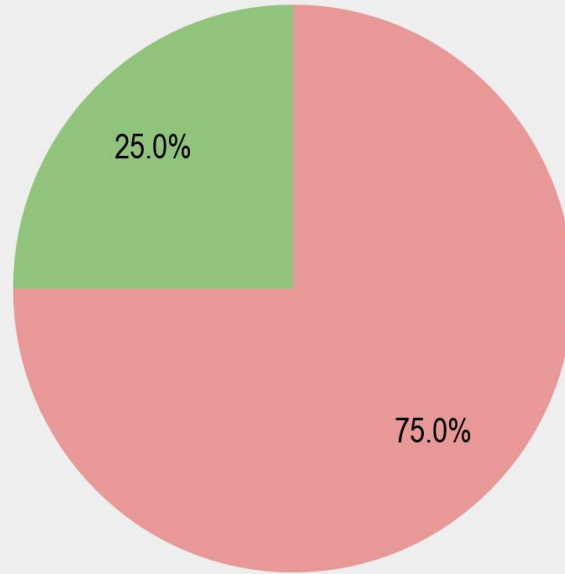
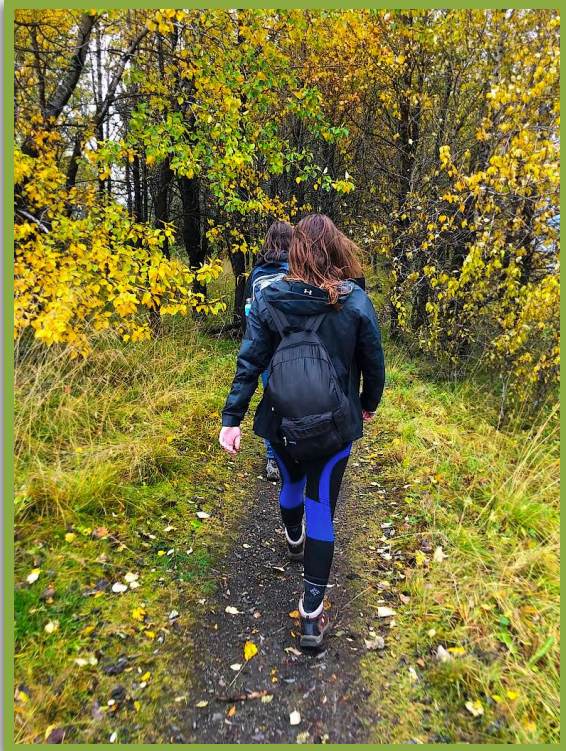
<https://besthiking.net/hveragerdi-hot-spring-river-trail-hiking-iceland/>

The Environment
Agency of Iceland
uses Scottish
standards for
trail creation and
maintenance



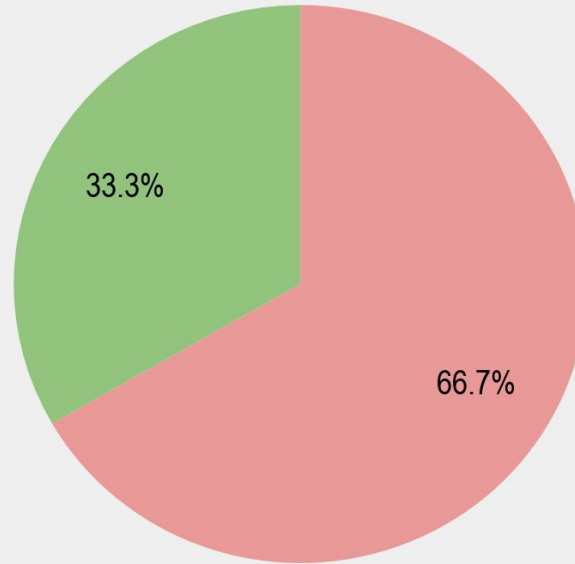
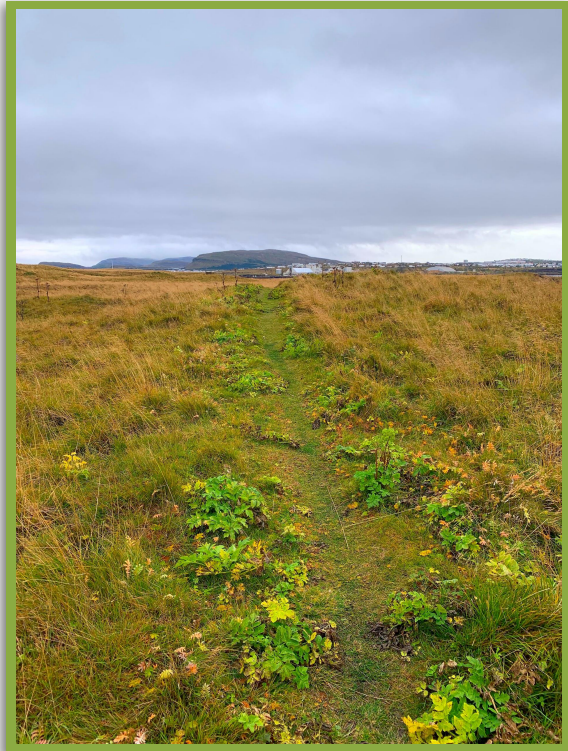
<https://www.nature.scot/>

International hikers encountered problems navigating the trails



- Encountered Difficulty
- Encountered No Difficulty

Hikers noticed the poor maintenance on Viðey



- Poor repair
- Good repair

Adopt a set of standards that is universally accepted and understandable for hikers of different nationalities

Upland Pathwork

Construction Standards for Scotland



Upland Path Advisory Group

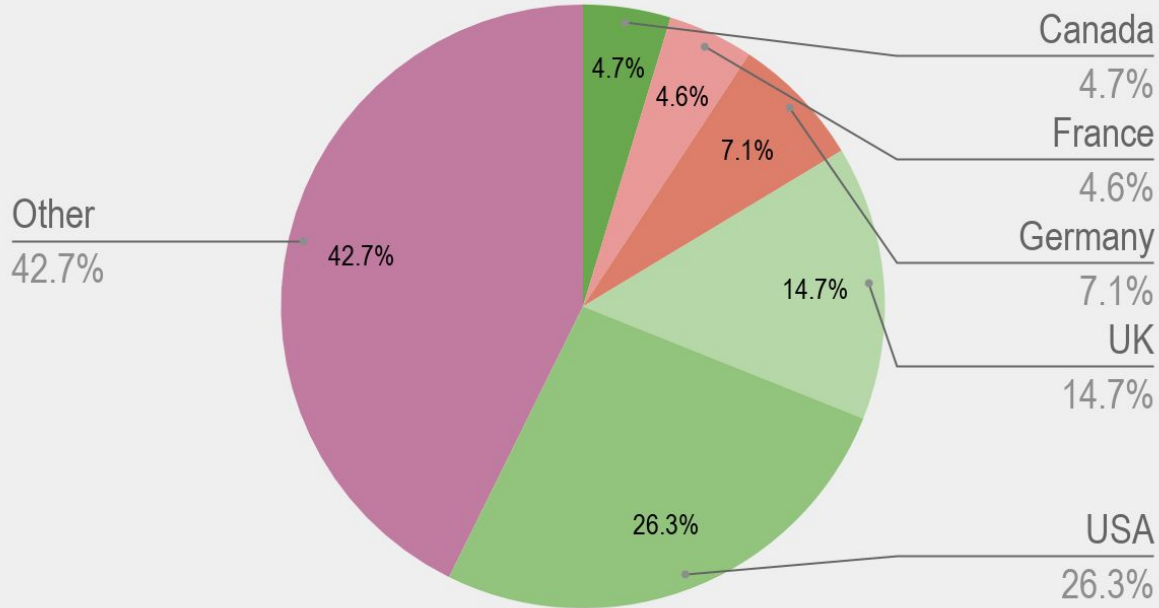
3rd Edition 2015



<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-11/Publication%202015%20-%20Upland%20Pathwork%20Construction%20Standards%20for%20Scotland.pdf>

Use both English and Icelandic for all trail maps and signs

Top Five Countries by Visitors to Iceland





**Use color codes
for all trail
markers**



Develop signs and markers that have long term resilience

A hiking trails project in 2020 could organize a conference of hiking stewards across Iceland



<https://ust.is/>



<https://www.fi.is/en>



<http://www.icesar.com/>



**Hiking in the Reykjavík area can be
made more accessible with universal
standards**



Acknowledgements