

Act on Vatnajökull National Park

No 60/2007 of 28 March

Parliamentary procedure. Bill.

Entered into force on 1 May 2007 Amended by [Act No 126/2011](#) (entered into force on 30 Sept. 2011) and [Act No 101/2016](#) (entered into force on 24 Sept. 2016).

If mention is made in this Act of a minister or ministry without specific mention or reference to an area of responsibility, this shall be understood to mean the **Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources** or the **Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources**, under whose auspices this Act is administered. Information on the division of responsibilities between Ministries pursuant to a presidential decree is included [here](#).

Chapter I. The Establishment of Vatnajökull National Park and its Objectives

■ **Article 1.** *The Establishment of Vatnajökull National Park and the scope of application*

□ [The Minister] ¹⁾ declares, by a regulation, the protected status of Vatnajökull glacier and the glacier's sphere of influence. The protected status of Vatnajökull National Park enters into force through the establishment of a Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park.

□ A particular area of land within Vatnajökull National Park can be owned either by the Icelandic State or by other parties, provided that the owner of the area in question has agreed that it will become part of Vatnajökull National Park. The approval of the local authorities concerned shall be sought before giving protected status to an area of land within a particular community.

□ This Act applies to the protected status, the board of directors, [field of competence]²⁾ and operation of Vatnajökull National Park and the conservation of nature within the National Park.

¹⁾[Act No 126/2011, Article 457](#) ²⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 1](#)

■ **Article 2.** *Objective of the protected status*

□ [The objective of establishing Vatnajökull National Park is to:

1. Conserve nature within the area, such as topographies, biota, geological formations and cultural property.
2. Give the public an opportunity to get to know and enjoy the nature and history of the area.
3. Advance research of the area, promote education about it and boost increased public understanding of the area's natural resources and its uniqueness.
4. Seek to support inhabited areas and economic activities in the area around the National Park, inter alia by encouraging sustainable use of the area's resources. ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 2](#)

■ **Article 3.** *Privately owned land within the National Park*

□ An area of land may be given protected status as part of Vatnajökull National Park, subject to an agreement with the landowner. An agreement concerning such protection shall be made between [the Minister] ¹⁾ and the landowner, stipulating, inter alia, what kind of land use is allowed in the area. The board of directors of the National Park monitors whether agreements with the owners of land within the National Park are kept.

□ Pursuant to Article 7, the regional committees shall, at least once a year, meet with the owners of land areas within the administrative region in question, and a yearly joint meeting between landowners, regional committees and the board of directors shall be held to discuss matters relating to the National Park.

¹⁾[Act No 126/2011, Article 457](#)

Chapter II. The Board of Directors of Vatnajökull National Park

■ **Article 4.** *The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park*

□ Vatnajökull National Park is a governmental institution and [the Minister] ¹⁾ supervises all matters relating to the Park. The institution shall be governed and the National Park managed by a special board of directors nominated by [the Minister.] ¹⁾ The board of directors shall consist of seven members: the chairpersons of all the National Park's regional committees, one member nominated by environmental protection organisations and two members appointed by the Minister without prior nomination, i.e. the chairperson and deputy-chairperson [one of whom shall have specialist knowledge concerning National Parks.] ²⁾ Substitute members shall be appointed in the same manner. [One member nominated by outdoor activities organisations and one member jointly nominated by tourism organisations shall have observer status during meetings of the board of directors.] ²⁾ The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park shall be appointed for a period of four years at a time.

¹⁾[Act No 126/2011, Article 457](#) ²⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 3](#)

■ **Article 5.** *Decision-Making of the board of directors and its day-to-day management*

□ The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park shall convene whenever it is deemed necessary, and at least every three months, and its decisions on the basis of this legal Act shall be made during those meetings. A regional committee can, if it considers it necessary to seek the opinion or decision of the board of directors regarding a particular issue, request that a meeting of the Park's board of directors be convened. The outcome of issues discussed during the board of directors meetings shall be resolved by a majority vote. All decisions by the board of directors shall be in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act. [The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park shall establish its own procedural rules, in which the implementation of the board of directors' functions shall be detailed.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 4](#)

■ **Article 6.** *The Role of the board of directors*

□ The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park oversees the conservation of nature within the National Park. The main tasks of the board of directors are:

1. The formulation of policies relating to the National Park, in accordance with the objectives of this Act.
2. Overall management of the preparation of a proposal for [a management and conservation plan]¹⁾ and a regulation for the National Park.
3. [Approving a budget for the National Park, allocating funds to the administrative regions and approving the operational schedule for each region.] ¹⁾

4. Harmonisation of operations within the National Park's administrative regions.
 5. Monitoring the implementation of the National Park's rules and [the management and conservation plan.] ¹⁾
 6. Cooperation with public bodies, communities and stakeholders in the affairs of the National Park.
 - [7. Drawing up and submitting a recommendation to the Minister for the appointment of the managing director.
 8. Overseeing the formation of an employment policy, including by setting conditions for allowing the operation of economic activities within the National Park, and agreements thereon.
 9. Drawing up job descriptions for the general manager and the Park wardens.] ¹⁾
- The Minister can lay down, in a regulation, further provisions regarding the tasks and activities of the board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park.

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#)

■ **Article 7. Regional committees**

- Vatnajökull National Park is divided into four administrative regions which shall be operated as independent administrative units under the responsibility of Park wardens. Each administrative region shall have a regional committee appointed by [the Minister] ¹⁾ for four years at a time. The boundaries of each administrative area shall be laid down in the Regulation ²⁾ on Vatnajökull National Park.
- Each regional committee shall consist of six members: three members nominated by the local authorities of the communities within the respective administrative region, one member jointly nominated by tourism organisations operating within the respective administrative region, one member nominated by outdoor activity organisations and one member nominated by environmental protection organisations. [The same entities shall nominate the same number of substitute members in the same manner.] ³⁾ Each regional committee elects its chairperson from among the local council members, and also elects a deputy chairperson.
- A Park warden attends the regional committee meetings.

¹⁾[Act No 126/2011, Article 457](#) ²⁾[Regulation No 608/2008, cf: 755/2009, 764/2011, 463/2013, 724/2013, 749/2013, 457/2014 and 730/2017.](#) ³⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 6](#)

■ **Article 8. The role of the regional committees**

- The role of the Vatnajökull National Park regional committees is:
1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the Park warden and the board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park on issues pertaining to their respective administrative regions of the Park.
 2. To [oversee the preparation of] ¹⁾proposals for [management and conservation plans] ²⁾ for their respective regions.
 3. To [approve] ¹⁾ the proposal for the operational schedule for their respective administrative regions within the budgetary framework they are set by the board of directors.
 4. To make recommendation for the recruitment of Park wardens for their respective administrative regions.
- The Minister can lay down, in a regulation, further provisions for the tasks and activities of the regional committees of Vatnajökull National Park.

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 7](#) ²⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#)

■ **[Article 8a. Cooperation between the board of directors and the regional committees**

- The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park and the regional committees for each individual administrative region shall cooperate on issues pertaining to the Park and its

objectives under Article 2] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 8](#)

■ **[Article 8b. *The managing director***

□ The Minister appoints a managing director for a period of five years at a time, following a recommendation by the board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 8](#)

■ **[Article 8c. *Role of the managing director***

□ The managing director is in charge of the daily management of Vatnajökull National Park under the auspices of the Park's board of directors and in keeping with a job description drawn up by the board. The managing director enforces the decisions of the board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park, oversees the daily management of the Park, its finances and financial accounts and is responsible for running the National Park in accordance with the applicable laws and regulatory acts. The managing director oversees all personnel matters. ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 8](#)

■ **Article 9. *Park wardens***

□ [Each administrative region shall have a Park warden who is hired at the recommendation of the respective regional committee.] ¹⁾ The hiring of two Park wardens is allowed for those administrative areas where the two main visitor centres are situated. The board of directors determines the division of labour between the Park wardens within the same administrative regions in consultation with the regional committee, including the way in which their responsibilities pursuant to Article 10(1–3) are divided; the division of labour shall be described in the Park wardens' official duty regulation.

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 9](#)

■ **Article 10. *The role of Park wardens***

□ [A Park warden is in charge of the daily management, personnel matters and management of each administrative region, in consultation with the managing director and in keeping with a job description drawn up by the National Park's board of directors. The Park warden is accountable to the managing director for the finances and financial accounting.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 10](#)

■ **Article 11. *The role of the Environment Agency of Iceland***

□ The Environment Agency of Iceland provides assistance and professional counselling to the board of directors and regional committees in carrying out their functions, under a special cooperation agreement.

Chapter III. [The Management and Conservation Plan]¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#)

■ **Article 12. *[Management and conservation plan]*¹⁾**

□ A [management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ shall be prepared for Vatnajökull National Park, as detailed in this provision. The [management and conservation plan is the National Park's principal instrument of control. The plan details the conservation objectives, the policy of the board of directors and the manner in which management and conservation are to be implemented in accordance with this Act.] ²⁾

□ [This management and conservation plan shall contain details of the conservation objectives for individual areas within Vatnajökull National Park, specific conservation efforts, land use, construction projects, transportation activities and other infrastructure in the area. It shall address the public right of access, accessibility to the area, and its uses.

□ Conditions may be set in the management and conservation plan for the manner in which

any construction projects shall be carried out and on the monitoring of such projects in order to ensure that they do not unnecessarily disturb the biota, geological formations, hydrography, topographies or cultural property within Vatnajökull National Park.] ²⁾

□ The regional committees shall, each for its respective region, prepare a proposal for a [management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ in collaboration with the Environment Agency of Iceland and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History [and, as the case may be, other appropriate specialist governmental institutions.] ²⁾ While drawing up the [management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ each regional committee shall consult with the owners of land within their respective regions of the National Park, with local councils and other stakeholders in the area.

□ The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park reviews the proposals of the regional committees and uses them as the basis of [a management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park. The board shall take care that [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ complies with this Act and with the Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park. The board may amend the regional committees' proposals. The board's proposal for [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park shall be prepared up in collaboration with the Environment Agency of Iceland and the Institute of Natural History [and, as the case may be, other appropriate governmental institutions.] ²⁾ The proposal shall be publicly notified and the public and stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to submit their comments before the final proposal is submitted to the Minister. The deadline to submit comments on [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ shall be at least six weeks from the date of the notification.

□ The board's proposal for [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park shall be submitted to [the Minister] ³⁾ for approval. [The Minister] ³⁾ can make amendments to [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ if he considers that it or parts of it contravene the provisions of this Act [or] ²⁾ of the Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park ... ²⁾ When [the Minister] ³⁾ has confirmed [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park it shall be notified in ⁴⁾ Section B of the Government Gazette and shall enter into force upon its publication.

□ [The management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ may be amended, following the procedure set out in the provisions of [paragraphs 4–6]. ²⁾ The Park's board can propose amendments to [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ without having received a proposal from the regional committee in question. In such cases, the opinion of the regional committee [in question] ²⁾ shall always be sought before the proposal is submitted to [the Minister.] ³⁾ [The management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park shall be revised at least every 10 years. [Upon expansion of the National Park, an Annex containing a description of the boundaries and natural features of the area and provisions on the management and conservation of the new area, may appended to the management and conservation plan without revising the whole plan. The procedure is laid out in paragraphs 4–6. The Annex shall be integrated into the management and conservation plan the next time it is revised. ²⁾

□ The Minister shall lay down, in a regulation, more detailed provisions on the contents of [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ and on the procedure for preparing and ratifying it.

¹⁾ [Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#) ²⁾ [Act No 101/2016, Article 11](#) ³⁾ [Act No 126/2011, Article 457](#) ⁴⁾ [Notice No 725/2013](#).

■ **Article 13.** *Legal implications of [the management and conservation plan]* ¹⁾ □ The local councils are bound by the contents of [the management and conservation plan] ¹⁾ when they prepare their organisational plans for areas within Vatnajökull National Park.

□ [No special authorisation is required, ipso jure, from Vatnajökull National Park for any construction projects foreseen by the management and conservation plan. However, such construction

projects may be subject to an implementation permit or a construction licence from the community in question. The Park warden concerned must always be consulted before any construction work begins.

The Park warden concerned monitors any construction projects and their compliance with the provisions of this Act, those of the Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park and the management and conservation plan, and with the conditions set out for the construction projects therein.

All those who travel within the National Park and those who stay there, such as for travel or work, are bound by the plan, as applicable. In other respects, the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act apply to any construction projects within Vatnajökull National Park.

The Minister is authorised to lay down, in a regulation, more detailed provisions on the legal implications of the management and conservation plan. ²⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#) ²⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 12](#)

Chapter IV. General Principles

■ Article 14. Prohibition of damage and disturbance

Any damage to, or disturbance of, biota, geological formations, [topographies and cultural property]¹⁾ within Vatnajökull National Park is prohibited. All construction projects within the National Park shall comply with the Park's conservation objectives set out in the provisions of this Act, in regulations derived from them and in the Park's [management and conservation plan]¹⁾. Work done with the aim of reclaiming land resources, protecting biota, geological formations and areas of land, e.g. due to encroachment by humans, animals or plants or due to natural disasters, water erosion and coastal erosion, soil erosion or other disturbances by humans or natural forces, is allowed.

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 13](#) ²⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#)

■ Article 15. [Visits, conduct and traffic within the Park]¹⁾

[The public is allowed to travel within Vatnajökull National Park and stay there for legitimate purposes.

Every individual is obliged to respect nature and cultural properties within the National Park and to show extreme care and consideration so that nature, cultural properties and structures within the Park do not suffer any damage. Visitors of the National Park are obliged to follow the instructions of the Park's staff as regards their treatment of the environment and their conduct within the Park.

Provisions shall be laid down, in a regulation, ²⁾ on the pitching of tents and traffic on foot, on horseback and on bicycles, as well as on motorised traffic within Vatnajökull National Park.] ¹⁾

Off-road traffic by motorised vehicles is prohibited within Vatnajökull National Park. However, the driving of such vehicles is allowed on the surface of glaciers and in areas where winter driving is authorised, pursuant to [paragraph 6], ¹⁾ as long as the ground is frozen and covered in snow. The prohibition of the driving of motorised vehicles within specific areas of Vatnajökull glacier, all the year round or during specific times of the year, may be made through a regulation.

■ [The landing of aircraft within Vatnajökull National Park is subject to authorisation from a Park warden. Further procedures and provisions on authorisations shall be laid down in a regulation.] ¹⁾

The [management and conservation plan]¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park shall specifically lay out information about all roads within the Park that are open to traffic. Additionally, all areas where winter driving on snow or frozen ground is allowed shall be defined, along with the conditions for such driving. Traffic on particular roads and tracks or within certain areas

may be limited to specific times of the year or to specific uses, such as hunting, rounding up livestock or for other agricultural activities or for research, if it is considered necessary for the conservation of the area in question.

[If an area or its biota is at risk for damage and immediate action is considered necessary, the Park warden responsible can decide to temporarily close a specified area to all traffic.] [»] The decision by a Park warden to temporarily close down an area shall be published in Section B of the Government Gazette and by other prominent means in newspapers and on the National Park's website.

The provisions of this Act regarding off-road driving within Vatnajökull National Park supersede the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act on the same subject, and those of any regulations laid down according to it.

[»][Act No 101/2016, Article 14](#), [»][Regulation No 608/2008](#),
cf. [755/2009](#), [764/2011](#), [724/2013](#), [749/2013](#), [457/2014](#) and [730/2017](#).

[Chapter IV A. Activities within Vatnajökull National Park]

[»][Act No 101/2016, Article 15](#)

■ [Article 15a. *Agreements with service providers*

No economic activities may be operated within the National Park without prior agreement with Vatnajökull National Park.

Such agreements shall set out the necessary conditions for these activities, including due to the National Park's conservation objectives. Further provisions on such conditions, on procedure and the drawing up of agreements shall be laid down in more detail in a regulation.] [»]

[»][Act No 101/2016, Article 15](#)

■ [Article 15b. *Authorisations*

Organised events and projects which require the use of facilities, manpower or equipment within the National Park, such as filming, art events, assemblies and research, are subject to authorisation from a Park warden. The Park warden may set any conditions necessary for granting authorisations.

The Park warden may temporarily close individual areas of the National Park if it is necessary due to events or projects for which an authorisation has been granted. Such decisions shall be made, as far as possible, in consultation with representatives of tourism organisations that may have plans for tours in the area. The decision by a Park warden to temporarily close an area according to this provision shall be published in Section B of the Government Gazette and by other official means in newspapers and on the National Park's website.

The provisions on authorisations in this Act supersede the provisions of the Public Lands Act and the Act on the Determination of Boundaries for Privately Owned Land, Publicly Owned Land and Highland Pastures.

■ The Minister may lay down more detailed provisions on authorisations in a regulation. [»]

[»][Act No 101/2016, Article 15](#)

Chapter V. Services within Vatnajökull National Park

■ 16. gr. [*Visitor centres and service facilities*] [»]

■ Services and information are provided at the Vatnajökull National Park's visitor centres and service centres. The Park's visitor centres shall be situated in the following locations: Ásbyrgi, Mývatnssveit, Skriðuklaustur, Hornafjörður, Skaftafell and Kirkjubæjarklaustur. The Minister

determines the details of the locations of the National Park's visitor centres, in a regulation. □[Vatnajökull National Park is furthermore authorised to operate information and service centres where the public is given information about nature conservation within the Park and provided with services as needed, and according to a more detailed decision by the Park's board.]¹⁾ The visitor centres and service centres form the National Park's service network. [The Park's board determines the locations and operating arrangements of the service centres and the board's policy thereon shall be set out in the management and conservation plan.]¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 16](#)

■ Article 17....¹⁾

Chapter VI. Monitoring and Settlement of Disputes

■ Article 18. *Monitoring*

□The Park wardens monitor, within their respective areas, compliance with the provisions of this Act, those of derived regulations and of the [management and conservation plan]¹⁾ for Vatnajökull National Park. The Park wardens are in charge of communications with the police and other supervisory bodies due to any violations of this Act and its derived regulations.

□A Park warden may close the National Park or individual areas within the Park without prior notice if he believes that the presence of humans or any traffic through the area is likely to cause damage to biota, geological formations [topographies or cultural property]²⁾ or if a hazardous situation arises within the Park due to a natural hazard.

□[A Park warden may, in cases of dire necessity, in consultation with other authorities as the case may be, undertake construction work that is not anticipated in the management and conservation plan, such as having a new road or path laid, or take other measures that make it easier to get to or away from a particular area. Such construction work must be in response to a natural hazard or other unexpected circumstances and the work must be done in the interest of safety or to enable research that is necessary to ensure public safety. The management and conservation plan shall include further definitions of the general conditions for, and the extent of, such work as might become necessary, such as on marking and parametrisation, the removal of roads and other work that must be implemented once the natural hazard or other unexpected circumstances are no longer present.]²⁾

□ A Park warden or other Park staff may expel from the National Park any person who transgresses against the provisions of this Act and those of the Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park.

¹⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 5](#) ²⁾[Act No 101/2016, Article 18](#)

■ Article 19. *Dispute over the implementation of the Act*

□ Decisions taken on the basis of this Act may be appealed to [the Minister].¹⁾ A ministerial ruling is the final ruling at the administrative level.

□ All those who have legally protected interests connected to the appealed decision, as well as environmental protection organisations and outdoor activity organisations with legal jurisdiction in Iceland, provided they have more than 30 members and the purpose of the organisation is to protect the interests the appeal pertains to, have the right of appeal under this Article. Environmental protection organisations are defined as organisations whose main purpose is to protect the environment. Outdoor activity organisations are defined as organisations whose main purpose is to promote outdoor activities and protect the environment. Organisations under paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be open to the public, issue annual reports on their activities and their accountancy data shall be audited.

Chapter VII. Miscellaneous Provisions

Article 20. *Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park*

The board of directors of Vatnajökull National Park shall, in consultation with the regional committees and the Environment Agency of Iceland, draft a regulation ¹⁾ on the National Park and submit it to the Minister. [The regulation shall provide for the establishment of the National Park, its boundaries and the administrative regions within it, conservation and levels of conservation and the locations of the visitor centres.] ²⁾

The contents of the draft Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park shall be made known to the local authorities in the area, to landowners and to other stakeholders and they shall be given the opportunity to submit their comments on it. The opinion of the Icelandic Institute of Natural History shall be sought with regard to the ecological tolerance of those areas in which hunting, and livestock grazing will be allowed. In setting out the Regulation, the criterion for land use within the National Park shall be for it to be sustainable in the opinion of the Icelandic Institute of Natural History.

¹⁾Regulation 608/2008, cf. 755/2009, 764/2011, 463/2013, 724/2013, 749/2013, 457/2014 and 730/2017. ²⁾Act No 101/2016, Article 19

Article 21. *Fees*

The decision to levy guest fees for services and entry to Vatnajökull National Park, in order to meet expenses due to services to and monitoring of guests, may be laid down in a regulation. The amount of the fee shall be published in a regulation and based on the operational schedule for the whole Park, which the Vatnajökull National Park's board of directors submits to [the Minister] ¹⁾ for approval. The fee may be determined as a fixed daily amount for staying in the National Park, providing access to services offered by the Park in all of its administrative regions. A special fee may be collected for access to camp sites within the National Park. A discount may be given if payment is made for longer periods of time or if payment is made for many individuals at once. Visitor fees shall accrue to Vatnajökull National Park regardless of the administrative area in which they are collected. The Minister determines, by regulation ²⁾, the procedure for fee collection within the National Park, following a recommendation by the Park's board.

[The collection of fees for the issuing of authorisations and agreements is authorised under article 15(5), article 15a and article 15b. The fees shall cover the costs of issuing authorisations, oversight and monitoring of the activities the authorisations are issued for. The Minister determines, by regulation, the amount of the fees and the procedure for collecting them, following a recommendation by the Park's board.] ³⁾

¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 457 ²⁾Regulation no 727/2017. ³⁾Act No 101/2016, Article 20

Article 22. *Liability and per diem fines*

Violations of this Act and its derived regulations are punishable with fines or imprisonment of up to two years. All fines accrue to the State Treasury.

Per diem fines of up to 500 thousand ISK, which accrue to the Treasury, may be levied in order to compel the parties concerned to take action they are legally bound to take under this Act, or cease any illegal activities.

Article 23. *...*

Article 24. *Entry into force*

This Act shall enter into force on 1 May 2007.

Transitional Provisions

1. The board of directors and the regional committees of Vatnajökull National Park shall be appointed before 1 June 2007.

2. The roads and areas where winter driving is allowed within Vatnajökull National Park shall be mapped out pursuant to article 15(3), alongside the preparation of the conservation plan for the Park.

3. The staff of Skaftafell National Park and Jökulsárgljúfur National Park shall take precedence in the allocation of job positions within Vatnajökull National Park during its first year of operation. The provisions of [Article 7 of Act No 70/1996](#), on the Rights and Duties of Civil Servants, do not apply to job positions that are filled according to this point.

4. The provisions of this Act on the administrative structure of Vatnajökull National Park shall be reviewed no later than 1 January 2013, in cooperation between the State and communities.

5. The conservation plan for Vatnajökull National Park shall be finalised no later than two years after the Park's establishment. The proposals of the regional committees pursuant to article 12(3) shall be sent to the Park's board no later than 18 months after the establishment of Vatnajökull National Park.

6. In derogation to the provisions of article 13(2), the board of Vatnajökull National Park may give authorisation for construction projects within the Park until the conservation plan enters into force. The opinion of the Environment Agency of Iceland shall be sought before such an authorisation is granted. Conditions may be laid out, in the conservation plan or when such an authorisation is granted, for the manner in which construction projects shall be carried out, and on the monitoring of such work in order to ensure that the work does not unnecessarily disturb the biota, geological formations or topographies within Vatnajökull National Park. The Park warden concerned monitors the compliance of such construction projects with the provisions of this Act and those of the Regulation on Vatnajökull National Park and checks that the conditions which were laid out when the authorisation was granted are being followed. Any authorisation granted by the board under this provision shall be notified on the National Park's website and elsewhere in a prominent manner.