

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN ICELAND AND THE NATURAL AND ANTHROPOGENIC VEGETATION IN THE TUNDRA ZONE

Summary

The paper describes the natural conditions in Iceland. Its landscape is shaped by volcanic activity. The vegetation covers only 25% of the area and is dominated by subarctic communities, mainly tundra. Woodlands and shrub occupy only 1% of the territory of the island. The original vegetation is destroyed during the volcanic eruptions and slowly recovers

in the process of primary succession. Human activity (since the 9th c.) has a significant impact on the fragile subarctic ecosystems. Agricultural use leads to erosion on a large scale. Planting of alien species of trees would prevent erosion. However, since the 1990s, the restoration of the native birch forest cover has been recommended.