*Session proposal for the 9th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (MMV), Bordeaux, France, August 28-31, 2018.*

**Session title:**

Managing Visitors in Iceland’s Recreational Areas

**Description of purpose and content :**

As numbers of international visitors to Iceland continue to grow at rates far exceeding world averages, the need to effectively monitor and manage their experiences and impacts becomes increasingly critical. In the face of growing and diversifying demands for outdoor recreation, managers are facing new challenges and have emerging and urgent needs. This session welcomes presentations by researchers working in this intellectual field and geographical region. Under this broad theme, the presentations can focus on a variety of topic areas including responsibility, local development, conflicting interests, and national parks. The goal of the session is to reflect research of various nature that embraces both theory and practice, include cross-disciplinary studies and different methodology approaches (qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method approaches). In this way the session aims to create a platform for scholars and practitioners to share ideas, strategies and solutions for communities and national parks tackling challenges due to changes in the way people use nature, e.g., new groups of users, recreational requirements and new modes of transport.

**Name, affiliation and contact details of the person organizing the session:**

Guðrún Þóra Gunnarsdóttir, Director at the Icelandic Tourism Research Centre - [gudrunthora@unak.is](mailto:gudrunthora@unak.is)

Georgette Leah Burns, Head of Society and Environment Discipline in the School of Environment at Griffith University - [leah.burns@griffith.edu.au](mailto:leah.burns@griffith.edu.au)