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UST202208-162/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

**Subject: permit to fly a drone in protected areas**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Enrique Puig Pumarola, dated August 18<sup>th</sup>, for a permit to fly a drone within Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss, Dimmuborgir, Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Hverfjall, Mývatn and Laxá, Reykjanes country park, Skógafoss, The beach at Stapi and Hellnir and Snaefellsjökull National park.

Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 457/1996. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations, interference with water flow in the river is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Dimmuborgir is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1262/2011. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Events and commercial filming is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1971. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations and other changes to landscape is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no.101/1978. Construction work and disturbance to geological formations and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. A permit from the Environment Agency is needed for camping inside the nature reserve. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.



Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation, wildlife and geological formation is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time.

Látrabjarg is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 300/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Overnight stay or camping is not allowed within the nature reserve. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited both on land and in the sea. Disturbance to geological formation is prohibited except with permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, events and ceremonies. All traffic and landing from sea within the nature reserve is prohibited apart from the exemptions listed in the regulation which do not cover traffic for filming.

Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

Reykjanes country park is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Camping overnight is only allowed in a designated campsite. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 568/2001. All commercial filming projects within the national park are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 17 in the Regulation. Permit from the Environment Agency is needed for any kind of commercial activity and events within the national park according to art. 17 in the Regulation. Permit from the Environment Agency is needed for research projects on nature and heritage monuments within the national park according to art. 20 in the regulation.

Fagradalsfjall and Geldingadalir Valley, Fjarðargljúfur, Hengifoss, Kirkjufellsfoss, Litlanesfoss, Námafjall, Rauðisandur, Reynisfjara beach, Seljalandsfoss and Snaefellsness Peninsula are not protected. The applicant needs to apply directly to the landowner/municipality of the area.

Fjallsárlón and the west part of Selfoss is not under the supervision of Environment Agency of Iceland. The applicant needs to apply directly to Vatnajökull national park.

***Description of the project:***

Detailed description of the flight is in the application and a map that shows the areas the drone will fly over. The droneflight will take place from September 12<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>sc</sup> 2022. Number of employee is 1 person.

***Review:***

In accordance to art. 17. in regulation 665/2012 the Environment Agency of Iceland requested a review from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the Lake Mývatn Research station and landowners on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2022. The review from Icelandic Institute of Natural History was received on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2022. In their review they have no comment on the application. The review from the Lake Mývatn Research station was received on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2022. In their review In their review they have no comment on the application.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on nature and conservation value of the sites. At the bird cliffs at Dyrhólaey, Látrabjarg, the beach at Stapa and Hellna and Skógafoss most of the birds have left by the time the flight will take place. At Dynjandi will the droneflight take place outside vulnerable bird sites. The droneflight might temporarily disturb other guests. To minimise disturbance, it's important to keep flight time to a minimum, keep the drone away from guests and wildlife and avoid flying during the area's busiest time of day.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

After reviewed the application, management plans for the sites and regulations for Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss, Dimmuborgir, Hverfjall, Reykjanes country park and Snaefellsjökull National park no permission is needed to fly a drone there if it does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Enrique Puig Pumarola permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Mývatn and Laxá, Skógafoss and the beach at Stapi and Hellnir, as described above on September 12<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.

- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors. If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss.**
- Due to security reasons, it is prohibited to fly drone less than 50m above Strokkur and Geysir.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.

If the developer causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

***Permission fee:***

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

***Supervision:***

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir  
*advisor*

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
*advisor*