

University of Naples Federico II  
Monte Sant'Angelo, Ed. 7,  
Napoli  
Italy

Akureyri, fimmtudagur, 7. júní 2023  
UST202305-096/D.Ö.H.  
09.04.00

**Subject: permit for collection of samples**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Dept. of Biology, University of Naples Federico II, dated 10.5.2023, for collection of samples within the protected sites of Arnarnesstrýtur and/or Strýtur (geothermal cones of Eyjafjörður) and within Reykjanes Nature Park (Reykjanesfólkvangur).

Arnarnesstrýtur hydrothermal vent is protected cf. regulation no. 510/2007. Research and collection of specimens are subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. It is prohibited to disrupt the hydrothermal vent chimneys and attach any kind of sign on the vents. The Strýtur hydrothermal vent is protected cf. regulation no. 249/2001 Research and collection of specimens are subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. It is prohibited to disrupt the hydrothermal vent chimneys and attach any kind of sign on the vents.

Reykjanesfólkvangur is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. All disturbance on soil or geological features are subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

**Description of the project:**

The project aims to collect samples at diverse geothermal systems in Iceland during the period August 25<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Samples of fluid, sediment and gas will be collected. According to the application "the complete sampling procedure takes approximately 2 hours for each location, does not require the use of chemicals or other type of invasive procedure. Fluids are collected using a small silicone tubing system connected to a small handheld pump and sediments are collected using a stainless-steel spoon and sterile vials. The gases are collected using a funnel and specific gas tight vials. The whole procedure is minimally invasive, and we do not foresee other disturbance to the local flora or fauna. Additionally, as part of the current project and in continuity with previous sampling effort we will collect similar samples from The Strytan hydrothermal

cones, in collaboration with Mr. Erlendur Bogasson, and from lake Kleifarvatn. These samples include old piece of Strytan cone, likely broken off in mid-1940s and not part of the active cone and a small chimney, ~5cm tall, from 38m location”.

**Review:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland requested review from the committee of protection of Hverastrýtur á botni Eyjafjarðar and Hverastrýtur á botni Eyjafjarðar, norður af Arnarnesnöfum on May 22nd. The review from the committee was received on June 1st. In their review they don't object granting the permit.

**Impact assessment:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project, as it is described in the application, are not likely to have negative effect on the area if conditions of the permit are followed.

**Conclusions and conditions:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Donato Giovannelli at University of Naples Federico II permission on its behalf to collect samples as described within Arnarnesstrýtan and Strýtan hydrothermal vent chimneys and at Kleifarvatn and Grænavatn in Reykjanes country park as described above in the period of June 27th til July 6th, 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.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.
- Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance to soil, vegetation or geological formations is not visible to other visitors.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

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.

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/>).

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project. Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for research in geothermal areas ([www.os.is](http://www.os.is)).

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History ([www.ni.is](http://www.ni.is)).

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to receive, free of charge, a copy of all reports and scientific articles that result from the research 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 research is 57.000 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

**Supervision:**

The Environment Agency will supervise the project within Reykjanes Nature Park. The regional advisor from the Environmental Agency must be informed at least 24 hours before collecting samples in Kleifarvatn and by Grænavatn. Erlendur Bogason will supervise by Strytan.

Sincerely

René Biasone  
advisor

Davíð Örvar Hansson  
advisor