

Universität Hamburg  
Germany

Akureyri, fimmtudagur, 24. júlí 2024  
UST202407-109/F.P.  
09.04.00

**Subject: Umsókn - rannsóknarleyfi á friðlýstum svæðum**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Universität Hamburg, dated, 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2024, for a research permit within Geysir area.

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.

**Description of the project:**

The applicant requests permission to do measurements and monitoring around Strokkur in the Geysir area from September 19<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. In the beginning of the project, September 19<sup>th</sup> the applicant requests to meet site specialist (or ranger) of the Environment Agency of Iceland in Geysir for further planning of how equipment will be placed to reduce interruption on visitors in the area.

“Our geophysical methods are generally non-invasive. However, one installation involves a seismometer and tiltmeter, which need to be placed in a hole of about 50-80 cm depth and 50x50 cm in size. If possible, this station will be placed west of Strokkur in the area with trees (approximate distance to Strokkur 60 m to the west or to the west of the wooded area, see orange dots in attached figure). Once the instruments are in the hole, it will be closed with the soil taken out.”

In order to reduce the interference with tourists, measurements can be carried out after sunset und before sunrise

**Impact assessment:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project is not likely to have negative impact on the geological features in the area and the applicant will reduce negative impact on visitors as possible. All traces of the project will be erased after the research, in cooperation with rangers in the area.

**Leyfi til rannsókna með/án dróna**

- 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.
- 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.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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 vehicles used during field exploration must be labelled with the identity of the researcher's institute. All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.

If the licensee 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 to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

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

A permission from the Prime minister's office might be needed according to Act no. 58/1998.

Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for researches 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 requests access to reports and scientific articles of the aforementioned studies, which could be used for educational purposes about the area and/or assist in its management, free of charge.

**Supervision:**

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

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson  
**advisor**

Davíð Örvar Hansson  
**advisor**