

Kam G So

Garðabær, 30. June 2025
202506-0081/I.M.B.
10.02.01

Application for a permit to use a drone within protected areas

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Kam G So, dated June 14th, 2025, for a permit to use a drone within protected areas during the period of July 10th – 24th 2025.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1986. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no 555/2024. It is prohibited to disturb vegetation or geological formation within the protected area. A permit from the Nature Conservation Agency must be obtained for planned events and projects that may cause disruption or require facilities, personnel, or the use of equipment within the protected area, such as for film production, art events, and gatherings.

Hnausapollur and Landmannalaugar are within Fjallabak nature reserve is protected cf. regulation no. 354/1979. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th – September 15th is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Geysir is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbances of geological monuments are prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soil and rocks, without permission. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 647/2020. 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni are protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. regulation no. 822/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, landscape, hot springs, other springs and ecosystems in hot springs in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labor force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

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 at 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Lóndrangar lie within the Snæfellsjökull national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the national park during nesting season is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is to use a drone within protected areas in Iceland on the 10th-24th of July 2025. Description of the flight paths, take-off and landing, altitude and duration of each flight was attached to the application. Each flight at each location will take 15 minutes and range from 40-120m in altitude. At Hveradalir (Kerlingarfjöll) the filming will take before 8am and after 7pm, at Goðafoss after 6pm and at Dynjandi after 7pm.

Impact assessment:

At Skógafoss, filming could have a negative impact on other visitors, but the agency's assessment is that such impacts can be mitigated if the conditions of the permit are followed and filming takes place during times when fewer visitors are present in the area. At Lóndrangar the filming can have negative effect on birdlife due to densely populated bird colonies and nesting season. Those effects can be mitigated if the if the flight is conducted according to the conditions below, ie. 200m from the cliffs.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Kam G So permission on its behalf to use a drone within the above-mentioned protected areas during the period of July 10th – 24th 2025, as described above on the following conditions. Note the special area conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- **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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff are required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland was obtained for the filming/photography.
- 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.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precautions 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 for 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 wildlife protection.**
- **For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokkur.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones between Þúfubjarg and Lóndrangar in Snæfellsjökull national park. The drone flight shall be done from the west side of Lóndrangar, and it is forbidden to fly drone closer than proximity 200 meters from the cliffs. Take- off and landing must be from Malarrif.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 1360/2024 on unmanned aircraft.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. [1360/2024](#) on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft.

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage flydrone.is

Permission fee:

Nature Conservation 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 construction, drone flights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

Supervision:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland will supervise the project. The supervisor will be rangers from the Agency.



Sincerely

Daníel Freyr Sigurbjargarson

advisor

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir

advisor