

University of Salzburg

Reykjavík, 7. June 2023
UST202305-253/I.M.B.
09.04.00

Subject: Application for a research permit in Seltún within Reykjanes country park.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from the University of Salzburg, dated 22nd of May 2023, for a research permit at Seltún within Reykjanes country park on the 7th and 13th of July 2023.

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

Description of the project:

The project applied for is a research project and collection of samples in Seltún geothermal area. Ten small samples of microalgae from macroscopically visible, pigmented spots will be collected in the vicinity of hot springs into 15 ml tubes. Ten samples of soil crust (soil surface) into 50 ml tubes will be collected for community analysis. The samples will be collected along the walking path in the area.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the area or other visitors.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants the University of Salzburg permission on its behalf to collect samples at Seltún within Reykjanes country park as described above on the 7th and 13th of July 2023 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 the Environmental Agency advisor 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.

- 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 participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.
- 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.

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 to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

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

Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for research in geothermal areas (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).

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. 29. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

René Biasone,
advisor

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir,
advisor