

Luca Fogazzi

Reykjavík, 14th July 2023  
UST202307-004/S.V.  
09.04.00

**Subject:** Permit to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Háifoss natural monument.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Luca Fogazzi, dated 30. júlí 2023, for a permit to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Háifoss natural monument.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup> is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Háifoss is within protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency for organized events and projects that pose a risk of disturbance to geological formations, wildlife or guests in the area. 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 has requested to fly a drone, for recreational use, at several locations within the nature reserve at Fjallabak, i.e. Raudaskal, Lake Hnausapollur, Lake Ljótípollur, Bláhnúkur and Brennsiteinsalda and within Háifoss natural monument 19th July 2023, with a drone type DJI MINI 3. The shootings would take place at the same day and flight times would be maximum 5 minutes at each stage.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the droneflight might have negative effect on other visitors experience at the nature reserve but if conditions of the permit are followed the agency considers that the impact can be reduced. Within Fjallabak nature reserve, drone flight can cause disturbance to other guests and wildlife. To minimize negative effects and not to

disturb the areas quietness, it is recommended to fly the drone early in the mornings or late in the evenings.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Luca Fogazzi permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Háifoss natural monument as described above July 19th 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.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Flying a drone above or in the vicinity of the pool at Landmannalaugar is not allowed
- 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 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.
- 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.

**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 droneflight for recreational flight in up to two areas is **38.000 ISK** according to art. 29. b. 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

Valdimar Kristjánsson  
*advisor*

Sigrún Valgarðsdóttir  
*advisor*