

Antoine Mesnage  
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Reykjavík, 5. mars 2020  
UST202002-353/H.H.  
09.04.00

**Subject: permit to fly drone and slacklining**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Antoine Mesnage, dated February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a permit to fly drone and slacklining at Skógafoss, Háifoss and Svörtuloft.

Háifoss is protected as a natural monument. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Use of drones within the natural monument is prohibited without permit from the environment Agency of Iceland.

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 in 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 Environment Agency of Iceland.

Svörtuloft is located within the Snæfellsjökull National park, which is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 568/2001. All commercial filming projects within the national park are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 17 in the Regulation. Permit from the Environment Agency is needed for any kind of commercial activity and events within the national park according to art. 17 in the regulation.

***Description of the project:***

The project is to do slacklining at Skógafoss, Háifoss and Svörtuloft from June 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. Five members will take part in the project and the plan is to rig a line across canyons and walk over. The anchors are either sticks in the ground or tied around rocks. The plan is then to fly drone close to the line as someone walks over it. Participants will need to go off paths to attach the anchor to the ground.

***Impact assessment:***

Háifoss: The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project could have negative impact on the area. The negative effect could be minor disturbance to the ground where the line will be attached. In all likelihood, the disturbance will be reversible so it will not be visible after the project is finished. If option 1 is chosen will there be need to delimit an area that guests are not allowed to visit during the performance. Minor temporary interruption.

Svörtuloft: The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to have a negative impact on the area due to nesting and bird life in June.

Skógafoss: The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project could to have negative impact on the area. The negative effect could be minor disturbance to the ground where the line will be attached. However, it is most likely a reversible disturbance that will not be visible. The drone flight that accompanies the event is likely to have disruptive effect on wildlife. It is common that Fulmars are at the waterfall all year around. To attach the line there will be need to go outside of restricted walking paths, where guest are not allowed to access. There will be considerable disruption to the experience of other visitors in the area. Likewise, interference can be caused by drone flight.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland **denies** Antoine Mesnage to fly drone and slacklining at Svörtuloft. The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby **grants** Antoine Mesnage permission on its behalf to fly drone and slacklining at Háifoss and Skógafoss as described above on June 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 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.
- 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.
- The crew of the project must wear high-visibility clothing, labelled as staff or clearly identified to make sure other guest do not go follow off paths.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply in the area.
- A sign that indicates that a permit to film has been obtained from the Environment Agency, must be placed at the site.
- 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 project must be removed when the project is over.
- 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.
- 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 event and 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.
- It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season. For rest of the year it is not allowed to fly in a closer proximity to bird cliffs than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- 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.
- The crew is responsible for their own safety

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.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

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/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

***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 cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

***Supervision:***

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

Sincerely

*Hildur Hafbergsdóttir*

Hildur Hafbergsdóttir  
advisor

*Daníel Freyr Jónsson*

Daníel Freyr Jónsson  
advisor