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Subject: permit to visit Surtsey for research purposes

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Joe Roman from Grund Institute, dated February 1st 2021, to visit Surtsey nature reserve for research purposes.

Surtsey is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 50/2006. Written permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed to visit the island and dive within the nature reserve. Permits to visit are issued exclusively for research purposes and/or for projects directly related to research.

Description of the project:

Purpose of the visit is to collect material for a book on how animals shape the planet. Material will be collected by observing Surtsey and its animal life and plant life and talk with scientists in the field. No samples will be collected, only observations and no disturbance to geological features and wildlife. The plan is to participate in the annual research expedition to the island in July 12th-15th 2021.

Review:

The Environment Agency of Iceland has contacted the expedition leader who has confirmed that the applicant can join the expedition.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on the delicate nature in Surtsey. The plan is only to observe and gain information about the island and the research conducted there.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Joe Roman permission on its behalf to visit Surtsey nature reserve for research purposes as described above on July 12th-15th 2021 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you when you meet the expedition before departure to the Island.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- This permit is only valid for continuous stay in the period of July 12th-15th 2021.

- The applicant needs to thoroughly clean all clothing and equipment before entering the island to prevent any soil, seeds or organisms from being brought to the island.
- If clothes and equipment are not clean the supervisor from the Environment Agency can request that any equipment is recleaned or left behind, that departure is delayed until improvements have been made or request that the travel permit is withdrawn.
- It is not allowed to disturb fauna, geological formations or wildlife in Surtsey.
- Make sure that you take all luggage and waste with you when leaving the island.
- There is no drinking water or toilet facilities on the island. The expedition must bring with them all supplies.
- While staying on the island all members of the expedition must comply to the instructions from the supervisor from the Environment Agency that accompanies the group.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.

If the applicant 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.

Instruction on how to clean clothes and equipment are in an attachment.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor