

Silverback Films
United Kingdom

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Permit to fly a drone within the Skógafoss protected area

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Silverback Films Ltd., dated September 2nd 2021, for a permit to fly a drone within the protected area Skógafoss.

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, cinematography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The plan is to film the waterfall from the car park, the method of filming will be a camera mounted on a tripod and drone filming. The altitude height they will be filming from will be a minimum of 20 metres and a maximum of 120 metres. They will be filming and flying the waterfall with drone from the car park and the flight line will be 50-100 metres from the waterfall. Crew consists of five employees. Flight will take place on September 11th 2021.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on the area if conditions of the permit are followed. **Nesting season of the fulmar does not end until the middle of September.**

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Silverback Films Ltd. permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Skógafoss protected area as described above on September 11th 2021 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.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss.**
- **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.

- **All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.**
- **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.**
- 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.
- All traces of the project must be removed when the project is over.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Crew members should stay on marked paths the whole time.
- 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.
- 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 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.

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

René Biasone
advisor

Guðbjörg Gunnarsdóttir
advisor