

Florentin Viebke
Yorckstraße 1A
24105 Kiel
Germany

Reykjavík, 28 June 2021
UST202106-238/I.M.B.
09.06.01

Subject: Application for flying a drone within protected areas.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Florentin Viebke, dated June 21st, 2021, for filming with a drone within the protected areas of Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Gróttá, Gullfoss, Skógafoss, Svæði í Þjórsárdal (Hjálparfoss), Salthöfði og Salthöfðamýrar on 28th of June – 2nd of July 2021.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no.101/1978. Construction work and disturbance to geological formations and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. A permit from the Environment Agency is needed for camping inside the nature reserve. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Gróttá is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 13/1984. All traffic to Gróttá is prohibited on 1st May – 15th July.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss is protected as a 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.

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.

Salthöfði and Salthöfðamýrar are protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 249/1977. Disturbance to vegetation and wild animals should be prevented. No use of motorized equipment is allowed within the nature reserve except for traditional utilization.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for flying a drone within the areas mentioned above. Maps with marked flightpaths, location of take-off and landing and detailed information about the project on each site was attached the application except for Grótta and is as following:

Dyrhólaey: The duration of the flight is 15 minutes in 80m altitude.

Geysir: The duration of the flight is 10 minutes in 50m altitude.

Gullfoss: The duration of the flight is 10 minutes in 50-100m altitude.

Skógafoss: The duration of the flight is 10 minutes in 70-100m altitude.

Hjálparfoss: The duration of the flight is 15 minutes in 80m altitude.

Salthöfði and Salthöfðamýrar: The duration of the flight is 10 minutes in 80m altitude.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on the areas if the conditions of the permit are followed. To prevent disturbance to nesting birds a drone should not be flown within 200 m proximity to bird cliffs in Dyrhólaey and Skógafoss.

Conclusions and conditions:

The project at Salthöfði and Salthöfðamýrar does not count as traditional utilization within the area. All traffic to Grótta is prohibited during the period applied for. The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby **declines** the application for a permit flying a drone in Salthöfði and Salthöfðamýrar and Grótta.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Florentin Viebke permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Gullfoss, Skógafoss and Hjálparfoss as described above on 28 June – 2 July 2021 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- 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 each area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aircraft must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- **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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

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, i.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.

The decision may be appealed to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources according to art. 26 of Act no. 37/1993 on Administrative Procedures, based on Art. 91 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation within three months from the date of this letter.

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 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Sincerely

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Hildur Vésteinsdóttir
director