

Idea Accio  
Ed Freixe 2-2  
AD300 ORDINO / ANDORRA  
France

Reykjavík, 30. apríl 2021  
UST202103-483/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

### **Permit to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Idea Accio/Philippe Garcia, dated March 30<sup>th</sup> 2021, for a permit to film within Hornstrandir Nature reserve.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve by act no 60/2013 on nature conservation, cf. Regulation no 332/1985. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. According to the management plan for Hornstrandir, filming and photography that can affect wildlife and visitor experience and flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the protected site is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency.

#### ***Description of the project:***

The purpose of the project is to film foxes at two dens, one in Hornvík and one at Hesteyri. Long lenses (500mm and 800 mm) will be used to give room to the animals and achieve certain effects. Time spent at the dens will be 2-4 hours depending on foxes acceptance. If the foxes are shy another den will be chosen for filming. Minimum distance from the den will be 20-30 meters. No hide will be used. Filming will take place in 5 expeditions over the summer 2021, 2 in June, 2 in July and 1 in August. Each of them will last 3 days which is the time the batteries will last. Drone flight will take place in the end of nesting season, July/August. Map showing flight routes was attached to the application. Two flight routes are near sea cliffs and four routes near beaches. The plan is to fly at least 50 m above the edge of the sea cliffs. Each drone flight (one per area) will last 20 to 30 minutes max. Purpose of the drone flight is to film landscape where the foxes feed, not foxes or birds. Number of employees per expedition is 2 persons.

#### ***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on the area for the long term. For the short term filming might cause negative effect on foxes at the dens that are filmed. The Environment Agency considers that if conditions of the permit are followed the effect of the filming can be reduced.

#### ***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Idea Accio/Philippe Garcia permission on its behalf to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir Nature reserve as described above from June 1<sup>st</sup> til August 31<sup>st</sup> 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 48 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.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads when possible.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- It is not allowed to feed animals in the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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 filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Timing of the droneflight shall be decided in consultation with rangers in the area.

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.

A permission from the landowners might be needed for the project.

***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

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir  
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
advisor