

BBC Studios
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Bristol, BS8 2LR
United Kingdom

Reykjavík, 14. janúar 2021
UST202101-104/P.V.B.
09.06.01

Subject: Permit to film in the Fjallabak Nature reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from BBC, dated January 8th 2021, for permission to film within Fjallabak nature reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Description of the project:

The purpose of the filming is to film Laugakönguló (*Pirata piraticus*). In order to film the spider the film crew requests permission to remove few of them temporally from their habitat and place them in a mini set. In order to make the mini set the plan is to collect 4 kg of moss and algae from the bathing pool at Landmannalaugar. Water from the pool will also be used for the mini set. The spiders, moss and algae will be returned to the site once filming has finished. Gloves will be used to collect all material. Aerial filming for general landscape shot will be performed with a small drone. The drone will be flown a maximum of 120m above ground level and within the pilot's line of sight. It will not be flown closer than 50 m to uninvolved people and not directly over uninvolved people. Flights will be undertaken from the hiking hut and the pool where the material will be collected. Map showing the location of the pools where spiders and vegetation will be collected and flight area for the drone was attached to the application. Filming will take place February 22nd to March 4th 2021. Film crew consists of 6 employees.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the site and vegetation in the pool if conditions of the permit are fulfilled.

Conclusions and conditions:

No permission from the Environment Agency is needed for the droneflight. The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants BBC permission on its behalf to collect moss and within Fjallabak nature reserve as described above on February 22nd to Mach 4th 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.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Every measure must be taken to avoid damage to the site, unnecessary disturbance and limit the amount of animals and vegetation collected.
- All animals and plants must be returned to the same place they were collected when filming ceases.
- When returning the moss and algae no gaps shall be in the vegetation cover.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- Before the moss and algae is collected, and after it has been put back to its original location, the applicant must take pictures of the site from where it was collected and send to the Environment Agency.
- 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.

If the film crew 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

Daníel Freyr Jónsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor