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Permit for using a drone within the protected areas of Gullfoss, Geysir, Hjalparfoss and Skogafoss.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Jean-Guillaume Feignon, dated April 18th, for filming with a drone within within the protected areas Gullfoss, Geysir, Hjalparfoss and Skogafoss from June 29th to July 13th 2021.

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. Helicopters and other manned aircrafts may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

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.

Hjalparfoss is protected as 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.

Skogafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life within 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.

Description of the project:

The filming with the drone will be made at altitudes between 30 and 120 meters and flight durations will not be longer than 45 minutes on each site. Aerial photographs with the flight routes marked were attached to the application with description of the flight and information about where the drone would take off and land at Geysir, Gullfoss, Hjalparfoss and Skogafoss. Number of employee is 2 and filming will take place from June 29th to July 13th 2021.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have temporal negative impact on visitors in the areas and on birdlife at Skógafoss. Drone flight can affect visitors' experience in the sites. Nesting season has started when it is requested to fly the drone. At Skógafoss fulmars are nesting in the canyon in front of the waterfall. Negative impact can be reduced at Geysir, Gullfoss and Skógafoss if conditions of the permit are fulfilled. By changing location of takeoff and landing at Hjalparfoss negative impact can be reduced.

Conclusion and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Jean-Guillaume Feignon permission on its behalf to film with a drone within Gullfoss, Geysir, and Skógafoss as described above and at Hjalparfoss with a different location for takeoff and landing from June 29th to July 13th 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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland 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.
- Crew members should stay on marked paths the whole time.
- 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 aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- It is forbidden to fly over Strokkur in altitudes below 50 meters.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss.**

- **Drone should takeoff and land east of the canyon at Hjálparfoss, not in the canyon southwest of the waterfall as described in the application**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.
- The conductor of the drone 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

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.

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

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor