

Antonios Stylianos
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Reykjavík, 5th September 2023
UST202308-159/S.V.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit to fly a drone within Arnarstapi, Dyrhólaey, Gullfoss and Skógafoss

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Antonios Stylianos, dated, 18th August 2023, for a permit to fly a drone within Arnarstapi, Dyrhólaey, Gullfoss and Skógafoss.

Arnarstapi, the beach at Stapi and Hellnar, is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

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. According to the management plan regulations permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency for operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the area.

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.

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. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The applicant has requested to fly a drone for recreational use at several protected areas in Iceland, i.e. Arnarstapi, Dyrhólaey, Gullfoss and Skógafoss, type DJI mini 3 pro during the period 10th – 14th

September 2023. Each flight is planned to be kept under 15 min. each with the highest altitude lower than 100 m and the drone will always be kept in visual line of sight of the pilot.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the conservation values of the areas. Guests might be disturbed while the project is conducted but can be minimized if the flight time is kept to a minimum and flight avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Antonios Stylianos permission on its behalf to fly a drone as described above during the period 10th – 14th September 2023 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.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- 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.
- 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 drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.

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/>). 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.

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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **76.000 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir
advisor

Sigrún Valgarðsdóttir
advisor