

Háskóli Íslands Jarðvísindastofnun - Askja  
Sturlugötu 7  
101 Reykjavík

c/o Maria Helena Janebo  
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UST201807-170/G.G.  
09.05.01

**Subject: Research permit –Fjallabak nature reserve**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Maria Helena Janebo on behalf of the University of Iceland, Institute of Earth Sciences, dated 24. July 2018, regarding a permit to collect research samples for the project “*Eruption Source Parameters for explosive eruptions in Iceland over the last 3 ka*” within Fjallabak Nature Reserve, during the period July to September 2018.

Fjallabak Nature Reserve is protected by Act no. 60/2013 on nature protection, cf. Regulation no. 354/1979 Fjallabak Nature Reserve.

Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

***Description of the project:***

The project is a 2-year postdoctoral research project (June 2017-June 2019) at Háskóli Íslands with the purpose of determining eruption source parameters for explosive eruptions of Hekla and Katla. This will increase our understanding of explosive eruptions and aid with future hazard assessments for these volcanoes.

The project involves measuring thickness and sampling one tephra layer from Hekla and one from Katla. Measurements will be mainly done at locations where the tephra is visible at the surface, in gullies, within the area roughly outlined by Landmannaleið, Fjallabaksleið nyrðri and Litla-Melfell, and east of Frostastaðavatn. The ground surface will be lightly scraped by hand or small pits will be dug with a shovel to expose the tephra and collect the sample at approximately 10-15 locations. The pits will be fully refilled in and raked over so that the ground is not scarred.

There will be no use of any chemicals and/or chemical compounds and no off-road driving. The car will be parked in an appropriate area. Hiking will be done mainly along the paths and trails, and only off the paths to reach sample sites. Two to five participants will take part in the project.

***Impact assessment:***

Based on the information from the applicant the Environment Agency of Iceland does not consider the research likely to have impact on the conservation values of the area.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants a permission on its behalf on following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- If the dates of the project change the Environment Agency shall be notified, with at least 5 days notice, if possible, when the project starts. Otherwise as soon as possible.
- The Environment Agency should be informed if there will be any changes to the project description.
- Please contact the rangers in the areas for advice on the acceptable places for sample collection within at least 24 hours' notice.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting the samples.
- Number of samples should be moderate.
- All vehicles used during field exploration must be labelled with the identity of the researcher's institute.
- All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed in any way more than the projects purpose demands.
- 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.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully off the site by the end of the work/project.
- The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff before the work begins.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure not to cause disturbance to other visitors.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.

According to art. 88 in act no. 60/2013 on nature conservation the ranger has the authority to stop the project if the project is likely to cause damage to the area.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History ([www.ni.is](http://www.ni.is)).

***Request:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to be secured, free of charge, a copy of all reports and scientific articles that results from the research project.

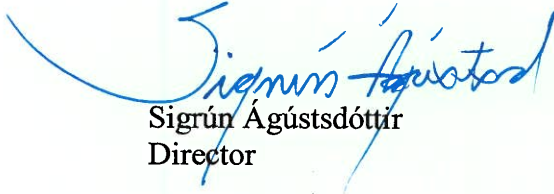
***Permission fee:***

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 researches is 39.400 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,



Sigrún Ágústsdóttir  
Director



Hákon Ásgeirsson  
Team leader

