

Reykjavík 16. maí 2016
UST201603-197/D.Ö.H.
09.05.01

Application of research permit and collecting of flora samples within Mývatn and Laxá Nature Reserve.

The Environment Agency of Iceland received a request from the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre on collecting flora samples within Mývatn and Laxá Nature Reserve. The samples will be used for the research project: Mapping the Icelandic Sea-Spray Effect: Implications for Palaeodietary Reconstruction and Chronology Building.


The samples will be collected along 4 transects from Lake Mývatn, this will include sampling west of the lake towards the coastal city of Akureyri, north towards the coastal town of Húsavík, east towards the iconic Dettifoss waterfall and south towards Lake Ytra-Hólavátn and Svartárkot. According to application 25 samples will be collected per transect (5 samples per 10 km interval) within a 50 km radius of Lake Mývatn, yielding 100 sample in total. Each sample shall weigh no more than 1.5 grams each.

No red listed or protected plants will be collected. Samples include bentgrasses (*Agrostis* sp.), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) and purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Samples shall be destroyed during the analytical process.

According to the applicant there shall be no disturbance to geological features, soil and fauna. Flora samples will be carefully collected with clippers (scissors) without causing any disturbance to the surrounding vegetation.

According to regulation no. 665/2012 review are needed from Mývatn Research Center and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. Both institutions gave positive reviews.

The research permit is hereby granted and is subjected to the following conditions:

- This permission is granted for the period 8-15th September 2016.
 - Collecting of samples shall be performed as described in the application.
 - Sample quantity is restricted to 25 samples per transect (100 in total).
 - Keep signed permit letter with you during your research.
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- This permit is only valid for research purposes within Mývatn and Laxá Nature Reserve. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes.
- The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to be secured, free of charge, a copy of all reports and scientific articles that result from the research project.
- Off road driving is prohibited in all circumstances.

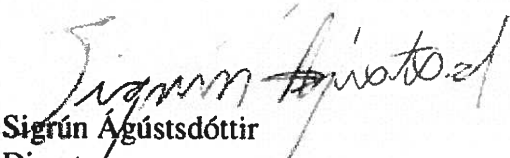
Please keep the following in mind:


- This permission does not include permission of private landowners. Make sure you have permission to enter private land.
- If you wish to transport the samples from Iceland you might need a permission from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. (ni@ni.is)

Further information are provided by Davíð Örvar Hansson, Advisor at Mývatn and Laxá Nature Reserve, mail: david.hansson@umhverfisstofnun.is

The Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas on the basis of Article 92 of Act No. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for a research permit in protected areas is kr. 39,400. Invoice will be sent following this letter.

Sincerely


Sigrún Agústsদóttir
Director


Svava Pétursদóttir
Advisor