

Finnish Meteorological Institute
c/o Outi Meinander

Höfn, mánudagur, 19. maí 2025
202502-0099/C.E.J.B.
10.01.01

Subject: Application for a research permit - Outi Meinander, Finnish Meteorological Institute – Vatnajökull, Skálafellsjökull, Grímsfjall og Skaftárjökull – 19.05.2025.-19.06.2025

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from the Finnish Meteorological Institute, dated 17.2.2025, to conduct research within Vatnajökull National Park.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007.

According to art 15(a) of act no. 60/2007, permission must be obtained from the park ranger for organized events and projects that require facilities, manpower, or the use of equipment in the national park, such as film production, art events, gatherings, and research. The park ranger is authorized to set any conditions for the granting of permits that are deemed necessary, as per paragraph 2.

According to paragraph 4 of art 15 of act no. 60/2007, driving motor vehicles off-road in Vatnajökull National Park is prohibited. However, it is allowed to drive such vehicles on glaciers and on designated winter driving areas, as per paragraph 6, provided the ground is snow-covered and frozen. The regulation allows for the prohibition of motor vehicle driving in specific areas of Vatnajökull throughout the year or during certain times of the year.

Description of the project:

Project name: IBA-ILMA, Finnish Meteorological Institute

Date, timeline and duration of the project: Sampling in May 2025 in Vatnajökull glacier within the Vatnajökull National Park as part of IBA-ILMA project activities. IBA-ILMA project duration 2023-2025, ending 31.12.2025. The IBA-ILMA project is listed in "Projects" here: <https://en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/cv-outi-meinander>.

Location inside Vatnajökull National Park: Glacier crossing from Skálafellsjökull-Grímsvötn-Skaftárjökull

Description of methods for sample taking, if part of the research: Crossing Vatnajökull glacier by Jukka Viljanen and Pata Degerstadt as Pro bono collaboration with IBA-ILMA project. Jukka will run the journey. IBA-ILMA is lead by adjunct professor Outi Meinander, Finnish Meteorological Institute, <https://en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/cv-outi-meinander>. Collecting small

samples of deposited snow (1-2 cm surface snow) and new precipitation samples to quantify and identify the impurities in the deposition samples.

In addition to the application, the applicant has also sent the following information:

Our route starts at Skálafellsjökull in the east, then heads towards Grímsfjall, and ends around Skaftárjökull. In our calculations, we will be about 10-12 km north of Esjufjöll, and about 25km north of Öräfajökull.

All of the team members have been operating on different glaciers before. The two Icelandic members, Anton Guðmundsson and Arngrímur Hermannsson, have years of experience driving on glaciers and have several times been on Vatnajökull. Jukka has been on several glaciers from Antarctica to Greenland, and I have done 54 Arctic expeditions and 7 Antarctic expeditions crossing and living on different glaciers. I have also been an instructor on several crevasse rescue courses for the Finnish Climbing Association. We have proper equipment to move over crevassed areas safely, and strict rules to operate under to reduce the risk involved glacier travel.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project IBA-ILMA, Finnish Meteorological Institute to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of Vatnajökull National Park.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Outi Meinander of the Finnish Meteorological Institute, permission on its behalf to conduct research within Vatnajökull National Park as described above 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. The best way to do this is to 'reply-all' to the e-mail that this permit was sent with.
- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger at Jökulsárlón, tel. +354 842 4355, the ranger at Kirkjubæjarklaustur, tel. +354 470 0409, or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.

- 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 samples.
- Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance is not visible to other visitors.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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.

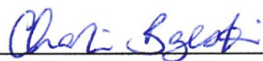
The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no.60/2013 the Nature Conservation Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Natural Science Institute of Iceland (www.ni.is).

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland requests access to reports and scientific articles of the aforementioned studies, which could be used for educational purposes about the area and/or assist in its management, free of charge.

Best regards,



Charli E. J. Brzeski
Assistant Park Manager
Vatnajökull National Park



Hanna Valdís Jóhannsdóttir
Assistant park manager