

Sebastian Schieren
Amraserstr. 4 Top11/16,
6020
Germany

Reykjavík, 7. júní 2024
UST202406-001/P.V.B.
09.04.00

Subject: permit to fly a drone in protected areas

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Sebastian Schieren, dated June 3rd 2024, for a permit to fly a drone within protected areas Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss, Dynjandi, Eldborg in Hnappadal, Fjallabak, Gullfoss, Hjalparfoss, Gjain, Haiross and Granni, Kerlingafjöll, Skogafoss and Snæfellsjökull National Park.

Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 457/1996. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations, interference with water flow in the river is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1971. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations and other changes to landscape is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Eldborg in Hnappadal is protected as a natural monument , cf. regulation no. 309/1974. Alterations to the land, construction and disturbance to geological formation are prohibited. Visitors are required to exercise caution to avoid damaging vegetation or geological formations. Visitors are encouraged to use marked walking paths on the slopes of the craters and elsewhere where applicable.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature

reserve from June 15th - September 15th is subject 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.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni are 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.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. Regulation no. 822/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, landscape, hot springs, other springs and ecosystems in hot springs in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

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.

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.

Snæfellsjökull National Park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the national park is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 7 in the regulation during nesting season.

The west part of the canyon at Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss is within Vatnajökull national park. Permit is needed from them to fly there.

Description of the project:

Drone flight would take place at Selfoss within the area Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss and at Dynjandi and Hrísvaðsfoss within Dynjandi area, at the crater within Eldborg in Hnappadal area, at Landmannalaugar and Grænahrygg within Fjallabak nature reserve, at Gullfoss area, at Háifoss within the area Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni area, at

Kerlingafjöll area, at Skógafoss area and Lóndrangar within Snæfellsjökull National Park. The flights would take place in the period of June 10th - July 7th 2024. Number of employees would be one person.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation values of most of the sites if conditions of the permit are followed. The drone flight might have negative impact on birdlife in Snæfellsjökull national park but if the area requested to fly at is approached from the west the impact can be reduced. The droneflight might have negative impact on other visitors experience in all sites but if conditions of the permit are followed the impact will be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

After revision of the application, regulations for the sites and management plans it is concluded that no permission is needed to fly the drone in Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss, Eldborg in Hnappadal and Kerlingafjöll in the period requested if the flight does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Sebastian Schieren permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Dynjandi, Fjallabak, Gullfoss, Hjalparfoss, Gjain, Håifoss and Granni, Skógafoss and Snæfellsjökul national park as described above on June 10th -July 7th 2024 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.
- Applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant 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.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- 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.**
- **Information about areas within Dynjandi, Fjallabak and Skógafoss where droneflight is not allowed can be found in attachment.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones between Þúfubjarg and Lóndrangar in Snæfellsjökull national park. The drone flight shall be done from the west side of Lóndrangar, and it is forbidden to fly drone closer than proximity 200 meters from the cliffs.**
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the areas, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

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

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.

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.

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the 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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 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

Hákon Ásgeirsson
park manager

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor