

Elsie Beukes

Reykjavík, 06.09.2023  
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09.04.00

**Subject: Permit for flying a drone in protected areas**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Elsie Beukes, dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, for a permission to film with a drone within protected areas in Iceland from 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. The areas are Snæfellsjökull National Park (Saxhóll, Djúpalónssandur and Lóndrangar), Dyrhólaey, Fjallabak, Gróttá, Gullfoss, Bárðarlaug, Dverghamrar, Dynjandi, Skógafoss, Arnarstapi and Hellnar.

Bárðarlaug is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 445/1980. 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.

Dverghamrar is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 446/1987. 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.

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.

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.

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 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup> is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Gróttá is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 13/1984. A permit for using a drone for filming in the area is not required at this time of the year.

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

The beach at Arnarstapi 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. All nature-related research, that is not legally endorsed by a research institution is subject to permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

***Description of the project:***

The applicant has requested to fly a drone, for recreational use, in for a permission to film with a drone within protected areas in Iceland from 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

***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 if conditions of the permit are followed the agency considers that the impact can be reduced. To minimize negative effects and not to disturb the areas quietness, it is recommended to fly the drone early in the mornings or late in the evenings.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Elsie Beukes permission on its behalf to using a drone for filming within the areas mentioned above as described above on 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 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.
- The 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.

- 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.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- 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.
- 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.
- Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection, see attached file.**
- **In Dyrhólaey it is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters.**
- **In Dynjandi area it is forbidden to fly drones along the coast from May 1<sup>st</sup>-September 15<sup>th</sup>, see attached file.**

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.

***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

Valdimar Kristjánsson

***advisor***

Guðbjörg Gunnarsdóttir

***advisor***