

Tamás Görgényi  
Kerékgyártó utca 54/B  
1147

Reykjavík, 13.07. 2023  
UST202306-109/G.G.  
09.04.00

**Subject: permit to fly a drone**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Görgényi Tamás, dated 12.06.2023, for flying a drone within the following areas: Geysir, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Granni, Gjáin, Landmannalaugar, Skógafoss, Dyrhólaey, Hverfjall, Skútustaðagígar, Goðafoss, Saxhóll, Snæfellsjökull and Stöndin við Stapa og Hellna.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected 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.

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.

Landmannalaugar in 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.

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.

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

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time.

Skútustaðagígar in the Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation, wildlife and geological formation 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 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.

***Description of the project:***

It is requested to have a permit to fly the drone at various areas on family holiday in the period of 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> of July 2023. The drone will not fly higher than 120 meters and a map showing the flight paths was included in the application.

***Impact assessment:***

In accordance to art. 17. in regulation 665/2012 the Environment Agency of Iceland requested a review from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the Lake Mývatn Research station.

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative effect on nature or conservation value due to bird life (nesting season) in Stöndin við Stapa og Hellnar and Lake Mývatn.

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on nature or conservation value of Geysir, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Granni, Gjáin, Landmannalaugar, Skógafoss, Hverfjall, Goðafoss, Saxhóll and Snæfellsjökull. The droneflight might have negative effect on other visitors experience but if conditions of the permit are followed the agency considers that the impact can be reduced.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines the applicants request to fly a drone at Ströndin við Stapa og Hellnar and Lake Mývatn, July 23rd - 31st 2023.

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project might have negative effect on birdlife at Skógafoss and Dyrhólaey but the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed and no drone flies inside the no fly zone at Skógafoss, seen in a map attached to this letter.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Tamás Görgényi permission on its behalf to fly a drone within the areas Geysir, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Granni, Gjáin, Landmannalaugar, Skógafoss, Dyrhólaey, Hverfjall, Goðafoss, Saxhóll and Snæfellsjökull. as described above July 23rd - 31st 2023 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- 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.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss, see map attached.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season (Dyrhólaey).**
- **For safety reasons, it is prohibited to fly a drone below 50m above Strokkur and Geysir.**
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near 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.
- 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.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

If the developer 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/>).

***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 droneflight for recreational flight for three areas and more is 76.000 ISK according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Sincerely  
Hákon Ásgeirsson  
Park Manager

Guðbjörg Gunnarsdóttir  
Advisor