

Krzysztof Pylak
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Reykjavík, 25th July 2023
UST202307-244/G.G.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Kerlingarfjöll.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Krzysztof Pylak, dated mánudagur, 24. júlí 2023, for a permit to fly a drone within the protected areas of Friðland að Fjallabaki (Landmannalaugar, Hnausapollur, Ljótípollur, Stútur Crater), Kerlingarfjöll, Reykjanesfólkvangur (New eruption site) and Skyggnisvatn.

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.

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.

Skyggnisvatn is not a protected area, or under the supervision of Environment Agency, it belongs to the Veiðivötn area, but the applicant might need a permit from the caretaker or municipality of the area.

The new eruption site, Litla-Hrútfell, is not a part of the Reykjanesfólkvangur and not a subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Drone operators are encouraged to monitor notices published on the website of the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management: www.almannavarnir.is/flug/

Description of the project:

The applicant has requested to fly a drone, for recreational use, at several locations within the nature reserve at Fjallabak, i.e. Landmannalaugar, Lake Hnausapollur, Lake Ljótípollur and Stútur crater and within Kerlingarfjöll protected area of landscape on 5th – 27th of August 2023. No props are needed. All the flights will be according to standard drone flying rules with maximum flight time 30min. With no disruption to traffic, pedestrians or animal wildlife. On Landmannalaugar and Kerlingarfjöll flights will be only above mountains, not above the campground or groups of people.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the droneflight might have negative effect on other visitors experience at the nature reserve 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 Krzysztof Pylak permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak and Kerlingarfjöll as described above from 5th – 27th of August 2023 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.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the areas.
- 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.
- 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.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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 droneflight for recreational flight in up to two areas is **38.000 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