

Kíkir ehf.
Framnesvegi 10
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Iceland

Reykjavík, 8. júlí 2022
UST202204-159/P.V.B.
09.06.01

Subject: permit to visit Surtsey for a filming project and dive

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Kíkir ehf. on behalf of Korea Broadcasting Service, dated April 4th 2022, for a permit to visit Surtsey for a filming project and dive within the nature reserve.

Surtsey is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 50/2006. Written permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed to visit the island and dive within the nature reserve. Permits to visit are issued exclusively for research purposes and/or for projects directly related to research. Photographers and filmmakers can apply for permits to visit to produce documentary material relating to Surtsey and associated research projects situated within the designated nature reserve.

Description of the project:

The Korean Broadcasting service is requesting a permit to visit Surtsey to film an educational TV show. The film crew would be on the island for 3 days in the period of August 10th – 20th 2022. Drone would be used for to film the craters and the tuff on the west site of the island. Diving would be on 5-15 meters depth from the island and from Jólnir and/or Syrtlingur. The film crew consists of 5 persons and 2 divers.

Review:

The Environment Agency of Iceland requested reviews from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute on July 5th 2022. The review from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History was received on July 7th 2022. In their review they do not oppose the permit if it is clear that the drone will only be flown to take snapshots from 500 meters above sea level, the disturbance to bird life at this time should be minor as birds have left their nest at this time of year. The Institute of Natural History would like to remind the importance of all members of the expedition showing the utmost care in the area, staying within convenient paths in the area and not disturbing vegetation or geological formations as well as avoiding resting places for birds and seals on the island. The review from the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute was received on July 7th 2022. In their review they do not object the permit being issued for filming and diving within the nature reserve.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on vegetation, birdlife, geological formation and conservation value of the site if conditions of the permit area fulfilled and directions from the site manager followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Korean Broadcasting Service permission on its behalf to visit Surtsey to film there and dive as described above for 3 days in the period of August 10th – 20th 2022 on the following conditions:

- This permit is only valid for the following individuals named in the application
 - Lee Kwangrok: producer and camera
 - Lee Jinwook: producer
 - Oh Hyungyeon: camera
 - Woo Kyungsik: professor in Dept. of Geology við Kangwon University and host
 - Park Hye Joung: translator
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 - Diver N.N
- 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.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- When traveling around in Surtsey extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Time spent in the area should be limited as possible.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The crew should be conscious of other people on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to the scientist working in the area. 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 project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- Crew members need to thoroughly clean all clothing and equipment before entering the island to prevent any soil, seeds or organisms from being brought to the island. The expedition leader is responsible for introducing guidelines on how to clean clothes and equipment to other members of the expedition.
- If clothes and equipment are not clean the supervisor from the Environment Agency can request that any equipment is recleaned or left behind, that departure is delayed until improvements have been made or request that the travel permit is withdrawn.
- It is not allowed to disturb fauna, geological formations or wildlife in Surtsey.
- Make sure that you take all luggage and litter with you when leaving the island.
- There is no drinking water or toilet facilities on the island. The expedition must bring with them all supplies.

- While staying on the island all members of the expedition/crew must comply to the instructions from the supervisor from the Environment Agency that accompanies the group.
- 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.
- 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 next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season. For rest of the year it is not allowed to fly in a closer proximity to bird cliffs than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.

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/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

Instruction on how to clean clothes and equipment are in an attachment.

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 cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Pórdís Björt Sigþórsdóttir
team leader