

Ranu Singh

Reykjavík, 3. júlí 2023  
UST202306-201/p.V.B.  
09.04.00

**Subject: permit to fly a drone**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ranu Singh, dated June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, for permit to fly a drone within Dyrhólaey, Fjallabak nature reserve, Gullfoss, Háifoss and Skógafoss.

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.

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. 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.

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.

***Description of the project:***

At Háifoss the flight would take place July 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. At Gullfoss the flight would take place July 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. At Fjallabak the flight would take place on the hiking path to Bláhnúkur on July 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> 2023. At Skógafoss the flight would take place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> 2023. At Dyrhólaey the flight would take place at light house and the stone arch on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. At all sites the drone would fly in 50-60 meters altitude over open areas away from nesting sites and breeding grounds of protected species. Additionally maintain a safe distance from any designated restricted zones or human-occupied areas. The drone will not be used during adverse weather conditions, including strong winds, heavy rain, or fog

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value at Gullfoss, Háifoss Bláhnúkur trail and Skógafoss if conditions of the permit are followed. In Dyrhólaey birds are still occupying there nesting site feeding chicks and the flight is considered likely to have negative impact on birdlife in the area since it would take place over and close to the birdcliffs. The Environment agency considers that the flights can have disturb other visitors in the areas but the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

**The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines Ranu Singh request for a permit to fly a drone at Dyrhólaey.**

**Since it was not possible to finish processing the application before July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 the Environment Agency can not issue a permit for droneflight in July 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> 2023.**

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Ranu Singh permission on its behalf to fly a drone at Gullfoss, Háifoss, Bláhnúka hiking path in Fjallabak and Skógafoss as described above on July 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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 applicant should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that droneflight causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors. 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.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss. Map showing no fly zone at Skógafoss is attached to this letter.**
- It is not allowed to fly the drone over the the cabins, geothermal pool and the camping area at Landmannalaugar.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.

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.

***Permission fee:***

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 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

Daníel Freyr Jónsson

*advisor*

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir

*advisor*