

Benjamin Hardman Studio ehf.
Klapparstígur 28
Reykjavík
Iceland

Reykjavík, 16. júní 2020
UST202006-086/H.H.
09.06.01

Subject: Permit to fly drone in protected areas.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Benjamin Hardman Studio ehf., dated June 4th, 2020, for permit to fly a drone at protected areas.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. 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.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. 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.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni are protected as a natural monument, cf. no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Use of drones within the natural monument is prohibited without permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 568/2001. All commercial filming projects within the national park are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 17 in the Regulation. Permit from the Environment Agency is needed for any kind of commercial activity and events within the national park according to art. 17 in the Regulation.

Geysir is listed on the Nature Conservation Register and is under the supervision of the Environment Agency.

Description of the project:

The project is to film with drone at locations mentioned above. The flight path will be decided on the days of filming relative to light & weather conditions. The height will not exceed 120m and will be away from people. The drone flight will take place from June until end of September 2020. Two people will take part in the project. The flight in Dyrhólaey will take place on the east side over Arnardrangur and from the carpark overlooking the coastline to the West according to flightpaths provided. The flight will take place on 1-2 evenings between 10pm and 3am.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have minimal negative impact at Gjáin, Háifoss, Hjalparfoss, Gullfoss, Geysir and Fjallabak nature reserve provided that the following conditions are met.

At the Snæfellsjökull National Park, bird disturbance at Lóndrangar, Svalpúfa and Saxhólsbjörg should be avoided as much as possible. As well as disturbance to foxes.

At Dyrhólaey drone flight according to the description is considered to have negative impact on nesting birds which is one of the main conservation value of the area. Some of the nesting species are responsibility species for Iceland and considered to be in danger according to the red list for birds. During the period May 1st to June 25th Dyrhólaey is closed from 19:00-09:00 due to bird protection.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Benjamin Hardman Studio ehf., permission on its behalf to fly drone at Gullfoss, Geysir, Hjalparfoss, Gjáin og Háifoss, Granni and Snæfellsjökull National park as described above from June 16th - September 30th, 2020 on the following conditions.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants a permit on its behalf to fly a drone at Dyrhólaey as described above from July 1st – September 30th, also 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.
- Participants of the project should be identified as staff during the drone flight.
- The applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- 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. During early morning and late afternoon, there are less people visiting the sites.
- **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 over Strokkur in altitudes below 50 meters.**
- 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.
- 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/>).

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



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Hildur Hafbergsdóttir

Hildur Hafbergsdóttir
advisor

Daníel Freyr Jónsson

Daníel Freyr Jónsson
advisor