

Linjie Ding

Reykjavík, 2. september 2022  
UST202208-213/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

**Subject: permit to fly a drone Hornstrandir**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Linjie Ding, dated August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, for a permit to fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve by act no 60/2013 on nature conservation, cf. Regulation no 332/1985. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. According to the management plan for Hornstrandir, filming and photography that can affect wildlife and visitor experience and flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the protected site is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency.

***Description of the project:***

Drone will fly over Hornsbjarg. Flight altitude will be under 120 meters and in under 1 km distance from the cliff. Number of employee is 1 person. Droneflight will take place in the period of September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value of the site if conditions are followed. Birds have left Hornbjarg when the droneflight will take place and disturbance to birdlife therefor minimal. Droneflight might have negative impact to other visitors experience but if conditions of the permit are followed the impact should be minimal.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Linjie Ding permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Hornstrandir as described above in the period of September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 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 48 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.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area
- It is only allowed to camp at designated campsites.

- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.
- 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 filming 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.
- It is not allowed to use drones if other people are in the area
- It is not allowed to use the drone if falcons and eagles are in the area
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- 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 next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.

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:***

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 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Sincerely

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir  
*advisor*

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
*advisor*