

University of Graz
Dr. Silke Werth
Holteigasse 6
8010 Graz
silke.werth@uni-graz.at



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Application for Research Permit - Hornstrandir - University of Graz

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received a request from Dr. Silke Werth on behalf of University of Graz, regarding permits to study and collect specimens of species of bryophytes, lichens and fungi from the western part of the Hornstrandir nature reserve, between the 6th and 10th of August 2017.

Description of the project:

Field excursion to the Westfjords for Bryolich (Swiss Bryologists and Lichenologists). To study the species diversity of bryophytes, lichens and fungi in western Iceland and do a daytrip to Hornstrandir. We would like to collect specimens of species that cannot be identified in the field. We will only collect specimens of species that are locally abundant. Nine people would like to collect lichens, two of these also non-lichenized fungi. Three people would like to collect bryophytes.

According to the information in the application, maximum of 400 samples will be collected, likely less. Quantity in terms of weight is estimated to be no more than 200 g dry weight altogether, likely less. Total weight of collected rocks is estimated to be 10 kg, likely a lot less, 20 g per specimen is estimated.

According to regulation 184/1978, 31 vascular plants are protected in Iceland. It is prohibited to rip parts of them, dig them up, or diminish them in any other way (See enclosed list of protected plants "184_1978_auglýsing_protected plants").

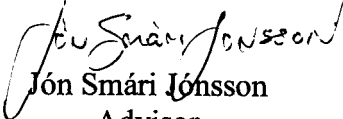
Based on the information in the application the sampling in Hornstrandir Nature Reserve does not require a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Guidelines from the Environment Agency:

- Ensure the sampling does not cause visible disruption in the protected area.
- Only collect specimens of species that are locally abundant.
- Take measure to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.

Environment Agency points out that exporting specimens of species of bryophytes, lichens, fungi and rocks requires a permit from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. Also, according to the act. no. 60/2013, a permit from landowners is required.

Sincerely


Jón Smári Jónsson
Advisor

Auglýsing um friðlýsingu nokkurra plöntutegunda.

Samkvæmt tillögu [Umhverfisstofnun] og heimild í 23. gr. laga nr. 47/1971 um náttúruvernd, hefur verið ákveðið að friðlýsa eftirtaldar plöntutegundir þar sem þær vaxa villtar hér landi.

1. Dvergtungljurt (*Botrychium simplex*).
2. Mosaburkni (*Hymenophyllum wilsonii*).
3. Skeggburkni (*Asplenium septentrionale*).
4. Svartburkni (*Asplenium trichomanes*).
5. Klettaborkni (*Asplenium viride*).
6. Tunguskollakambur (*Blechnum spicant* var. *Fallax*).
7. Hlíðarburkni (*Cryptogramma crispa*).
8. Burstajafni (*Lycopodium clavatum*).
9. Knjápunktur (*Sieglingia decumbens*).
10. Heiðarstör (*Carex heleonastes*).
11. Trjónustör (*Carex flava*).
12. Fitjasef (*Juncus gerardi*).
13. Villilaukur (*Allium oleraceum*).
14. Ferlaufasmári (*Paris quadrifolia*).
15. Eggvíblaðka (*Listera ovata*).
16. Tjarnblaðka (*Polygonum amphibium*).
17. Línarfi (*Stellaria calycantha*).
18. Flæðarbúi (*Spergularia Salina*).
19. Melasól með hvítum og bleikum blómum (*Papaver raticatum* ssp. *Stefanssonii*).
20. Vatnsögn (*Grassula aquatica*).
21. Hreistursteinbrjótur (*Saxifraga foliolosa*).
22. Blóðmura (*Potentilla erecta*).
23. Þyrnirós (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*).
24. Glitrós (*Rosa vosagiaca*).
25. Súrsæra (*Oxalis acetosella*).
26. Tjarnabruða (*Callitriche brutia*).
27. Skógfjola (*Viola riviniana*).
28. Davíðslykill (*Primula egaliksensis*).
29. Lyngbúi (*Ajuga pyramidalis*).
30. Hveraaugnfro (*Euphrasia calida*).
31. Mýramaðra (*Galium palustre*).

Samkvæmt þessu er lagt bann við að slíta af þessum plöntum sprota, blöð, blóm eða rætur, traðka á þeim, grafa þær upp eða skerða á annan hátt.

Með þessari auglýsingu er jafnframt felld úr gildi auglýsing nr. 130/1967 um sama efni.

Menntamálaráðuneyti, 25. apríl 1978.

Vilhjálmur Hjálmarsson.

Birgir Thorlacius

Travelling in Hornstrandir Nature Reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to point out the following

Hornstrandir nature reserve was established in 1975. The main purpose for establishing it as a nature reserve was for the protection of its ecosystems, wildlife and undisturbed landscape. To maintain its current state, it is very important that every visitor aims to minimise their impact on the area, so it can retain its value and provide visitors with an enjoyable experience.

It is required to report your travel plans to the Environmental Agency at hornstrandir@umhverfisstofnun.is if you plan on visiting the nature reserve between **April 15th and June 15th**, because of the fragile state at that time.

Traveling in the area early season

Traveling in the area early season poses a few obstacles, mainly in relation to the fact that large part of the nature reserve is in transition between winter and spring. During the winter, the prevailing wind deposits great amount of snow in mountain passes, some of which are often impassable early in the season. The river crossing points can easily change over the winter time and the state of the trails is unknown. In addition it is not recommended for large groups to travel in the area during this time of year, due to the impact they might cause. The Ranger visits the nature reserve early May. It is recommended to visit the area after the Ranger has visited the area and is in a better position to give correct information about its status.

Camping

Camp only at designated campsites. **Wild camping is prohibited** in the nature reserve. All campsites have dry latrines. Latrine doors are weighed down with heavy timber for a reason. Make sure the timber is replaced and the door is secured after use. Otherwise the risk of damage due to wind is near certain. **Campfires are prohibited**. Cooking equipment and disposable barbecues should be used with care.

Leave no lasting signs of your visit

Leave no lasting signs of your visit. Remove all rubbish from the area when you leave. Burying, burning or leaving it behind, placing it in latrines is **prohibited**, because it affects the biological processes in the compost. Do not engrave on rocks or buildings and do not build cairns, rearrange stones or in any other way leave visible signs of your visit. In addition we also ask you to watch where you set foot in order to protect the vegetation and avoid path-making. Please remember that you are a guest. Respect the flora, fauna, cultural remains and the privacy of house owners in the nature reserve.

Do not pick flowers

The vegetation in the nature reserve is very fragile and has limited time each year to grow. We ask you not to pick flowers or other plant and avoid stepping on flowers or plant beds if at all possible. It is permitted to pick berries, mushrooms, mountain lichens and herbs for consumption on the spot, but have in mind the vegetation has only few weeks each year to grow. Please be aware that some plant species growing in the wild in Iceland are protected, and may not be cut or otherwise disturbed.

Do not take anything with you

We encourage you to leave the nature reserve as it is. Cultural remains are protected. Watch where you walk and stand. Walk around and not in between objects. Do not take anything with you and do not attempt to rearrange objects. In addition we ask you to leave stones, bones, driftwood and other items where they are.

Do not disturb the wildlife

It is important to show caution when in vicinity of nesting birds or fox dens. Arctic Fox Dens are protected by law, so don't approach them, or dwell around them. The wildlife is very sensitive and can easily be disturbed and frightened. Do not feed the foxes, it is not beneficial for them to be fed by humans. Pets are best left at home. However, if they come along, keep them on leash and under control. Ensure you remove their droppings. Take notice, bringing a dog into the nature reserve will affect the experience of other visitors, dogs are not a part of the natural fauna, so the Arctic foxes will not be present in the same area as a dog will be. Please help us preserve the wildlife and be respectful towards it.

Polar bear

Polar bears might have entered the area early spring, having arrived on drift ice from Greenland. Be aware of this, check the surrounding and look for any indications of bear tracks. If you notice there is a polar bear in the area please report it as soon as you can, and keep your distance.

Be safe

Travel in the nature reserve may involve various risks. Be well prepared and take seriously that the elements in the area require that you **bring 4-season equipment!** Notice there is limited cellular coverage in the area, but VHF-Radios can be found in most emergency shelters. Only use the shelters if you truly need to. Leave the shelter as you found it. It is a good habit to sign your name in the emergency shelter guestbook, including your travel plans when you leave. We encourage you to register at www.safetravel.is and leave a travel plan behind, as well as seeking further information regarding traveling in Iceland.

