

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 15 July 2019 Update version, previously published on: 1 January 2002

Denmark (Greenland)

Qinnquata Marraa and Kuussuaq



Designation date 27 January 1988 Site number

Coordinates 69°56'16"N 54°13'45"W

Area 7 000,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

This area consists of the outer parts of two broad glacial valleys, both with braiding rivers. The rivers reach the fjord in a common delta with large mudflats exposed at low tides. In the valleys there are wetlands of small pools and extensive moss-sedge marshes. The coasts - other than the delta - are low and rocky with narrow sedimentary beaches. The delta is situated at the head of a fjord and the inner part of this fjord is also included in the Ramsar Site. The fjord is an important moulting area for King Eiders (Somateria spectabilis), and internationally important numbers (> 2 %) of the Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) population has been recorded during the summer at this site.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Nan	e and	address	of the	compiler	of this	RIS
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Compiler 1

Name	David Boertmann
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	Frederiksborgvej 399
Postal address	DK-4000 Roskilde
	Denmark
E-mail	dmb@bios.au.dk
Phone	+45 25580687

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year 1979

To year 2015

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or	Qinnquata Marraa and Kuussuaq
Spanish	
Unofficial name (optional)	Nordfjord and Stordal

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A Changes to Site boundary Yes No No O
(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately ✓
(Update) The boundary has been extended
(Update) The boundary has been restricted
(Update) B. Changes to Site area the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately ✓
^(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately ✓
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction □

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

Boundaries descriptior

The boundaries follow the 200 m contour line along the sides of the valleys and as far as marshes are found into the valleys.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Kommune Qeqertalik
b) What is the nearest town or population	Qeqertarsuaq, 73 away in straight line, 132 km by boat

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes O No

O

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 7000

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 7076.28

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Middle Arctic, oceanic
WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions	Kalallit Nunaat low Arctic tundra

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Middle Arctic oceanic according to Bay 1997.

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

The combination of shallow fjord, extensive delta, extensive freshwater wetlands and remoteness is rare in Greenland.

- ☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- ☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- ☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population
- 3.2 Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6 9	Species contributes under criterion 3 5 7 8	Pop. Size Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red A List	CITES ppendix /	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds											
AVES	CUIDUSCIIAS	Greenland Mallard								endemic subspecies	breeding
AV/ES	Anser albifrons flavirostris	Greenland White- fronted Goose			293 2015	1.6				EN on national red list	breeding and moulting
AVES	Branta bernicla hrota										stageing areas for migrants
AVES	Branta canadensis	Canada Goose					LC				breeding and moulting
CHORDATA / AVES	Clangula hyemalis	Oldsquaw; Long- tailed Duck					W			VU on global red list	moulting
CHORDATA / AVES	Gavia stellata	Red-throated Loon; Red- throated Diver		2 000	6 2001		LC				breeding
AVES	Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser			65		LC			probably isolated population	moulting
	Iobatus	Red-necked Phalarope		2 000	4 2001		LC				breeding
AVES	moiiissima	Common Eider West Greenland population					NT				breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	Somateria spectabilis	King Eider			7000 1994		LC				moulting

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

The numbers of King Eiders in 2001 apply to the entire fjord, i.e. also outside the Ramsar site.

Light-bellied Brent Geese of the East Canadian flyway population use the salt marshes as stop-over during autumn migration.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

This area consists of the outer parts of two broad glacial valleys, both with braiding rivers. The rivers reach the fjord in a common delta with large mudflats exposed at low tides. In the valleys, there are wetlands of small pools and extensive moss-sedge marshes. The coasts - other than the delta - are low and rocky with narrow sedimentary beaches. The delta is situated at the head of a fjord, and the inner part of this fjord is also included in the Ramsar site.

The entire fjord (the Ramsar Site covers only the interior part) is the single most important moulting area for King Eiders (Somateria spectabilis) in Greenland.

Internationally important numbers (> 2%) of the Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) population have been recorded during the summer at this site.

The delta consists of extensive mudflats, and salt marshes which become covered by seawater during high tide. Further up the valleys extensive marshes and many ponds are found along the riverbed. The vegetation on the valley sides exposed towards south, south-west and south-east are dominated by dense dwarf scrub heath, usually rather moist and in some places with hummocks. Dwarpf scrub species like Betula, Salix, Vaccinium, Cassiope, Dryas and Ledum are common. More active solifluction soils have an open and low vegetation also with Tofieldia, Pedicularis ssp. and Pyrola. The salt marsh areas have Puccinellia phryganodes, Carex ursina and C. rariflora, Mertensia, Honckenya and Koenigia.

In the marshes along the riverbed Carex stands and the two species of Eriophorum predominate, and the marshes transform gradually into a more grassland-like flora with decreasing moisture. Along streams on the valley sides, there are small marshes, with species such as Saxifraga aizoides. On the higher gravel and mud banks of the riverbeds, low and open Salix scrubs are found.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

IVALITIE OF COASIAL WELLATIOS				
Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		4		Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		2		Rare
H: Intertidal marshes		3		Rare

Inland wetlands

irilariu Wellarius				
Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		1		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		3		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic or peat soils >> Vt: Tundra wetlands		2		Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other not everland habitat						
Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known					
Dwarf scrub heath						
Gravel flats						
Fell fields						

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Optional text box to provide further information

Details on the flora have probably been published, but to find and extract information will require a more thorough study.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	Calcarius Iapponicus	Lapland Longspur	24			breeder
ARTHROPODAINSECTA	Clossiana chariclea					common
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Colias hecla	Northern Clouded Yellow;Greenland Sulphur;Hedla Orange				common
CHORDATA/AVES	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon				breeds nearby
CHORDATA/AVES	Lagopus muta	Rock Ptarmigan				breeder
CHORDATA/AVES	Larus glaucoides	Iceland Gull				colony close to the site
CHORDATA/MAM/MALIA	Lepus arcticus	Arctic Hare				breeder
CHORDATA/AVES	Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear	12			breeder
CHORDATA/MAM/MALIA	Pagophilus groenlandicus	Harp Seal				visitor
CHORDATAAVES	Plectrophenax nivalis	Snow Bunting	18			breeder
CHORDATAAVES	Stercorarius parasiticus	Arctic Skua				visitor

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
E: Polar climate with extremely cold winters and summers	ET: Tundra (Polar tundra, no true summer)

The Köppen-Gieger Climate Classification System do not really apply to this site. The site is within the low Arctic climate zone.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting	
a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)	
a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)	
Entire river basin	
Upper part of river basin	
Mddle part of river basin	☑
Lower part of river basin	☑
More than one river basin	☑
Not in river basin	
Coastal	☑
Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, ple	ase also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.
Baffin Bay	
4.4.3 - Soil	
Mneral	
(Update) Changes at RIS update	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Organic	
(Update) Changes at RIS update	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
No available information	✓

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

riator porriariorioo	
Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

	Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Wa	ater inputs from rainfall / snowfall		No change

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Otability of Water regime	
Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

	relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.
The major part of the water inputs are melt water from the	glaciers. Rainfall also includes snow.
4.4.5 - Sediment regime	
Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site	. 🗆
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Sediment regime unknown	_
4.4.6 - Water pH	
Acid (pH<5.5)	ıπ
,	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)	
,	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Akaline (pH>7.4)	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Unknown	
Sidomi	
4.4.7 - Water salinity	
Fresh (<0.5 g/l)	
(Update) Changes at RIS update	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)	
(Update) Changes at RIS update	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)	
(Update) Changes at RIS update	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown Output Decrease O Unknown Output Decrease O Unknown
Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown —
Unknown	
4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water	
Eutrophic	п
·	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Mesotrophic	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Oligotrophic	
· ·	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Dystrophic	
	No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Unknown	
4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect t	the Site
5 5 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	
Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself	i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ⑨
characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself.	i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different
characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development	i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different
characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development Surrounding area has higher human population density	i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different t
characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development	i j broadly similar ^O ii) significantly different ⊚ : t □ / □

T	The surrounding areas are high mountains.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Low

Cu	Itural	Serv	ices

ountai ai ooi nooo		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Low

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The site is remote and far from human settlements,	, and only occasional hunting takes place.	Scallop fishing took place at the	mouth of
Kangersoog, but have ceased now.			

There are probably archaeological sites within this Ramsar site (cf. The National Museum of Greenland).

Within the site:	10s
Outside the site:	10s

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes O No ● Unknown O

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland	כ
ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland	
iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples]
iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and neir existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland	כ

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

qir

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Public land (unspecified)	✓	✓

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:	Pinngortitamut Avatangiisinullu Naalakkersuisoqarfik Departementet for Natur og Miljø Ministry of Nature and Environment
Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	Karen Motzfeldt, Head of Department for Nature, Climate and Research
Postal address:	Pinngortitamut Avatangiisinullu Naalakkersuisoqarfik Departementet for Natur og Miljø Ministry of Nature and Environment Postboks 1015 3900 Nuuk
E-mail address:	pan@nanoq.gl

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	Low impact	Medium impact		No change	✓	increase

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	2	No change	2	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

There is a mineral exploration license area to the north of Ramsar site, covering the valley Kuugannguaq and surroundings.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Area important to wildlife (Anon. 2000)		https://www.govmin.gl/images/st ories/minerals/rules_for_fieldwork.pdf	whole
Ramsar site	Qinnquata Marraa and Kuussuaq	http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={15 CBC689- E3AD-470D-B32A-947A250D70 62}	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve
lb Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
Il National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly of romservation through management intervention
VProtected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures		Measures	Status
	L	_egal protection	Implemented

Other

Flying over the site is regulated.	
i lying over the site is regulated.	

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes O No •

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning Yes O No oprocesses with another Contracting Party?

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal community	Proposed

Monitoring proposed by Egevang & Boertmann 2001a.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Anonymous 2000. Rules for fieldwork and reporting regarding mineral resources (excluding hydrocarbons) in Greenland. – Government of Greenland, Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum.

Bay, C. 1997. Floristic division and vegetation zonation of Greenland in relevance to a circumpolar arctic vegetation map: 27-31. ln: Proceedings of the second circumpolar arctic vegetation mapping workshop, Arendal, Norway, 19.-24. May 1996. Walker, S. & A.C. Lillie, eds.). – Occasional Paper No. 52, 1997. Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado.

Boertmann, D. & Petersen, I.K. 2016. Aerial surveys of geese, seaducks and other wildlife in the Disko Bay area, West Greenland, July 2015. - DCE Technical Report, 78, 25 pp.

Egevang, C. & Boertmann, D. 2001a. The Greenland Ramsar Sites, a status report. – National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Technical Report No. 346, 96 pp.

Egevang, C. & Boertmann, D. 2001b. The Ramsar sites of Disko, West Greenland. A survey in July 2001. ¬— National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Technical Report No. 368, 68 pp.

Fox, A.D. & Glahder, C.M. 2010. Post-moult distribution and abundance of white-fronted geese and Canada geese in West Greenland in 2007. – Polar Research 29: 413-420.

Greenland Red List 2007. (Boertmann, D., 2008). Rødliste 2007 over planter og dyr i Grønland. ¬– Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser, Grønlands Hjemmestyre.

Mosbech, A. & D. Boertmann 1999. Distribution, abundance and reaction to aerial surveys of post-breeding king eiders (Somateria spectabilis) in western Greenland. – Arctic 52: 188-203.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<2 file(s) uploaded>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site



Kuussuaq/Stordalen view towards the fjord. (*David Boertmann*, 20-07-2001)



Kuussuaq/Stordalen, view towards north. Note the pingos on the valley floor. (David Boertmann, 20-07-

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1988-01-27