

Ramsar Information Sheet

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

Denmark

Eqalummiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa



Designation date 27 January 1988

Site number

Coordinates 67°28'26"N 50°44'58"W

Area 582 002,42 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 is a large inland area with a diverse topography. The site is located next to the western border of the Greenland ice cap. Two large rivers subdivide the plateau. The north western part borders the fjord Nordre Strømfjord. There are many lakes, ponds and marshes in the site and it is a very important staging and moulting area for the Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) (1,822-2,500 birds in 1988 and 1995). It is also a very important breeding area for these geese (30-100 pairs in 1995), and important spring staging areas for this goose are found in the northern part of this Ramsar site.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1	1.1	-	Name	and	ado	Iress	of	the	com	piler	of	this	RIS
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Compiler 1

Name	David Boertmann
Institution/agency	Aarhus University, Institute for Bioscience
	Frederiksborgvej 399 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 2009

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Eqalummiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa

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 O

(Update) The boundary has been extended
(Update) The boundary has been extended
(Update) The boundary has been restricted
(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

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 description

The boundaries are: to the east the edge of the Greenland Inland Ice; to the north the fjord (mid-line) Nordre Strømfjord; to the west 51° 55' W longitude; to the southwest the midline in the Nordre Isortoq valley; to the south topographical features as valleys and lakes 4-12 km north of 67° N latitude.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Qeqqata Kommunia and Kommune Qeqertalik
b) What is the nearest town or population	Sisimiut 90 km, Kangerlussuaq 8 km

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other 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): 582002.42

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 582002.42 GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

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

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Low 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

Other ecosystem services provided

The site is an important fishing area (Arctic char) and hunting area (Caribou and Muskoxen) for the people living in the surrounding settlements and towns.

- ☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Species listed as NT on the national red list include: Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer), Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea), Gyr falcon (Falco rusticolus).

Endemic subspecies include: Mallard.

Other breeding waterbirds include Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata), Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo), Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator), Canada Goose (Branta canadensis), Common Eider (Somateria mollissima), Purple sandpiper (Calidris maritima) and Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus).

Justification

Terrestrial breeding birds include Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus).

There is a number of seabird breeding colonies located along the coasts of Nordre Strømfjord, These include mainly Great Cormorants and Iceland gulls.

Muskoxen (Ovibos moschatus) have been introduced south of the Ramsar area and stragglers from this population occur often within this site. Caribou (Rangifer tarandus) is common in the area and a calving area is situated in the southern part.

There are many rivers with anadromous stocks of Arctic char (Salvelinus alpinus).

- ☑ 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

There are three endemic vascular plants known from the site: Antennaria affinis, Antennaria intermedia and Puccinellia groenlandica. Besides these, also the stable hybrid Ledodendron vanhoeffenii is found there. It is nationally red-listed as VU.

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

			Species	Specie	s							
Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	qualifies under criterion 2 4 6 9	contribut under criterio	Pop. Size		% occurrence 1)		CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds												
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas platyrhynchos conboschas										endemic subspecies	breeder
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser albifrons flavirostris	Greenland White- fronted Goose			1900	1995	10				EN on national redlist	internationally important breeding and moulting numbers in site flavirostris, Greenland/Ireland & UK
CHORDATA/ AVES	Branta canadensis	Canada Goose						LC ©				breeding and moulting
CHORDATA/ AVES	Calidris maritima	Purple Sandpiper						LC ©				breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Clangula hyemalis	Oldsquaw; Long- tailed Duck						VU ● 6 2 (3) (5)(4)				breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon						LC ©	✓			breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Falco rusticolus	Gyrfalcon			□ 4			LC ©	✓		NT on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia immer	Great Northern Diver			20			LC ©			NT on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia stellata	Red-throated Loon; Red- throated Diver						LC Sign				breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Larus glaucoides	Iceland Gull						LC Sin			endemic subspecies	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Larus hyperboreus	Glaucous Gull						LC				breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Phalacrocorax carbo	Great Cormorant						LC or			probably isolated population	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Phalaropus lobatus	Red-necked Phalarope						LC ©®				breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Somateria mollissima	Common Eider West Greenland population						NT			VU on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sterna paradisaea	Arctic Tern						LC •\$			NT on national red list	Breeding
-	and Crustacea											
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYG	Salvelinus alpinus II	Arctic char			√			LC Sign				spawing
Others												
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Ovibos moschatus	muskox						LC ©				introduced
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Rangifer tarandus	caribou						VU ©#				breeding

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

The population of the Greenland white fronted goose is declining. No recent data is available for the Site, but its population numbers may be lower than 1900 (Weegman et.al. 2017), but still meeting the Criterion 6.

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

The site is located within the low arctic climatic zone with discontinuous permafrost. The geology is dominated by gneissic bedrock. The typography is diverse from alpine areas to wide lowland valleys and two large rivers draining meltwater from the Greenland Inland Ice to the west divide the central plateau. There are many lakes in the area. Limited summer precipitation and relatively high temperatures result in seasonal drying out of many wetland areas in the southern part of the site. The northern part includes the marine area Nordre Strømfjord, with many breeding colonies for seabirds.

The vegetation in the dry parts varies from extensive grass steppes over dense northern willow (Salix glauca) scrub in the southern-facing lowlands, to moss-mat communities and barren grounds in exposed high-altitude areas. Wetlands such as marshes and numerous lakes, of varying size, are situated within the site both in the lowlands and highlands. The marine coasts are mainly rocky, but there are small parts with sediments and in the river delta there are extensive mudflats.

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

Marine or coastal wetlands

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		2		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		1		Representative

Inland wetlands

II II al lu Wellal lus				
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 >> L: Permanent inland deltas		4		Rare
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M. Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		1		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		2		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		3		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic or peat soils >> Vt: Tundra wetlands		0		Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
alpine area,	
Dwarph scrub heath,	
steppe	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

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)

RIS for Site no. 386, Eqalummiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa, Denmark The Köppen-Geiger Climate classification system do not really apply to this site in Greenland. There are indeed true summers there! 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres) a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in 650 metres) Entire river basin 🗹 Upper part of river basin Middle part of river basin Lower part of river basin \square 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, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean. Nassuttoog/Nordre Strømfjord 4.4.3 - Soil Mineral (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 🗹 Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological Yes O No conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Please provide further information on the soil (optional) The geology is dominated by gneissic bedrock and there is discontinuous permafrost in the site. 4.4.4 - Water regime Water permanence Changes at RIS update Presence? Usuallyseasonal ephemeral or intermittent No change water present Usually permanent water No change present Source of water that maintains character of the site Presence? Predominant water source Changes at RIS update Water inputs from rainfall No change Water inputs from surface No change water No change Marine water Water destination Changes at RIS update Presence? Marine No change Stability of water regime Presence? Changes at RIS update Water levels fluctuating No change (including tidal) Water levels largely stable No change Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology. The main water source is meltwater from glaciers. Rainfall includes snow.

What is the Site like?, S4 - Page 2

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site \Box

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

There are no human settlements or towns inside the area. Nearest towns/settlem,ents are Kangerlussuaq (international airport), Sisimiut,

4.5 - Ecosystem services

Kangaatsiaq, Attu and Niaqornaarsuk.

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

i Tovisioning oct vices		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Low

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Caribou hunting is a very important activity within the site.	The hunt is regulated by closed seasons	, and Caribou is this area is not threatened
(LC).		

Within the site:	100s
Outside the site:	100s

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 \Box
use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former	٠
civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland	ľ

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction $\hfill \square$	
with local communities or indigenous peoples	

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological $\hfill\Box$

character of the wetland

<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

Public ownership

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

Pinngortitamut Avatangiisinullu Naalakkersuisoqarfik Departementet for Natur og Miljø Ministry of Nature and Environment Postboks 1015

3900 Nuuk

Postal address:

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

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Aircraft flight paths	Low impact	Low impact	✓	No change	✓	No change
Roads and railroads	Low impact	Medium impact	✓	increase	✓	increase

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Medium impact	Medium impact	2	increase	✓	increase
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Low impact	2	No change	2	No change

Liuman intruciona and disturbance

numan intrasions 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	Medium impact	/	increase	2	increase

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Tourist and recreational activities primarily takes place near the airport in Kangerlussuaq.

Caribou hunting is a popular activity in the Ramsar site. The hunt is regulated with closed seasons. Although the caribou population presently is assesses as LC on the national red list, the hunt and the disturbance it creates always will be threat to the population.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Areas important to wildlife		https://www.govmin.gl/images/sto ries/minerals/rules_for_fieldwor k.pdf	whole
Ramsar site	Eqalummiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa	http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={15 CBC689- E3AD-470D-B32A-947A250D70 62}	whole
Regulation of traffic at seabird breeding colonies		http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={56 675241- AOB5-4D4E-89F9-C34D784175 39}	partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	032 Eqalumiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa	http://datazone.birdlife.org/sit e/factsheet/64	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN	protected	areas ca	tegories	(2008)	į

la Strict Nature Reserve	
Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection	
Il National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation	
III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features	
IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention	1
V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation	ב
VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly	

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Other:

Low level flying over land and sailing in the marine parts are regulated. There are local (municipality) regulations for the use of the road between Kangerlussuaq and the Inland Ice edge, and hunting is prohibited in a zone along the road. The eastern part of this road is situated within the southeasternmost part of the Ramsar site.

Greenland Government order no. 12 of June 1st on protection of the internationally designated wetlands in Greenland and protection of certain waterfowl.

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?

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

processes 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 commun	ity Proposed

Proposed by Egevang & Boertmann 2001.

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. 2006. Optælling af ridekolonier i Disko Bugt, Arfersiorfik Fjord og Nordre Strømfjord i 2005. – Arbejdsrapport fra DMU nr. 225. Egevang, C. & Boertmann, D. 2001. The Greenland Ramsar Sites, a status report. – National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Technical Report No. 346, 96 pp.

Glahder, C.M, Fox, A.D. & Walsh, A.J. 2002. Spring staging areas of White-fronted Geese in Greenland; results from aerial surveys and satellite telemetry. – Wildfowl 53: 35-52.

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

Malecki ,R.A., Fox, A.D. & Batt, B.D.J. 2000. An aerial surveys of nesting Greater White-fronted Geese and Canada Geese in West Greenland. – Wildfowl 51: 49-58.

Weegman, M.D., A.D. Fox, G.M. Hilton, D.J. Hodgson, A.J. Walsh, L.R. Griffin, and S. Bearhop. (2017). Diagnosing the decline of the Greenland white-fronted goose Anser albifrons flavirostris using population and individual level techniques. Wildfowl, 67: 3-18.

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



South side of Eqaluumiut Nunaat, with Kuuk marshes - an importnat area for Greenland White-fronted Goose (*David Boertmann*, 19-05-1987)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1988-01-27