

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

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Charenton-le-Pont, 18 October 2017

H. E. Mr Klavs Arnoldi Holm
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Denmark
to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2018

Aasivissuit – Nipisat. Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea (Denmark)

Dear Sir,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of 'Aasivissuit-Nipisat: Inuit Hunting Ground Between Ice and Sea' to the World Heritage List, and an ICOMOS evaluation mission has visited the property to consider matters related to protection, management, conservation and interpretation. ICOMOS is very grateful for the time, expertise and support given to the evaluation mission by the State Party, local experts and other involved in the nomination process.

In order to help with our overall nomination process, we would be grateful to receive further information to clarify several points and to augment the material that has already been submitted in the nomination dossier.

We would be grateful if the State Party could consider the following points and kindly provide additional information on these matters:

Legal Protection

The nomination dossier (p. 95) says that the Executive Order on Cultural Heritage will come into force 2017. Has this now occurred? If not, could the State Party please provide an updated timeframe?

Mining prospections

ICOMOS notes that there are no mining exploration licenses within the nomination property, and appreciates advice that the Greenland Ministry of Mineral Resources has agreed not to issue prospecting licenses in the nominated property (p. 18, 126). Could the State Party provide further advice about whether these commitments are incorporated into the proposed framework for the legal protection of the property, should it be inscribed in the World Heritage List?

New Road Project

According to the nomination dossier (pp. 133, 150), a dirt road/ATV-track is planned to connect Sisimiut and Kangerlussuaq and crosses through part of the nominated property. On p. 150, the nomination dossier suggests that the road is expected to be constructed in 2017. Furthermore, ICOMOS is informed about local debates on this matter, including a petition signed by hikers concerned about the effects on the Arctic Circle Trail. We would like to better understand the issues that are relevant to the World Heritage nomination, if any. ICOMOS is grateful for the information provided to our mission expert on this matter, and would appreciate your brief confirmations/further clarifications on the following questions:

- Is this construction for this project completed? Could the State Party provide an update about this project, including timelines?
- While acknowledging that much of the Arctic Circle Trail lies outside the nominated property, ICOMOS is interested to gain a brief overview of the relationship between these two routes.
- Could the State Party provide advice on whether there are any future plans to further upgrade the Arctic Circle Trail to a dirt road/ATV-road?

Indigenous Peoples

Paragraph 123 of the Operational Guidelines encourages that the 'free prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples' be demonstrated when submitting nomination. ICOMOS notes the statements included in pp. 162-163 of the nomination dossier, and appreciates the involvement of the Government of Greenland in the preparation of this nomination. We would nevertheless be grateful if the State Party could provide a brief information on whether consent has been sought and provided for this nomination and the mechanisms for the protection and management system for the nominated property has been appropriately sought and provided.

Proposed New Regional Visitor Centre

A New Regional Visitor Centre is briefly mentioned in the nomination dossier (p. 151). ICOMOS would appreciate that the State Party could provide a brief update on this project.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

There are many sections of the nomination dossier where there is an implicit support for Intangible Cultural Heritage initiatives related to the nominated property. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive additional information regarding any specific activities and programs.

Tourism and Interpretation Plans

Could the State Party please provide a timeline for the completion of the Tourism Strategy and implementation of the planned interpretation and presentation activities outlined in the nomination dossier?

ICOMOS appreciates that the timeframe for providing this additional information is short. Brief responses are required at this stage, and can be discussed further with the State Party if needed during the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel process.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre with the above information **by Wednesday 15 November 2017** at the latest.

Please note that the State Party shall submit two copies of the additional information to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre so that it can be formally registered as part of the nomination.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Qeqqata Municipality
 Agency for Culture and Palaces
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Additional Information

Aasivissuit –Nipisat: Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea (Denmark)

Legal Protection

The nomination dossier (p. 95) says that the Executive Order on Cultural Heritage will come into force 2017. Has this now occurred?

The Greenland Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Church has prepared a proposal for an Executive Order regarding the protection of other cultural heritage in the area of Aasivissuit-Nipisat, nominated property. The Executive Order is currently in public hearing which will conclude on the 3rd of November 2017. After the completion of the public hearings and when incoming responses have been taken into consideration, the Executive Order will be presented for adoption to Naalakkersuisut (The government of Greenland). Parallel to the hearing of the Executive Order, The National Museum and Archive has an intended decision of protection for other cultural heritage in the nominated property in public hearing. The hearing of the intended decision has duration of 3 months and will conclude on the 31st of December 2017.

If not, could the State Party please provide an updated timeframe?

On the basis of the presented procedure the Executive Order on Cultural Heritage is expected to come into force on the 1st of February 2018.

Mining prospections

ICOMOS notes that there are no mining exploration licenses within the nominated property, and appreciates advice that the Greenlandic Ministry of Mineral Resources has agreed not to issue prospecting licenses in the nominated property (p. 18, 126). Could the State Party provide further advice about whether these commitments are incorporated into the proposed framework for the legal protection of the property, should it be inscribed in the World Heritage List?

At the moment there are no prospecting or exploration licenses in the nominated property and the Ministry of Mineral Resources has already agreed not to grant any prospecting or exploration licenses in the nominated property. The area will be protected by law when the Executive Order regarding Aasivissuit – Nipisat enters into force and this means that the nominated property will be a protected area where it would be against the regulations in both the Executive Order and the Mineral Resources Act to grant any prospecting or exploration licenses.

New Road Project

According to the nomination dossier (pp. 133, 150), a dirt road/ATV-track is planned to connect Sisimiut and Kangerlussuaq and crosses through part of the nominated property. On p. 150, the nomination dossier suggests that the road is expected to be constructed in 2017. Furthermore, ICOMOS is informed about local debates on this matter, including a petition signed by hikers concerned about the effects on the Arctic Circle Trail. We would like to better understand the issues that are relevant to the World Heritage nomination, if any. ICOMOS is grateful for the information provided to our mission expert on this matter, and would appreciate your brief confirmations/further clarifications on the following questions:

- *Is this construction for this project completed? Could the State Party provide an update about this project including timelines?*

The road construction has not yet been initiated. The Environmental Impact Assessment is in the process of being completed and the Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by the Greenland National Museum & Archives is in process as well. Construction is expected to start in 2018.

- *While acknowledging that much of the Arctic Circle Trail lies outside the nominated property, ICOMOS is interested to gain a brief overview of the relationship between these two routes.*

For a brief overview we have attached a map (Fig 1) showing the routes of the planned dirt road and the hiking route known as Arctic Circle Trail (ACT). In the western most part of the ACT, the 'southern variant' of the ACT has been shown in magenta. Outside the nominated property the course of the planned dirt road is parallel (but does not overlap) that of the ACT in the westernmost 60 to 70 km's. Along this stretch the planned dirt road and ACT will be situated within sight of one another, in most cases the road will be situated in higher terrain several hundred meters from the ACT. When the ATV track/dirt road is completed, Qeqqarta Municipality suggests that the southern variant of the ACT should be developed to become the principal ACT. Apart from being far from the planned road, the southern variant of the ACT trail will have much to offer hikers in the form of provisioning and visits to the settlement of Sarfannguit.

- *Could the State Party provide advice on whether there are any future plans to further upgrade the Arctic Circle Trail to a dirt/ATV-road?*

There are absolutely no plans to upgrade the Arctic Circle Trail to any kind of ATV or dirt road. The Arctic Circle Trail is a highly valued hiking trail much appreciated by Qeqqata Municipality as well as by many hikers. The suggested changes in the course of the Arctic Circle Trail have been planned in order to 1) accommodate the planned dirt road without forcing hikers to have interference with motorized vehicles, and 2) integrate the settlement of Sarfannguit in the 'experience package' of the hikers choosing this route.

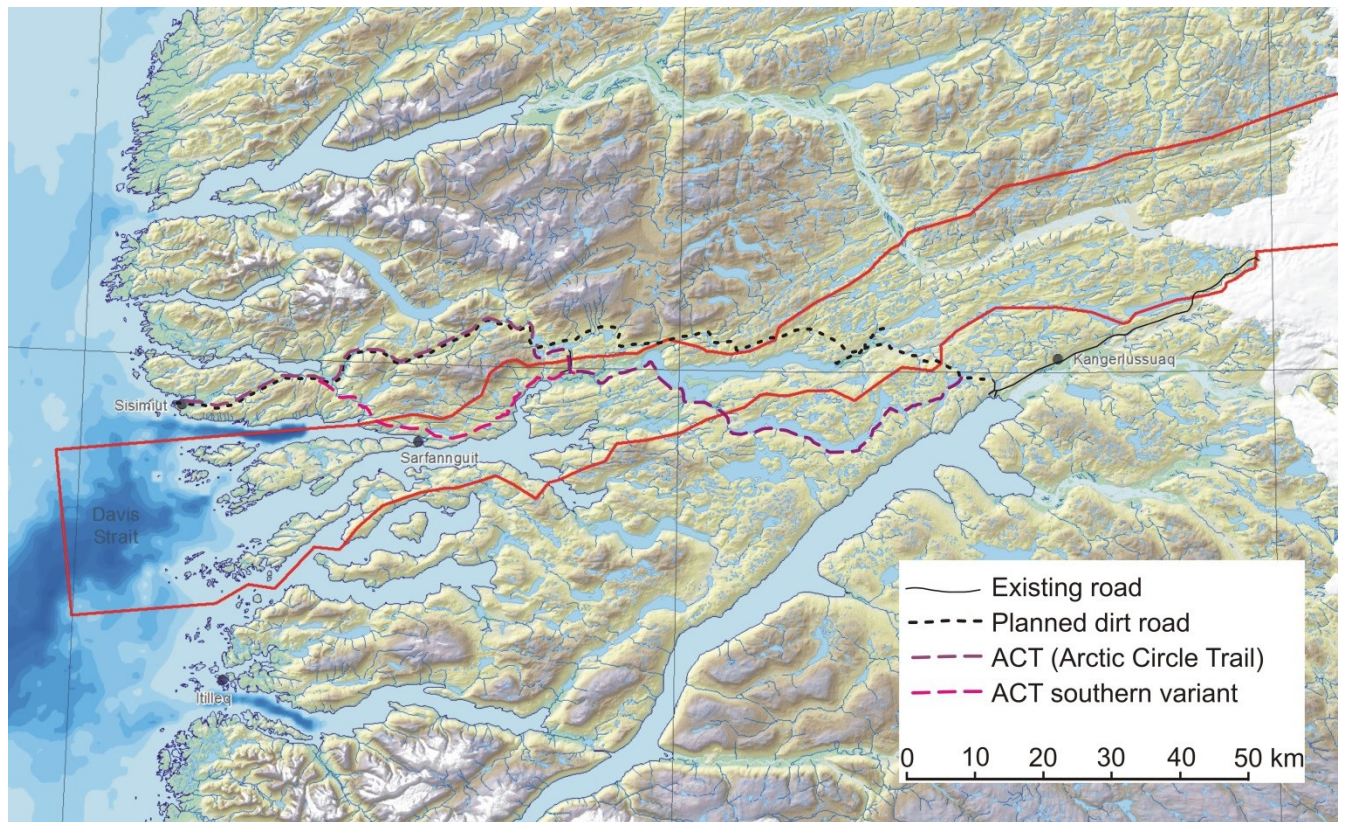


Fig 1. Course of planned ATV track/dirt road in relation to the Arctic Circle Trail hiking route.

Indigenous Peoples

Paragraph 123 of the Operational Guidelines encourages that the ‘free prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples’ be demonstrated when submitting nomination. ICOMOS notes the statements included in pp. 162-163 of the nomination dossier, and appreciates the involvement of the Government of Greenland in the preparation of this nomination. We would nevertheless be grateful if the State Party could provide a brief information on whether consent has been sought and provided for this nomination and the mechanisms for the protection and management system for the nominated property has been appropriately sought and provided.

Since 2005 the Qeqqata Municipality has been the prime mover in the development of the nomination of Aasivissuit–Nipisat, meaning that all negotiations and initial funding have been provided primarily by the municipality Council (Fig 2). All municipality negotiations and decisions are in Greenlandic and throughout the process of formulating the nomination file much effort has been put into the inclusion and information of local stakeholders, namely the village councils of Kangerlussuaq and Sarfannguit and municipality council seated in Sisimiut.



Fig 2. Qeqqata Municipality Council 2013-2017

The Aasivissuit–Nipisat Management Plan has been produced in Greenlandic and Danish, then adopted by the Qeqqata Municipality Council before being translated to the English version (presented as Annex 2) in the Nomination (see Fig 3).

Since 2005, information has been conveyed via presentations at conferences and public meetings, poster exhibitions in Sisimiut, Sarfannguit and Kangerlussuaq, articles in the local newspaper Sivdleq as well as to wider audiences via the homepages of Qeqqata Municipality (www.qeqqata.gl/Emner/Om_kommunen/UNESCO?sc_lang=kl-GL) and the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces (<https://slks.dk/verdensarv/nye-forslag-tentativlisten/aasivissuit-nipisat-inuit-jagtomraade-mellem-indlandsis-og-hav/aasivissuit-nipisat-sermersuup-immallu-akornanni-inuit-piniarfii/>), as well as via the facebook group ‘Aasivissuit-Nipisat kulturarv Qeqqata Kommunian’ administred by Qeqqata Municipality (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/kulturarvSisimiut/posts/>).



Fig 3 Front page of the Greenlandic version of the management plan



Fig 4. Front page from the Sisimiut newspaper SivdleK' reporting from the public conference and workshop on the nomination of Aasivissuit–Nipisat

During the preparation of the nomination in 2016 focused public workshops were held in Sisimiut (Jan) (see Fig 4), Kangerlussuaq (June) and Sarfannguit (Oct), with the participation of many local stakeholders, interested citizens and school children, all of whom were invited to express their thoughts and concerns about the project, and who in many cases also contributed to the formulation of the Nomination file with photographs and oral accounts related to the nominated property.

Therefore, the State Party is confident, when stating that full consent has been provided for the nomination and its mechanisms, formally by the Qeqqata Municipality Council, and the village boards of Kangerlussuaq and Sarfannguit as well as more informally by local organizations such as fishers and hunters associations in Sisimiut (SAAPP), Sarfannguit and Kangerlussuaq.

Proposed New Regional Visitor Centre

A New Regional Visitor Centre is briefly mentioned in the nomination dossier (p. 151). ICOMOS would appreciate that the State Party could provide a brief update on this project.

The government of Greenland's tourism strategy "Tourism development in Greenland: What is needed?" covers the period 2016-2020. Its main focus is the development of the framework needed to unleash the growth potential in tourism, and significantly increase the number of tourists.

The purpose of attracting more tourists is to create jobs and income in the tourism sector. The right infrastructure is a prerequisite but has to be followed by investments in development of tourist-attractions.

Visitor centers

The government has planned to create up to 5 regional visitor centres that all together tell the story of Greenland in 5 different themes on different locations.

The first center is being constructed in Ilulissat and is expected to open in 2020. The Icefjord center will host a world-class exhibition about the UNESCO Ilulissat Icefjord and the Greenland Icecap. The center will also offer local food in the restaurant and local souvenirs in the shop. The visitor center is funded by the Government, The Municipality of Qaasuitsup, and the philanthropic foundation Realdania. The exhibition will be developed with internationally renowned research entities such as The Niels Bohr Institute and GEUS, and is supported by private foundations.

The precondition of the realization of the visitor center in Qeqqata Kommunia will be the ability to co-fund the center with international partners such as philanthropic funds and international research centers. The Government already has prioritized 15m DKK for the Visitor center, and expects the Municipality to contribute with at least 8m DKK. The planning of a visitor center will be done in cooperation between the Municipality and the Government.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

There are many sections of the nomination dossier where there is an implicit support for Intangible Cultural Heritage initiatives related to the nominated property. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive additional information regarding any specific activities and programs.

The Aasivissuit–Nipisat working group has focused on the collection of intangible heritage and oral traditions specific to the Aasivissuit–Nipisat area. Three new narratives unique to Aasivissuit–Nipisat have been discovered since the nomination file was completed. The first resulted from archival studies and the two other were provided by local informants from the small settlement of Sarfannguit. These individuals were interviewed in July 2017 prior to the survey of the planned road between Sisimiut and Kangerlussuaq.

The three new narratives provide promising avenues for future research and include:

1) The history of Aqissiaq (published by Rink); 2) the *Arnaq Qallunaaq* (the “Danish Lady”); and 3) a mid-19th century story told by Aron Olsen of an *umiaq* that capsized with more than 30 residents from Sarfannguit.

The first story relates to the legendary life of Aqissiaq, a Greenlandic folk hero whose stories were recorded by H. Rink in the 19th century. The adventures of Aqissiaq are well-known in West Greenland and Aasivissuit–Nipisat provides an important backdrop in the origin and early life of this legendary figure. In a recent study of Rink’s unpublished notes that were recently digitized, it was discovered that Aqissiaq’s mother was kidnapped by Tunit in Isortoq valley or the Nordre Isortoq fjord (leading from the glacier Isunnguata Sermia in Aasivissuit–Nipisat to the sea). Additionally, Pingu mountain (just north of Itinneq in the central part of Aasivissuit–Nipisat) is credited as the location where Aqissiaq reconnected with his Inuit brethren.

The second story reveals the origin of the place name for *Arnaq Qallunaaq* or the “Danish Lady”. This location is identified on the 1863 hand-drawn map on p. 73 of the Nomination. Modern maps locate the name on a hill at the northern side of Maligiaq Fjord. We have now learned that the origin of this place name is connected to a uniquely shaped cairn on a cliff near the gateway to the interior of Maligiaq. From a distance, the silhouette of the cairn bears a resemblance to an 18th or 19th century woman in a European strutted dress (see Fig 5). During an interview, local informant Aron Olsen shared with us that in his youth children were set ashore and told to give a little gift for the ‘Danish lady’ as they passed by the cairn on their way to the interior hunting grounds. The children would climb the hill and place a gift at the base of the cairn, or in the spirit of the legend “...under the skirts of the Danish Lady”.



Fig 5. *Arnaq Qallunaaq* in Maligiaq fjord

The third story concerns a tragic event in the history of the Sarfannguit settlement. At some point in the mid-19th century, an *umiaq* was on its way back from the interior to the coast. As was common for this return journey, the boat was heavily loaded with dried fish caught over the course of the summer months. When the *umiaq* reached Maligiaq the vessel capsized and 30 individuals drowned—the majority of victims being women and children. The accident was a devastating blow to many families in Sarfannguit. The story is believed to be linked to a large and undiscovered burial ground on the shores of the Maligiaq fjord.

These narratives were recorded during the supplemental background investigation of the intangible heritage of Aasivissuit–Nipisat. A more systematic approach is also currently being conducted. The Sisimiut/Kangerlussuaq museum is working to develop a website for ‘participatory mapping.’ This site will systematically gather information on local knowledge, traditional hunting practices/technologies and oral histories of localities within the nominated property.

With the help of the local community, the Qeqqata Municipality and its partners will continue to research and develop the rich intangible heritage and oral traditions imbedded in the cultural landscape of Aasivissuit–Nipisat.

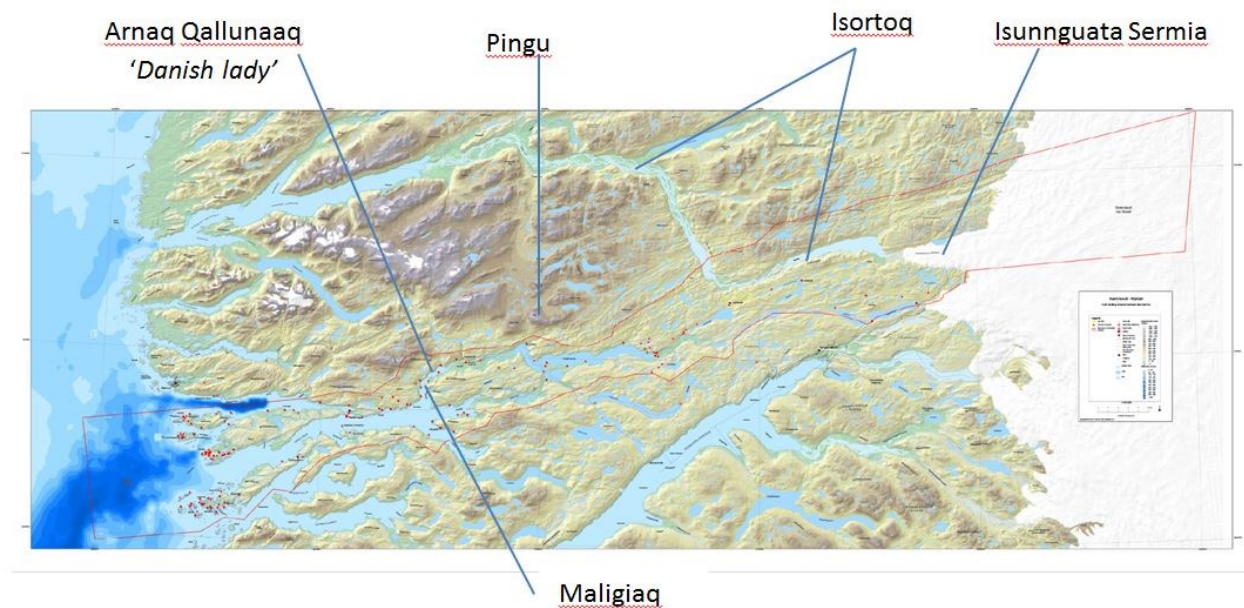


Fig 6. Map of Aasivissuit–Nipisat, with place names mentioned in text

Tourism and Interpretation Plans

Could the State Party please provide a timeline for the completion of the Tourism Strategy and implementation of the planned interpretation and presentation activities outlined in the nomination dossier?

Implementation of the Tourism and Interpretation Plans is scheduled to follow the timeframe outlined in Table 6 of the management plan (Annex 2 in the nomination). From the schedule it is seen that most tourism initiatives and the required funding is scheduled to start in 2018 with some intensification in 2019. The most visible of the planned initiatives is the information boards and infrastructure related to the dissemination at key localities. These initiatives are closely related to the construction of the road and will be started as soon as the road is near its completion.

However some dissemination initiatives are ongoing: Greenland National Museum and Archives have prepared poster exhibitions on all of the Greenland World Heritage Sites, and information boards and poster exhibitions are also in preparation to be put up in Kangerlussuaq.

Nomination of

Aasivissuit –Nipisat

Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea

for inclusion on the World Heritage List

Additional Information II

22. February 2018

Nomination Approach

As discussed with the representatives of the State Party, the ICOMOS Panel has found the approach taken to this nomination - providing a 'transect' from the sea to the ice cap - very interesting. The ICOMOS Panel especially appreciated the additional explanation provided at the meeting on 24 November 2017. In that exchange, there was mention that while most of the historically seasonal movements between the coast and the ice cap occurred in a west-east direction encompassed by the property boundaries, there could have been some instances of Inuit groups travelling into the area from beyond this 'slice' of landscape. While the ICOMOS Panel does not consider that this new information adversely impacts on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, or on the proposed boundaries of the nominated property, it would be beneficial for the completeness of the file to receive further information on this point. In other words, what is known about the wider system of movements into the nominated area throughout the long time depth of Palaeo-Inuit and Inuit uses of these areas?

The recurring seasonal movements from the coastal winter settlements in the archipelago of western Aasivissuit – Nipisat to the interior caribou hunting grounds towards east is the subsistence based seasonal migration pattern providing a variety of predictable resources for the human population at Aasivissuit – Nipisat. These seasonal subsistence hunting trips from coastal settlements through the Maligiaq-Itinneq gateway to Aasivissuit and back, have remained consistent through time.

Superimposed on the coast-inland subsistence settlement system are regional systems of coastal north-south oriented exchange and trade systems as have been illustrated for the Thule culture and historical period by Fig. 2.30 in the nomination document. Thule peoples traded raw materials that were not always available locally such as soap stone (for lamps), driftwood, and baleen (for fishing lines) through these regional networks.

During Paleo-Inuit times mobility and long-distance interactions of Saqqaq peoples is demonstrated through the dispersal throughout West Greenland of lithic raw materials from the source locations in Disko Bay. The characteristic metamorphosed Disko Bay slate (killiaq) was e.g. traded up and down the West Coast (Jensen 2000).

Extend the Comparative Analysis

It would be appreciated if the State Party could augment the existing comparative material in Table 3.3 (and associated text) to include the following: other areas of fisherhunter-gatherer cultural landscapes in Greenland (including the Inuit sites in the recently inscribed property of 'Kujataa Greenland'); Canada (including the World Heritage listed 'Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump', sites in the Strait of Belle Isle region of southern Labrador, and in the Saglek Bay area and Torngat Mountains National Park in northern Labrador); and any known sites in northern Siberia. This information is requested in order to assist the ICOMOS Panel to more clearly specify the basis for the inclusion of the nominated property in the World Heritage List.

Kujataa

Kujataa is a subarctic farming landscape inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2017

(<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1536>). Historically, Kujataa and Aasivissuit—Nipisat share several common features. The two areas possess a similar colonial history and a long tradition of settlement by Inuit peoples along the outer coastal areas. However, Kujataa is different in many respects and this is expressed archaeologically in many important ways. For example, knowledge of Paleo-Inuit settlement in Kujataa is very limited and current assumptions about ancient lifeways in this region are based primarily on stray finds. Secondly, the arrival of the Thule people in this part of Greenland occurs several hundred years later than in Aasivissuit—Nipisat. This may reflect the fact that the narrow margins of ice-free land characterizing southern Greenland offer a limited range for migratory terrestrial animals (i.e. caribou). This paucity of game animals speaks to the fact that inland hunting played a much more marginal role for the early Inuit in South Greenland than it did in Aasivissuit – Nipisat. In Kujataa the Inuit population subsisted almost entirely on marine resources. Historical records indicate that the small caribou population that did exist in southern Greenland was completely gone by the end of the 19th century (Meldgaard 1986), breaking the continuity of traditional caribou hunting in this part of Greenland. To date, no inland hunting sites with caribou drives similar to those seen at Aasivissuit are identified in Kujataa. Over the last 75 years, sheep farming has seen a resurgence and today pastoralism and farming dominate the inland valley settlements in Kujataa.

Summary: The contemporary cultural landscape of Kujataa is characterized by agricultural and pastoral activities. This agrarian tradition begins with the arrival of the Norse in the 10th century AD, was reintroduced during the 19th century and continues up through the present. The cultural landscape of Kujataa is therefore only partially comparable to the cultural traditions seen in the Aasivissuit – Nipisat property. Caribou hunting systems are not known in Kujataa and there is no contemporary inland hunting of caribou as is practiced in Aasivissuit-Nipisat.

Tasiilaq

Tasiilaq is a small city in East Greenland. Within its immediate vicinity there are a number of well-preserved ancient Thule winter settlements and more recent Historic Inuit communal houses (Mathiassen 1933). Subsistence hunting has always been the main activity for people living in this area and still is for many of the present residents. At least 23 Paleo-Inuit sites are identified in close proximity to Tasiilaq (Møbjerg 1986) but only a few of these sites have been investigated. Hunting of marine game has always been the primary subsistence base for people living in this region, but some evidence of terrestrial hunting does exist. For example, a stone fence on the island of Kulusuk represents an example of an atypically located hunting structure. Historical records indicate that the caribou population around Tasiilaq became extinct prior to the arrival of Danish officials in the late 19th century. Although, domesticated reindeer were later re-introduced into the wild, the herds were not viable. As a consequence there is no inland caribou hunting in Tasiilaq today.

Summary: The cultural history of the Thule and Historic Inuit in Tasiilaq shares many broad characteristics with Aasivissuit – Nipisat (for example, numerous Thule and Inuit winter settlements of Tasiilaq demonstrate similar architectural patterns seen in Aasivissuit-Nipisat). However, the Paleo-Inuit settlement phases are not as well understood in Tasiilaq compared to Aasivissuit – Nipisat. Additionally, later direct

Colonial contact by Danish officials in the 19th century (Holm, 1893) has resulted in a distinctly different historical trajectory for the region.

Tasiilaq have limited terrestrial resources in the inland, and there is no distinct coast inland dichotomy in the traditional land use pattern. The fauna material excavated from Thule settlements by Mathiassen (Mathiassen 1933) is thus 99% comprised by marine species.

Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump

The spectacular Head-Smashed-In World Heritage Site (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/158>) in Alberta Canada is a unique communal hunting site with drive lines of similar function to those at Aasivissuit, which directed buffalo over a rocky bluff (Brink 2008). Head-Smashed-In was used throughout millennia from 3700 BC to 19th C AD. The game drive architecture of Head-Smashed-In thus have similarities to one of the key sites in Aasivissuit – Nipisat namely the Aasivissuit site, but the cultural landscape of Aasivissuit – Nipisat and in particular its arctic setting and coastal archipelago are very different from the traditional human adaptations to the plains ecology characterizing the surrounding landscape of Head-Smashed-In. The annual subsistence settlement cycle is thus very different since Head-Smashed-In is placed in a continental setting with no access to the sea.

Summary: The drivelines and function of Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump as a principal communal hunting site have similarities to the function of the Aasivissuit site, however beyond this functional analogy there are few similarities between the Arctic setting of the dual phase (coast – inland) cultural landscape of Aasivissuit – Nipisat and the interior plains setting of Head Smashed-In.

Strait of Belle Isle

The Strait of Belle Isle region of Southern Labrador marks the southern limit of Inuit settlement in North America. The subarctic region with forests possesses a spectacular suite of heritage sites that include: Red Bay Basque Whaling Station, L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, Gros Morne National Park and Port au Choix. The Port au Choix National Historic Site in Newfoundland is a spectacular Paleo-Inuit site with well-preserved dwelling structures, lithics and organic artifacts. However apart from this locality there are a limited number of known Inuit sites in the Strait of Belle Isle region, making it a poor comparison to Aasivissuit – Nipisat. The Red Bay Basque Whaling Station with its ship wrecks and whale processing facilities is representative of the early European whaling industry in North America and shares some broad similarities with the 18th century whaling stations in Greenland. However, when whaling stations were established in Greenland, oil extraction was not conducted on shore as it was in the early days of Basque whaling and therefore makes for a poor comparison of the colonial whaling station found at Nipisat. A few Inuit winter settlements were investigated in the Strait of Belle Isle (Fitzhugh et al 2015) and the communal house on Seal Island is still debated as the furthest southern Inuit settlement in the region (Murphy 2011). These factors make comparisons of early historical Inuit land use of this area difficult with more northern arctic regions.

Summary: The Strait of Belle Isle region of Southern Labrador possesses a great time-depth of human activity and comprises an enormous assemblage of unique cultural and natural assets very different from those found in Aasivissuit – Nipisat.

Torngat Mountains National Park and Saglek Bay in Northern Labrador

The archaeological record of the Torngat Mountains National Park in Northern Labrador shares many similarities with West Greenland. The larger region possesses many well-preserved settlements with stone and turf-built Inuit dwelling structures (Fitzhugh 1980) and are somewhat comparable to Thule and Historic Inuit campsites in Aasivissuit—Nipisat. Additionally, Saglek Bay also boasts a rich record of prehistoric settlements with many sites containing multiple cultural sequences and different types of land use (Tuck 1975; Loring 2017). Caribou hunting was an important element in the traditional Inuit economy in Northern Labrador, and some unpublished sources suggest the presence of stone caribou drives within the present day boundaries of Torngat Mountains National Park (e.g. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nl/torngats/decouvrir-discover>). A number of Historic Inuit settlements, Moravian mission stations and Hudson Bay Company trading posts are also present in Torngat Mountains National Park and in Saglek Bay. Today however the nearest settlement is Nain (almost 250 km to the south of Saglek Bay) and this limits contemporaneous land use (in stark contrast to how the land is used in present-day Aasivissuit-Nipisat).

Summary: Torngat Mountains National Park and Saglek Bay has rich and diverse collection of prehistoric and historic assets, as well as exceptional scenic beauty. In comparison to Aasivissuit—Nipisat, well-documented caribou drives and contemporaneous subsistence hunting is lacking. As in the case of the Strait of Belle Isle the complex cultural setting with Indians in the interior and at head of fjords and Inuit on the coast makes comparison between the two areas difficult.

Siberia, Taimyr

Remnants of prehistoric caribou hunting are known from several Palaeolithic localities throughout Siberia (Kotlyakov, Velichko and Vasil'ev 2017) and from Holocene localities situated as far north as the New Siberian Islands (Pitul'ko 1993). However, from roughly AD 1000 up through the Historic era, reindeer herding replaced hunting in most parts of Siberia and there are relatively few places where subsistence hunting was consistently practiced. Conversely in Eastern Siberia, the Yukaghir relied heavily on caribou hunting and in Northwestern Siberia the Nganasan hunters of the Taimyr are known to have practiced cooperative hunting strategies similar to the Aasivissuit—Nipisat drive systems (Chard 1963). Although similarities in architecture and communal hunting strategies are found between the Nganasan and Inuit of West Greenland, the Nganasan did not exploit marine resources to any great extent. Consequently the traditional Nganasan land use pattern does not have the coast-inland dichotomy so characteristic of Aasivissuit – Nipisat and the marine component is almost entirely missing”.

Summary: In addition to widespread reindeer herding, caribou hunting was and still is practiced in some parts of Siberia. However, beyond the communal caribou hunt there are few similarities between the heritage and seasonal land-use patterns of the Nganasan and Inuit in Aasivissuit - Nipisat. The vernacular architecture of the Nganasan is the 'tent' although more permanent structures may have been used during some periods. The most important difference between Aasivissuit- Nipisat and the Nansen and other indigenous peoples of Siberia is the absence of seasonal migrations between the inland areas and the coasts.

		Aasivissuit - Nipisat	1 Eastern Midsommersø and Jørgen Brønlund Fjord	2 Lake Tasersiaq and its hinterland	3 Nuuk	4 High Arctic Archipelago Lady Franklin Bay	5 Bache Peninsula	6 Sirmilik National Park, Eclipse Sound and Milne Inlet	7 Lake Harbour and Soper Heritage River	8 Nain, Labrador, Canada	9 Wager Bay	10 Chesterfield Inlet, Kazan River and Thelon River	11 Victoria and Banks Islands with adjacent mainland regions	12 Northern Yukon, Ivvavik / Vuntut / Herschel Island	13 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Brooks Range northern Alaska	14 Southern Norway	15 Varanger Peninsula northern Norway	Kujataa	Tasiilaq	Head- Smashed- In	Strait of Belle Isle	Torngat Mountains National Park and Saglek Bay in Northern Labrador	Taimyr
Landscape and land use parameters	Transect from inland ice to sea	XXX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XXX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XXX	-	-	-	-
	A full annual round	XXX	-	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X	XX	XXX	X
Chronological parameters	Stone Age settlements	XXX	XXX	X	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	X	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	X	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	X
	Thule culture	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	X	X	-	-	X	XX	-	-	XX	-
	Historical settlements	XXX	-	XX	XXX	X	X	XX	X	XXX	X	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XX	X	-	XXX	XXX	-
	Colonial structures and cultural encounters	XX	-		XX	X	-	X	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	-	-	XX	XX	-	XXX	XX	XX
	Contemporaneous land use	XXX		XX	XX	XX	-	XX	XXX	XX	X	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	X (farming)	XXX	-	XXX	X	XX
Special features	Caribou drives	XXX	-	XX	XX	-	-	-	-	XX	X	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	-	X	XXX (buffalo)	-	X	XX
	Communal houses	XXX	-	X	XXX	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	XXX	XX	-	X?	XX	X
Documen- tation and preservation	Level of documentary Evidence	XXX	-	XX	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XX	X	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	X
	Visibility and preservation of structures	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX?	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X

Legal Protection

The ICOMOS Panel appreciated the additional information provided. On the basis of the written information and the discussions held on 24 November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel understands that the Executive Order that will secure the specific legal protection for the proposed World Heritage property is expected to be signed and in place in January 2018. The ICOMOS Panel considers this measure to be essential for fully securing the legal protection for the nominated area, and would appreciate further updated information once the Executive Order is signed.

The Greenland Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Church has informed, that the Executive Order regarding the protection of other cultural heritage in the area of Assivissuit-Nipisat, nominated property, has been adopted by Naalakkersuisut (The government of Greenland), and it has come in to force on the 1st of February 2018. The executive order defines the limits of the area, through a general description in the statutory instrument and a map with coordinates annexed to it. Further to this, the executive order contains provisions relating to access to the area as a whole and its use. A more detailed description is to be found in the nomination document on pp. 144.

Buffer Zone

The ICOMOS Panel welcomed the opportunity to further discuss this matter with the representatives attending the meeting on 24 November 2017, where the reasons why a buffer zone has not been provided were clearly explained. The ICOMOS Panel appreciates that the current designation is the outcome of the decision to nominate a large landscape transect rather than a smaller series of sites, and that a 'visual catchment' approach has been utilized in determining the property boundary. As a consequence, the ICOMOS Panel understands that direct visual impacts on the nominated property are relatively unlikely due to the topographic basis of the delineation of the property boundaries to the north and south. However, there are continuing concerns for the ICOMOS Panel about the potential for off-site impacts on the nominated area, particularly in relation to future mining activities. It would therefore be very helpful to the ICOMOS Panel if the State Party could provide additional information about how impacts from mining, urban development and tourism will be identified, assessed and avoided, including visual impacts, and also hydrological and/or geological impacts.

Mining

The Executive order on other cultural heritage protection of Aasivissuit – Nipisat issued by the Government of Greenland is the most important legislative mechanism assuring that for example prospecting or mining licences are not granted within the property.

The State Party and the Government of Greenland is aware of the challenges arising from possible future granting of mining licenses in the borderland of the nominated property and has the legal system in place to handle these challenges, for example:

Section 83 in the Mineral Resources Act states that: *“Activities covered by licenses granted under the Greenland Parliament Act must be performed in accordance with acknowledged best international practices in the area under similar conditions. Activities must be performed appropriately as well as in a sound manner as regards safety, health, the environment, resource utilisation and social sustainability.”*

It is also stated in the mining licenses and the standard terms for mineral exploration in Greenland that “the licensee shall respect all existing rights...” with regards to third party activities in the license area. Therefore the public hearing process is a very important part of the transition from exploration to mining.

Only about 1 out of 100 exploration licenses turn into a mine. Before being granted a mining license several assessments and reports need to be approved; these among others include an Environmental Impact Assessment, an Impact Benefit Agreement and technical approvals. Work on implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment has recently been initiated by the State Party.

Finally the State Party would like to emphasize that to ensure a broad support of the proposed property different stakeholders are part of the Steering Group, including the Ministry of Mineral Resources.

Geological impacts

Examples of geological impacts could be earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and rock falls.

Earthquakes in Greenland have been registered by the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland since 1964. The largest registered earthquake in the Aasivissuit - Nipisat area is of 2.1 on the Richter scale. So far none of the earthquakes in Greenland have been destructive.

Tsunamis generated by landslides and causing damage to properties and loss of lives have been recorded along the coast further to the north, where the sedimentary rocks are more unstable than the gneiss and granite dominating the area of Aasivissuit – Nipisat. A project to investigate the risk of severe landslides within Greenland has just commenced. The project was launched due to a landslide generated tsunami in the Uummannaq area, approximately 500 kilometers North of Aasivissuit – Nipisat, causing the death of four persons and evacuation of two settlements in June 2017. As the screening project has just begun it is not possible to give an estimation of the tsunami and landslide impacts within Aasivissuit - Nipisat at present.

The risk of rockfalls will always prevail in areas with steep mountains and could therefore potentially have an impact on Aasivissuit – Nipisat.

Urban development and tourism

Urban development in particular in the areas of Kangerlussuaq and Sarfannguit is guided by management plans of Qeqqata Municipality described in 6.12, 6.13 and 6.14 of the Aasivissuit – Nipisat management plan. These planning tools and the stipulated hearing processes enable the site management and steering committee to continuously monitor the development in as well as around the property. The anticipated growth in tourism is likely to be the most immediate activity to impact specific attractions within the nominated property. Impacts from increased numbers of visitors or natural agents will be accessed by the cyclical monitoring program that will be set up for the seven key sites. In case of unacceptably heavy wear on vegetation or damage to protected sites officially landscaped trails will be laid out on the sites with

visitor facilities. This infrastructure may eventually include boardwalks which elsewhere have proven to be a very effective way to guide visitor traffic.

The implementation of the monitoring and visitor facilities therefore has high priority. Qeqqata municipality has already initiated some of the desired monitoring principles by the installation of sensors logging the ground temperature in the middens of the key sites of Aasivissuit and Nipisat in the summer of 2017. These temperature loggers are indeed primarily installed to generate data for accessing effects of climate change, but the installation marked an early opening of the monitoring described in chapter 10 of the management plan. Wear on vegetation and indicators of erosion of protected monuments will be monitored by other monitoring principles and repeat photography scheduled for the coming years.



The Arctic Circle Trail is a well-marked popular hiking path between the settlement of Kangerlussuaq and the town of Sisimiut. The central part of the trail pass through Aasivissuit – Nipisat.

Hydrological impacts

Greenland has great potentials for hydropower production both for local consumption and for industrial purposes. Since the 1990's the Government of Greenland has built 5 hydropower plants supplying electricity to 6 of the largest towns in Greenland. No hydropower plant has been built to supply electricity for industrial purposes in Greenland.

In 2010 a hydropower plant supplying the town of Sisimiut was opened. It uses the water from the lake of Tasersuaq north of the nominated area. 30 and 80 km south of the nominated area two industrial size hydropower potentials have been investigated for many years, including Greenland's largest hydropower potential of Lake Tasersiaq. The last 10 years the focus of Government of Greenland has been to use the potential for a large aluminum smelter in Maniitsoq, a town even further south of the nominated area.

There might be other small potentials within the nominated area but none have been researched nor are there plans to start investigations up. Overall there are no hydrological impacts within the nominated area or in a potential buffer zone.

Monitoring

As discussed in the meeting on 24 November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel considered that a more proactive monitoring system should be warranted for the nominated property than what has been proposed. This relates to the entire property and its attributes, but in particular, there are concerns about the ability to promptly monitor and react to the exposure of archaeological sites due to (1) changing climatic conditions and (2) the possible future retreat of the ice cap. The ICOMOS Panel therefore requests further information about how the State Party and local authorities could enhance its efforts in this aspect of the management and protection of the nominated property. This should also include the possibilities for implementing regular and cyclical maintenance planning.

Qeqqata Municipality and Greenland National Museum and Archives have prior to the planned initiation of the detailed cyclical monitoring programs, that will be developed for the seven key localities, advanced the monitoring by installing snow depth, atmospheric and subsurface temperature monitoring equipment already in the summer of 2017 on the two key sites of Nipisat and Aasivissuit. The snow depth and climate loggers will provide solid local baseline data to forestall future change in permafrost and midden preservation. In 2018-2019 this initiative will be expanded with high-resolution documentation of the Aasivissuit site and surrounding terrain. This work program includes aerial reconnaissance through drone survey and dGPS recording of all extent cultural structures and features. Pending the nomination - the key site of Aasivissuit is expected to become an important visitor destination in the coming years. Because of the potential for human disturbance, there is a critical need for the NKA to immediately initiate documentation of this site in order to quantify and qualify effects of increased visitor numbers as well as of modern climate shifts.

Threats to ruin sites due to coastal erosion is limited due to the rocky character of most of the shoreline combined with the fact that Aasivissuit – Nipisat is in the central part of West Greenland where the postglacial land rise is the largest since last glaciation. However the site management and NKA are well aware of the possible challenges due to future change in relative sea level. Threats resulting from sea erosion will first of all be monitored systematically at the 5 coastally located key sites. However, the planned systematic and cyclical monitoring of these localities enables swift increase in monitoring of the coastal environment since other protected siteThe Steering Committee and the site management are responsible for overseeing the cyclical monitoring according to the plans outlined in chapter 10 in the Management plan (Annex 2). The Greenland National Museum and Archives (hereafter NKA) will monitor

heritage sites seven of which are the key sites where detailed on site visitor information will be installed, and where specific guidelines for cyclical monitoring and maintenance will be developed for each individual locality according to table 9 in Annex 2.. Participatory photography and similar ‘citizen science’ applications will be developed to be applied to all parts of the nominated property enabling the site management continuous monitoring of both wild life, the ice edge and for example erosion processes far from key localities. However the formulation of maintenance planning tools must be adapted to the visitor infrastructure and local topographic characteristics of each locality. The formulation of more specific maintenance planning than included in table 9 of Annex 2, where the cyclical monitoring and maintenance is listed, would be likely to miss its purpose since the specific maintenance measures and their periodicity must be designed to accommodate the anticipated challenges of each individual site or sub area.

The Greenland National Museum and Archives has also proactively developed a conservation program for the site of Aasivissuit (described below) and The NKA will carry out new testing and documentation of Nipisat in the coming years, in conjunction with the other key sites.

Aasivissuit Special Conservation Initiative 2018-2021

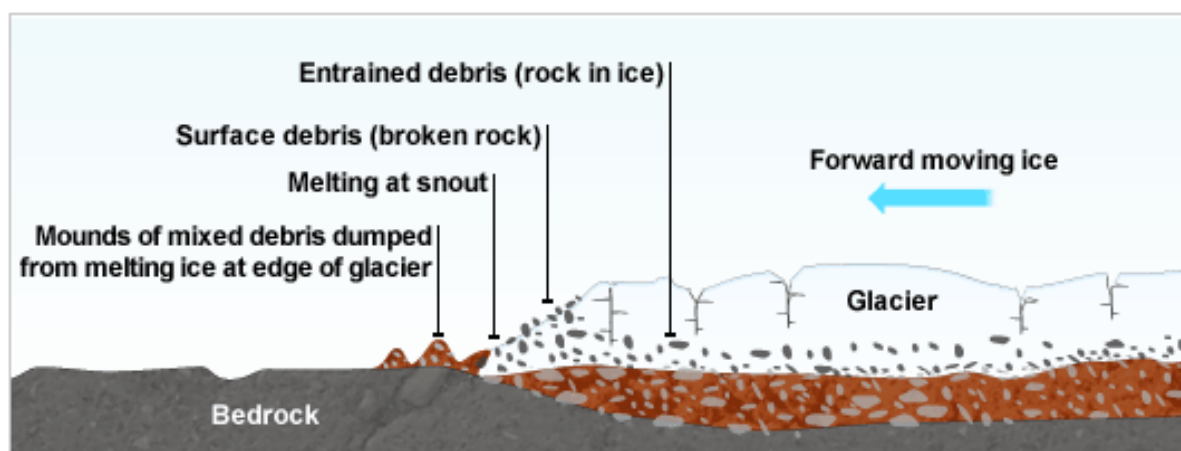
Pending the nomination - the key site of Aasivissuit is expected to become an important tourist destination in the coming years. Because of the potential for human disturbance, there is a critical need for the NKA to immediately begin high-resolution documentation of the site and surrounding area in 2018-2019. This includes aerial reconnaissance through drone survey and dGPS recording of all extent cultural structures and features. Additionally, modern climate shifts may be affecting the site in ways that are both visible and invisible. Observations by archaeologists from the NKA and Danish National Museum in 2017 have noted that the water level at Aasivissuit lake appears to be lowering and exposing a large cache of caribou antlers and faunal refuse along the lake’s eastern shore. The last major scientific investigations at Aasivissuit took place in the late 1970s. Significant innovations in archaeological methods and new technologies provide the opportunity to expand our knowledge of the site and the NKA will initiate a focused Special Conservation Initiative at Aasivissuit for the years 2018-2021 and beyond.

Monitoring of the inland ice margin

The ICOMOS expert panel requested clarification on why the monitoring of archaeological sites at the retreating ice edge seems to be low priority. Compared to other Alpine/Arctic areas under the influence of climate change it was proposed that glacial melt may reveal the presence of in situ archaeological features in the eastern periphery of the nominated property.

The ice sheet’s margin has been the focus of numerous international studies that have contributed to a greater understanding of the reaction of the ice sheet to modern climate shifts (Mernild et al. 2010; As et al. 2012).

Figure 1. Transgression of a glacial ice sheet and the accompanying disturbance to the landscape over time.



As ice melts at the snout of the glacier, rock debris is dumped at the forward edge

The question from ICOMOS suggests that we might eventually expect to find archaeological sites and features connected to the earliest known inhabitants of the area (Saqqaq culture) in the areas where the ice sheet is in retreat. While archaeological investigations in connection with retreating glaciers and ice patches are still limited in Greenland, the growing body of evidence from similar situations in the rest of the world allows the NKA to estimate the potential for the preservation of cultural heritage at the ice edge in the nominated property and elsewhere. Thus far the evidence suggests that active glaciers and marginal ice zones almost always obliterate heritage sites and artifacts in their path (or at the minimum disturbs/destroys them such a degree that they are meaningfully devoid of context.) Active glaciers and their margins can be considered 'low-priority' cultural management areas since no heritage sites or artifacts are likely to be preserved. The difference between Greenland's inland ice and the well-known Alpine and Norwegian ice sheets (that have retreated and exposed archaeological sites and features) is that the margins of the inland ice in the nominated area consists of a large number of localized ice flows. Over time these flows have slowly churned the terrain and pulverized basal sediments lying above the bedrock (Fig. 1). No plan for monitoring the margins of the inland ice has been developed by NKA due to the most likely extremely low rate of successful recovery. However, there are many glaciological studies executed every year along the ice margin as well as on the edge of the inland ice. Therefore, information and Participation Geographical Informations Systems are likely to be able to be introduced here with positive effect. In other words: the many visitors that be scientists or tourists that visit the Inland Ice margin of Aasivissuit – Nipisat enable the site management to acquire good continuous observations on the conditions of the ice margin.

NKA is aware of the possibility that areas or items of cultural significance may be identified on or along the margins of the ice sheet in the future. It is known that objects of natural origin like caribou and birds have been found along the glacial front and that American World War II plane wreckages have been found deeply buried in the ice. These types of artifacts may be interesting but are difficult to associate with the specific past use of the landscape.

Tourism planning

While current tourism levels to Greenland, and to the nominated area are modest, the ICOMOS Panel considers that this situation could change more rapidly than seems anticipated by the nomination dossier. The ICOMOS Panel appreciated the additional information provided, and understands that implementation of tourism initiatives outlined in the Management Plan will commence in 2018. However, as discussed with representatives of the State Party at the meeting held on 24 November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel is concerned to ensure that strategic planning for tourism is identified as a pressing priority. This should be more than a list of planned works (which has been provided), and should consider a pro-active engagement with the cruise ship tourism sector and other tourism industry organisations. It would be appreciated if the State Party could provide additional information on this point, including the timeline and the availability of needed expertise and financial resources to develop the tourism and interpretation plans for the nominated property.

The tourism strategy developed by Government of Greenland has an objective of building visitors-centers in different parts of Greenland. One of these are planned to be situated in Qeqqata municipality in relation to the nominated property. The local tourism strategy referred to at page 69 in the management plan is currently being formed jointly by Arctic Circle Business and Qeqqata Municipality.

Arctic Circle Business (ACB) is the business council of the region and is a member-based organization. ACB employs 4 and receives yearly 1.8 mill. DKK from Qeqqata Municipality. The service contract includes primarily advice for local entrepreneurs and small companies, organizing education courses for the tourist and fishing industry as well as overall planning for the business council and municipality's support for these industries.

Fat bike and dog sledge tours are some of the winter time adventures offered by the local tour operators in Sisimiut and Kangerlussuaq.



ACB and Qeqqata Municipality have since 2011 proactively engaged in planning for more sustainable tourism. In this endeavor ACB and Qeqqata Municipality find inspiration the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit, which all operators are encouraged to apply in future development of the sector.

ACB and Qeqqata Municipality have started a tourism stakeholder engagement process concerning the nominated property. The first workshop took place in Kangerlussuaq in primo February 2018, where the tourism operators, the hunting and fishing industry in the whole region participated.

ACB and Qeqqata Municipality will follow up with a Heritage Impact Assessment to examine in more detail the threats from excessive or inappropriate tourism, and to prevent this from happening in the nominated area. There are plans for how to make tourism help preserving the heritage of our people and ACB sees possibilities in sustainable tourism to make funding and educating the youth in our heritage. Tourism is recognized as an important factor in keeping traditions.

The tourism strategy incorporating the principles outlined in UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Programme should be ready by the administrations in start of the second half of 2018, and decided by the board of Arctic Circle Business and Qeqqata municipal council in the second half of 2018.

Qeqqata Municipality and ACB are well aware of the challenges of the cruise ship sector and have proactively started talks with the national tourism board, Visit Greenland as well as the association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO). AECO have guidelines to ensure that cruises and tourism in the Arctic is done with the utmost caution for the nature, local culture, cultural heritage and the safety in the ocean and land. Together with Visit Greenland and AECO, Arctic Circle Business and Qeqqata Municipality will make specific guidelines for cruise ships in the nominated property.

Concerning trekking tourists along the Arctic Circle Trail there will be set up compost toilets in the huts in 2018 to minimize the waste impacts in the nominated area. The huts will in 2018 be improved with firefighting equipment to prevent bush fires as well as information about sustainable trekking in the nominated area.

Visit Greenland have arranged for a big national tourism conference taking place in November 2018, in Nuuk. The UNESCO World Heritage sites will be a big part of the conference, and there will also be workshops based on cruise ships during the nation-wide conference.

Finally there are educational initiatives planned for the spring of 2018: Campus Kujalleq - the national learning center of service and tourism management – is a main partner concerning developing tourism management skills and combining them with local skills and knowledge. Campus Kujalleq will have 3 module-based courses on tourism this spring in Sisimiut, and in the future there will be more educational initiatives will be arranged for the employees in tourism sector of Qeqqata municipality.

The tourism strategy developed by Arctic Circle Business and Qeqqata Municipality will also focus on increasing year round employment in the local communities. Currently the Greenland tourist sector rely too heavily on the summer season, when the fishery and construction work business is also at its peak.

Increasing fishing and hunting activities will (naturally in full compliance with conservation times) enable visits 'into the wild' throughout the year and enable the small local companies to receive tourists at all seasons and thereby to have income from tourism all year and not just in the summer season.

As indicated in the previous sections, there are several strategic as well as concrete planning initiatives and education underway already. The timeline and preliminary resources budgeted for these initiatives outlined in table 6. in the management plan amount to a total of 3.7 mill DKK budgeted.



During winter time dog sledging enables traditional transport to all parts of the nominated property

Past and Present Inuit Cultural Practices

The ICOMOS Panel appreciates the additional information provided concerning intangible cultural heritage documentation activities. Further related questions concern the contemporary aspects of the continuing cultural landscape, and how traditional Inuit practices such as the re-use of materials have been taken account of in the development of the management system for the nominated property. How have Inuit societies organized themselves within this landscape over time? Can the contemporary seasonal movements within this landscape be explained in greater detail?

1. Traditional re-use of “natural materials” at these hunting camp sites is most commonly observed in the practice of using loose cobbles stones found on the surface to secure tents or to create small cooking hearths or fire pits. This routine re-use of stones is fairly low-impact from a management perspective and rarely results in the disturbance of in situ materials found embedded or below the surface of the camp sites. Inussuit are generally left undisturbed and in most cases modern hunters will actively maintain an inussuk (i.e. replace fallen stones) if it is connected to an active hunting area. Key sites found in the interior such as Aasivissuit and Itinnerup tupersuai will need to be monitored closely as visits by both locals and tourists will increase in the coming years. These sites have a number of graves, innusuit and hunting blinds that may not be visibly obvious to someone unfamiliar with these particular types of archaeological features. To provide the best possible guidance for visitors to archaeologically sensitive areas, the NKA in cooperation with the Site Manager, will formulate both general and specific guidelines for permitted activities adjacent to selected ancient monuments and within cultural-historical areas. These guidelines will, form the basis for certification of tourist guides operating within the nominated property.

2. The nominated cultural landscape has been an exceptional hunting ground for people over the past four millennia. This land-use is evidenced by the many ruins and features found from the coast to the inland areas (for example, winter settlements with ruins of turf houses along the coast, inussuit (cairns) and trails from the coast to the caribou hunting camps and caribou drive systems in the interior). In the present day, hunters and their families continue the seasonal travel to the inland areas to hunt and camp in the same places utilized by their ancestors making many of these locations archaeological palimpsests of human activity. Although most sites remain undated, the vast majority are believed to date from the last 500 years, although the most impressive and largest caribou hunting camp of Aasivissuit has evidence of use dating as far back as 4200 years ago.

The caribou hunt remains one of the oldest and enduring cultural traditions in Greenland and is an activity that is woven into the social fabric and seasonal rhythm of life for many present-day Inuit Greenlanders. A 2010 estimate of indigenous caribou found between Sisimuit and Kangerlussuaq estimated the population ca. 60,000 (Greenland Institute of Natural Resources 2017). Annual hunting of this population during the late summer and early autumn remains an important activity for both subsistence and recreational hunters.

3. Presently there is no ownership of land in Greenland, and anyone can hunt where they would like as long as they have a hunting license. However, old traditions have shaped modern land-usage; in times past there was a principle of family privilege to certain hunting areas that was conditioned by consistent re-visiting of campsites connected to specific hunting grounds. One could not inherit rights to a hunting ground but one could essentially “earn” it by returning and participating in the hunt in an area year after year (Odgaard 2014:154). In modern times, a similar pattern is observed as many families will plan for seasonal hunting forays in the summer and early autumn into the interior, camping in the same locations as their parents and grandparents and even great-grandparents. For many Greenlanders, these hunting trips are both recreational and functional, providing the opportunity to stock the family freezer with caribou meat for the coming winter. Combined with the marine game animals such as seal, fowling, and fish, the annual hunts in the hinterland afford a convenient supplement to the family’s diet and an alternative to often expensive, imported food sold at grocery stores in the larger towns and settlements.



The Greenlandic parliament is called “Inatsisartut”. It is composed of 31 members; all negotiations are carried out in Greenlandic (the local variant of Inuktitut) as they are in the municipality councils. Photo: Nils Baum, 2001. Bureau for Inatsisartut.

Indigenous Community Benefits

Based on the nomination materials and the additional information already provided, the ICOMOS Panel appreciates that the population of the Qeqqata Municipality (which includes the nominated landscape and adjacent areas) is predominantly comprised of indigenous Inuit communities. Given that this is the case, the ICOMOS Panel is interested to better understand how the processes of nomination and inscription in the World Heritage List will proactively acknowledge and benefit Inuit people, including through support for local small businesses arising from World Heritage management and tourism/interpretation. How are the needs and rights of the Inuit communities met by this nomination? Could further information be provided on this point, including the means by which Inuit governance arrangements have been incorporated into the management system?

The local tourist sector

It should be stressed that the tourist sector in the region consists mainly of smaller companies own by locals. These companies have often risen from using traditional skills in hunting and fishing or knowledge from being able to sail or operate land-based transportation modules. Outside the main tourist seasons they support themselves from hunting and fishing. For example:



Inuit Outfitting owned by the Sisimiut couple Malene and Mathias Ingemann operate trophy hunting south of Kangerlussuaq both winter and summer. Mathias is also fisherman and Malene member of the municipal council.



Greenland Outdoors owned by Jens Pavia Brandt is mainly operating trekking tours from Kangerlussuaq to the Ice Cape south of Kangerlussuaq. Jens Pavia recently moved to Kangerlussuaq from the capital Nuuk.



Sirius Greenland is owned by Bo Lings. Sirius Greenland has the sports fishing concession right for 3 rivers around Sisimiut. Sirius also organize boat trips in the area, for to the settlement Sarfannguit, abandoned settlement of Assagutaq, sea fishing and occasionally to Nipisat.



Leif Fontain is the other river/trout fishing concession owner in the Sisimiut area. Leif is mainly fishing in August and September, and he also take tourists to the fishing camp of his family.



Greenland Cruises owned by Ivik Ostermann is organising tours for Cruise ships when arriving to the Greenlandic towns and settlements. Ivik has recently moved from Nuuk to Sisimiut.



Adam Lyberth is a certified guide specializing in film crew and science support on the Inland Ice and along the Ice edge.

The largest tourism sector employers are the hotels in the region. They are either privately owned by locals or by Greenland government. Albatros Travel situated in Kangerlussuaq is however the largest tourist operator in the region, having both accommodation and many day trip excursions to the Ice Cap and the wilderness around Kangerlussuaq. Albatros is also engaged in Cruise ship handling in the summer season by driving passengers back and forth between the airport and the harbor. Albatros is owned by the Danish biologist Søren Rasmussen. Albatros has an active CSR

policy, for example participating and having membership in UN Global Compact, AECO and World Animal Protection (<https://www.albatros-travel.dk/om-albatros/albatros-csr-policy>).

The tourism business of Qeqqata Municipality is dominated by local operators, and it is therefore primarily the local community that will benefit from increased number of visitors to Aasivissuit - Nipisat. 'Sustainability' is an integrated narrative of these outfitters and operators: Telling the story of a people who lived by and respected nature – just as we do today. Quality of the products is very native and real. It is the indigenous people of the region that is behind these products and creates and authenticity to the storytelling and branding.

Arctic Circle Business will help to guide and advise small local businesses on how to accommodate their tour products to the nominated property. The development of new visitor products for tourists will be a task for the business council in collaboration with the local tour operators and the settlement councils of Kangerlussuaq and Sarfannguit.

The activities that are available in the region enables people to experience the diversity in lifestyles in different nations. Gaining a firsthand understanding of our traditions and the way we live with the nature, the archeological and historic sites etc. It is definitely a strong quality that we also have indigenous people to create and use these activities.

Wind Turbine Developments

The ICOMOS Panel notes that the first Greenlandic wind turbine connected to the public power supply was installed at Sarfannguit in 2010 as an experiment in providing renewable energy to the area. The need for renewable energy approaches is understood, however, the ICOMOS Panel would appreciate additional information about future wind energy plans, and the means by which the visual and other impacts of the turbines on the nominated cultural landscape can be assessed and minimized.

In the Government of Greenland's "Sector plan for energy and water supply" it is an overall objective that as the public energy supply must be, to the fullest extent possible, derived from renewable sources, including power from wind turbines.

The national Greenlandic utility company, Nukissiorfiit, has intensified the research and investigation for utilizing wind energy in Greenland.

Nukissiorfiit is currently investigating the possibilities for setting up suitable large turbines in those cities that are not already 100% equipped with electricity and heat from hydropower.

In settlements there might be solutions with minor turbines like the one in Sarfannguit in the future. However, there are no concrete plans for wind turbines in and around the nominated area including Sarfannguit in addition to the already set minor turbine in Sarfannguit.

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