

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS**KUJATAA – A SUBARCTIC FARMING LANDSCAPE IN GREENLAND
(DENMARK)**

IUCN provides the following brief comments to ICOMOS based on a review of the nomination by the World Heritage Panel and 2 desk reviews.

The nomination is for a serial property, with a total area of 34,892 ha and no buffer zone. The property does not appear to overlap with designated protected areas for nature conservation (as per the IUCN definition of a protected area), but there is area based protection through local plans.

Although the concept of a World Heritage cultural landscape reflects the interaction of people and nature, there is very little specific information about nature in the nomination. The nomination document does not use the word biodiversity and does not refer specifically to nature conservation. It contains no species list and the focus where species are mentioned is on those that are, or have been, used and cultivated. The nomination does make reference to interaction with wildlife as part of the way of life of the communities. It notes that “Many of the farmers are polar bear hunters as well, more from necessity than ambition as they have been forced to kill bears coming too close to the farms, threatening humans and animals alike.” (page 149). Marine mammal hunting is also noted as a factor in both the communities (the current and historic) that are the subject of the nomination. Thus ICOMOS may wish to seek more information on the approach to ensuring sustainable use and information regarding the wider culture-nature Interactions in this cultural landscape, in addition to that related to agriculture.

IUCN reviews have been shared with ICOMOS, and in summary two specific issues have been noted that are particularly significant regarding the future of this property, these being the clear vulnerability of the area to climate change, and the potential threat that arises from the potential for mineral extraction on Greenland. ICOMOS is recommended to also consider further these issues with the State Party.