

**EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA**

**AASIVISSUIT – NIPISAT. INUIT HUNTING GROUND  
BETWEEN ICE AND SEA**

**DENMARK**

## WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS

### AASIVISSUIT – NIPISAT. INUIT HUNTING GROUND BETWEEN ICE AND SEA (DENMARK)

IUCN considered this cultural landscape based on a desk review of the nomination and the comments of one external desk reviewer to provide inputs to ICOMOS on the natural components of this property. The external desk review was also shared directly with ICOMOS to contribute to their detailed reflections on this nomination. The evaluation of the nomination for the World Heritage Committee will be finalised by ICOMOS.

The nomination is for a Cultural Landscape spanning 417,800 ha, just north of the Arctic Circle at the centre of West Greenland, within the largest ice-free area in Greenland.

The nominated property overlaps with the Ramsar site Eqalummiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa. The Ramsar site was designated based on the following Ramsar Criteria: (1) For the representative example of the many relevant wetlands in this inland area; (3) For the high waterbird diversity; (4) For the moulting and breeding of the White-fronted Goose; and (6) The second-most important area for Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) with c. 6% of the world population of this endemic subspecies. The site is the most important spring staging area of this species. Several other species of waterbirds have also been recorded in this site. IUCN recommends that these Ramsar criteria be taken into account and intergraded into the overall management plan of the nominated property.

IUCN also note that one species of vascular plant – Greenland blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium groenlandicum*) – is endemic and grows only east of Sisimiut and at Nuup Kangerlua (p 32 of the nomination dossier).

Among the threats to the nominated property are the sustainability of hunting, and the impacts of possible increase in tourism. It is apparent from the nomination consultation process that the locals readily welcome tourism and in fact, this may be one of the driving forces of the nomination. It is important for the management plan to strike a balance between hunting and tourism.

In conclusion, the State Party should be reminded to pay attention to the management of the Ramsar site and more specifically, include in the management plan the provision for the long term preservation of the ecological character of the Ramsar site and the wise use of its natural resources.