

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Mechtild Rössler, Director
7, place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris 07 SP
France

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
Phone +45 33 95 42 00

post@slks.dk
www.slks.dk

29. November 2018
Jour.nr.: 17/07707

State of conservation of “Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap”, Denmark (C1536)

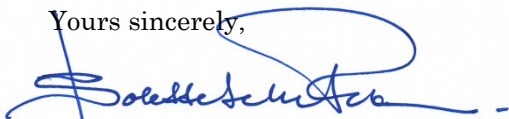
Dear Director

When the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe *Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap* on the World Heritage List (decision 41 COM 8B.22) it gave a number of recommendations and requested the State Party to submit a report on the implementation of the recommendations to the World Heritage Centre by 1. December 2018.

Enclosed you will find the State of Conservation Report with the requested information.

We hope hereby to have provided the World Heritage Centre with the necessary information, but if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Yours sincerely,



Bolette Lehn Petersen
Chief Senior Adviser
Architecture, Planning and World Heritage

Annex: State of Conservation Report

Copy to:

Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Denmark to UNESCO

Danish National Commission for UNESCO

ICOMOS

Ministry of Education, Culture and Church, Greenland

Kujalleq Municipality, Greenland

Site Manager, Alibak Hard, Greenland

**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

World Heritage property Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap (Denmark) (WHC/18/42.COM/8B.Add)

1. Executive Summary of the report

With the decision to inscribe the site, Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap (hereafter referred to as KUJATAA) on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to submit a report on the recommendations given in Decision 41 COM 8B.22.

This report responds to this decision of the World Heritage Committee and summarizes the most recent trends and developments concerning the state of conservation and factors affecting the property, building upon the information submitted in the nomination dossiers of 2016 and the additional information following the evaluation. The report has been prepared by the steering committee for KUJATAA, which consists of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Church, Greenland, the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Labour, Greenland, the Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Research, Greenland, the Ministry of Industry and Energy, Greenland, the Municipality of Kujalleq, the Greenland National Museum and Archives and the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces.

The report describes how the Government of Greenland ensures the management of permitted land use within the buffer zones and the protection and management in general of the World Heritage property. Especially management of mining activities, agricultural development, and tourism development have been clarified, in order to protect the heritage area from environmental pollution and mass tourism effects on historical monuments and local society. Furthermore, the State Party has prepared an Amendment to The Heritage Protection Act that contains regulations regarding drawing up HIA reports for activities in the World Heritage Area.

As an effort to improve the understanding of the different cultural/historical periods of settlement and use of this area, different projects such as the development of a collaborative survey and monitoring strategy and hosting a field school, "Arctic Vikings Field School" in KUJATAA took place this summer. A new field school is planned for the summer of 2019 and the development of a collaborative survey and monitoring strategy continues. Furthermore, a working group has been set up with the purpose of incorporating relevant geological localities in information material regarding the property.

"Guidelines for preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment EIA report for mineral exploitation" has been enclosed as an important appendix, in very close connection to the protection of KUJATAA.

The State Party has identified no other current conservation issues that may have an impact on the property' Outstanding Universal Value. Nor are any potential major restorations, alterations, or new construction intended within the property or the buffer zone that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including its authenticity and integrity. Public access to this state of conservation report is accepted.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

At its 41st session, the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision 41 COM 8B.22, in which nine recommendations were made to the State Party, regarding clarifying the permitted land uses and provide specific protective mechanisms in the buffer zones and the protection and management in general of the World Heritage property.

Decision 41 COM 8B.22

4) Recommends that the State Party further clarify the permitted land uses and provide specific protective mechanisms in the buffer zones (including protection from mining exploration and exploitation in these areas)

5) Also recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

a) Developing and implementing 'Heritage Impact Assessment' as a matter of urgency for development proposals (including mining exploration and exploitation), and changes to agricultural land uses (such as moves to larger farms and changes to farming practices and crops)

b) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the series are communicated to the World Heritage Committee in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines

c) Continuing to improve the understanding of the different cultural/historical periods of settlement and use of this area by improving the mapping of hunting resources; survey, archaeological research and documentation of Palaeo-Eskimo and Thule Inuit sites; inventorying of historic landscape features; and enhanced recognition and presentation of intangible cultural heritage of the area

d) Further developing the management system to address the ways in which changing agricultural land uses can ensure the conservation of the agricultural and pastoral landscape attributes of the serial property

e) Developing and implementing mechanisms for direct engagement with authorities responsible for mining approvals and monitoring in the management system for the serial property

f) Incorporating important geological heritage values of the property into the interpretation and management system

g) Further developing tourism management planning for the property

4) Recommends that the State Party further clarify the permitted land uses and provide specific protective mechanisms in the buffer zones (including protection from mining exploration and exploitation in these areas)

The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Labour is currently working on a recommendation to the Government of Greenland regarding the possibility of excluding the buffer zones around the Kujataa World Heritage Site from the areas in which exploration companies can apply for exploration licences. Existing licences will not be affected and neither will the current rights of the licences. However, if a company withdraws a licence, which is located within the buffer zone, the part of the licence area, which is placed within the Kujataa World Heritage buffer zone, will not be released for new exploration applications.

Greenlandic legislation regarding mandatory environmental impact assessment for mineral resource activities is in place and Greenlandic legislation regarding the two mandatory public consultation periods prior to approval of an environmental impact assessment for mineral resource activities are also in place. The legal requirements are explained and further elaborated in the Government of Greenland guidelines for such assessments, file enclosed.

5a) Developing and implementing 'Heritage Impact Assessment' as a matter of urgency for development proposals (including mining exploration and exploitation), and changes to agricultural land uses (such as moves to larger farms and changes to farming practices and crops)

The Greenland Ministry of Education, Culture, and Church has prepared an Amendment to The Heritage Protection Act - Inatsisartut Act no. 11, 19 May 2010 on Cultural Heritage Protection and Conservation. The Amendment contains regulations regarding drawing up HIA reports for activities in the World Heritage Area. The Amendment is expected to be presented for adoption to Inatsisartut, the Parliament of Greenland, at the spring meeting in 2019.

5b) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the series are communicated to the World Heritage Committee in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines

The State Party recognizes the need for communicating any major projects that could have impact on the OUV to the World Heritage Committee, and will continue its efforts to do so. If the above mentioned Amendment to The Heritage Protection Act is adopted by the Parliament, the implementing of HIA in National legislation will become an effective tool in this matter.

5c) Continuing to improve the understanding of the different cultural/historical periods of settlement and use of this area by improving the mapping of hunting resources; survey, archaeological research and documentation of Palaeo-Eskimo and Thule Inuit sites; inventorying of historic landscape features; and enhanced recognition and presentation of intangible cultural heritage of the area

Development of a collaborative survey and monitoring strategy

In the summer 2018, a field workshop was arranged with the participation of Greenland National Museum & Archives (hereafter NKA) personnel, KUJATAA site manager, and the park ranger. One key aim of the workshop was to develop a close collaboration between NKA, the site manager, and the park ranger that will facilitate uniform and consistent surveys and monitoring of existing heritage sites and features, as well as registration of new sites. This will contribute significantly to the ongoing development of NKAs inventory and mapping of hunting sites and features from all of Greenland's cultural periods.

Arctic Vikings Field School

In the summer 2018, the NKA hosted the Arctic Vikings Field School (AVFS) in the Kujataa World Heritage sites component part 3. AVFS is an international university level and -certified field school, where students from around the world and from Greenland are introduced to and receive training in practical and theoretical aspects of Arctic archaeology. As part of their training, students from both Greenland and abroad carried out landscape surveys designed to locate and document potential new heritage sites from all cultural periods of Greenland. These sites all reflect land- and sea-based hunting. A new field school in the Kujataa World Heritage sites component part 2 is planned for the summer of 2019 and will continue NKAs surveys and registration of various cultural sites.

Activating Arctic Heritage:

In collaboration with the National Museum of Denmark, the NKA is preparing an application for the 4-year research project Inuit Landscapes, Arctic Agency - the Thule culture in Kujataa. The project, which starts in 2021, is directly focused on mapping and modelling Thule culture settlement; land- and sea hunting — from outer fjord to deep inland — in the two central fjords of KUJATAA, i.e. the Igaliku and Tunulliarfik Fjords. The data collected through the project will feed directly into NKAs heritage management system

The Municipality of Kujalleq and the NKA are projecting to create new paths at selected key sites — Hvalsey, Igaliku and Qassiarsuk — in order to guide visitors and minimize wear from pedestrian traffic around the ruins. A care plan for the ruins at key sites is expected to be finished in the spring of 2019.

Intangible cultural heritage

Concerning the enhanced recognition and presentation of intangible cultural heritage of the area, the Municipality of Kujalleq has started collecting and recording the personal and collective memory of each sheep farm and local areas within the region.

Also, the NKA will add the intangible cultural heritage of the sheep farming communities to its list of intangible heritage focus areas. NKA will act as collaborator and academic sparring partner to the Municipality of Kujalleq

5d) Further developing the management system to address the ways in which changing agricultural land uses can ensure the conservation of the agricultural and pastoral landscape attributes of the serial property

Environmental marginality and geographical seclusion of the Arctic farming communities in KUJATAA to a large extent precludes rapid, dramatic changes to existing Inuit pastoral land use practices. As a result, the steering group considers that the existing management and monitoring system — combined with the legal framework provided by executive order no.16 of 5. July 2016 on Cultural Heritage Protection — is currently adequate to safeguard the landscape attributes and stability of KUJATAA. However, to continue to improve collaboration and dialogue between sheep farmers and communities, the site manager and NKA are continuously reaching out to farming organizations and village counsels.

The sheep farmers association, the governmental agricultural office, and KUJATAA have joined in a committee where the aim will be to discuss future development of the agriculture in the region and within the heritage property. The focus will be pasture definitions, animal boundary, and tourism development.

Pastures and the species and the number of livestock are closely connected. The grazing areas were mapped and defined in the early 1980's, and need a redefinition. The sheep farmers wish to protect their pastures from overgrazing, by having the correct/recommended amount of sheep in the areas.

5e) Developing and implementing mechanisms for direct engagement with authorities responsible for mining approvals and monitoring in the management system for the serial property

The State Party recognizes the need for direct engagement with authorities responsible for mining approvals. To ensure this the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Labour is appointed to the Steering Group meetings.

5f) Incorporating important geological heritage values of the property into the interpretation and management system

A working group consisting of the Greenland National Museum & Archives and the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Labour has been set up with the purpose of incorporating relevant geological localities in information material regarding the property.

5g) Further developing tourism management planning for the property

The current National Tourism Strategy includes recommendations for framework changes in the tourism sector, amongst which is a reduction of the cruise tax to an international competitive level. These recommendations have already been implemented or are currently undergoing implementation.

It is expected that a new strategy will be presented by the Government of Greenland in mid-2019 in which all contributor views can be implemented in the final draft. Two of the main initiatives in the new strategy are the creation of the projects Visitor Centers and National Sights, respectively. The theme for the Visitor Center and the National Sights in The Municipality of Kujalleq will revolve around the unique historical, cultural, and natural heritage in South Greenland. Therefore, KUJATAA is expected to be closely connected to these initiatives and will be included in their planning and subsequent implementation.

In the forthcoming regional tourism strategy, The Municipality of Kujalleq will emphasize that tourism in the world heritage area will be developed on sustainable terms.

The Municipality of Kujalleq will also emphasize that agriculture will be developed on the principle of sustainability, which draws up a plan for what agriculture and local authorities emphasize, based on applicable guidelines and legislation.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

There are no other current conservation issues identified.

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.


This October, the State party responded to a letter from the World Heritage Center regarding the concern that a potential mine near Narsaq would be too close to the World Heritage “Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap” and therefore might affect the OUV of the inscribed property. Since the reply to the WHC The Government of Greenland has received a revised draft version of the EIA document. Review of this document is ongoing and the NKA is involved regarding aspects of cultural heritage values, reporting any possible concerns and issues concerning KUJATAA to the Steering Group. When the EIA fulfils the applicable requirements, it will be made public. The entire process is set out in the Mineral Resources Act of Greenland, part 18a.

No other potential major restorations or other projects are to be reported.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

Uploading this report for public access on the web site is accepted without reservation.

6. Signature of the Authority



Jesper Hermansen
Director General, Agency for Culture and Palaces

