

The management plan is an overall management tool, to be used by the managing bodies to ensure that there is a reasonable balance between the protection and use of the site and the preservation of the area's values.

Management plan for Ilulissat Icefjord

2018 - 2020

The steering group for Ilulissat Icefjord

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1 PREFACE

Ilulissat Icefjord was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004 for the beautiful nature of the area and its outstanding universal value for the glaciological science. In Greenland, we are very proud of the values represented by the World Heritage Area and we are fully aware that we need to constantly focus on how we can preserve these values for the future.

One of the challenges of getting The World Heritage Status of the Area is that a growing number of tourists are visiting Ilulissat to experience its unique value. It will create an economic growth but the increase in the number of tourists coming to the Area will contain a risk which may decrease the values of the Area if we are not at the forefront of developments.

Since the Area was awarded World Heritage Status, the Greenland Self-Government, in partnership with Avannaata Kommunia, has taken a number of initiatives to preserve the values of the Area. However, a number of future initiatives will also be required.

This Management Plan is designed to be instrumental in preserving and promoting the special values earning Ilulissat Icefjord its World Heritage Status. The Management Plan sets out a number of initiatives to be implemented over the coming years.

The Management Plan is an overall management tool to be used by the management authorities to ensure both values of the Area are preserved and that a reasonable balance is maintained, between the protection and use of the Area.

Management of the World Heritage Area will continue to evolve. Changes in the use of the Area and experience gained from previous initiatives will need to be assessed annually and possibly be incorporated into the Management Plan.

The Management plan has been prepared by the Agency for Nature and Environment who has the nation's responsibility for the management of the World Heritage Area. The elaboration of the Management Plan has been prepared in close partnership with Avannaata Kommunia.

Elements of the Management Plan have been discussed with relevant players, and the people of Ilulissat will be involved ongoing in the work of the world Heritage Area.

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2 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The overarching aims of the Management Plan are to protect the outstanding universal values leading to the inscription of Ilulissat Icefjord on the World Heritage List; the outstanding beauty of the Area and the unique importance for the glaciological research, while at the same time ensuring sustainable use of the Area. Furthermore, the management plan is a practical management tool that will:

- ensure that all users of the Area understand and appreciate the Area and its outstanding universal value and promote local pride and interest in and respect for the World Heritage Area.
- allow all users the opportunity to enjoy safe, rewarding and informative experiences.
- provide a sustainable basis for the development of tourism, hunting and fishing.
- ensure adequate zoning of the use of the Area.
- achieve a sensible and sustainable balance between the different uses and interests associated with the Area.
- disseminate knowledge of the World Heritage Area.
- support research in the Area, while at the same time ensuring registration and communication to the local community and for the benefit of other scientists and stakeholders.

The Management Plan does not provide a detailed description of the World Heritage Area. However, reference is made to the nomination dossier prepared in connection with the inscription of Ilulissat Icefjord as an Area on the World Heritage List¹.

The Management Plan describes the organization on the management and identifies the areas values and disruptions. A number of objectives and actions who are wished to be implemented within the next few years will be listed by extension. There are in appendix 3, made considerations about longer termed visions for the area.



¹ "Nomination of the Ilulissat Icefjord for inclusion in the World Heritage List" by Mikkelsen, N. and Ingerslev, T. 2003. GEUS.

3 Description of Ilulissat Icefjord

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are divided into nature and/or heritage areas. Heritage areas are characterized by areas with exceptional value, which are worth preserving for posterity.

Ilulissat Icefjord was appointed in 2004 as a UNESCO World Heritage Area, for its exceptional nature's beauty and unique importance for the glaciological science. The glacier Sermeq Kujalleq is the most active glacier in the world and the largest drain place for the Greenlandic ice sheet.

The World Heritage Area Ilulissat Icefjord is defined by the watershed that is the landscape border, where all of the precipitation will run down into the fjord.

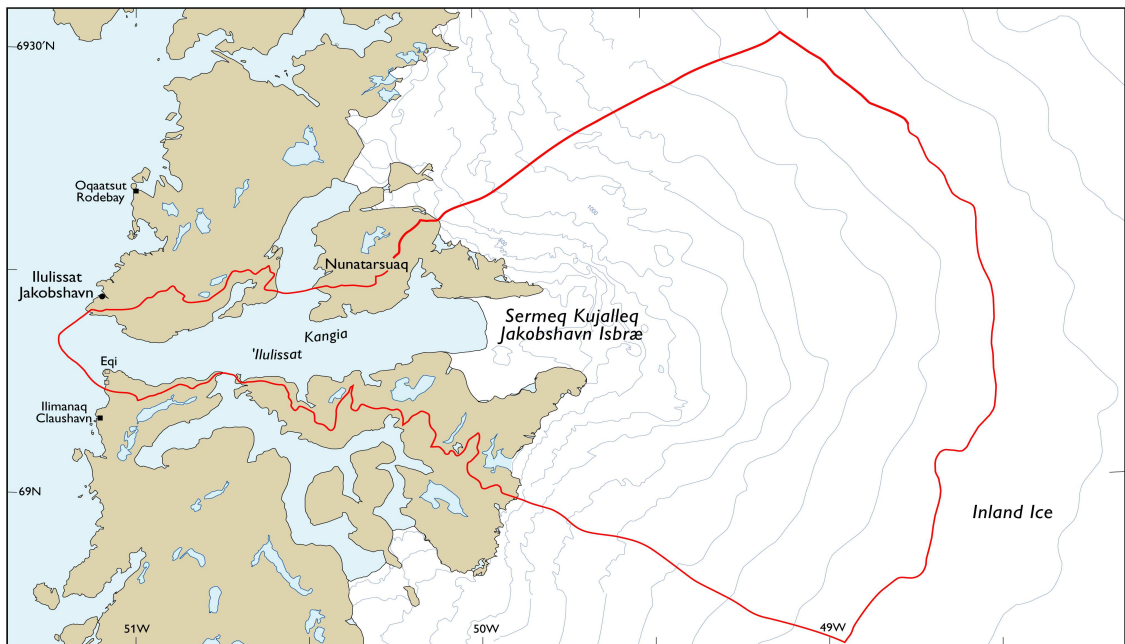


Chart 3.1. The World Heritage Area by Ilulissat Icefjord covers an area of 4024 km².

Buffer zones

There is a requirement for buffer zones in the management of world heritage areas, who borders the area to the heritage border. Buffer zones are implemented to protect the world heritage areas values.

In Ilulissat ice fjord there are two buffer zones. One is a close to urban area buffer zone by the heliport, who intends to protect it from construction which can mar the Icefjord.

The other buffer zone is the scenic which was implemented in the municipal plan in 2014. There is a 2.kilometers border from the heritage border, who intends to protect the Ice fjord from buildings and installation.

You can find a map for the two buffer zones in appendix 2.

4 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA

A number of players cooperate on the management of Ilulissat Icefjord. The Agency for culture and palaces of Denmark, has on behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark, the overall responsibility for the World Heritage Area in relation to UNESCO and is in charge of liaison with UNESCO. The Naalakkersuisut by Agency for Nature and Environment has national responsibility for managing the World Heritage Area. The actual management of the Area is undertaken in close partnership and dialogue with Avannaata Kommunia. Management is based on the provisions of Greenland Self-Government Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord² and this Management Plan. Responsibility for supervision of the World Heritage Area rests with Avannaata Kommunia.

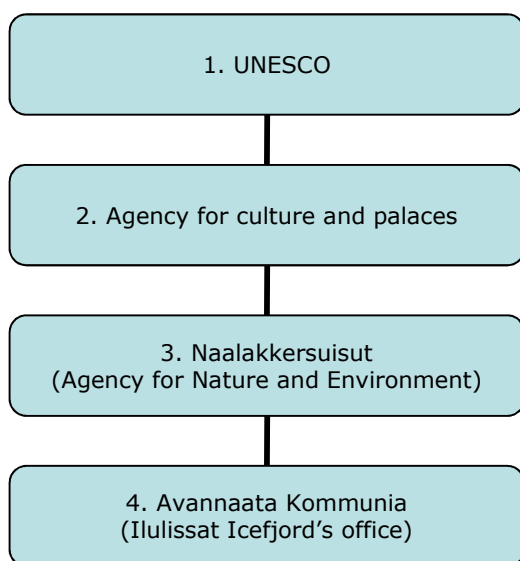


Chart 4.1 illustrates the division of responsibilities.

Steering committee for Ilulissat Icefjord

Collaboration was established between the Agency for culture and palaces, Avannaata Kommunia and the Agency for Environment and Nature in Greenland in autumn 2008 with the appointment of a Steering Committee.

One objective of the Steering Committee is to discuss how to make the management of the World Heritage Area more efficient. That way, it can be ensured that the necessary decisions are made to preserve the World Heritage Status of the Area in the future and that the management of the Area's values are optimized.

² "Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order no. 10 of 15 June 2007 on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord"

The Steering Committee comprises:

- A representative of the Agency for Nature and Environment.
- Site Manager from Avannaata Kommunia.
- A representative of Business Administration, Mining and Tourism, Avannaata Municipality.
- A representative of Infrastructure, Construction and Environment Management, Avannaata Municipality.
- A representative of the Agency for culture and palaces.

The Agency for Environment and Nature provides secretarial services to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee convenes at least twice a year by a skype meeting or a phone meeting and at least every other year a physical meeting in Ilulissat for the members of the steering committee. The members also maintain regular contact by telephone and e-mail.

Further information about the Steering Committees distribution of responsibilities and duties are given in Appendix 4.



5 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Home Rule Government adopted Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order No. 7 of 25 March 2003 on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord *inter alia* with the aim of obtaining World Heritage Area status.

2007 saw an amendment of the Executive Order to the effect that "Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order No. 10 of 15 June 2007 on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord" now applies to the protected area/World Heritage Area.

The applicable Executive Order is attached as Appendix 1.

Applicable rules for the Area are described in detail in other chapters of this Management Plan where deemed relevant – e.g. rules governing traffic on land, at sea and in the air.

The aim of the amendment of the Executive Order in 2007 was to enhance the protection of the Area (counter threats to the values of the Area) based on the experience gained since 2003 when the first Executive Order on the Area took effect. Another aim of the amendment was to meet the UNESCO recommendations on preparing and implementing zoning of the Area to ensure appropriate regulation of the increase in tourism. Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord has three zones: A, B and C, each regulating different aspects of traffic within the Area. The three zones (sub-areas) are described in detail in Appendix 2.

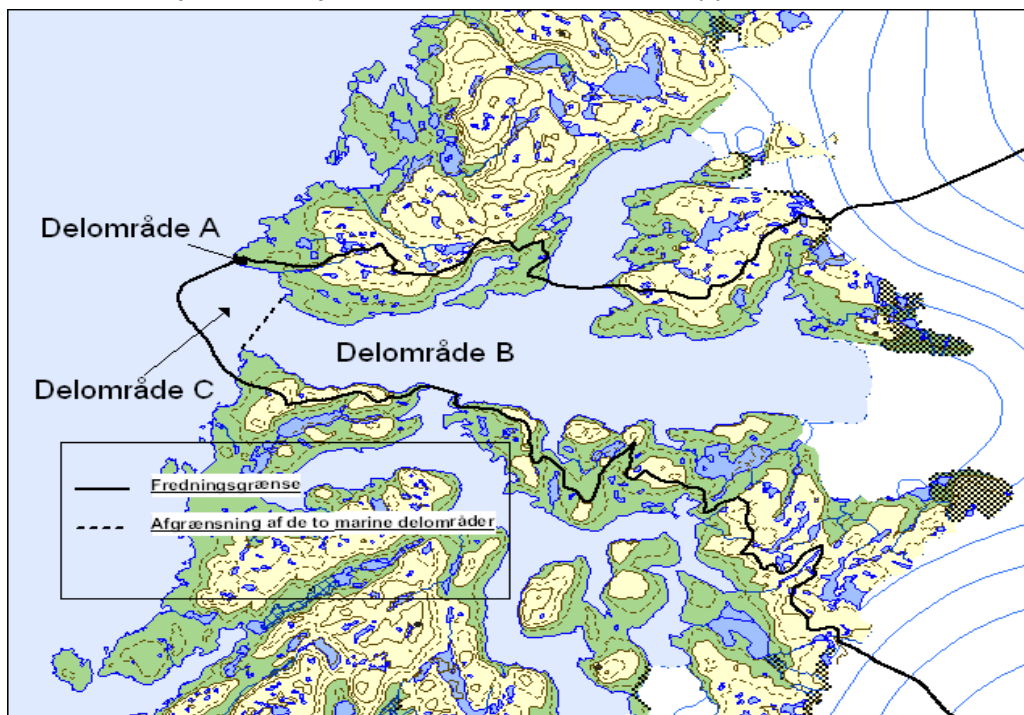


Chart 5.1: Sub-area A, B and C from the Executive Order on protection.

The Agency for Nature and Environment and with collaboration with the Steering Committee will have ongoing surveys on any need to revision - the Executive order on protection.

6 ILULISSAT ICEFJORD – VALUES AND OBJECTIVES

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee considers a value to be of outstanding universal significance if it meets one or more of the precisely defined value criteria set by UNESCO. Ilulissat Icefjord meets criteria vii and viii, stipulating that Areas nominated should:

- vii: Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
- viii: Be outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features

Ilulissat Icefjord has been inscribed on the World Heritage List due to its outstanding universal value through:

Criterion (vii): The combination of a huge ice sheet and a fast moving glacial ice-stream calving into a fjord covered by icebergs is a phenomenon only seen in Greenland and Antarctica. Ilulissat offers both scientists and visitors easy access for close view of the calving glacier front as it cascades down from the ice sheet and into the icechoked fjord. The wild and highly scenic combination of rock, ice and sea, along with the dramatic sounds produced by the moving ice, combine to present a memorable natural spectacle.

Criterion (viii): The Ilulissat Icefjord is an outstanding example of a stage in the Earth's history: the last ice age of the Quaternary Period. The ice-stream is one of the fastest (40 m per day) and most active in the world. Its annual calving of over 46 km³ of ice accounts for 10% of the production of all Greenland calf ice, more than any other glacier outside Antarctica. The glacier has been the object of scientific attention for 250 years and, along with its relative ease of accessibility, has significantly added to the understanding of ice-cap glaciology, climate change and related geomorphic processes.



Identification of values objectives and users

Value groupings	Most important values associated with Ilulissat Icefjord	Objectives	Users
Scenic values*	Glaciology Outstanding scenic beauty of the Area	Protect scenic beauty and glaciological research. Ensure user knowledge of the outstanding value of the Area.	The locals, tourist and scientists as well as hunters and fishermen.
Biodiversity values	Plants and animals of the Area.	Dialogue with hunters and fishermen to support a biologically sustainable basis for hunting and fishing. The protection is to contribute to protecting the nature in the Area against destruction. Protecting protected seal species.	The locals, tourist and scientists as well as hunters and fishermen.
Cultural values	Cultural heritage Settlements. Recreational use. Traditional hunting and fishing.	Protect the cultural heritage values of the Area. Improve communication about cultural heritage values. Protect traditional hunting and fishing.	The locals, tourist and scientists as well as hunters and fishermen.
Economic values	Hunting and fishing. Most visited tourist destination in Greenland. Local profit in tourism.	Provide opportunity for ensuring sustainable development of the economic benefits associated with the World Heritage Area. Ensure that hunting and fishing will still be possible within the Area on a biologically sustainable basis. Regulation of tourist behavior within the Area where necessary. Disseminate knowledge of the World Heritage Area in and outside Greenland.	The locals, hunters and fishermen.

Research and Education values	<p>Extensive climate research interest e.g. in relation to the retreat of Sermeq Kujalleq.</p> <p>Most investigated glacier in Greenland.</p> <p>Important cultural heritage settlements.</p>	<p>Allow users the opportunity to enjoy safe, rewarding and informative experiences.</p> <p>Provide research opportunities within the Area for national and international benefit.</p> <p>Ensure and improve research registration relative to the Area.</p> <p>Improve communication about research findings to the local community and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>The locals and scientists.</p>
Other social values	<p>Pride.</p>	<p>Ensure that all users understand and appreciate the Area and its outstanding universal value and promote the population's pride in the World Heritage Area.</p>	<p>The population.</p>

*Of the six value groupings for the World Heritage Area, only the landscape values are essential for admission to the World Heritage List.

The following information sources are used, to determine the above mentioned values and objects:

- The nomination material for Ilulissat Icefjord and UNESCO's criteria's for admission.
- Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order no. 10 of 15 June 2007 on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord.
- Greenland Self-Rule Government Executive Order nr.11 of 28. August 2014 on coastal fishing for Greenland halibut.
- Regulations for Avannaata Kommunia on September 6. 2011 on fishing for Greenland Halibut.
- The Self-Rule Government Executive Order nr.16 of November 2010 on the protection and hunting for seals.
- Avannaata Kommunia (2002): Tourist policy for Avannaata Kommunia 2003 – 2013.
- Greenland statistics.
- Visit by a great number of scientists, politicians and journalists resulting in scientific articles, film and press coverage etc.
- The name Ilulissat means "icebergs". The former municipality's coat of arms contained an iceberg. This represents the local pride over Ilulissat Icefjord.

7 THREATS TO THE VALUES OF THE AREA

In order to protect the values of the Area, it is necessary to identify which of the threats who are affecting the area, so it can be part of the management measures.

Identification of significant threats

Users	Threats	Impacts
Tourists	<p>Rise in the number of tourists visiting the Area.</p> <p>Increase in use of motorised vehicles.</p>	<p>More damage to the Area and thus deterioration of its outstanding scenic beauty.</p> <p>More inconveniences for animals and people from helicopter traffic and navigation – sound-wise and visually.</p> <p>Conflicts of interest between tourism industry and other sectors.</p> <p>More garbage.</p> <p>More noise.</p>
The locals	<p>Increased number of inhabitants in the municipality.</p> <p>Increase in motorized transport.</p> <p>Lack of local support for protection of the Area.</p>	<p>More damage to the Area and thus deterioration of its outstanding scenic beauty.</p> <p>More inconveniences for animals and people from helicopter traffic and navigation – sound-wise and visually.</p> <p>Conflicts of interest between tourism industry and other sectors.</p> <p>More conflicts of interest between local users of the Area.</p> <p>Conflicts of interest in the management of the Area.</p> <p>More garbage.</p> <p>More noise.</p>
Fishermen and hunters	<p>Non-biologically sustainable hunting and fishing.</p>	<p>Decline in halibut stocks. This will result in fewer fish, leading to deterioration of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the municipality and, possibly, to impairment of the diversity of species in the Area.</p>

	Increase in motorized transport.	Disturbance of breeding seals. More threats for both animals and people from helicopter traffic and sailing - both sonically and visually.
Research	Lack of regulation of re-search Activities.	More damage to remote areas. Abandoned research equipment. Inconvenience to animal life.
Other	Climate changes.	Global climate change The Sermeq Kujalleq glacier is retreating and is now sitting on land, rather than floating in the water. Small icebergs will eventually no longer be stopped by the iceberg bank. This means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impairment of scenic beauty. - Increased navigation in the Icefjord. - Potentially impaired fishing if there are no longer icebergs on the bank. - Dry permafrost. - Erosion and disappearance of permafrost could pose a threat to the Archaeological area. - Warmer seawater could be a threat to certain fish species. - Shorter duration of snow cover. - Shorter season for dog-sled tours and thus deterioration of the recreational and commercial use of the Area.

Identification of the significant threats has occurred several times among other:

- In connection with Nordic world heritage meeting held in Ilulissat (august 2008).
- In public meetings (2008 og 2012).
- In steering committee meeting in Ilulissat (november 2008 and june 2017).
- Through interviews with different stakeholders, including fishermen and sled drivers.
- Supervision of the Area through the Department of Nature and Environment and the Municipality of Qaasuitsoq.
- As well as through a Site Manager and Park Rangers observations and ongoing contact to the various users of the area.

8 MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Starting from the six value groups, objectives and the identified threats in the area, there is a need for a number of management initiatives. The purpose for the initiatives is to secure a decent balance between protection and the use of the area, and the values of the area are preserved.

The initiatives are to be found in the following subsections, all of which deal with activities in the area. The activities are regulated by The Conservation Order.

Motorized vehicles

Motorized vehicles generate a high level of noise, air pollution and, in some instances, risk of damage to vegetation and soil. Accordingly, use of motorised vehicles is generally prohibited within the protected area – with a few exemptions, e.g. where required due to long distances.

Air traffic by helicopter

An important reason for the inscription of Ilulissat Icefjord on the World Heritage List is the relatively easy access to the part of the Area adjoining the town of Ilulissat. Due to the Area's topography and lack of infrastructure, access by land to other parts of the Area is limited to the distances that can be covered on foot during the snow-free months or by dog sled or on skis in the winter.

As there is a lot of ice in the fjord all year round, it is very limited how far into the fjord you can expect to navigate. Therefore, there is no alternative to air traffic by helicopter to gain access to most of the protected area, including the glacier front and the ice cap.

It should be emphasized that air traffic by helicopter is a common form of transport in Greenland and the Ilulissat area in general. Accordingly, air traffic by helicopter is not related only to access to the World Heritage Area but also to the four settlements in the district and the three neighboring towns during the winter months. Moreover, helicopters have for many years been used for carrying goods and inspecting telecommunications stations, etc. The two types of helicopters that are permitted for flights in the protected area are Bell 212 and AS 350.

Characterization of air traffic in the Area

Air traffic by helicopter over Ilulissat Icefjord can be divided into three groups:

Tourist air traffic: Commercial air traffic and landings with tourists must be approved by the Agency for Environment and Nature. Approvals are typically issued

for a period of one year. Through the years, landing permissions have been granted for various localities.

At present, Air Greenland, Air Safari and BlueWest Helicopters offers tourist flights in the area. The number of flights has been falling in recent years. Thus in 2014 saw 191 landings - equivalent to a 40% decrease since 2008, related to tourist flights in the protected area. Even though annual permits are granted for landing in Isua and Ivnar, it is actually only Isua, which is the destination for tourist flights. Flights take off from Ilulissat airport and the typical duration is two hours, the actual flying time being about one hour. Most flights take place in the summer (June to August).



Air traffic requiring exemptions: Research, shooting of films, VIP visits, etc., is included in the general permission for flight in the World Heritage Area. Such air traffic in the protected area is subject to approval by the Agency for Environment and Nature. So far, the preferred destination for research-related flights has been Isua, but landings on the ice cap are also common. In recent years, VIP visits have primarily involved politicians wishing to see the effect of climate change on the retreat of Sermeq Kujalleq.

Other types of air traffic: In addition to the air traffic specified above with the World Heritage Area as destination, air traffic by helicopter will also be conducted in the Area for other purposes in the future. Firstly, scheduled services to Ilimanaq and Qasigianguit from Ilulissat pass through the western part of the World Heritage Area. Flights land at these two towns several times a week during the winter months. In future, there will also be air traffic to the Area, e.g. for the purposes of carrying cargo or inspecting telecommunications stations. None of these types of air traffic require exemption from applicable rules for air traffic in the World Heritage Area.

Opportunities and threats

Opportunities

Air traffic by helicopter is a form of transport that is rapidly gaining popularity for recreational activities – globally and specifically in Greenland; heli-skiing, scenic flights, fishing trips by helicopter, etc. This popularity is driven by the helicopter's unique ability to land anywhere and to fly at low altitudes. Against this background, helicopter tourism in the protected area of Ilulissat Icefjord is likely to grow significantly in the future, generating increased earnings opportunities.

Threats

At the same time, air traffic by helicopter is a form of transport that produces a high level of noise; moreover, the helicopter is visually an alien element in a scenic area such as Ilulissat Icefjord. Accordingly, a set of rules is required to counter the inconveniences to people and animals that may be associated with air traffic by helicopter in the Area.

Air traffic management

The World Heritage Area should be open to commercial air traffic by helicopter in established flight corridors – provided that the values of the Area are not noticeably affected and that other users of the Area and the inhabitants in areas close to town are not inconvenienced by the traffic.

Permissions for commercial air traffic in the protected area are regulated by annual evaluations of air traffic by helicopter and the responses of visitors and citizens.

Rules for air traffic

Air traffic at altitudes lower than 1,000 metres is prohibited within the protected area (except landing). However, air traffic in connection with scheduled services, rescue and search operations and approaches to landing fields is exempt from this prohibition. Landings are prohibited within the protected area. Following consultation with the Municipal Authorities of Avannaata Kommunia, the Agency for Environment and Nature may grant annual or multi-annual permissions for landings in two specified areas. Avannaata Kommunia supervises landing areas at least once a year. During the inspection, it is detected whether there are signs of wear and if there is waste in the area.

Future initiatives

Each year, the Municipal Authorities will conduct a number of random checks of commercial air traffic by helicopter in the protected area. These random checks will show whether the air traffic in the World Heritage Area complies with the rules specified above. Each year, the conditions for tourist air traffic in the Area are evaluated. As part of these evaluations, it is determined whether tightening of the

conditions is required, e.g. in relation to flight frequencies. The Department for Nature and Environment will in collaboration with the steering committee, check if there is an option to change the heights of flights in the protected area, from a minimum of 1000 meter to a minimum of 500 meters (§ 7 in the conservation Order.

Navigation

As there are no connected roads between the towns in Greenland, navigation in and at the Icefjord is vital to fisheries, tourism, transport of passengers and goods and in connection with recreational transport. The inner parts of the Icefjord are rarely navigable due to closely packed icebergs. Therefore, most boat traffic takes place at the very mouth of the Icefjord. All year round, navigation in the Area is contingent on the number of icebergs and ice floes and during the winter, massive ice may prevent all navigation. In the protected area, dinghies are used for hunting, fishing and recreational navigation and small boats/cutters are used for fishing and tourism. Restrictions apply to the size of vessels allowed to enter the protected area, meaning that most cruise ships and many freighters and liners are excluded from entering.

Characterisation of navigation in and around the World Heritage Area

Commercial fishing

Today, fishing in and at Ilulissat Icefjord is the most important source of income to the Municipality and the fishing industry employs a large number of people. Fishing is carried out from dinghies or small cutters and halibut is the main species. Commercial fishing is permitted throughout the World Heritage Area – provided that national legislation is complied with.

Local recreational navigation and hunting

Today, the Icefjord is extensively used for recreational fishing, sealing and recreational navigation. This type of navigation takes place in the Iceberg bank zone (sub-area C of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord), as recreational navigators are not permitted to enter the inner parts of the Icefjord (sub-area B).

Tourist navigation – local boats (under 1,000 GRT – Gross Registered Tonnes)

Navigation is the most popular tourist activity in Ilulissat. According to a recent survey, 82% of tourists respond that they have been sailing during their stay in Ilulissat. Most navigation takes place as Icefjord navigation at the mouth of the Icefjord. Tourist operators and shipmasters offer tourist navigation between the large icebergs at the mouth of the Icefjord. An estimated 1,000 trips were conducted in the protected area in 2008. The duration of tourist trips is typically between two and three hours. Icefjord navigation trips are conducted both during the day and late at night in the midnight sun season. Furthermore, a small number of whale photo safaris are provided.



Tourist navigation – cruise ships

In 2016 Ilulissat had 12.577 visitors by cruise ship tourists. Most call at Ilulissat in July and August. They typically spend one day in Ilulissat. Cruise ships and other vessels larger than a tonnage of 1,000 GRT are prohibited from the protected area.

Tourist navigation – zodiacs/landing craft

Zodiacs (large rubber rafts) and landing craft are used by cruise ships to transport passengers from the cruise ships to the harbour and vice versa. Tourist navigation in the Icefjord using these types of vessels is not expedient. Tourist navigation within the protected area may take place only with the use of guides acquainted with Greenlandic nature and legislation on nature protection. Moreover, going ashore in the protected area in connection with tourist navigation is prohibited.

Other vessels over 1,000 GRT

Freighters and passenger liners are other large vessels frequently calling at Ilulissat. The south route passes closely by the protected area. All vessels larger than a tonnage of 1,000 GRT are prohibited in the protected World Heritage Area.

Opportunities and threats

Opportunities

The Icefjord is rich in living resources and magnificent scenic beauty. These values are utilised extensively at sea rather than from land, necessitating navigation in the protected area. The Area is likely to attract even more commercial fishermen in the future and the growing number of tourists means that the keen demand for tourist navigation in the protected area will be sustained. Both industries are important to municipal earnings.

Threats

Against this background, there is a risk of massive navigation in the future with a large number of vessels at the mouth of the Icefjord. This could give rise to conflicts

e.g. between the fishing industry and tourism navigation. There are already examples of fishermen complaining that tourist vessels sail too close to their fishing lines. Moreover, a large number of vessels or very large vessels in the protected area could compromise the tourists' experience of the huge, majestic icebergs. The same applies if a large number of cruise ships anchor right next to the protected area. Finally, intensive fishing could lead to overfishing, i.e. non-sustainable fishing, which could negatively impact fish stocks over the longer term. Another problem is that many ships sail with heavy fuel, which may pose a threat to pollutants.

Navigation management

The rationale for the rules on navigation is a wish to promote sustainable commercial fishing in the protected area, while at the same time continuing to provide the opportunity for tourist navigation by small boats (under 1,000 GRT) in a safe manner.

Efforts should continuously be made to ensure that navigation in the Area does not pose a risk to the environment, and cruise ship tourist does not get hurt, and do not bother locals.

Rules for navigation in the World Heritage Area

Navigation in connection with commercial hunting and fishing is permitted throughout the protected area. Recreational navigation and tourist navigation are prohibited in the inner parts of the Icefjord (the Fjord zone and the Glacier zone, referred to as sub-area B of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord). Navigation in the iceberg bank zone (sub-area C of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord) is permitted only for vessels under 1,000 GRT.

Tourist navigation may take place only with the use of a guide acquainted with Greenlandic nature and legislation.

Going ashore in the protected area is prohibited. Going ashore in connection with commercial fishing and hunting is exempt from this prohibition. However, this exemption does not apply to going ashore in sub-area A of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord (the Sermermiut archaeological zone).

Anchoring and laying up boats are prohibited within the protected area. Anchoring in connection with fishing, hunting and catching is exempt from this prohibition.

Navigation in connection with rescue and search operations is permitted throughout the protected area.

Future initiatives

The Agency for Nature and Environment will in cooperation with the Steering committee search for opportunities to open up for sailing anglers and hunters in area B and for tourists on ice free periods (§ 8 in the Conservation Order).

The office for the ice fjord will work on guidelines for tourist sailing nearby the fishing boats with cooperation with the fishing industry and tourist skippers.

Other motorised vehicles

Several types of motorised vehicles and aircraft have gained popularity in Greenland in recent years. These vehicles and aircraft are used mainly by private individuals for recreational driving and flying, but interest in using motorised vehicles and aircraft, e.g. for film projects in the protected area, is increasing. There is a general prohibition on the use of all types of motorised vehicles in the World Heritage Area; however, navigation with small boats and air traffic by helicopter are exempt from this prohibition.

Threats associated with the use of other types of motorised vehicles

The regulation of motorised vehicles in the protected area is highly significant to the continued inscription of Ilulissat Icefjord on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The use of motorised vehicles entails a significant risk of pollution and destruction of vegetation and soil erosion. A general prohibition on the use of motorised vehicles gives the local population and tourists the opportunity to enjoy arctic nature and silence.

Snow scooters

Snow scooter riding is a popular recreational activity in the Municipality and the number of snow scooters is growing. Snow scooters are able to cover long distances in nature in a short amount of time, often using dog-sled tracks. This could give rise to conflicts because the dogs get scared and dog-sled drivers and tourists do not appreciate the noise and pollution caused by the snow scooters. That is one reason why snow scooters are prohibited in the protected area.

Piste machines

Ilulissat Ski Club has a piste of 6-8 kilometres, which is prepared using a piste machine in nature close to town around in the Sermermiut Valley. Snow fences are erected in selected places at the piste to accumulate sufficient snow. There is a wish for part of this piste to be placed in the protected World Heritage Area. A prepared piste in the Area is a legitimate wish, as it is of great significance to the town's inhabitants, but it is important that the piste machine does not damage the underlying vegetation. In the World Heritage Area, the piste machine should be used in an established corridor, approved by the Home Rule Government.

Other motorised vehicles

Recently, several types of motorised vehicles have become popular in nature, e.g. ATVs (all-terrain vehicles), motocross cycles, full-track vehicles, motorised paragliders, etc. These motorised vehicles are all prohibited in the protected area.

Management of other motorised vehicles

The rationale behind the general prohibition on the use of motorised vehicles in the protected area is to protect the scenic beauty justifying the inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Area should as a rule be continued for motorized traffic in order to protect the areas natural values.

Citizens and visitors must be regularly informed of the applicable rules and to ensure compliance with the rules.

Future initiatives

The Ministry of Nature and Environment will in cooperation with the Steering Committee examine whether there is a need to change the rules for the use of motorized means of transport in connection with rescuing and search operations, where the police or a doctor considers it necessary (s.6 (4) in the conservation order). By extension the Ministry of Nature and Environment, in cooperation with the Steering Committee, will also examine the possibility that Greenland's Fisheries Control (GFLK) can control the protected area, on snowmobiles and ATVs.

The Park Ranger puts Snowmobiles-prohibited signs up every winter and checks the area for snowmobile tracks throughout the winter.

Launch of an information campaign in local media and on posters, targeting the citizens of the town, on rules for the use of snow scooters, in particular.

Clarification of the position of the piste and imposition of the rules on the use of the piste machine (possibly exemption for the use of the piste machine) and snow fences, including that snow fences must be removed by the crew erecting the fences when sufficient snow has accumulated and when thaw sets in.

Recreational activities

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in the number of tourists visiting Ilulissat. In 2008, Ilulissat thus had 35,000 visiting tourists (source: Destination Avannaá). This growth is expected to continue in the future – especially if the airport is expanded to make it possible to fly directly to Ilulissat without a stopover in Kangerlussuaq. At the same time, there has been a significant increase in the town's population as people have increasingly migrated from settlements and peripheral areas to large Greenland towns. January 2009 saw a municipal merger in Greenland, making Ilulissat the administrative centre of the new municipality of Avannaata Kommunia.

On account of these factors, an increasing number of people go to the World Heritage Area for various recreational activities. In order to ensure that the increase in the number of users of the World Heritage Area is sustainable, rules are required to govern the recreational activities of both the local population and tourists within the World Heritage Area. At the same time, it is important to promote initiatives to improve conditions for the people engaging in recreational activities.



In 2008 a 1 km boardwalk to Sermermiut was established in order to protect the vegetation from wear and tear. In 2010 and 2012 it was elongated to the present length of 1,4 km.

Characterisation of recreational activities in the World Heritage Area

The local population and tourists extensively use the part of the World Heritage Area close to town for recreational activities. Below, individual recreational activities in the World Heritage Area are briefly characterised.

Dog sledding: Dog sledding is an environmentally-friendly form of transport, which does not pollute, make noise or damage nature. At the same time, dog sledding is a traditional form of transport in Greenland, which – in addition to being a recreational activity enjoyed by the local population and tourists – is used for commercial purposes in connection with hunting and fishing and transport of tourists. Though there has been a sharp decline in the number of sled dogs in Ilulissat over the last decade, there are still 200 dog-sled teams in the town. Income from tourist dog sledding has been an increasingly important parameter in the preservation of an example of Greenland's cultural heritage.

Skiing: Skiing within the World Heritage Area takes place mainly in the Sermermiut Valley. In the winter months, the Valley has a prepared piste, which can be used freely by the local population and tourists. Skiing is a popular recreational activity, especially among the local population, which is reflected in the existence of an active ski club in Ilulissat. Skiing is a relatively inexpensive and easily accessible sport and the Sermermiut Valley provides a truly exceptional setting for the pursuit of this activity.

Hiking and excursions: The great majority of tourists and locals visit the Sermermiut Valley on foot to enjoy the spectacular view of the Icefjord bank. To manage traffic and thus avoid damage to cultural property and vegetation, a footbridge and a designated path have been established at Sermermiut. Moreover, there are three other designated paths in the area close to town in the World Heritage Area. Local residents, in particular, combine hiking in the summer with berry-picking, open-air cooking and bonfires.

Recreational activities other than those mentioned are air traffic by helicopter and navigation. These activities are described in more detail elsewhere. Therefore, they are only mentioned very briefly below. These activities differ from the activities described above in that they take place in completely different parts of the World Heritage Area and much further from the town of Ilulissat.

Helicopter flights: A helicopter flight to the glacier edge is the only opportunity for tourists and locals to see the greater part of the World Heritage Area, including the impressive glacier edge. In the summer season, many tourists therefore choose to go on helicopter flights lasting a 32 couple of hours. For further characterisation and information on the management of air traffic by helicopter, please refer to the section "Air traffic by helicopter".

Navigation: Recreational navigation by locals and tourists in the World Heritage Area is concentrated around the Iceberg bank zone, which is especially spectacular due to the stranded icebergs. For further information on navigation and navigation management, please refer to the section "Navigation".

Opportunities and threats

Opportunities

The scenic beauty of the World Heritage Area of Ilulissat Icefjord, in combination with its closeness to the town of Ilulissat, makes it a unique setting for a number of recreational activities, including dog sledding, skiing, hiking, berry-picking, hunting, fishing, etc. In general, these activities firstly provide a series of opportunities for the use of the Area by all age groups, generally with a small negative impact on the World Heritage Area. Secondly, all activities, with the exception of dog sledding, are available to most people in that they require limited equipment. Accordingly, these activities provide a range of opportunities for residents and visitors alike in a community which – given its limited size – does not offer the same number of facilities as places with a larger population base.

Threats

The rise in temperatures seen in recent years poses a growing threat to dog sledding, in particular, in Greenland. Thus the season for dog-sled tours and skiing in Ilulissat is being shortened due to the rise in temperatures. The easy access to the part of the World Heritage Area close to town and the ensuing concentration of recreational activities in this area entails some risks, such as damage to vegetation, leaving of waste and overcrowding of the Area. Moreover, an increase in air traffic by helicopter and/or navigation, for example near the most visited part of the World Heritage Area, could negatively impact the experience of the users of the Area. To

counter these and other threats to the preservation of the Area, the following set of rules for recreational activities in the Area has been developed.

Recreational activity management

Footbridges should be established only where designated paths are not sufficient to protect the World Heritage Area. The design of any new footbridges should match the style of the footbridge already established and be fitted into the terrain in the best manner possible. Only benches suited for the area may be placed within the World Heritage Area, e.g. benches in a natural material such as stone.

Rules

Dog sledding: Dog sledding is permitted throughout the World Heritage Area.

Hiking: Hiking is permitted throughout the protected area; visitors are, however, encouraged to follow designated paths. In the Sermermiut zone (sub-area A of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord), traffic outside the designated path is prohibited in the period from 1 April to 31 October.

Paths: In vulnerable areas, footbridges and paths may be established to manage traffic and thus prevent damage to cultural heritage and vegetation. Following consultation with Avannaata Kommunia Municipal Authorities, the Agency for Environment and Nature may grant permission to construct roads and paths within the World Heritage Area. The Municipal Authorities inspect existing paths and footbridges and are responsible for maintenance.

Skiing: Skiing is permitted in the World Heritage Area. The use of piste machines is permitted only in special traffic corridors laid down in Executive Order on the use of motorised vehicles in Avannaata Kommunia.

Bicycle riding: Bicycle riding is prohibited within the World Heritage Area.

Huts: The Home Rule Government may grant permission to erect huts and may, in this connection, lay down terms for the location, height and design of such huts.

Future initiatives

The possibility of introducing a small fee for tourists visiting the Sermermiut Valley is being considered. If such a fee is introduced, it will be earmarked for the continued protection and provision of information about the Area.

Residents are not to pay to enter the Area. The possibility of introducing a fee in 2009 will be assessed more closely, including whether the introduction of a fee is in accordance with legislation.

Commercial hunting and fishing

As will appear from the nomination dossier, hunting and fishing have, at all times, been vital to man's existence in the area surrounding Ilulissat Icefjord. Even today, commercial fishing is the most important livelihood activity in the municipality. For this reason, commercial hunting and fishing are permitted in the protected area.

Characterisation of commercial hunting and fishing in the World Heritage Area

Commercial hunting and fishing in the World Heritage Area are primarily carried out by individuals. There has, since 2013, been registered between 350 to 750 tons of halibut catches in Ilulissat icefjord, which has been purchased for production facilities, as well as extremely marginal cod fishing. In addition, there may also be fish for private use, sale on the board, etc. Hunting and fishing are typically carried out from small dinghies or dog sleds in the winter. Moreover, a few large cutters are used. All commercial hunters and fishermen must have a valid licence and comply with national legislation for hunting and fishing.

Long-line fishing

Long-line fishing is the most widely used fishing technique in the Area. Halibut is the main species, but other fish species are caught as well. Fishing is carried out from dinghies, cutters or, in the winter, from the ice using dog sleds for transport. Ice conditions permitting, the catch is collected from the fishing grounds on the ice boat. It is common for the fishermen to supplement fishing with e.g. sealing and bir hunting.

Sealing

A small number of commercial sealers make a livelihood from sealing or supplement other sources of income with income from sealing. The seal catch is sold or used in the sealer's household. Recreational sealing is also very common. Sealing is conducted from dinghies from which the seals are shot. As the seal population is growing, the overall seal catch is believed to be sustainable.

Hunting and fishing huts

A number of municipal huts are located in the protected area. These huts are used by hunters and fishermen for sleeping and storage of fuel and equipment. The huts serve an important security function for everyone travelling in the Area in bad weather or in case of accidents. In order to improve working conditions for commercial hunters and fishermen in the area, it is possible to maintain and improve a few facilities – e.g. hunting and fishing huts.

Opportunities and threats

Opportunities

Despite the development of the tourism industry, commercial hunting and fishing are expected to provide important sources of income to the municipality for many years to come. At the same time, hunting and fishing are important elements of Greenlandic culture and identity. Commercial hunting and fishing, if they continue at a biologically sustainable level, are good examples of how an arctic people lives off and with nature. Finally, the combination of hunting, fishing and tourism will provide new income opportunities.

Threats

Non-sustainable hunting and fishing could pose a serious threat to the industry and biodiversity in the Area. Halibut stocks have started to show signs of overfishing in

recent years. Fishermen have observed that the size of halibut is declining and have called for quotas to secure the sustainability of fishing. In the Disko Bay, the size of halibut has declined by 10 cm since 2001. As illustrated by the fact box below, tighter quotas have been introduced in compliance with the recommendations of Nature Institute of Greenland to achieve more sustainable fishing. In 2008, the halibut quota for the Disko Bay was 12,500 tonnes. For 2009, the quota has been reduced to 8,800 tonnes based on biological advice.

Management of commercial hunting and fishing

Greenland has joined a number of international conventions like the Declaration of Rio from 1992 (about environment and development), the biodiversity convention (CBD) and the Washington convention (CITES), which implies obligations for nature conservation, conservation of biodiversity and the exploitation of nature has to be sustainable and in accordance with the precautionary principle.

Thus, commercial fishing and catching should continue to take place in the World Heritage Area, and should take place on a biologically sustainable basis and take place in a safe manner.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting, Avannaata Kommunia, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, GFLK, KNAPK, SQAPK, Royal Greenland and Halibut Greenland signed intent, on April 7th 2017. The purpose of the intent is to create a starting point for future discussions on practicing responsible fishing for halibut on a locally, regionally and national level. Sustainability and quality in fisheries must be at the forefront and understanding and dialogue between fishermen, biologists, administration and industry must be increased.

Rules

Commercial hunting and fishing are permitted in the protected area. Applicable legislation for hunting and fishing must be complied with (including Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order No. 10 of 15 June 2007 on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord).

Navigation in connection with commercial hunting and fishing is permitted in the protected area.

Going ashore in connection with commercial hunting and fishing is permitted in the protected area, except for the area at Sermermiut (Zone A of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord).

Dog sleds may be used throughout the protected area.

The use of motorised vehicles, including snow scooters, is prohibited within the protected area. This prohibition also applies in connection with commercial hunting and fishing.

The Home Rule Government may grant permission for erection of hunting and fishing huts and for re-establishment of existing huts. Conditions may be laid down for such permission, including restrictions for location, height and design.

Future initiatives

In future, hunting and fishing huts should be built and renovated in the most sustainable manner possible under the circumstances with a view to reducing heat loss, improving heat sources, waste handling and toilet facilities.

Research

The Sermeq Kujalleq glacier at the bottom of Ilulissat Icefjord is unique because of both its extreme speed and its productivity. Combined with its relative ease of accessibility by helicopter from Ilulissat, this has for many years made it especially important for glaciological research. The significance of Ilulissat Icefjord and Sermeq Kujalleq for glaciological research is thus one of the most important reasons for the Area's inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Sermeq Kujalleq is one of the most thoroughly explored glaciers in the world, and research of it has contributed significantly to the current knowledge of glaciers and glacier movement. Research related to the glacier has increased considerably in recent years, primarily due to increased focus on global warming.

Opportunities and threats

Opportunities

Interest in researching the World Heritage Area of Ilulissat Icefjord is likely to grow in the coming years. Better understanding of the processes behind the glacier's huge production of ice is of obvious value – particularly considering the fact that this production is among the most important reasons for the inscription of the Area on the World Heritage List.

Furthermore, researchers visiting the Area will generate income and jobs for the town through their use of goods and services. Finally, the many research results will attract increased international attention to the World Heritage Area, Greenland and Ilulissat alike. This may contribute to increasing the number of future visitors, thus contributing to the local economy. Furthermore, increased focus on the scientific value of the Icefjord and Sermeq Kujalleq in the future will facilitate both national and international funding for the work to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage Area.

Threats

Like other activities in the Area, research activities may result in damage to vegetation. Moreover, human activity may generally be of inconvenience to animal life in an area. Regardless of the purpose, many helicopter landings, the presence of measuring equipment for several years, and many people staying overnight in a limited area over a concentrated period of time are likely to leave traces. Researchers often seek out places in the protected area that are not normally accessible to ordinary users. This causes damage to a larger part of the protected area, but also to areas where it is not possible to counter the damage by establishing footbridges, erecting information signs, etc. Finally, research may tend to open up

new areas for more general use. Tourists who have seen the impressive pictures of previously inaccessible parts of the World Heritage Area will demand trips to those places. In this way, researchers act as pioneers for the tourist trade, thereby opening new areas to commercial use and resulting damage.



Research management

Research relating to the World Heritage Area of Ilulissat Icefjord is important and desirable for the World Heritage Area and Greenland as well as the rest of the world. On the other hand it is clear that research should take place in such a way as to prevent damage to other values in the Area.

Provide opportunities to perform research activities in the Area.

Information on all research conducted in the World Heritage Area should be communicated to the inhabitants of Greenland, notably the citizens of Ilulissat. Researchers are encouraged to collaborate with the Ilulissat Icefjord Office on the holding of meetings with citizens and school classes.

Research in parts of the World Heritage Area that are used by both researchers and other users requires that the parties show mutual consideration.

Rules for research in the protected area

Research activities including helicopter landings outside the established landing fields at Isua and Ivnar require exemption from Ministry of Nature and Environment of the

Greenland Home Rule Government. Applications for exemption must be submitted to Avannaata Kommunia for consultation.

Research activities in the Sermermiut zone require permission from Ministry of Nature and Environment following consultation with Avannaata Kommunia, Greenland National Museum in Nuuk and Ilulissat Museum.

Permission to install/abandon equipment, including research equipment, in the World Heritage Area must be obtained from Ministry of Nature and Environment.

All traffic in the protected area in connection with research is subject to the same rules as other traffic in the World Heritage Area, including rules on the pitching of tents, fires, waste, etc.

Future initiatives

Ensuring that, a section is incorporated, into the research permits that invite researchers to submit a short popular science dissemination, in Greenlandic and Danish for the purpose of dissemination to the public.

A construction of an ice fjord center, which will serve as an information center for locals, researchers and other stakeholders.

9 ILULISSAT ICEFJORD CENTER

For a number of years, there have been visions of a visitor center by the ice fjord. Now this vision will come true, and there are a lot of reasons to that.

It will provide new opportunities for Greenland and Ilulissat, and strengthen the already growing current of tourists from all over the world that has made the eyes for the ice fjord, since it was admitted to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2004. This can create jobs, income and development for the greenlandic community.

An ice fjord center will also support that Greenland more and more will be the center of global climate debate and research, which today attracts a lot of glaciologists, state leaders and other climate-conscious people to Ilulissat. At Kangia, the melting of the ice is both convincing and dramatic here near the huge, calving iceberg Sermeq Kujalleq.

The ice fjord center will give both local and global visitors an experience –and knowledge portal to a visit in the landscape and the ice fjord Kangia. The center will provide relevant knowledge of ice, climate change and the local cultural history, extending over 4000 years back. The place will also be a meeting point for debaters and researchers from all over the world, who work to counter climate change. For the people of Ilulissat, an ice fjord center will give the community new experiences and a new gathering point.

The above information is from the 2016 folder "Ilulissat Icefjord Center - The story of ice, local development and global meeting place on climate". For further information

about the ice fjords center, please refer to the folder and Realdania's website: <https://realdania.dk/samlet-projektliste/ilulissat-isfjordscenter>.



Photo: Sketch of Ilulissat Icefjord Center's exteriors, Image by Mir.

The ice fjords center is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

10 FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND IMPLEMENTATION

A management plan is only as good as the quality of its implementation. Having well considered rules, objectives and visions is a good starting point, but it is equally important to ensure their enforcement and implementation. Therefore, it is important that the expectations are consistent with the resource framework.

Funding

According to UNESCO, the protection of World Heritage Areas is an international task, but in practice, only developing countries can obtain direct financial aid for conservation efforts. Hence the financial framework of the future management, including conservation and optimization of the values of the Area, is made up of funds from the Self-Rule Government, Avannaata Kommunia and the Heritage Agency of Denmark.

In practice, this means that the financial framework for the conservation and management of Ilulissat Icefjord is based on a relatively small population and the block grant from Denmark. The expected budget is outlined below.

Avannaata Kommunia is expected to pay for:

- Salary for a Site Ranger.
- Salary for a Park Ranger.
- The costs of path maintenance.
- Miscellaneous operating expenses
- Staff travelling expenses in connection with meetings
- Extension of footbridge in Sermermiut, archaeological area, when needed.

The Ministry of Nature and Environment pays for:

- An administrator with a university degree to manage the World Heritage Area, the Head of Department also spends resources on this.
- Staff travelling expenses in connection with meetings.

The agency for Culture and Palaces pays for:

- The agency for Culture and Palaces works on Ilulissat Icefjord for the equivalent of two weeks.
- Staff travelling expenses in connection with meetings.

Implementation plan

The general purpose of the implementation of the Management Plan is to ensure that users get a rewarding experience from the World Heritage Area, while at the same time they want to protect Ilulissat Icefjord. In keeping with this, the implementation of the rules of the Management Plan should mainly be based on local understanding and support rather than injunctions and fines, which will only be used when the former method proves inadequate. The geographical size and limited financial resources make it difficult to inspect the entire Area on a daily basis. Finally, many of the rules of this Management Plan are based on the rules of Executive Order on protection of 2007. Thus, there are rules that are expected to already be known. However, an important goal of implementing the Management Plan is to further improve the knowledge and understanding of and support for those rules.

The implementation of measures is presented in a schematic outline below to give a better overview of the plan and to make it easier to use. The plan provides an overview of:

- The various projects to be implemented (aims).
- When the projects are expected to be implemented (time frame).
- The financial resources needed (funding).
- Who is responsible for the implementation of the projects (person responsible).
- The various initiatives are also structured under the following general topics (headings):
 - Planning
 - Facilities

- Information, communication and educational initiatives
- Supervision and enforcement of and support for rules

Planning

Aims	Timeframe	Person responsible	Funding
A revised monitoring plan must be prepared and implemented	Current and no later than 2020	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Municipal operating budget
Evaluating and adjusting the Management Plan	Current and no later than every 5 years therefore next revision is due in 2020	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment Agency for Culture and Palaces	Joint
Investigation of the possibility that a small fee will be charged on hotel nights that go to the management of Ilulissat Icefjord	No later than 2020	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Joint
Evaluation of terms for tourists flights, including the frequency for flights.	Yearly	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Municipal operating budget
Sustainable tourism plan for Ilulissat Icefjord	No later than 2020	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal operating budget
Revision of the Conservation Order	2019	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	The agency for Nature and Environment

Facilities

Aims	Time Frame	Person responsible	Funding
Control and possibly marking existing walking routes	Yearly	Avannaata Kommunia Park Ranger	Municipal operating budget
Setup and removal of mobile toilets at the old heliport	Yearly	Avannaata Kommunia Park Ranger	Municipal operating budget
Maintenance of walkway	Yearly, spring, summer	Avannaata Kommunia Park Ranger	Municipal operating budget
Securing sledge tracks	Yearly, continuously in winter	Avannaata Kommunia	Municipal operating budget
Snowmobile prohibited signs are set and checked for snowmobile tracks	Yearly, winter	Avannaata Kommunia Park Ranger	Municipal operating budget

Information, communication and educational measures

Aims	Time Frame	Person responsible	Funding
Meeting with guides and hotels	Yearly, spring	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal operating budget
Mail to snowmobile associations, etc. relating to. use of snowmobiles at Ilulissat Icefjord	Yearly, autumn/winter	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal operating budget
Information campaign regarding use of snowmobiles at Ilulissat Icefjord	2018, Autumn/winter	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal operating budget
Compilation of maps showing how the different users of Ilulissat Icefjord	2018	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Joint

may use the area		Ministry of Nature and Environment Agency for Culture and palaces	
Website Kangia	Continuously	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal operating budget
Kangia Kids	Yearly	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal operating budget
Construction of Icefjord center	2020	Avannaata Kommunia Ministry of Industry, Labour, Trade and Energy	Realdania among others
Investigate the possibilities for disseminating research results in the form of popular articles in Greenlandic and Danish	2019	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Municipal operating budget

Supervision and enforcement of and support for rules

Aims	Time frame	Person responsible	Funding
Supervision of flights and landing fields	Yearly (jun. – sep.)	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Park Ranger	When there is a free space in the tourists flights
Meeting with tourist players and relevant players	Yearly, autumn/summer	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal budget
Civic meeting on management etc. (icefjord meeting)	Minimum every 3. year, the next meeting is in 2017	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Municipal budget
Ensure that tourists operators handle waste in a correct manner	Yearly	Avannaata Kommunia Park Ranger	Municipal budget

Enhancement of rules for the use of pistenbully and snow fences	2017	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager	Municipal budget
Preparation of guidelines for tourist sailing near fishing boats	Before 2020	Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Joint
Shrink the rules that only commercial fishing vessels may sail in the inner parts of the Icefjord	2018	Hunting and fishing officers Avannaata Kommunia Site Manager Ministry of Nature and Environment	Joint

The implementation plan is valid until 2020. This means that before 2020 an updated implementation plan must be prepared. However, it will probably be necessary to evaluate and adjust the below implementation plan at least once a year to allow for experience gained and for the fact that significant factors, such as funding, remain unclarified. This work shall be carried out by the steering committee.

11 MONITORING

The inscription of an area on the World Heritage List is contingent on the host country periodically submitting status reports to UNESCO describing the condition of the designated area. In this connection the Greenland Home Rule Government and the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities commissioned the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) to draw up a monitoring plan that was completed in 2006.

However, the last years have shown that the monitoring plan is unrealistic and unfeasible in relation to the resources available. The past years have thus provided a more accurate picture of what should be the focal point of future monitoring. Be realistic and feasible in relation to the resources that will be available for monitoring.

- Realistic and practical in relation to the resources available for monitoring.
- Focus on the values justifying the inscription of the Area on the UNESCO World Heritage List (Scenery and glaciology).
- Focus specifically on the geographical areas subject to the biggest impact from human activities.

Thus, it is disregarded that changes in vegetation and wildlife may be due to factors other than human activity as monitoring of changes in nature, which is not due to human impact, will require excessive resources.

Major changes caused by, for example, climate change will manifest itself in changes in a larger area than just the World Heritage Site, and should therefore be monitored at national level.

In addition, monitoring monitors the parameters where it is estimated that the data collected may pave the way for developing and improving the legislation and management of the World Heritage Site.

Thus, this monitoring plan concerns monitoring of:

- Number of visitors
- Tourists experience
- Local peoples experiences
- Granted exemptions and possibly offenses
- Accidents, rescue operations and searches
- Wear
- garbage
- wildlife
- climate changes
- glacier front and ice conditions
- activities, dissemination and facilities

This monitoring plan can be found on the official website of Ilulissat Ice fjord (www.kangia.gl).

Avannaata Municipality at the Ice fjord Office is responsible for implementing the monitoring plan. The steering group continuously follows the development and monitoring.

By 2020, the monitoring plan will be evaluated by the steering committee.

12 Appendices

Appendix 1: EXECUTIVE ORDER ON PROTECTION

Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order No. 10 of 15 June 2007 on protection of Ilulissat Icefiord

Pursuant to 16 (1), 39 (5) and (6), 46 and 60 (2) and (4) of Greenland Parliament Act No. 29 of 18 December 2003 on nature protection, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Purpose

1. Ilulissat Icefiord and a surrounding area located in the Municipality of Ilulissat are zoned as protected area for the purpose of protecting its scenic beauty and the area's natural history, cultural history and other natural values. The protection is to contribute to protecting the nature in the area against destruction.

Delimitation

2. (1) The protected area is marked in Appendix 1. One part of the protected area is divided into three sub-areas.

(2) Sub-area A is a land area at Sermermiut. The area is marked in Appendix 2. Sub-area B is the innermost marine part of Ilulissat Icefiord. The area is marked in Appendix 3. Sub-area C is the outermost marine part of Ilulissat Icefiord. The area is marked in Appendix 3.

General access and use

3. The public has access to the protected area with the limitations following from this Executive Order.

4. (1) Polluting lakes, streams, fiords, glaciers or land areas in any way whatsoever or leaving any kind of rubbish, used fishing tackle, markings and scientific equipment is prohibited within the protected area.

(2) Damaging vegetation or making changes to the terrain is prohibited. Any collection of plants and plant parts is prohibited, but see subsection 3.

(3) Irrespective of the prohibition laid down in subsection (2), collecting vegetation for fuel for cooking in connection with fishing, hunting and catching is permitted.

Pitching of tents and use of open fire

5. (1) Within the protected area, tents may only be pitched and open fire only used for up to 24 hours in the same locality. Otherwise, tents may only be pitched in a new locality at a distance of at least 100 metres from the previously used locality, but see subsection (2).

(2) Permanent areas for pitching tents may be designated by the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities following consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Nature. The area where tents may be pitched must be clearly marked.

Building, construction and traffic

- 6. (1)** Erecting buildings or other permanent structures as well as constructing roads and paths are prohibited within the protected area, but see subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) Following consultation with the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may grant permission to erect buildings or other permanent structures. Following consultation with the Ilulissat Municipality, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may lay down terms for the scope, nature, location, height and design in such permissions.
- (3) After consultation with the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may grant permission to construct roads and paths within the protected area. Following consultation with the Ilulissat Municipality, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may lay down the terms of such permissions.
- (4) The use of motorised vehicles, including snow scooters, piste machines and full-track vehicles is prohibited within the protected area.
- (5) Driving in traffic corridors laid down in an order regarding the use of motorised vehicles in Ilulissat Municipal Authorities is exempt from the prohibition laid down in subsection (4).
- (6) Bicycle riding is prohibited within the protected area.
- (7) Paths may be consolidated with gravel, wood or another suitable material.
- (8) In sub-area A, cf. Appendix 2, traffic is permitted only on designated paths in the period between 1 April and 31 October.

Air traffic

- 7. (1)** In the interest of the area's wildlife, air traffic at altitudes lower than 1,000 metres is prohibited within the protected area.
- (2) Air traffic in connection with scheduled services, rescue and search operations and approaches to the landing fields mentioned in subsection (4) is exempt from the prohibition laid down in subsection (1).
- (3) Landings are prohibited within the protected area, but see subsection (4).
- (4) Following consultation with the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may grant annual or multi-annual permissions for landings in two specified areas.
- (5) Following consultation with the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may lay down the terms of the permissions granted in subsection (4).

Navigating, anchoring, laying up and going ashore

- 8. (1)** Navigation in sub-area B is prohibited.
- (2) Navigation in connection with commercial fishing, hunting and catching as well as navigation in connection with rescue and search operations are exempt from the prohibition laid down in subsection (1).
- (3) All navigation with vessels larger than a tonnage of 1,000 Gross Registered Tonnes is prohibited in sub-area C.
- (4) Tourist navigation within the protected area may take place only with the use of guides acquainted with Greenlandic nature and legislation on nature protection.
- 9. (1)** Anchoring and laying up boats are prohibited within the protected area, but see subsection (2).
- (2) Anchoring in connection with fishing, hunting and catching is exempt from the prohibition laid down in subsection (1).

10. (1) Going ashore in the protected area is prohibited.

(2) Going ashore in connection with fishing, hunting and catching is exempt from the prohibition laid down in subsection (1). However, this exemption does not apply to going ashore in sub-area A.

Management, supervision and exemption

11. Following consultation with the Ilulissat Municipal Authorities, the Ministry of Environment and Nature shall prepare a management plan for the protected area.

12. The local council of Ilulissat Municipality shall ensure the observance of this Order.

13. Following consultation with the local council of Ilulissat Municipality, the Ministry of Environment and Nature may grant exemption from the provisions of s. 5(1), s. 7(1) and s. 8(4) of this Order, provided it is not contrary to the objective of the protection.

14. (1) Violation s. 4(1) and (2), s. 5(1), s. 6(1), (4), (6) and (8), s. 7(1) and (3), s. 8(1) and (3)-(4), s. 9(1) and s. 10(1) is punishable by fine.

(2) Violation of terms laid down pursuant to s. 6(2)-(3) and s. 7(5) is punishable by fine.

(3) Where the violation has been committed by a business owned in whole or in part by the state, the Greenland Home Rule Government, a local authority or a local authority community covered by the Greenland Parliament Act on local councils, settlement councils, etc., a public limited company, a private limited company, a cooperative society or similar, liability under criminal law may be imposed on the business, etc. as such. The same shall apply if the violation has been committed by the Greenland Home Rule Government, a local authority or a local authority community covered by the Greenland Parliament Act on local authorities, settlement councils, etc.

15. (1) This Order shall take effect on 1 July 2007.

(2) At the same time, Greenland Home Rule Government Executive Order No. 7 of 25 March 2003 on protection of Ilulissat Icefiord shall be repealed.

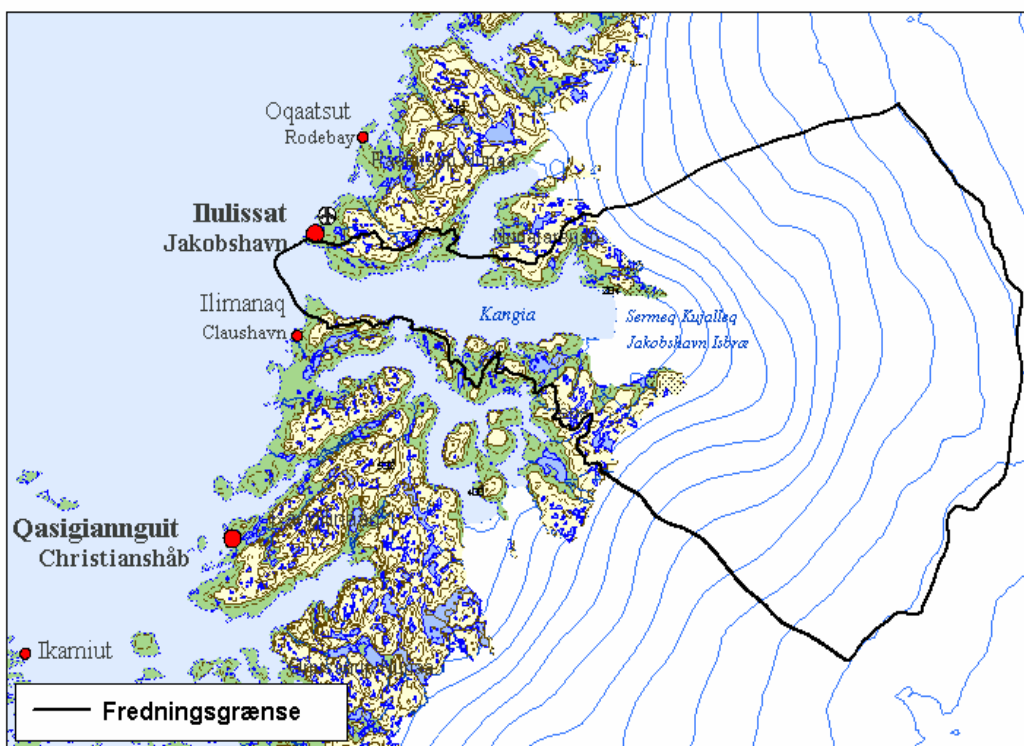
Greenland Home Rule Government, 15 June 2007

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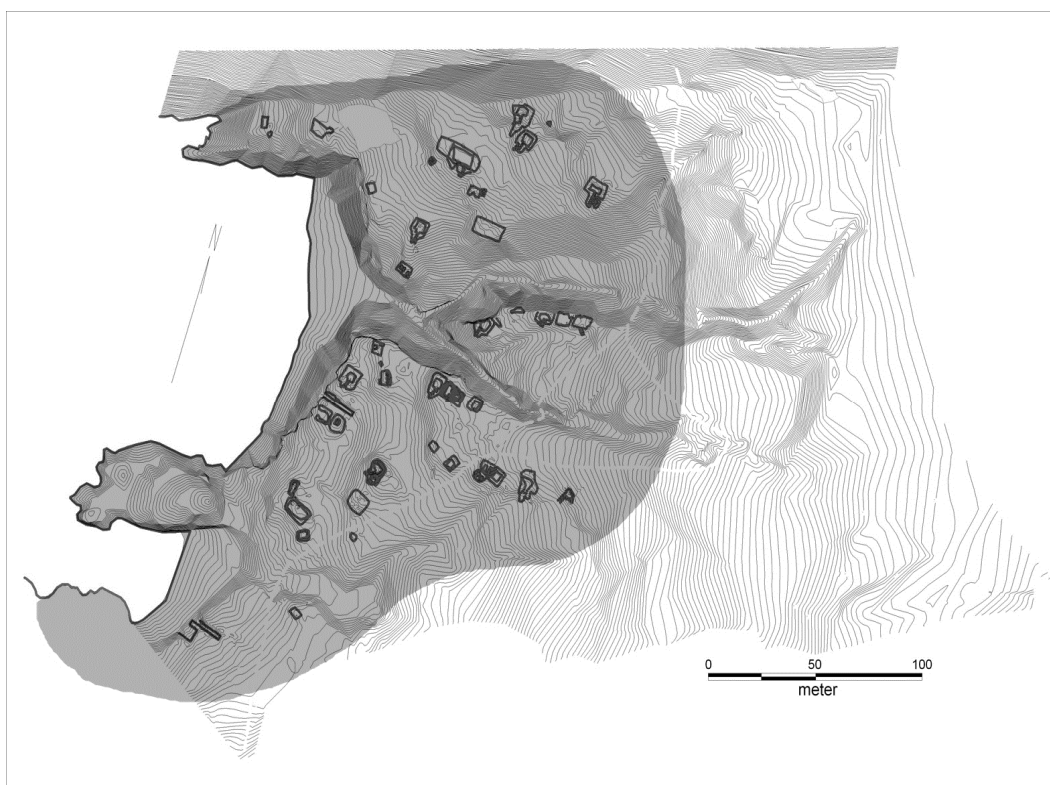
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Appendix 1.1 to Executive Order on Protection of Ilulissat Icefiord



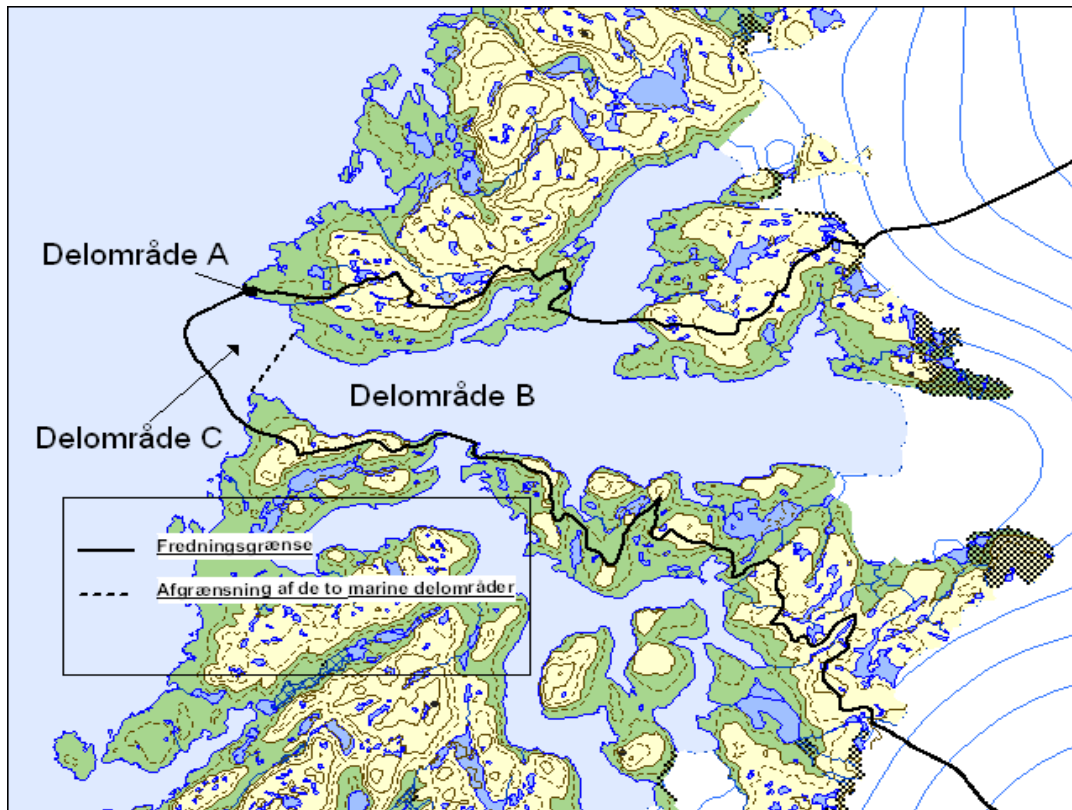
Appendix 1.2 to Executive Order on Protection of Ilulissat Icefiord Sub-area A - Sermermiut



Appendix 1.3 to Executive Order on Protection of Ilulissat Icefiord

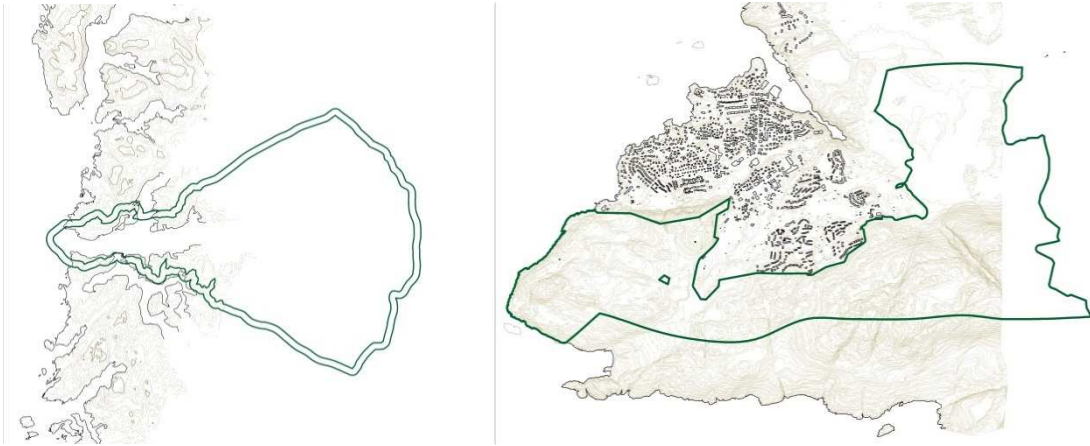
The delimitation between sub-area B and sub-area C has been given as follows:

Northernmost point: 51° 02' 32" W, 69° 10' 49" N. Southernmost point: 51° 05' 29" W, 69° 08' 14" N.



Appendix 2: BUFFER ZONES AND FOCUS AREAS

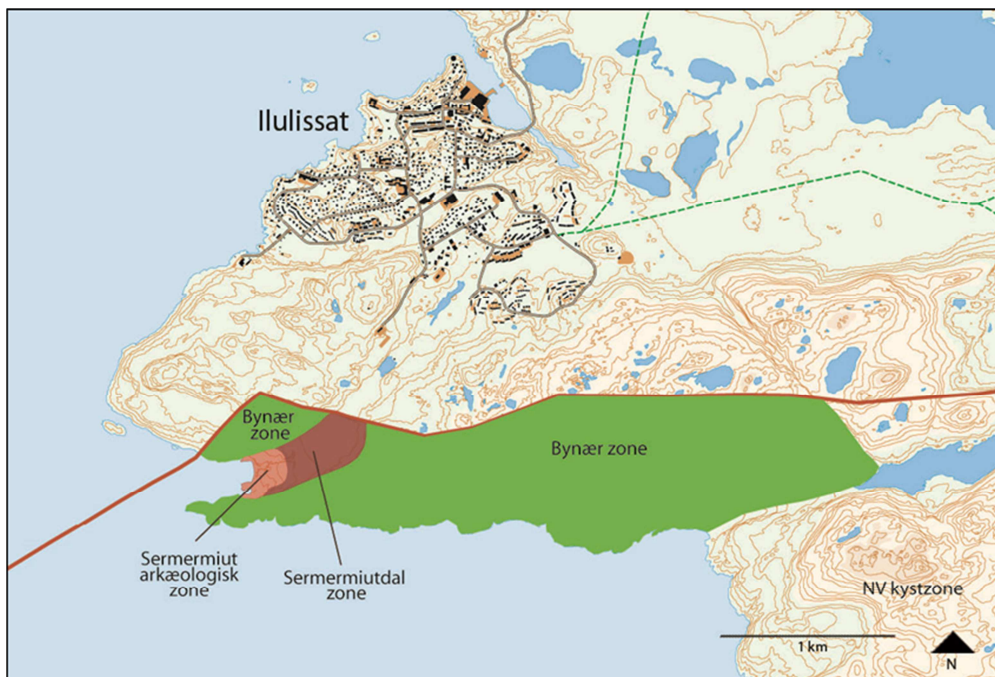
As mentioned in the Management Plan, there are two buffer zones in the protected area in Ilulissat: the landscape buffer zone and the urban buffer zone. Both intend to protect against construction.



To the left is the landscape buffer zone and to the right the near-urban buffer zone.

Further, there is as described Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord includes three zones where traffic is subject to special rules: sub-area A (Sermermiut archaeological zone), and marine areas B and C. Areas A, B and C are described in further detail below.

In addition to this, there is a description of the areas (area close to town, including Sermermiut valley zone), with special focus on regulation – especially because of their location close to town where traffic is more intense than in the remaining areas.



Zoning map of area close to town, with Sermermiut valley and the archeological zone.

Zone close to town (Ilulissat)

Location	The zone close to town is located immediately south of Ilulissat on both sides of the Sermermiut Valley zone.
Characterisation	The area includes several elevated points with a view of the Icefjord.
Accessibility	The area is easily accessible from Ilulissat on foot, on skis or by dog-sled. There are various designated hiking paths in the area.
Use	This zone is characterised by many visitors, both local inhabitants and tourists, who use the area for various recreational activities, including hunting and hiking.

The Sermermiut Valley

Location	The Sermermiut Valley zone is located less than one kilometer south-west of the town of Ilulissat. The zone is approx. 600 metres long and 200 metres wide.
Characterisation	There is an exceptional view of the iceberg bank zone from the area. The Sermermiut Valley is characterised by creeping soil, i.e. the underground consists of a fine-grained material which is constantly moving down towards the sea during the ice-free months.
Accessibility	The area is easily accessible from the town of Ilulissat. A footbridge through the area was established in 2008, protecting the vegetation against damage and making it easier and safer for people to walk in the area. The footbridge also makes the area accessible for wheelchair users and people with strollers.
Use	The Sermermiut Valley zone is the most visited part of the World Heritage Area. The area is frequently used by both local inhabitants and tourists for a number of recreational activities such as hiking and skiing, school excursions, etc.

The Sermermiut archaeological zone (zone A of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord)

Location	The Sermermiut archaeological zone is located a few kilometres south of the town of Ilulissat at the end of the Sermermiut Valley.
Characterisation	The Sermermiut archaeological zone contains the prehistoric settlement of Sermermiut which was the largest settlement in Greenland 250 years ago. A fairly large number of peat shed ruins and Inuit graves surround the former settlement. Accordingly, this area is described as the most important archaeological site in Greenland. The ruins are grouped around a small inlet. The area is moist and grass-covered.
Accessibility	The area is easily accessible from the town of Ilulissat. Access is only permitted on foot, and visitors must stay on the designated path.

Use The area is visited by a large number of tourists and local people. Some ruins are visible from the designated path. In general, the ruins are not easily spotted by ordinary visitors, however, and so far there is no information or explanation concerning the parts or significance of the ruins.

The fjord zone - Maritime zone B of Executive Order on protection)

Location The fjord zone is located between the iceberg bank zone and the glacier zone and is made up of the ice-choked fjord.

Characterisation The fjord zone is approx. 40 kilometres long, 6-10 kilometres wide and more than 1,000 metres deep. The icebergs that are calved off the front edge of the glacier are pressed through the fjord zone, which is more or less filled with floating icebergsand floes according to season and weather.

Accessibility The zone is only accessible by helicopter (overflying) or by boat on rare occasions.

Use Only commercial navigation for fishing purposes is permitted in the fjord zone which is identical with "maritime zone B" of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord. Ice conditions permitting, parts of the fjord zone are used in connection with fishing from dog-sleds.

The iceberg bank zone - Maritime zone C of Executive Order on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord)

Location The iceberg bank is the easternmost part of the Icefjord. The zone is approx. 6-7 kilometres wide (N-S), approx. 6-7 kilometres long (E-W), and the depth of the sea is only 225-250 metres.

Characterisation The largest icebergs are stranded in the iceberg bank zone due to submarine morainic deposits at the mouth of the Icefjord. The large, detached icebergs give the area great scenic beauty.

Accessibility The area is accessible by small vessels (under 1,000 GRT). Due to ice and the danger of calving icebergs, the area may be difficult to navigate, however. There is a beautiful view of the Iceberg bank zone from the surrounding shores.

Use The area is used particularly for halibut fishing and in connection with tourist navigation.

Appendix 3: VISIONS FOR ILULISSAT ICEFJORD

This Management Plan outlines the principles on which the future management of Ilulissat Icefjord is to be based. In order to meet those objectives, a series of rules and initiatives have been established as described in this Management Plan. In addition, the Greenland Home Rule Government and Avannaata Kommunia have a number of long-term visions for the World Heritage Area, including:

The number one "green" tourist destination in the Arctic

The management of the World Heritage Area of Ilulissat Icefjord must be a leading example and constitute a knowledge base for the management of other natural areas in Greenland as well as in the Arctic in general. This should be based on the principles of the World Heritage Area's importance in terms of generating economic growth and jobs in the local community while at the same time ensuring the environmentally, biologically and socially sustainable use of the Area. Ilulissat Icefjord should thus be the number one "green" tourist destination, with special emphasis on CO2 neutrality, waste management, and use of renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions. Combined with effective provision of information about the management of the World Heritage Area at both local and national levels this means that the management of the World Heritage Area will act as a lever to ensure a general trend towards increased environmental awareness in Greenland.

Innovation in the management of cruise ship tourism

In terms of the tourist trade, cruise ship tourism is one of the areas requiring most attention in terms of future management to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage Area, and to ensure that the development is in accordance with the local population's wishes and the capacity of the Area. Cruise ship tourism is characterized by its geographical concentration and intensive impact on the local community during the short periods when the tourists are ashore. Furthermore, this type of tourism has traditionally had relatively limited economic potential for the local community as it does not include overnight accommodation and only very limited demand for food, transportation, guided tours, etc. At the same time, cruise ship tourism is dependent on public facilities such as quays, harbours, museums, public lavatories, rubbish bins, infrastructure, etc., which necessitates the active and constant involvement of a municipal authority. Against this background, the bodies involved in the management of cruise ship tourism in Ilulissat Icefjord should aim to actively participate in the development and implementation of new management principles in order to ensure greater benefit and less inconvenience for both the local community and the World Heritage Area in connection with cruise ship tourism in the future. This would require a high degree of innovation at the management level, and close collaboration with the local professions involved in cruise ship tourism. In this way, Ilulissat and the World Heritage Area will become a leading national and international area in terms of how the government services can contribute to a sustainable and economically more viable implementation of cruise ship tourism in the Arctic.

International centre of climate research

The management of Ilulissat Icefjord should ensure the continued development of international research in the protected area. Accordingly, research facilities should be

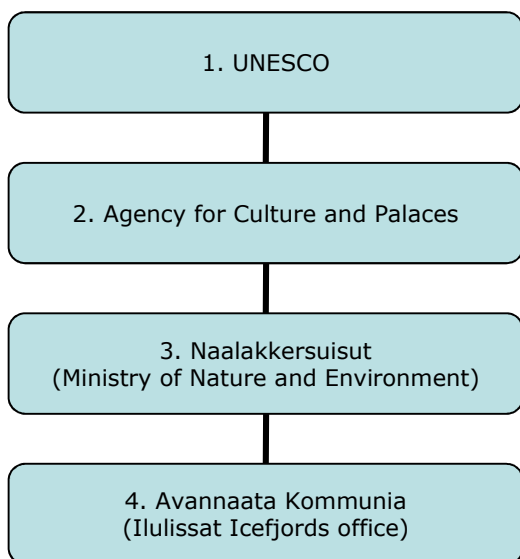
extended in the future. This involves the establishment of an Icefjord Centre housing both visitors' and researchers' premises and thus utilising the interface between the different groups. The Ilulissat Icefjord Centre will thus form the framework of Greenlandic as well as international research in relation to Ilulissat Icefjord. Researchers from different places and with different specialties will be able to meet here and exchange results and ideas. Furthermore, the Icefjord Centre will facilitate the communication of their research results to people outside the research environment, e.g. through running exhibitions in the open museum area of the Icefjord Centre and through lectures. In addition, descriptions of research projects and various research articles relating to the Area should be collected in the Icefjord Centre archives and made available to both researchers and ordinary visitors. Against this background, Ilulissat Icefjord should be an international centre for climate research and documentation of climate changes in the future.



Photo: Sketch of Ilulissat Icefjord Center's interior, Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter.

Appendix 4: EXPANDED DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The management of Ilulissat Icefjord happens in cooperation with a number of parties. The agency for culture and palaces in Denmark has on behalf of the Realm, the overall responsibility of the World Heritage area in relation to UNESCO and conducts the contact to UNESCO. The national responsibility for the management of the World Heritage Area is handled by Naalakkersuisut through the Ministry of Nature and Environment. The actual management of the area happens in close collaboration and dialogue with Avannaata Kommunia. This is done according to the provisions as stated in the self-government's executive order on conservation of Ilulissat icefjord³ and this management plan. The responsibility for oversight with the World Heritage Area is located at Avannaata Kommunia.



The figure illustrates the division of responsibilities.

The Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark Avannaata Kommunia and the Ministry of Nature and Environment has had a formalized cooperation on the World Heritage Area, Ilulissat Icefjord since fall 2008, in the form of a steering committee.

The purpose of the Steering Committee is among other things, to discuss how the management of the World Heritage Area can be streamlined. On this basis, it can be ensured that the necessary decisions are taken, to maintain the status of the area as a world Heritage Area in the future and the management of the area's values are optimized.

The steering committee includes:

- Representatives from the Ministry of Nature and Environment.
- Site manager from the Icefjords office under Avannaata Kommunia.

³ "Hjemmestyrets bekendtgørelse nr. 10 af 15.juni 2007 om fredning af Ilulissat Isfjord"

- Representative from the Management for Business, Raw Materials and Tourism, Avannaata Kommunia.
- Representative from the Management for Infrastructure, construction and Environment.
- Representative from the Agency for Culture and Palaces.

The chairman of the Steering Committee and the secretariat is handled by the Ministry of Nature and Environment. A minimum of two skype – or phone meetings will be held in the Steering Committee during the year and at least every two years a physical meeting must be held in Ilulissat for the Steering Committees members.

Furthermore, there is continuous contact between the Steering Group members per. phone and email.

The Steering Committee shall, among other things, discuss:

- Over all guidelines for water, land and air activities within the World Heritage Area.
- How recreational, tourism and research activities can take place in the protected area, respecting the area's status as World Heritage Area.
- The overall framework for the periodic reporting to UNESCO.
- Evaluation and possible updates of the management plan.
- Evaluation and possible updates of the monitoring plan.
- Various initiatives in the world heritage area which can optimize the area's values.
- How the proposed actions can be financed.

The steering committee discusses the overall management of the World Heritage Site at Ilulissat Isfjord and the contact with UNESCO. Final decisions are taken from the already existing liability distribution described above.

Avannaata Kommunia

The Icefjord office – site manager

A Site manager for Ilulissat Icefjord is employed by Avannaata Kommunia. This should be seen as a signal that a future sustainable use of the area is highly prioritized. As a Site Manager with competence in the area, certain continuity has been assured. The task that will be done will be done in close collaboration and dialogue with the ministry of Nature and Environment.

Tasks

The Site Manager carries out the daily tasks related to Ilulissat Icefjord such as:

- Info and communication of Ilulissat icefjord (responsible for drawing up signs, guidebooks, posters, videos, television broadcasts, website and teaching materials).

- Management plan (contributing to the preparation, implementation, annual evaluation and proposals for possible adjustments to the Ministry of Nature and Environment, day-to-day management).
- Fundraising (raise funds for the various actions, make budgets, accounts and reports).
- Economy and budget.
- Project management.
- Supervision of the area (guide the Park Ranger).
- The citizens' ice fjord contact (involve the citizens in different activities, prevent and resolve conflicts about the use of the area, hold annual "Icefjords Day", school involvement, involvement and dialogue with various tourist operators).
- Monitoring (collecting material, evaluating and adjusting monitoring report).
- Contact to the press (The municipality's contact with the press about the World Heritage Site, press releases).
- Official visits with relation to the Icefjord (presentations, meetings and shows).
- Consultation response to the Self-Government in connection with permits and exemptions in the World Heritage Area.
- Member of the Steering Committee.

Site Manager represents a staff function, which refers directly to the municipality's Business Director. Management of the World Heritage Site is carried out in cooperation with the municipality and the Ministry of Nature and Environment in accordance with the defined division of responsibilities.

The Icefjord Office – Park Ranger

Since 2009 Avannaata Kommunia had hired one Park Ranger who manages:

- Supervision with Nature and Cultural values in the area.
- Supervision with development tendencies in the area.
- Guide and inform users/ visitors.
- Maintenance of the walkway, cairn and direction signs.
- Cleanliness of the area and the road up the the old heliport.
- Monitoring.
- Helping with miscellaneous and more administrative tasks in the winter months.
- Control, report and respond to breach of law.

Other municipal employees

In addition, other public employees work to varying degrees with the World Heritage Area. For example, the urban planner compiles municipal plans around the buffer zone, the building constructor prepares the projects around the bridge, operating staff performs the walkway etc. All actions and tasks are coordinated through Site Manager.

Naalakkersuisut by the Ministry of Nature and Environment

The Ministry of Nature and Environment carries out the following tasks:

- Responsibility for the management of the World Heritage Site, including the preparation of a management plan.
- Processing applications for activities in the World Heritage Site (eg flights).
- Participates in board group meetings as a member as well as the secretariat function for the Steering Group.

Agency for Culture and Palaces

As stated above, the Agency for Culture and Palaces has the overall responsibility for the World Heritage Area in relation to UNESCO and is in charge of UNESCO's contact. A representative of the Agency for Culture and Palaces participates in the Steering Group meeting.

