

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date

Site Reference Number

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May 2002

2. Country:

Denmark (Greenland)

3. Name of wetland:

Eqalummiut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa

International No. 386

National No. 6

4. Geographical coordinates:

67°28'N, 50°49'W

5. Altitude: (min. & max.) 0-650 m

6. Area: 579.530 hectares

7. Overview:

 (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Terrestrial/marine habitat area: 95/5%

A large inland area with a diverse topography. The site is located next to the western border of the central ice cap. Two large rivers subdivide the plateau.

8. Wetland Type

 (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A ! B ! C ! D ! E ! F ! G ! H ! I ! J ! K

inland: L ! M ! N ! Q ! P ! Q ! R ! Sp ! Ss ! Tp ! Ts

! U ! Va ! Vt ! W ! Xf ! Xp ! Y ! Zg ! Zk

man made: 1 ! 2 ! 3 ! 4 ! 5 ! 6 ! 7 ! 8 ! 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

Approximate ranking: Tp W Ts L M

9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12 below)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site:

6

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

As print and Word file on CD-rom.

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.

(Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. For the representative example of the relevant many wetlands in this inland area
3. For the high waterbird diversity
4. For the moulting and breeding White-fronted geese.
6. The second-most important area for Greenland White-fronted Goose with c. 6% of World population of this endemic subspecies.

The most important spring staging area of this species. Several other species of waterbirds have been recorded in this site.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located inland next to the ice cap on the central part of the west coast. Kangerlussuaq (Søndre Strømfjord) with one of Greenland's two international airports is just south of the site. Divided between the municipalities of Kangaatsiaq and Sisimiut.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth. Water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The site is located within the low arctic climatic zone with continuous perma frost. The area has a very diverse typography and is subdivided by two large rivers draining melt water from the Greenland ice cap to the east. Limited summer precipitation and relatively high temperatures results in seasonal drying out of many wetland areas in the southern part of the site.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

No information available.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The vegetation varies from extensive grass steppes over dense northern willow (*Salix glauca*) scrub in the southern-facing lowlands, to moss-mat communities and to barren grounds in exposed high-altitude areas. Wetlands, marshes and numerous lakes, of varying size are situated within the site both in the low- and highlands (Egevang & Boertmann 2001).

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

No detailed information available for R.I.S. at this point. Refer to point 16 for a general description.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

The site is a very important staging and moulting area for the White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) (1,822-2,500 indiv. in 1988 and 1995). It is also a very important breeding area for these geese (30-100 in 1995).

Some rare waterbirds have been recorded: Tundra swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), Teal (*Anas crecca*), Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), Showeler (*Anas clypeata*) and Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

Musk oxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) have been introduced further south and a few animals are occasionally seen within this site. Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) is common in the area (Egevang & Boertmann 2001).

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

There are some hunting and fishing in the area.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

a and b: Territorial ownership. No privately owned land.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

a and b The Ramsar site is situated within just 8 km to the north of the international airport of Kangerlussuaq. Mineral exploration activities have taken place south of the border in recent years.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

(a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) and (b) past:

There has neither been any human induced changes' adversely affecting the physical structure of the site nor of the surroundings of the site. So the ecological potential of the site is expected to be preserved. The only exception is the construction in the year 1999 of a new 6-7 km gravelled road in the very southeastern part of the site extending and old road to the central icecap. Some car traffic is expected. Changes in the composition of the bird species using the site, might have been caused by factors affecting the birds in the whole of their distribution areas, but might also have been caused by traditional hunting at the site.

(a) and (b) present:

There are no current human activities in the site.

(a) and (b) potential:

There are no planned activities, which will change the physical structure of the site or the surroundings of the site. Any future activities will be regulated. See point 23 and 24.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The seabird breeding colonies* are designated as "Areas important to wildlife" by the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum". In general the regulation apply only to activities in relation to mineral exploration. Fixed-wing aircrafts flying more than 500 m above the ground is not regulated.

*In an area within 200 m from the colony, activities need approval in the period 1 June- 15 Sept.

However navigating does not need any approval. Staying in the colony is not permitted (Egevang & Boertmann 2001, Anonymous 2000).

No management plans exists.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plans in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

No management plan in preparation. However, within a 2-4 year time frame specific conservation measures of this Ramsar area could be expected following a new Nature protection act planned to enter into force in 2002. The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) recommends that a monitoring programme is necessary with a 8-10 years interval at this site. In addition, NERI concludes that demand of management is at a mid-level since potential conflict with human activities is assessed to be at a medium level (Egevang & Boertmann, 2001).

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

NERI has in 2001 published a status report for this and all other Ramsar areas in Greenland.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

None.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Hunting of caribou and musk oxes takes place in and around the site. Growing amount of tourism activities.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

The Greenland Home Rule Government. Ministry of Environment and Nature.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

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30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Danish Report 1996 on the Ramsar Convention, Denmark and Greenland.

Ministry of Environment and Energy, The National Forest and Nature Agency
Ramsar Areas in Greenland.

Department of Environment and Nature, Greenland. Unpublished report 1998.

Anonymous 2000. Rules for fieldwork and reporting regarding mineral resources (excluding hydrocarbons) in Greenland. Government of Greenland, Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum.

Egevang, C. & Boertmann, D. 2001. The Greenland Ramsar Sites, a status report. - National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Denmark. NERI Technical Report No. 346, 96 pp.

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