

# 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

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### 1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May 2002

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### 2. Country:

Denmark (Greenland)

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### 3. Name of wetland:

Ikkatoq and adjacent archipelago

International No. 387

National No. 7

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### 4. Geographical coordinates:

62°40'N, 50°8'W

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**5. Altitude:** (min. & max.) 0-500 m

**6. Area:** 44.880 hectares

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### 7. Overview:

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

Terrestrial/marine habitat area: 50/50%

A shallow fjord with numerous small islands surrounded by shallow waters with tidal mudflats. The largest known moulting area for Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*).

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### 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 ! O ! 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: A D E Va

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

1

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Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

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10. **Map of site included? Please tick *yes* X -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.

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

Inge Thaulow, Ministry of Environment and Nature, Greenland Homerule Government, P.O. Box 1614, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland. Ph.: + 299 34 67 18, fax + 299 32 52 86, e-mail: inth@gh.gl

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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).

4. The largest known moulting area for Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*).

6. More than 1% of White-tailed eagles in Greenland breeds in the site. Important moulting area for the Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) (5% of the E Greenland/Iceland/UK population).

The Greenlandic White-tailed eagle is assumed by some authors to be a distinct subspecies (*Haliaeetus albicilla groenlandica*). The White-tailed eagles are all-year endemics.

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

The fjord is situated south of Nuuk on the south-western coast of Greenland. Within the Municipality of Nuuk.

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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)

Shallow fjord area with muddy and silty seabeds, numerous small islands surrounded by shallow waters and large mudflats exposed at low tide. The coasts are generally rocky, with small pocket beaches and off Frederikshåb Isblink with extensive sand beaches (Egevang & Boertmann 2001). The site is located within the low arctic climatic zone with sporadic perma frost. Ice cap reaches the fjord by "Frederikshåb Isblink". Melt water from the ice drain for a large part into the site, and all marine waters have an intense turquoise colour. The archipelago to the east is made of low islands with rocky shores.

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

No information available.

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

No information available.

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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.

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

In general bird data is somewhat scarce from this site. Important moulting area for the Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) (up to 100 in 1985, 474 in 1999) and the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (147 in 1999 which constitute 9,8 % of the Greenland population).

More than 1% of White-tailed eagles in Greenland breeds in the site. The Greenlandic White-tailed eagle is assumed by some authors to be a distinct subspecies (*Haliaeetus albicilla groenlandica*). The White-tailed eagles are all-year endemics.

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

Boat traffic in the archipelago along the coast. Remoteness of the site from Nuuk provides some protection but hunting and fishing takes place in the fjord every summer.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area  
a and b: Territorial ownership. No privately owned land.

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment  
a and b: Sailing, hunting and fishing.

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**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. 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 activities at the site.

(a) and (b) present:

The same as in the past. Apart from hunting and related disturbances no serious threat is known at 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.

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**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 interior parts of the fjord Ikkattoq has been designated an "Area important to wildlife" (eiders and other seaducks) 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 areas designated for eiders and other seaducks all activities need approval in the period 1 Aug. – 30 Sep. (except from some single helicopter flights and navigation with motorised vessels with a maximum speed of 10 knots) (Egevang & Boertmann 2001, Anonymous 2000).

No management plans exists.

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**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 medium level since potential conflict with human activities is assessed to be at a medium level (Egevang & Boertmann, 2001).

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**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.

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

None.

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

Hunting and fishing takes place. No tourism.

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**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.

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

Ministry of Environment and Nature, Greenland Home Rule Government, P.O. Box 1614, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland. Ph.: + 299 34 67 01, fax + 299 32 52 86

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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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Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 ! Fax: +41 22 999 0169 ! e-mail: [ramsar@hq.iucn.org](mailto:ramsar@hq.iucn.org)