



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 15 May 2019

Update version, previously published on : 1 January 2002

Denmark Kitsissut Avalliit



Designation date	27 January 1988
Site number	388
Coordinates	60°45'04"N 48°25'49"W
Area	4 470,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

This site is archipelago of rocky islands situated ca. 10 km off the mainland coast. There is a high diversity of breeding seabirds including Thick-billed murre, common guillemot, Atlantic puffin and white-tailed eagle.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	David Boertmann
Institution/agency	Aarhus University, Institute for Bioscience
Postal address	Frederiksborgvej 399 DK-4000 Roskilde Denmark
E-mail	dmb@bios.au.dk
Phone	+45 25580687

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	1971
To year	2016

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Kitsissut Avalliit
Unofficial name (optional)	Ydre Kitsissut

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The boundary has been extended	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The boundary has been restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

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Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

The boundary includes all islands and skerries in the archipelago and it is 1-0.5 km from the islands.
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2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Kommune Kujalleq
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Arsuk 45 km away, Qassimiut 65 km and Qaqortoq 130 km

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
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b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Low Arctic oceanic
WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions	Kalallit Nunaat low Arctic tundra

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons

This site is an archipelago situated far from the mainland coast, and it is generally difficult to sail there because of high sea state and often also drift ice, resulting in limited human activity such as disturbance and hunting in the breeding season.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities


- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

This site holds the highest diversity of breeding seabirds in Greenland.
























- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	rare in Greenland	

The flora and vegetation are very sparse. In sheltered places, patches of grassland and dwarf scrub heath are found, and rare in Greenland cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) occurs there.

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WU on global red list	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Cephus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic Puffin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WU on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2			LC 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WU on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Harlequin Duck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		moulting
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Glaucous Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WU on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider West Greenland population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Murre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	500	1999		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN on national red list	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Uria lomvia</i>	Thick-billed Murre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2100	2016		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WU on national red list	breeding

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

This site is an extensive archipelago, situated approx. 10 km from the mainland coast. The main islands are Tupersuartuut and Thorstein Islænder and there are a large number of smaller islands and skerries. The islands are extremely exposed and vegetation is only found in the most sheltered locations. Although it is situated in the open water region of West Greenland (with no or only light sea ice in winter), it is often surrounded by the "Storis" (drift ice from East Greenland) in spring and early summer. The islands are situated in a zone with sporadic permafrost.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		2		Representative

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		1		Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Dwarph scrub heath	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon				visitor
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyrfalcon				visitor
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Snow Bunting				probably breeding

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
E: Polar climate with extremely cold winters and summers	ET: Tundra (Polar tundra, no true summer)

The Köppen-Gieger Climate Classification System do not really apply here. The site is within the low Arctic zone.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Organic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from rainfall	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Rainfall includes snow here.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mesotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Oligotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Dystrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

As the site is an offshore archipelago, the surrounding area is open sea/ocean.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Low

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Hunting and illegal egg collecting takes place.

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Public land (unspecified)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Pinngortitamut Avatangiisinullu Naalakkersuisoqarfik
Departementet for Natur og Miljø
Ministry of Nature and Environment

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Karen Motzfeldt, Head of Department for Nature, Climate and Research

Postal address:

Pinngortitamut Avatangiisinullu Naalakkersuisoqarfik
Departementet for Natur og Miljø
Ministry of Nature and Environment
Postboks 1015
3900 Nuuk

E-mail address:

pan@nanoq.gl

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The biological resource use is aimed at seabirds and marine mammals and not terrestrial animals (which is the only option in the scroll down menu). The resource use includes an illegal collection of seabird eggs - especially from the thick-billed murre takes place, and may be a major threat to the population.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Area important to wildlife (Anon. 2000)		https://www.govmin.gl/images/stories/minerals/rules_for_fieldwork.pdf	whole
Breeding Bird Reserve		http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={56 675241-A0B5-4D4E-89F9-C34D784175 39}	whole
Ramsar site	Kitsissut Avalliit	http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={15 CBC689-E3AD-470D-B32A-947A250D70 62}	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	GL041 Kitsissut Avalliit	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/58	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

1a Strict Nature Reserve

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Research	Implemented

Other:

Low level flying and sailing is regulated.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal community	Proposed
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

Monitoring proposed by Egevang & Boertmann 2001.
The breeding population of the thick-billed murre is monitored by Greenland Institute of Natural Resources.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

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

Bay, C. 1997. Floristic division and vegetation zonation of Greenland in relevance to a circumpolar arctic vegetation map: 27-31. In: Proceedings of the second circumpolar arctic vegetation mapping workshop, Arendal, Norway, 19.-24. May 1996. Walker, S. & A.C. Lillie, eds.). – Occasional Paper No. 52, 1997. Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado.

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

Greenland Red List 2007. (Boertmann, D., 2008). Rødliste 2007 over planter og dyr i Grønland. – Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser, Grønlands Hjemmestyre.

Kampp, K. & Falk., K. 1994. The birds of Ydre Kitsissut (Kitsissut Avalliit), Southwest Greenland. – Meddelelser om Grønland, Bioscience 42: 1-25.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<1 file(s) uploaded>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



View from main island towards southeast. (Jannie Fries Linnebjerg, 00-07-2009)



Thick-billed Murre sub-colony. (Jannie Fries Linnebjerg, 00-07-2010)



View from main island towards east with mainland in the background. (Jannie Fries Linnebjerg, 00-07-2010)



View from main island towards northwest. (Jannie Fries Linnebjerg, 00-07-2011)



View from main island towards southwest. (Jannie Fries Linnebjerg, 00-07-2011)



The islands seen from east. (David Boertmann, 29-08-1993)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation