

# Management plan for World Heritage Site

# ILULISSAT ICEFJORD



NAALAKKERSUISUT  
GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND



Avannaata  
Kommunia



ilulissat  
kangia

Ilulissat Isfjord  
Ilulissat Icefjord

## 2021 - 2025 Plan Period

|         | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Version |      |      | x    |      |      |



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Ilulissat Icefjord  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2004

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Preface</b> .....  | 3  |
| <b>Management of Ilulissat Icefjord</b> .....   | 4  |
| The objective of the management .....   | 6  |
| The purpose of the management plan and annual management process .....                  | 7  |
| Protection of the area .....  | 8  |
| Monitoring the area .....   | 9  |
| <b>Values of the area</b> .....   | 10 |
| <b>Activities in the area</b> .....   | 18 |
| <b>Challenges and opportunities, and management measures</b> .....                      | 22 |
| <b>Annex</b> .....  | 29 |
| Annex A - Steering Group Commissioner and the responsibilities of the authorities ..... | 29 |
| Annex B - The Nature Protection Order .....   | 34 |
| Annex C - Buffer zone regulations .....   | 37 |
| Annex D - UNESCO guidelines for protection and management .....                         | 39 |
| Annex E - Municipal by-law on motorised driving in the open countryside .....           | 46 |
| Annex F - Monitoring data.....  | 49 |



## Preface

In the steering group for Ilulissat Icefjord, we are proud to present this management plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site for the 2021-2025 plan period.

During the plan period, the management of the Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site will balance many considerations for protection, development and increased information. This holistic management is planned and coordinated in the steering group in close collaboration between representatives from Avannaata Municipality, the Ministry of Science and Environment and the Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark.

This management plan will be the central management tool in the steering group and create the framework for the management. The management plan is built around an annual management process, where the steering group members jointly create priority management content. The management plan contains a summary of the priority management measures, which is adjusted every year to address current challenges and opportunities in Ilulissat Icefjord.

The management process in the steering group creates an engaged and committed management collaboration that protects the World Heritage Site while ensuring local development opportunities and increasing the information about and pride over the World Heritage Site both locally and nationally.

The management plan is a central part of Greenland's obligations to UNESCO by having an area on the World Heritage List and implementing the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The management plan has been prepared by the Ministry of Science and Environment in collaboration with Avannaata Municipality.

With the desire for good and constructive management.

### The steering group for Ilulissat Icefjord by

- The Ministry of Science and Environment
- Avannaata Municipality
- The Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark



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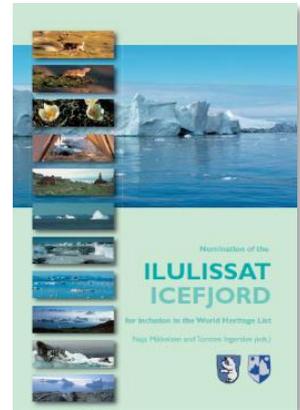
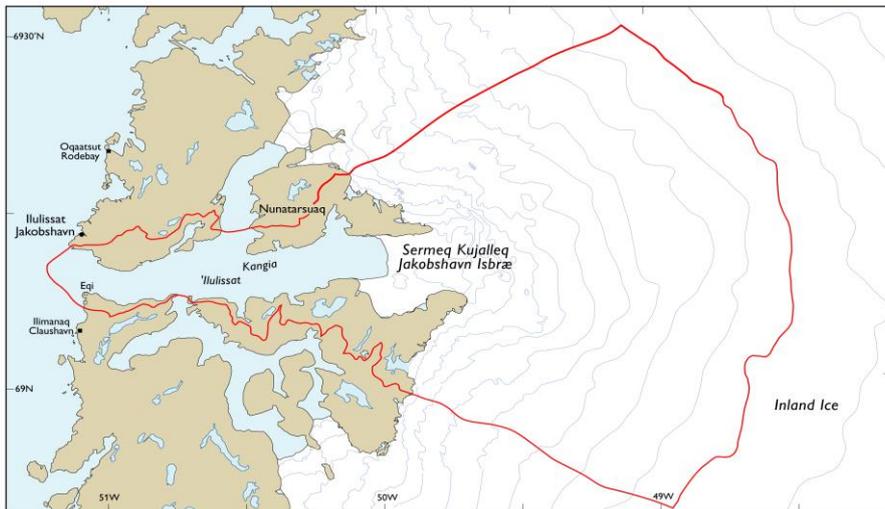


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## Management of Ilulissat Icefjord

The Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site has a total area of approx. 4026 km<sup>2</sup>, of which the land area is approx. 11%, the marine area approx. 9% and the ice area approx. 80%. The area is bounded by the watershed, which is the landscape boundary from which all rainfall leads down towards the fjord.



*Nomination of the Ilulissat Icefjord for inclusion in the World Heritage List by Mikkelsen, N. and Ingerslev, T. 2003. Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)*

For more detailed information about the Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site, the development of the ice and the history of the area, please refer to the nomination material prepared in connection with the inclusion of Ilulissat Icefjord on the World Heritage List. The nomination material can be found on the UNESCO website ([link](#)).

Ilulissat is Greenland's third-largest town, the country's favourite tourist destination and one of Greenland's most important areas for fishing. With Ilulissat's new Atlantic airport opening, the number of visitors is expected to increase, and new opportunities and challenges will arise. Many considerations must therefore be balanced in the management of Ilulissat Icefjord in the coming years.

The management of the Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site is carried out in close collaboration among the central authorities of Avannaata Municipality, the Ministry of Science and Environment and the Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark. The three authorities are organised in one steering group, the *Steering Group for Ilulissat Icefjord*, where management measures are coordinated and planned. See **Annex A** for more information on the steering group, the authorities' responsibilities, organisation and resources.



## Ilulissat Icefjord on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Ilulissat Icefjord was put on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004 as a particularly valuable natural area and is Greenland's first World Heritage Site. The World Heritage List contains more than 200 natural areas worldwide, and Ilulissat Icefjord is one of the few Arctic natural areas.



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**Ilulissat Icefjord**  
inscribed on the World  
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The purpose of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention is to identify and protect precious cultural and natural areas with such unique value and significance that they must be particularly protected and preserved to benefit everybody in the world and be passed on to future generations.

Each site on the World Heritage List is designated based on one or more world heritage values, which is precisely what makes a site uniquely universally valuable, which is called the site's *designation basis, world heritage value* or *outstanding universal value (OUV)*.

Ilulissat Icefjord's designation basis (OUV) is the site's unique natural phenomenon in the form of the fast-moving inland ice flow with calving in the fjord, the exceptional natural beauty and the area's great importance for glaciological science over many centuries.

### **Ilulissat Icefjord's designation basis**

World Heritage Site/Unique Universal Value (OUV)

1. *A unique natural phenomenon and exceptional natural beauty*
  - *Fast-moving ice stream that calves directly into the ice-covered fjord*
  - *Wild and scenic combination of rock, ice and sea, as well as dramatic sounds and an unforgettable sight*
2. *A unique example of one stage in the Earth's history*
  - *A unique example of the last Ice Age in the Quaternary Period*
  - *A unique significance for glaciological science*

You can read more about Ilulissat Icefjord's world heritage values and designation basis on page 10.



## The objective of the management

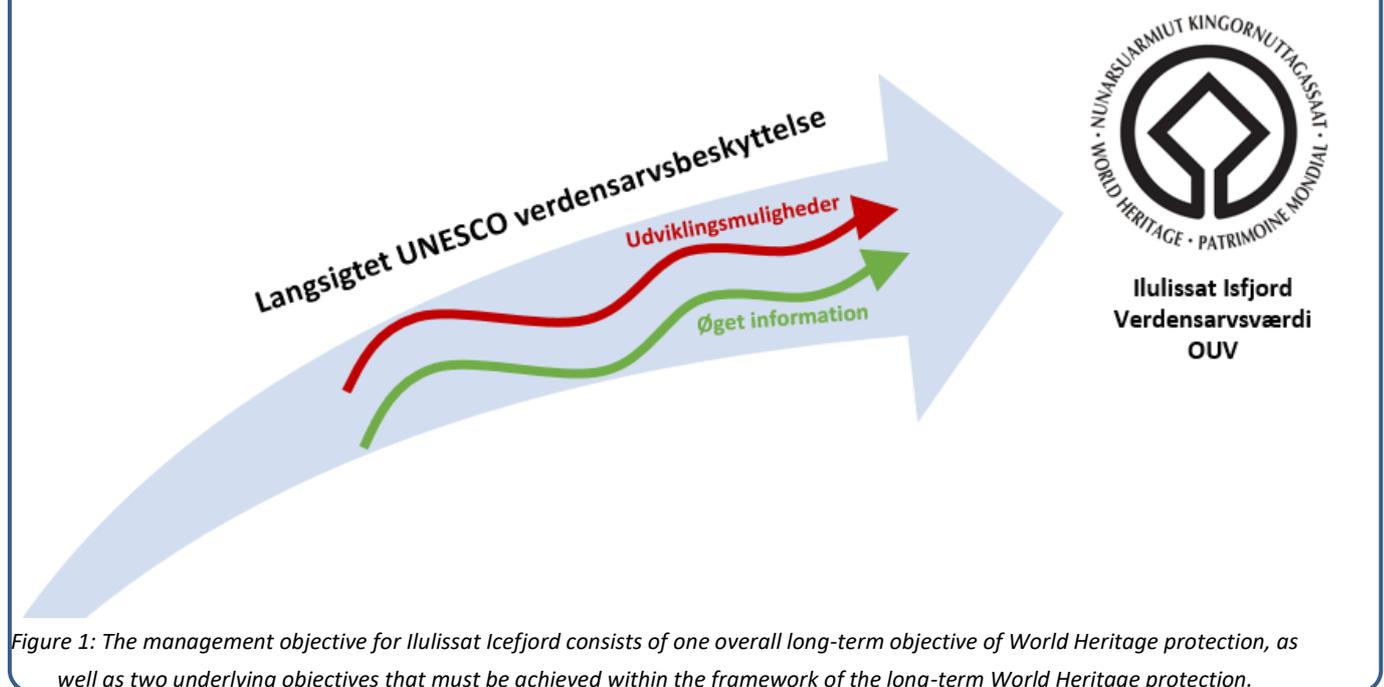
The management objective for Ilulissat Icefjord consists of an overall long-term objective, as well as two underlying objectives that must be realised within the framework of the overall management objective - see Figure 1.

### The overall and long-term management objective is

- To protect Ilulissat Icefjord's designation basis and World Heritage Value (OUV) so that the area is preserved for the benefit of humanity and future generations in accordance with Greenland's obligation to fulfil the purpose of the World Heritage Convention. This mainly entails the protection of the area's landscape character and expression, as well as the protection of the area's natural and cultural values.

The two underlying management objectives to be pursued in the context of overall long-term World Heritage protection are:

- To provide development opportunities for the local business, tourism and the residents of Ilulissat.
- To increase information and understanding of the World Heritage Site both locally and nationally.



The management of Ilulissat Icefjord must ensure a balance and an interplay between protection, development and knowledge building. Ilulissat Icefjord's status as a World Heritage Site and the area's natural and cultural-historical values must be preserved and protected while business, tourism and residents of Ilulissat do not experience the area's status as a World Heritage Site as a stumbling block to the town's development plans. Finally, the interest, pride and respect for the World Heritage Site must be disseminated.

The type of holistic icefjord and landscape management around Ilulissat will consist of diverse management measures and can be done in several ways. Therefore, the prerequisite for the management is that it takes place in close and good collaboration between the Ministry, the municipality and the area's key players.

## The purpose of the management plan and annual management process

The management plan aims to create a framework for a process that ensures the above objective in good, holistic management. The management plan must be a practical, dynamic and effective management tool for managing the area.

The management plan format means that the plan's content can and will continuously develop as reality changes and new management measures are identified and implemented. Therefore, during the 2021-2025 plan period, there will be a revision of the management plan with more recently updated versions as a result.

The framework for holistic management is ensured by a defined, annual management process that structures the collaboration in the steering group. The annual management process ensures that current opportunities, challenges, and issues are identified and addressed quickly and efficiently through current management measures. The process creates the framework for the authorities, in close collaboration, to adjust and adapt the administration when reality changes and new situations and wishes arise.

The annual management process includes a start-up meeting for the steering group at the beginning of the year, followed by three quarterly follow-up meetings for the rest of the year, see Figure 2. The meetings can be held virtually. In addition to the four annual regular steering group meetings, the authorities will have ongoing contact and dialogue, just as extraordinary steering group meetings can be held as needed.

See **Annex A** for more information on the steering group, the authorities' responsibilities, organisation and resources.

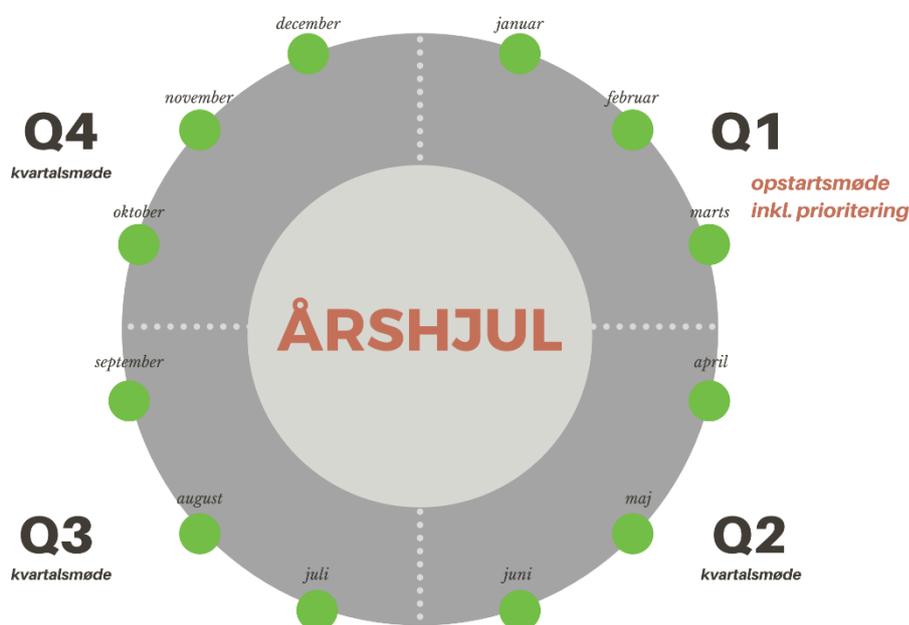


Figure 2: Annual cycle of work showing the principle of the annual management process that structures the collaboration in the steering group beginning with the start-up meeting in Q1.

The annual management process is a recurring revision process that provides an adjusted management plan each year (or as needed). The annual process must identify and prioritise new challenges, opportunities and

management measures, which ensures a timely management plan that can be adapted if new challenges or opportunities arise during the plan period of the management plan.

## Protection of the area

The protection of the area consists of both the Nature Protection Order, which protects the World Heritage Site itself, as well as the buffer zones that protect the areas up to the border of the World Heritage Site.

### The Nature Protection Order

The Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site is, in addition to being a World Heritage Site, also a nationally protected area and has been since 2003. The World Heritage Site and the protected area are identical in size and layout. The protection of the World Heritage Site is primarily regulated through the National Protection Order: *Greenland Home Rule Government Order No. 10 of 15 June 2007 on the protection of Ilulissat Icefjord*.

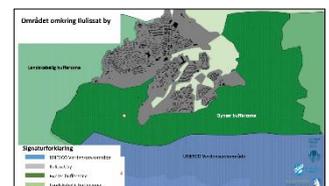
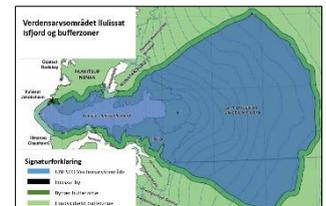
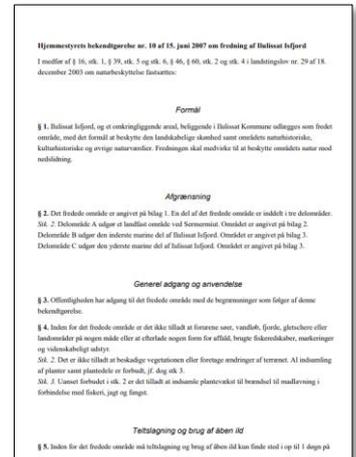
See **Annex B** for the full text of the Nature Protection Order.

The Nature Protection Order protects the area primarily through the regulation of traffic, construction, driving, sailing and flying. The Order meets UNESCO's protection requirements<sup>1</sup> for a local, long-term and adequate protection of the area of the world.

### Buffer zones

Another UNESCO requirement<sup>2</sup> for the protection of World Heritage Sites is the establishment of a buffer zone encircling the world heritage site itself. The buffer zone should complement the protection in the World Heritage Site itself and act as a 'buffer' by adding an additional layer of protection to the area. The buffer zone for the Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site consists of two types of buffer zone:

1. The landscape buffer zone: A 2 km zone encircling the entire World Heritage Site except for the town of Ilulissat, as well as the area immediately south and east of the town.
2. The suburban buffer zone: The area to the south and east of Ilulissat town where the landscape buffer zone ceases.



The two buffer zones are designated in Avannaata Municipality's municipal plan. The municipal buffer zone regulations regulate the use, construction and operation of the buffer zones. See **Annex C** for the zoning provisions of the buffer zones in their full text.

<sup>1</sup> Articles 96-102 of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

<sup>2</sup> Articles 103-107 of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. See **Annex D** for UNESCO World Heritage Guidelines for the protection of World Heritage areas.

## Monitoring the area

A key part of good area management is to know the status of the site and to assess on an ongoing basis whether development affects the status of the site negatively or positively. Furthermore, the status of Ilulissat Icefjord as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is conditional on the periodic (every 6 years) submission of a status report to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the state of the site via an online questionnaire. The purpose of the Periodic Reporting Process is to obtain knowledge about changes in a World Heritage site and to document whether the site's World Heritage Values (WHVs) are being maintained over time.

In order to be able to carry out this reporting, it is necessary to collect data through a continuous and uniform monitoring process that supports this response based on selected principles and parameters. This annual monitoring process was described in further detail in the monitoring procedure, which was prepared in 2022. Particularly important monitoring parameters are capacity, visitors, wear and tear and the amount of rubbish on the site.

The annual monitoring data will also form the basis for the preparation of an annual report to be shared with the steering group members. The Annual Report disseminates existing knowledge on the use of the World Heritage site, its state of conservation and activities carried out in the context of the annual management.



## Values of the area

The prerequisite for good area management is knowing the area's different values and activities, which is vital to balance various considerations and meet wishes for future activities among users and stakeholders. This knowledge is the foundation for making critical assessments and making the necessary decisions to meet the area's threefold objective of protection, development, and increased information.

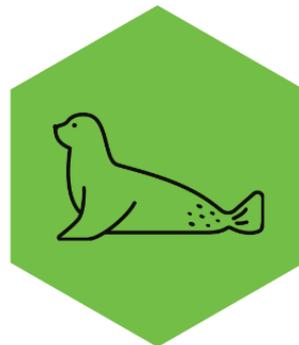
The values of the area can generally be divided into four categories. Read more on the following pages.



Verdensarvsværdier



Landskabsværdier



Naturværdier



Kulturmindeværdier



## World Heritage Values

Ilulissat Icefjord was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004 as a natural area of unique universal importance. Ilulissat Icefjord has been designated a World Heritage Site due to the area's unique natural phenomenon in the form of the inland ice flow in rapid motion with calving in the fjord, the exceptional natural beauty and the area's great importance for glaciological science over many centuries.



As previously mentioned, Ilulissat Icefjord is one of the more than 200 natural areas globally on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Each area on the World Heritage List is designated based on one or more World Heritage Values, the uniquely universally valuable, which is called the area's *designation basis*, *world heritage value* or *outstanding universal value (OUV)*. The designation basis consists of some general world heritage criteria and some corresponding site-specific designation values. Below is Ilulissat Icefjord's *designation basis* composed of general and site-specific designation values:

| <b>Ilulissat Icefjord's designation basis</b><br><i>world heritage value</i><br><i>outstanding universal value (OUV)</i>  |              |                 | <br><small>United Nations<br/>Educational, Scientific and<br/>Cultural Organization</small>   | <br><small>Ilulissat Icefjord<br/>inscribed on the World<br/>Heritage List in 2004</small> | <br><small>ilulissat<br/>kangia</small><br><small>Ilulissat Isfjord<br/>Ilulissat Icefjord</small> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| <b>General</b>  | <b>World</b> | <b>Heritage</b> | <b>Site-specific designation values for Ilulissat Icefjord</b>   |  |  |
| <b>criteria</b>   |              |                 |  |  |  |
| <i>World Heritage criteria vii:</i><br>Designated values must contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.  |              |                 | The combination of the giant inland ice and the fast-moving ice flow that calves in a fjord, covered by icebergs, is a phenomenon only seen in Greenland and Antarctica. Ilulissat gives both scientists and visitors easy access to see with their own eyes the calving glacier front as it overflows from the ice cap into the ice-filled fjord. The wild and extremely scenic combination of rock, ice and sea, combined with the dramatic sounds that the movement of the ice make, provides an unforgettable sight.   |  |  |
| <i>World Heritage criteria viii:</i><br>Designated values must 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 is a unique example of a stage in the Earth's history: The last Ice Age in the Quaternary Period. The ice flow is one of the fastest (40 m per day) and the most active in the world. The ice flow calves more than 46 km <sup>3</sup> of ice annually, which is 10% of all calving ice in Greenland. It is more than any other glacier outside of Antarctica. The glacier has been the subject of scientific attention for 250 years, and together with its relatively easy accessibility, it has contributed significantly to the understanding of inland glaciology, climate change and related landscape forming processes. |  |  |

Source: UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1149/>

## Landscape values

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The landscape values in the area are the glaciological conditions in the form of the movement of the glacier as one of the fastest in the world and with the calving of icebergs directly in the ice-filled fjord. The Icefjord gives the visitor a unique insight into a stage in the Earth's history: the last Ice Age in the Quaternary Period. At the same time, the area's grandeur and landscape beauty give an unforgettable impression of untouched, unspoiled nature and wilderness. The area's landscape values are in accordance with the World Heritage values and are those of the area's values that are decisive for the area's inclusion on the World Heritage List (see the section on World Heritage values). For more information about the area's landscape values, please refer to the nomination material found on the UNESCO website ([link](#)).

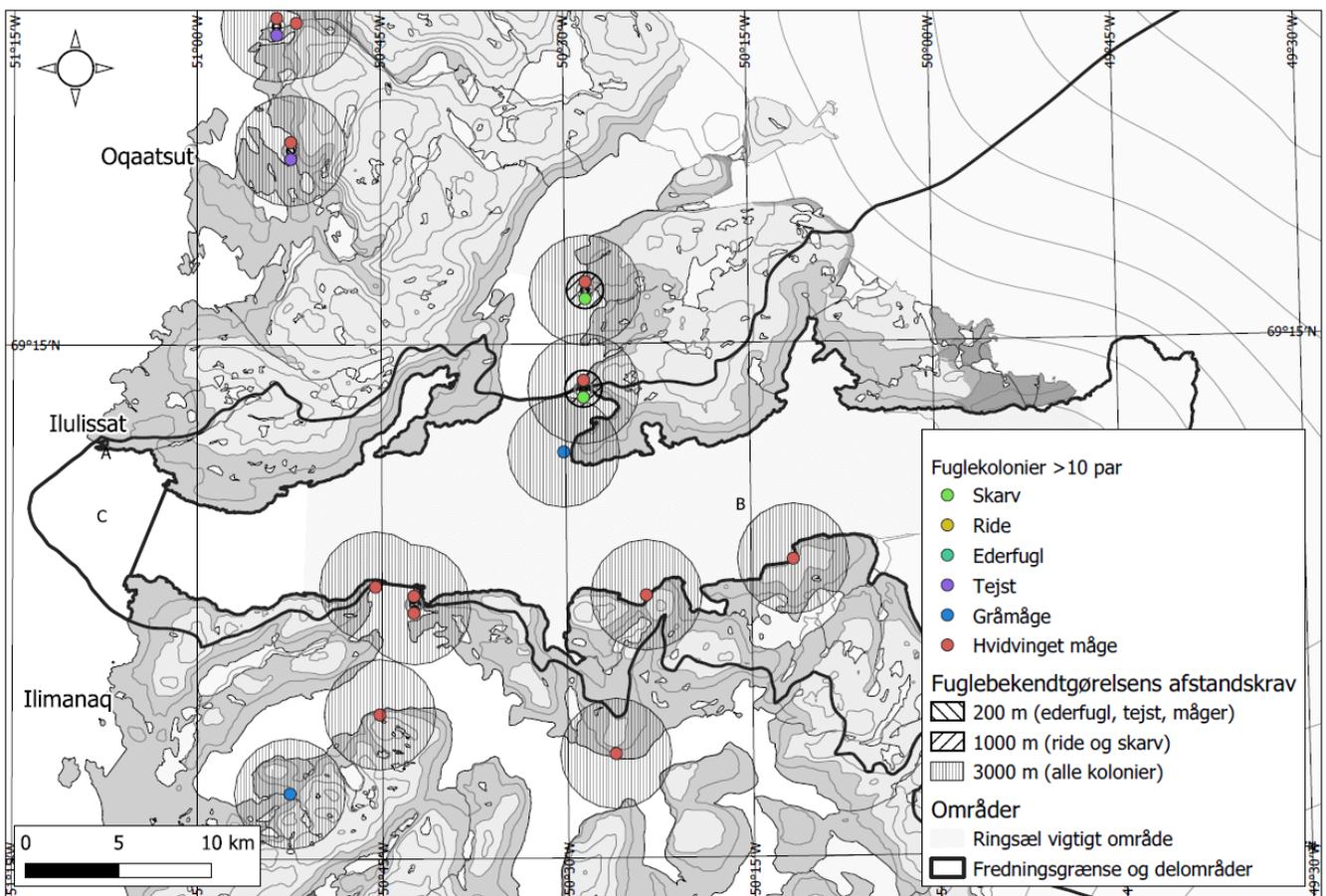


## Natural values

Ilulissat Icefjord is rich in fish and marine mammals due to the special glaciological conditions in the icefjord when the icebergs melt and release large amounts of nutrients. The constant movement of the icebergs creates turbulence in the water that brings warm and nutritious water up to the sea's surface that results in an enormous production of plankton, which as a food base attracts many fish, marine mammals and birds. Halibut is the most common fish in the icefjord and is the subject of intensive fishing in the entire area. The ringed seal lives in the icefjord all year round, and its most important areas are the inner part of the icefjord itself and, in particular, the northern fjord arm towards The Dead Glacier (Den Døde Bræ). Humpback whales are often seen at the mouth of the icefjord. Most of the bird colonies recorded in the icefjord are gull species.



In contrast to the icefjord, the animal and plant life on land is sparser, with nutrient-poor mountains dominated by a vegetation of dwarf birch, crowberry and bog blueberry. The Arctic fox, the Arctic snow hare, the rock ptarmigan and the raven are among the animals often seen in the area. Reindeer are found primarily south of the icefjord.



*Recorded bird colonies and important areas for the ringed seal. Greenland Institute of Natural Resources 2020.*

## Cultural monument values

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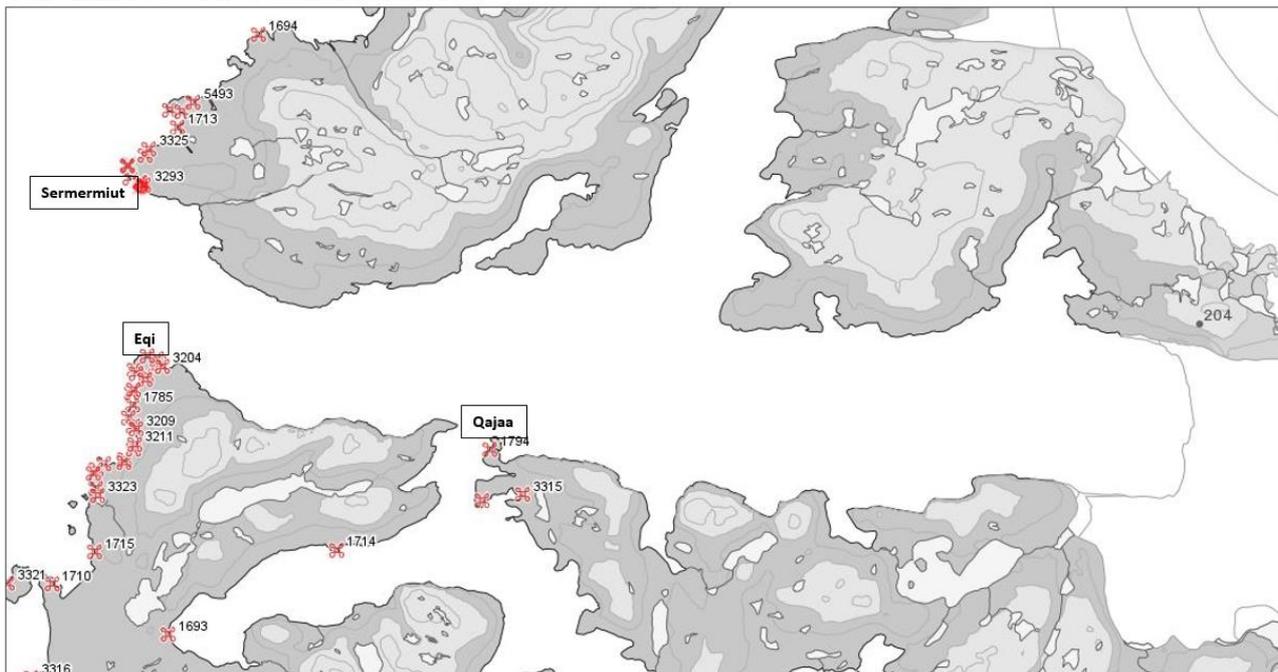
The Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site includes many cultural monuments in the form of prehistoric and historical elements. These include archaeological features such as the Inuit winter settlements of Sermermiut and Egi, the large burial grounds near Sermermiut and many other isolated cultural monuments (i.e., chamber tombs, cairns and other types of structures) found within the area boundary. Other important localities are, for example, the prehistoric settlement of Qajaa, which is of great scientific value due to the high degree of preservation and well-defined stratigraphy of the cultural layers. Qajaa is associated with the larger, ancient cultural landscape in the Icefjord.



The cultural monument values in Ilulissat Icefjord are protected through the Parliament of Greenland's Heritage Protection Act No. 11 of 19 May 2010 on cultural heritage protection and conservation. The act authorises Greenland National Museum & Archives (NKA) to designate the protection status of pre-1900 cultural monuments and historic buildings through planning, listing, and other cultural management measures. Access to and use of areas within and in the vicinity of the World Heritage Site must be according to the rules described in the Heritage Protection Act. In addition, access restrictions are specified in the Nature Protection Order (see Annex B).

Ilulissat Icefjord's cultural monuments and archaeological components are an irreplaceable source of Greenland's prehistory, history, living memory and climate data. The cultural heritage of the area is also of economic importance to the tourism sector. The management and protection of the World Heritage Sites are a mutual responsibility of Avannaata Municipality and NKA. All management actions related to their conservation and status should, as far as possible, be prioritised so that current and future generations can benefit from these cultural resources. It is estimated that there are still many unrecorded cairns and tombs on the World Heritage Site.

## Kulturmindeværdier ved Ilulissat Isfjord

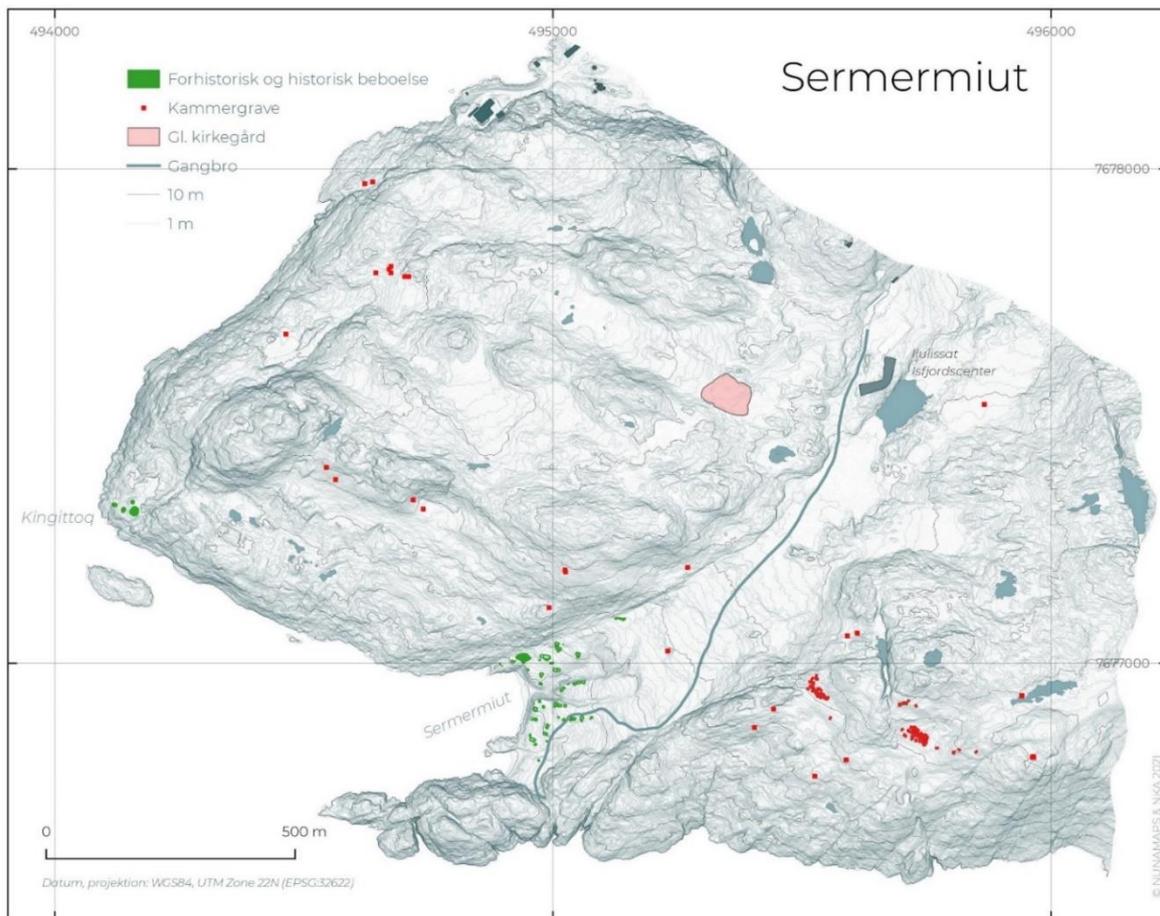


*Recorded and protected cultural monuments at Ilulissat Icefjord. The numbers are NKAH's identification numbers. Nunniffiit 2021.*

### Sermermiut

The Sermermiut settlement comprises the ruins of a large cluster of stone and peat houses, located on the northern shore of Ilulissat Icefjord, approx. 3 km southeast of Ilulissat. The ruins (recorded with the identification numbers NKAH 1817, 3219, 3287, 3289-3293) are grouped around a small bay on a grassy wetland moraine that extends a few hundred metres inland. Several small watercourses are cut deep into the gravelly subsoil. Most of the visible ruins represent the most recent residential phase, approx. 1850 and after. Traces of earlier Thule cultural phases and the older Saqqaq and Dorset cultures are found under these ruins. The conservation of organic matter found associated with these house ruins is quite good. However, the wet subsoil is in constant motion, and materials move slowly in a lateral direction toward the tidal zone. The more serious concern is the degradation caused by eroding snowmelt, water drainage, waves, storm surges and even small tsunamis caused by the large icebergs when they break off. Due to its proximity to the footbridge, the Sermermiut settlement attracts large numbers of visitors every year. However, at present, no information on the Sermermiut site is provided via signage. Better information about the history and significance of the Sermermiut settlement should be a focal point in the coming years.

There are two large pre-Christian Thule culture burial grounds 400-600 metres east of the Sermermiut settlement. These burial grounds consist of 109 recorded and measured chamber tombs. A historic cemetery is located close to Ilulissat Icefjord Centre. The cemetery contains approx. 400 graves in an area measuring approx. 80 x 60 metres.



*Sermermiut settlement and surroundings. NKA 2021.*

### **Eqi**

Eqi (NKAH 1768, 3202-3206) is located at the mouth of the southern shore of the icefjord, approx. 8 km from Ilulissat. The site covers a large area and represents a multi-phase residential area with traces of Saqqaq culture, Thule culture and historical use. At NKAH 1768, ten winter houses have been identified, most of which are dated to the 19th and early 20th century with traces of pre-colonial settlement. In 1933, it was reported that the Eqi had six houses that remained inhabited until the early 1950s. To the southwest, NKAH 3205 is located 8-10 metres above sea level along the outer coast with several still visible residential structures from the Saqqaq culture period. Approx. 200 metres south of this is a cluster of 12 chamber tombs (NKAH 3206). There is currently very little information about Eqi's archaeology, making the site a focal point for further research.

### **Qajaa**

Qajaa is a Thule culture<sup>3</sup> winter settlement with several graves and is known for its thick and well-defined cultural layers, containing traces of Saqqaq culture, Greenlandic Dorset and Thule culture phases. These cultural layers are known for their excellent degree of preservation but are threatened by the receding permafrost. Qajaa should therefore be highlighted as a focal point in the coming years.

<sup>3</sup> The Thule culture was present in Qajaa from the 15th century to around 1800.



## Activities in the area

It is essential to know the area's activities to balance considerations in the management. Overall, the activities of the World Heritage Site and the surrounding landscape can be divided into:



### Tourism activities

Ilulissat is Greenland's favourite tourist destination with approx. 47,000 visitors in normal years (2022). However, there were only approx. 12,000 visitors in 2020 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions. The town of Ilulissat is characterised by many visitors with several hotels and diverse tourist offers. Several tourist operators use seasonal employees in the summer due to significant seasonal changes in the number of visitors. Therefore, tourism-related full-time jobs in Ilulissat fluctuate between 200-400 staff depending on the season, in addition to many part-time jobs. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the number of jobs in Ilulissat due to the considerable drop in the number of tourists in 2020. After the country opened up to tourism again in 2021, the number of tourists quickly increased to the 2019 level or even higher than this. The increased number of tourists also puts increased pressure on nature and the infrastructure in the UNESCO area. The primary tourism activities in the UNESCO area are hiking, camping, dog sledding and snowmobiling, as well as tourism helicopter flights and landings. The table in **Annex F** shows data on the number of flights and total number of passengers since 2015. Here it is clear that the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 has had a major impact on passenger numbers.



Below is a list of the various tourism activities taking place in Ilulissat. A large part of these takes place in, and in connection with, the UNESCO area.

| Tourism activities directly related to the UNESCO site:  | Other tourism activities resulting from the many visitors to the UNESCO site:   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tourism helicopter flights and landings</i></li> <li>• <i>Fixed-wing flights</i></li> <li>• <i>Sailing in the icefjord</i></li> <li>• <i>Northern Lights Sightseeing</i></li> <li>• <i>Dog sledging - as a trip in itself or as transport to, e.g., tourist cabins</i></li> <li>• <i>Whale watching</i></li> <li>• <i>Kayaking in the icefjord</i></li> <li>• <i>Cruise ships and landing craft</i></li> <li>• <i>Snowmobiling - as a trip in itself or as transport to, e.g., tourist cabins</i></li> <li>• <i>Hiking</i></li> <li>• <i>Hiking with a sledge dog</i></li> <li>• <i>VIP charter helicopter flights and landings</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>'City walks' with local guides</i></li> <li>• <i>Settlement trips</i></li> <li>• <i>Fishing trips</i></li> <li>• <i>Sea fishing trips</i></li> <li>• <i>Cabin accommodation both outdoors and in settlements</i></li> <li>• <i>Kaffemik - a traditional open-house get together where coffee is served</i></li> <li>• <i>Shorter dog sledging towards Akinnaq</i></li> <li>• <i>Cross-country skiing</i></li> <li>• <i>Museum visits</i></li> <li>• <i>Sledge dog visits</i></li> </ul> |

### **Commercial fishing and hunting**

Fishing in and around Ilulissat Icefjord is the primary source of income for the town of Ilulissat, and fishing employs many people. Fishing is mainly for halibut from smaller dinghies (approx. 260 licences) or larger boats (approx. 50 licences) – figures from 2022. The dinghy licences are typically counted as one full-time occupation, and the larger boats have between three and eight crew members. Therefore, fishing in Ilulissat employs between 370-590 people. Furthermore, there are approx. 180 employees at the two large fish factories in the town. Finally, many jobs are associated with fishing, e.g., longline production and other fishing-related products and services. In total, it is estimated that up to 800 people are employed in fishing in Ilulissat.

| Commercial fishing and hunting in Ilulissat Icefjord consist of several different activities:   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sailing with dinghies – halibut</i></li> <li>• <i>Sailing with cutters - halibut and prawns</i></li> <li>• <i>Fishing on the sea ice</i></li> <li>• <i>Transporting fish on land by snowmobile from the fjord to the town - in the approved corridors</i></li> <li>• <i>Sailing and catching seals</i></li> <li>• <i>Catching smaller, quota whale types</i></li> </ul> |

### **Research activities**

Jakobshavn Glacier at the bottom of Ilulissat Icefjord is unique, both in terms of its extreme speed and productivity. This, combined with its relatively easy accessibility by helicopter from Ilulissat, has given it a special position in glaciological research for many years. The importance of Ilulissat Icefjord and Jakobshavn Glacier for glaciological research is also one reason for the inclusion of the area on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Jakobshavn Glacier is one of the most-explored glaciers in the world, and the research has contributed decisively to the knowledge that exists today about glaciers and glacier movement. In recent

years, there has been a sharp increase in research related to the glacier due to the increased focus on global warming. Furthermore, both national and international research projects are interested in how natural conditions such as salinity and sea temperature affect the ice flow. The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources has research projects on the seals of the icefjord.

The research activities in Ilulissat Icefjord include:

- *Sailing in the ice fjord in connection with scientific measurements and biological counts*
- *Overflights with both aircraft and helicopters in connection with biological counts*
- *Transport to research locations*
- *Setting up research equipment*

### **Leisure activities**

Ilulissat Icefjord's proximity to Ilulissat town makes the area a natural excursion destination and the setting for various leisure activities for the town's residents, including sailing, dog sledging, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, berry picking, hunting, fishing, etc. It is especially the footbridge through the Sermermiut valley and the natural viewpoint over the icefjord that is a favourite excursion destination for locals.

### **Other activities**

Other activities in the area include regular scheduled flights to and from Ilulissat Airport, as well as passenger and freight transport by ship to and from Ilulissat port.

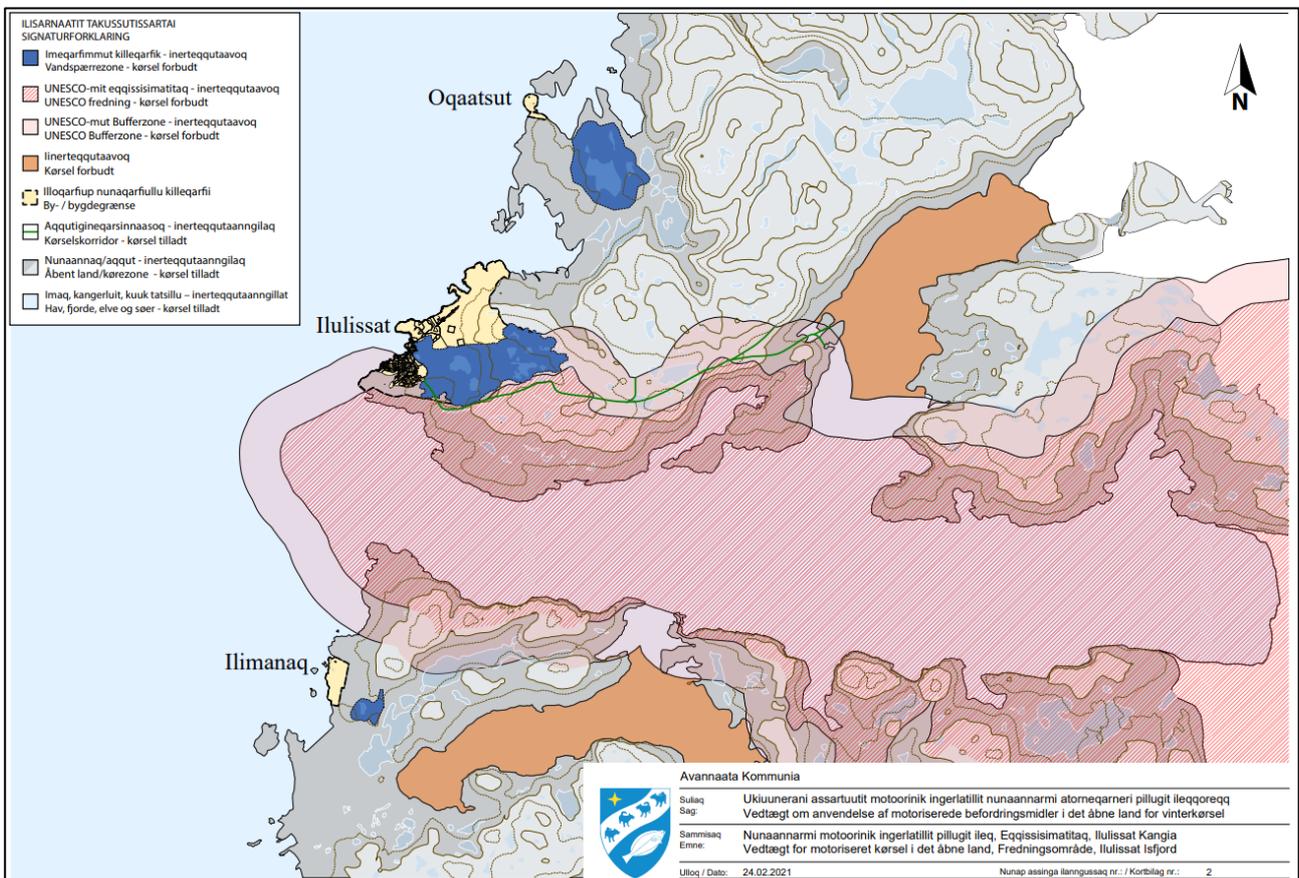


## Snowmobiling in and around the World Heritage Site

Snowmobiling and other motorised transport are not permitted within the World Heritage site and its two buffer zones. This is laid down in the Nature Protection Order and the buffer zone regulations. However, there are exemptions in both the Nature Protection Order and the buffer zone regulations that allow driving in designated corridors laid down in a municipal by-law on the use of motorised transport in the open countryside in the Ilulissat area. See **Annex E** for the full text of the municipal by-law.

Driving in defined corridors will ensure a concentrated and controlled use of motorised transport in the area, avoiding flat and diffuse driving in the landscape. This is in line with the conservation objective of protecting the scenic beauty and nature of the area from deterioration. At the same time, the corridors will provide local opportunities for fishing, tourism and leisure activities.

The map below shows the designated driving corridor (green line) where snowmobiling is allowed during the winter period from 1 October to 31 May. Driving may only take place when the ground is frozen, sufficiently snow-covered and has a load-bearing capacity so that no damage is caused to vegetation and the ground. Avannaata Municipality is the supervisory authority and ensures compliance with the driving rules and driving conditions.



*The by-law on the use of motorised transport in the open countryside for winter driving. Avannaata Municipality 2021.*

## Challenges and opportunities, and management measures

The steering group's dialogue and discussions will continuously identify challenges and opportunities in the area. The World Heritage Site management must prioritise and implement management measures that address these identified challenges and opportunities.

### Overview of the current priority management measures

The current priority management measures address the most current challenges and opportunities in managing the World Heritage Site. This prioritisation is made by the steering group for the start-up meeting, which is held at the beginning of each year (first quarter).

*NOTE - This section will be updated in the annual management process and will therefore vary in future versions of the management plan.*

| Year | Management measures  | Brief description   | Coordinating authority   | Status              |
|------|--|---|--|---------------------|
| 2021 | Revision of the Nature Protection Order  | The current Nature Protection Order is from 2007. A revision is necessary so that the Nature Protection Order can address the development in the area in the coming years | The Ministry of Science and Environment                                    | Prioritised in 2021 |
|      | Communication and updating of the kangia.gl website  | The communication material and website (www.kangia.gl) are outdated and need to be updated.   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2021 |
|      | Need to monitor World Heritage site status and prepare UNESCO reporting                              | Preparation of a simple and effective monitoring system and plan, as well as preparation of the UNESCO Periodic Reporting process.  | The Ministry of Science and Environment                                    | Prioritised in 2021 |
|      | Better dissemination of cultural monuments at the Sermermiut settlement                              | Initiation of dialogue with the National Museum of Denmark with a view to improving dissemination at Sermermiut   | The Ministry of Science and Environment and the National Museum of Denmark | Prioritised in 2021 |
|      | New signage of the World Heritage Site in connection with the opening of the Icefjord Centre in 2021 | With the Icefjord Centre opening in 2021, a new sign and information plan should be created in collaboration with GVC.  | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2021 |

|      |  |   |  |   |
|------|--|---|--|---|
| 2022 | Revision of the Nature Protection Order                              | The current Nature Protection Order is from 2007. A revision is necessary so that the Nature Protection Order can address the development in the area in the coming years | The Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment | Prioritised in 2022 (carried over from 2021)                        |
|      | Communication and updating of the kangia.gl website                  | The communication material and website (www.kangia.gl) are outdated and need to be updated.   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2022 (carried over from 2021)                        |
|      | Drawing up a sustainable monitoring plan                             | Develop a simple and effective monitoring system and plan   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2022<br>Monitoring plan completed                    |
|      | UNESCO Periodic Reporting Process                                    | Preparing and responding to the UNESCO Periodic Reporting Process   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2022 (carried over from 2021)<br>Reporting completed |
|      | Local desire for urban and tourism development in the buffer zones   | Preparation of Municipal plans for the buffer zone and the landscape buffer zone with a focus on housing and tourism measures   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2022<br>Management measures completed                |
| 2023 | Revision of the Nature Protection Order                              | The current Nature Protection Order is from 2007. A revision is necessary so that the Nature Protection Order can address the development in the area in the coming years | The Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment | Prioritised in 2023 (carried over from 2022)                        |
|      | Communication and updating of the kangia.gl website                  | The communication material and website (www.kangia.gl) are outdated and need to be updated.   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2023 (carried over from 2022)                        |
|      | Plan and prioritise regarding the development of the Sermermiut area | Developing a project plan regarding the implementation of various development and improvement measures for the area   | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2023 (carried over from 2022)                        |
|      | Pilot projects for payment options in the area                       | Study and launch of possibilities for payment to visit the World Heritage site  | Avannaata Municipality   | Prioritised in 2023 (carried over from 2022)                        |

|             |  |  |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>2024</b> |  |  |  |  |
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| <b>2025</b> |  |  |  |  |
|             |  |  |  |  |
|             |  |  |  |  |
|             |  |  |  |  |

See more information about the management measures on the next page.

## A summary of prioritised and identified challenges and opportunities

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Below is a list of identified challenges and opportunities, as well as proposals for the associated management measures.

The overview below will be continuously updated in revised versions of the management plan. The summary below also serves as a possible to-do list for use in the management of the World Heritage Site in the planning period from 2021-2025.

### 1. Revision of the Nature Protection Order (Prioritised in 2023)

The current Nature Protection Order for Ilulissat Icefjord is from 2007. A revision is necessary so that the Protection Order can address the development in the area in the coming years.



Management measures: Completion of the audit process for the new Nature Protection Order. Draft texts and new map material have already been prepared, and dialogue with key stakeholders and authorities is underway. The draft of the revised Nature Protection Order must be subject to public consultation.

Coordinating authority: The Ministry of Science and Environment.

### 2. Communication and updating of the kangia.gl website (Prioritised in 2023)

The communication material and website ([www.kangia.gl](http://www.kangia.gl)) are outdated and should be updated. Therefore, Avannaata Municipality has started the process for a new website. The aim is that the website will reflect a modern, simple and visually appealing web design. Initiatives with digital maps are being worked on. To this end, a renewed promotional video will be produced to inform young people and adults about the Icefjord, its values and its World Heritage status. The website will also provide more information to citizens and business owners in Ilulissat about UNESCO's role and rules in the management of the World Heritage site.



Management measures: Starting the process of rethinking communication of the World Heritage Site and updating the website kangia.gl was initiated in 2021. This work continues, and work is being done to implement more modern content. In 2022, a promotional video was prepared, which is in use on the website, and at the end of 2023 new content is expected to supplement the existing content on the website.

Coordinating authority: Avannaata Municipality, the Ministry of Science and Environment.

### 3. Planning and prioritisation regarding the development of the Sermermiut site (Prioritised in 2023)

It must be ensured that there is as a comprehensive plan for dissemination, accessibility and protection initiatives. Due to the scale of this action, this process is divided into stages to ensure close management, coordination and progress. The Sermermiut site in this context includes the Yellow, Red and Blue Route area, as well as the area around the Icefjord Centre, the future Auora Centre and Sermermiut. The Sermermiut settlement is called one of Greenland's most important settlements and has been designated as one of Greenland's national attractions by the Greenland Visitor Centre (GVC). In general, the information and presentation of the site could be improved for visitors to the area. The current dialogue on the development of dissemination with the National Museum of Denmark should therefore be continued.

Specific proposals are, e.g., an extension of the existing footbridge to the Icefjord Centre's rear entrance, dissemination of cultural history at the cultural monuments and setting up of person counters at the stairs by the yellow route and at the stairs to Kællingekløften, the platform at the lookout post, new signs, visual 'look-through' windows, reconstruction of a peat hut, etc. A new footbridge across the Sermermiut valley may also provide greater protection for the settlement. In this context, consideration should be given to the possibility of integrating solutions from the national signage and information strategy. Furthermore, the Greenland Visitor Centre (GVC) has a pool of funds to improve signage in the area.



Management measures: Continue dialogue with stakeholders in the steering group.

**1st stage (focus 2023):**

In 2023, person counters will be installed at the stairs on the red and yellow route. Based on the process regarding proposals for the development of the area, a project plan should be drawn up, specifying relevant measures for the area and estimating the time, finances and resources for achieving these, plus the subsequent costs of subsequent operation. The expected increased use of the area due to the opening of the airport should be considered.

**2nd stage (focus from 2024):**

Decision, approval and implementation of the priority improvements according to the project plan.

Coordinating authority: Avannaata Municipality, the Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment and the National Museum of Denmark.

**4. Pilot projects for payment options to visit the area / donation options (Prioritised in 2023)**

There is a local political desire to explore payment options for visiting the World Heritage Site. It is hoped that the many visitors will make a greater contribution to the maintenance and management of the World Heritage Site. There may be different considerations about payment options.



Management measures: Investigate whether it is possible to introduce a scheme where tourists, in collaboration with hotels, donate a small fee via a volunteer-based form of support based on donations and stickers. Furthermore, it must be investigated whether the tourists will be given the opportunity to buy a "cultural monument" as a donation. The payment should, if applicable, be earmarked for maintenance of, e.g., footbridges, as well as the continued protection and dissemination of the area. Inspiration can be drawn from other nature areas in Greenland or the Faroe Islands.

Coordinating authority: Avannaata Municipality and the Ministry for Agriculture, Self-sufficiency, Energy and Environment. Inputs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade will also be key.

### 5. Local desire for urban and tourism development in the buffer zones

There is a local and political desire to clarify the possibilities for urban and tourism development in both the rural and the landscape buffer zone. At present, this is not possible due to the municipal plan provisions for the suburban buffer zone. Known desires are urban development in the extension of the town to solve the acute housing shortage, construction of the Aurora Centre and construction of cabins in the landscape buffer zone. This priority therefore consists of several activities, described in stages, focusing respectively on development in the urban buffer zone and the landscape buffer zone.



Management measures: Start of process to change municipal plan provisions. As a first step in the process, the need and desires should be identified. Next, a detailed landscape analysis, as well as an analysis of the natural values in the buffer zones should be prepared. Where are the lines of view, and where in the terrain will development be detrimental (or not) to the area's scenic beauty and world heritage value? Where are the natural values, what is their condition, and how vulnerable are they? This must be used to be able to assess where construction, urban development and other development wishes in the suburban buffer zone can be considered.

**1st stage:** Developing a municipal plan in the urban buffer zone in connection with laying out building plots for housing

- The municipality commissioned a landscape analysis in 2019 based on parameters such as visibility, terrain and light conditions. It aims to support further work to assess suitable areas for urban development in the buffer zone and propose specific project proposals that take into account the experience of the unspoilt impression of the World Heritage site.

**2nd stage:** Development in the landscape buffer zone regarding the construction of tourism facilities

Initiation of a development process regarding the construction of tourist cabins and/or cabin areas. A study should therefore be made of the wishes and needs for tourism measures in the landscape buffer zone before proceeding further.

Coordinating authority: Avannaata Municipality.

### 6. Follow-up assessment of proper snowmobile driving in the World Heritage Site and buffer zones

As snowmobiling becomes more and more popular, there has been an increase in snowmobiling in the World Heritage Site and buffer zones. Motorised traffic in the World Heritage area and the buffer zones is not permitted, with the exception of the driving corridors laid out in Avannaata Municipality's by-law for motorised driving in the open countryside. There is a need for the town's businesses and citizens to have a clear knowledge of the rules for driving and the designated driving corridors where driving is permitted.



Management measures: Initiation of an information campaign for the town's citizens in the local media and posting rules for the use of snowmobiles in the World Heritage Site and buffer zones.

Coordinating authority: Avannaata Municipality.

## 7. External analysis of the value for Ilulissat town by having the World Heritage Site

It will be interesting to put some numbers on the value for Ilulissat town by having a World Heritage Site in the hinterland. Are tourists coming because the area is a World Heritage Site? How much money and jobs does the World Heritage stamp generate each year? An external financial study from 2013 conducted by Washington and Lee University shows that the World Heritage status is worth DKK 63.5 million a year. It will be interesting to get an updated figure on this.



Management measures: Initiate project description of the desired analysis and seek external funds/resources to prepare this analysis externally by experts.

Coordinating authority: The Agency for Culture and Palaces, the Ministry of Science and Environment and Avannaata Municipality.

## 8. Possible conflict between commercial fishermen and increasing tourism

The icefjord is rich in living resources and is also of outstanding natural beauty. These values are exploited mainly at sea rather than from land, necessitating some traffic with boats in the protected area. It can be expected that the area will attract even more commercial fishermen in the future, and the increasing number of tourists means that there will continue to be a high demand for tourists sailing in the protected area. Both professions are crucial for revenue in the municipality. Therefore, it is a risk that in the future, there may be substantial sailing with many boats in the mouth of the Icefjord, which can create conflicts between, e.g., fishing and tourism sailing. There are already problems with the tourist boats sailing too close to the fishing lines. Likewise, many boats, or very large ships in the protected area, could ruin the tourists' experience of the large, majestic icebergs. The same is true if many cruise ships are anchored right next to the protected area.



Management measures: Develop guidelines for tourist sailing near fishing boats in collaboration with the fishing industry and tourist skippers.

Coordinating authority: Avannaata Municipality.

## Annex

### Annex A - Steering Group Commissioner and the responsibilities of the authorities

The central authorities for the management of the Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site are the Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark, the Ministry of Science and Environment and Avannaata Municipality. The management is carried out in close collaboration among the authorities.

- The Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark has on behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark, overall responsibility for Ilulissat Icefjord regarding UNESCO and has contact with UNESCO.
- The Ministry of Science and Environment has the national responsibility for the management of Ilulissat Icefjord, including the responsibility for preparing the management plan for the area.
- Avannaata Municipality has the day-to-day responsibility for the management of the area, including the implementation of the management plan, as well as supervision and monitoring of the area. The management is based on the provisions set out in the Government of Greenland's Order on the protection of Ilulissat Icefjord, the current municipal plan and the current management plan.



#### The steering group for Ilulissat Icefjord - roles and duties

Since 2008, the three authorities have organised themselves into a formalised steering group for the Ilulissat Icefjord World Heritage Site, where management is planned and coordinated. The steering group must ensure close collaboration on management that fulfils the area's threefold objective: *protection, development opportunities and increased information*.

The steering group includes:

- A representative from the Ministry of Science and Environment (Chair of the steering group).
- Site Manager for Ilulissat Icefjord, Avannaata Municipality.
- Representatives from Avannaata Municipality.
- A representative from the Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark.
- A representative from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Church (observer).
- A representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade (ad hoc member).
- A representative from the Greenland National Museum (ad hoc member).
- A representative from Ilulissat Icefjord Centre (ad hoc member).

The Ministry of Science and Environment handles the role of chairman, as well as the secretariat function in the steering group. Quarterly meetings of the steering group are held, see the annual management process described on page 7. The meetings can be held virtually. In addition to the quarterly steering group meetings, there is ongoing contact between the steering group's members by telephone and e-mail. Finally, extraordinary steering group meetings can be scheduled as needed.

The steering group's central duties are to:

- Identify opportunities, challenges and issues in the area.
- Develop management measures that address identified opportunities and challenges.

- Prioritise current management measures in a specific management year (follows the calendar year).
- Adjust and update the management plan based on annual prioritisation.
- Discuss special considerations and consequences of activity or development applications in the World Heritage Site and the buffer zones.
- Fulfil obligations to UNESCO, including briefings and reports.
- Involve and discuss special management measures with relevant parties (e.g., the National Museum of Denmark, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade, Icefjord Centre).

The final decision-making power for, e.g., dispensations and permits, follow the stipulated provisions in the Nature Protection Order and municipal plan.

## **Responsibilities and duties of the authorities**

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### **Avannaata Municipality**

Avannaata Municipality has the day-to-day responsibility for the management of the area, which takes place primarily via the Site Manager and the Park Ranger. Avannaata Municipality's administrations for Technology and Business, respectively, contribute to the long-term decisions for the area's development.



**Avannaata  
Kommunia**

### *Site Manager*

The Site Manager is a full-time position and includes responsibility for the day-to-day operation and management of the World Heritage Site. At the same time, it is the Site Manager's job to involve the steering group in the municipality's vision, values and strategic focus areas for this area. The duties are coordinated and handled in close collaboration and dialogue with the Ministry of Science and Environment.

### *Site Manager's duties*

The Site Manager's duties include:

- Responsible for the daily operation and management.
- Project management of relevant management measures.
- Finances and budget for the municipal management of Ilulissat Icefjord.
- Contribution to management plan (contributing to preparation, identification, prioritisation, implementation, annual adjustment).
- Supervision of the area and instruction of the Park Ranger.
- Fundraising (raising funds for non-funded management activities).
- The residents' icefjord contact (increase the locals' knowledge and pride over the area, involve the residents in various activities, prevent and resolve conflicts about the use of the area).
- Ongoing dialogue with the area's users (tourist operators, fishermen/hunters, residents, etc.).
- Information and dissemination of Ilulissat Icefjord (preparation of signs, guidebook, posters, video, TV broadcast, website, teaching material, radio features, etc.).
- Contribute to good press management.
- Monitoring (collect data and documentation, as well as evaluate and adjust the monitoring plan).
- Official visits regarding the Icefjord (presentations, meetings and viewings).
- Prepare consultation responses in connection with permits and exemptions within the World Heritage Site.
- Member of the Steering Committee for Ilulissat Icefjord.

- Contact person for the Ministry of Science and Environment regarding the management of the World Heritage Site.

#### *Park Ranger*

The Park Ranger reports to the Site Manager, and the duties include:

- Supervision in the area.
- Supervision of development trends in the area.
- Guidance and information for citizens and visitors in the area.
- Maintenance of the footbridge, cairns and route markings.
- Cleaning the area.
- Monitoring based on the monitoring plan.
- Assist the Site Manager with various administrative tasks during the winter.
- Check, report and respond to violations of the law.

#### *Other municipal employees*

In addition to the Site Manager and Park Ranger, other municipal employees work to varying degrees with the World Heritage Site. Employees of Avannaata Municipal contribute with strategic planning, urban planning, municipal planning supplements, environmental considerations, business initiatives, especially from the tourism and fishing/hunting industry. Furthermore, municipal operating staff contribute to various tasks. All measures and tasks are coordinated through the Site Manager.

#### **The Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment**

The Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment has the national responsibility for the management and handles the following tasks:

- Chair role and secretarial function in the steering group.
- Preparation and adjustment of the management plan.
- Ensure contemporary and up-to-date legislation for the area.
- Coordinates the annual management process, including convening steering group meetings, preparing minutes and an overview of management measures.
- Case processing, see the Nature Protection Order of the activity or development applications in the World Heritage Area.



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#### **The Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark**

On behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark has the overall responsibility for Ilulissat Icefjord. The Agency for Culture and Palaces' central tasks include information to and from UNESCO, coordination of major reports to UNESCO, exchange of experience to and from other World Heritage sites in the Kingdom of Denmark and participation in steering group meetings.



#### **The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Church**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Church is nationally responsible for all UNESCO World Heritage sites in Greenland and is, therefore, part of the steering group as an observer. In addition, exchanges of experience to and from Greenland's other World Heritage sites are ensured: 1) Aasivissuit-Nipisat between Sisimiut and Kangerlussuaq and 2) Kujataa in South Greenland. These two areas are included in the World Heritage List as 'cultural world heritage sites', whereas Ilulissat Icefjord is listed as a 'natural world heritage site'.



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GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND

### **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade is nationally responsible for tourism development in Greenland. As Ilulissat is Greenland's favourite tourist destination, and due to the opening of the Icefjord Centre and the upcoming Atlantic Airport in Ilulissat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade is central to specific decisions in the Icefjord management. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade is part of the steering group as an 'ad-hoc member' who can attend the steering group meetings if the agenda contains relevant items.



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### **Greenland National Museum**

Greenland National Museum, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Church, is nationally responsible for the cultural monuments in Greenland. As Ilulissat Icefjord and the surrounding area contain many ancient monuments and cultural monuments, Greenland National Museum is central to specific decisions in the icefjord management. Therefore, Greenland National Museum is part of the steering group as an 'ad-hoc member' who can choose to participate in the steering group meetings if the agenda contains relevant items.



### **Ilulissat Icefjord Centre**

Ilulissat Icefjord Centre will open in the summer of 2021 and will be the first of Greenland's visitor centres. For many visitors, the Icefjord Centre will be the entrance to the Ilulissat Icefjord area and provide information to visitors to the area. The Icefjord Centre will therefore be central to specific decisions in the Icefjord management. Therefore, the Icefjord Centre is part of the steering group as an 'ad-hoc member' who can attend the steering group meetings if the agenda contains relevant items.



## The financial framework for the management of Ilulissat Icefjord

UNESCO does not provide financial support for the protection and management of Ilulissat Icefjord. Therefore, the financial framework for the management is resources from Avannaata Municipality, the Ministry of Science and Environment and the Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark, and any funds from various foundations.

Avannaata Municipality provides:

- Salary for a full-time Site Manager position.
- Salary for a Park Ranger (*the Government of Greenland provides a Park Ranger salary subsidy of approximately DKK 215,000 via Finance Act account 20.05.20 subsidy to the municipalities*).
- Expenditure on the maintenance of paths and the footbridge.
- Costs for communication, information, signs, public meetings, etc.
- Miscellaneous operating expenses.
- Employee travel expenses regarding meetings.



The Ministry of Science and Environment provides:

- Resources for managing the World Heritage Site (expected approx. ¼ FTE, can be adjusted as needed).
- Employee travel expenses regarding meetings.



The Agency for Culture and Palaces in Denmark provides:

- Resources equivalent to 1-2 weeks of work per year.
- Employee travel expenses regarding meetings.



## Annex B - The Nature Protection Order

The World Heritage Site is primarily protected and regulated through the Nature Protection Order: *Greenland Home Rule Government Order No. 10 of 15 June 2007 on the protection of Ilulissat Icefjord* ([link](#))

The Nature Protection Order in its full text is inserted below:

### **Greenland Home Rule Government Order No. 10 of 15 June 2007 on the protection of Ilulissat Icefjord**

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

#### *Objective*

1. Ilulissat Icefjord and a surrounding area located in Ilulissat Local Authority 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 Annex 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 Annex 2. Sub-area B is the innermost marine part of Ilulissat Icefjord. The area is marked in Annex 3. Sub-area C is the outermost marine part of Ilulissat Icefjord. The area is marked in Annex 3.

#### *General access and use*

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

4. (1) Polluting lakes, streams, fjords, 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 and open fire only used 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 local council of Ilulissat Local Authority following consultation with the Directorate for 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 local council of Ilulissat Local Authority, the Directorate for Environment and Nature may grant permission to erect buildings or other permanent structures. Following consultation with Ilulissat local council, the Directorate for Environment and Nature may lay down terms for the scope, nature, location, height and design in such permissions.

(3) After consultation with the local council of Ilulissat Local Authority, the Directorate for Environment and Nature may grant permission to construct roads and paths within the protected area. Following consultation with Ilulissat local council, the Directorate for 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 Local Authority 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. Annex 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 Ilulissat local council, the Directorate for Environment and Nature may grant annual or multi-annual permissions for landings in two specified areas.

(5) Following consultation with Ilulissat local council, the Directorate for 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 commercial 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 local council of Ilulissat Local Authority, the Directorate for Environment and Nature shall prepare a management plan for the protected area.

**12.** The local council of Ilulissat Local Authority shall ensure the observance of this Order.

**13.** Following consultation with the local council of Ilulissat Local Authority, the Directorate for 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 of 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, the Greenland Home Rule Government Order No. 7 of 25 March 2003 on protection of Ilulissat Icefjord shall be repealed.

*Greenland Home Rule Government, 15 June 2007*

Arkalo Abelsen/Alfred E.R. Jakobsen

## Annex C - Buffer zone regulations

The buffer zone around the World Heritage Site should complement the protection in the World Heritage Site itself and thus act as a 'buffer' by adding an additional layer of protection to the area. The buffer zone for Ilulissat Icefjord consists of two types of buffer zone:

- **The landscape buffer zone:** A 2 km zone encircling the entire World Heritage site except for Ilulissat town, as well as the area immediately south and east of the town.
- **The suburban buffer zone:** The area to the south and east of Ilulissat town, where the landscape buffer zone ceases.

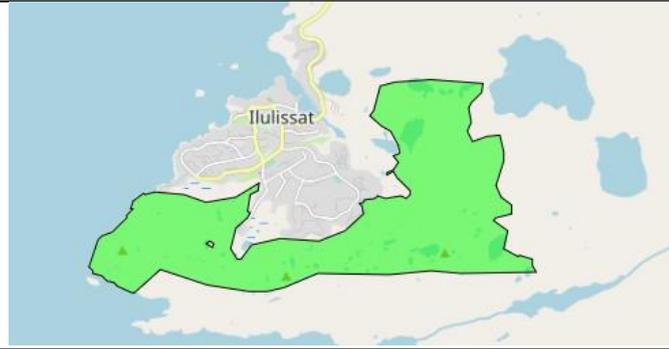
The two buffer zones are laid out in Avannaata Municipality's 2018-2030 municipal plan. The municipal buffer zone regulations are inserted in their full text below:

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <p><b>Avannaata<br/>Kommunia</b></p> <p><b>0003-004 Landscape buffer zone<br/>for the UNESCO World Heritage<br/>Site (<a href="#">link</a>)</b></p> |   |
| <b>Location - town/settlement</b>   | Nunaanaq (The Open Land)   |
| <b>Purpose</b>  | Keep clear areas   |
| <b>Application specific</b>   | Unallocated area   |
| <b>Application</b>  | <p>The use of the area is determined to be a Landscape buffer zone around Ilulissat Icefjord.</p> <p>Piste bashers can be used with permission. The following activities are allowed without restriction: hunting and fishing, as well as sailing and tent pitching</p>        |
| <b>Existing conditions</b>  | <p>Areas within a 2-kilometre boundary of the protection boundary, whether land, ice or sea. This boundary is assessed to what can reasonably be estimated to be within the visual proximity of the protected area.</p> <p>The area has a total area of approx. 64,460 ha.</p> |
| <b>Buildings</b>  | The area must be kept free of buildings and structures. However, individual hunting cabins and survival cabins may be built to a limited extent, as long as the number of these does not change the overall use of the area.   |
| <b>Residual space</b>   | No special provisions  |
| <b>Traffic control and supply</b>   | <p>Traffic and supply facilities cannot be established.</p> <p>Motorised vehicles, including snowmobiles, can only be used in designated corridors.</p> <p>Hiking routes through the areas can be marked.</p>  |
| <b>Protected and conservation-worthy features</b>   | No special provisions  |
| <b>Claused zones</b>  | No special provisions  |
| <b>Special provisions</b>   | No special provisions  |



Avannaata  
Kommunia

**1200-D09 Buffer zone near to the town for the UNESCO World Heritage Site ([link](#))**



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Location - town/settlement</b>                 | Ilulissat  |
| <b>Purpose</b>                                    | Keep clear areas and leisure facilities  |
| <b>Application specific</b>                       | Keep clear area  |
| <b>Application</b>                                | The use of the area is determined as a keep clear area in the form of a buffer zone close to the town for the icefjord   |
| <b>Existing conditions</b>                        | The area covers an area of approximately 430 ha  |
| <b>Buildings</b>                                  | The area cannot be built on  |
| <b>Residual space</b>                             | No special provisions  |
| <b>Traffic control and supply</b>                 | The road from Sermermiut Aqqutaa services the area   |
| <b>Protected and conservation-worthy features</b> | Recorded ancient monuments must be kept free of buildings and structures at a distance of at least 20 metres, see section 5 of the Protection Act. The Greenland National Museum may dispense with the provisions  |
| <b>Clause zones</b>                               | <p>The area is covered by the restricted zone for the water extraction area. The restricted zone extends 30 metres outside the hinterland area boundary. It is not allowed to build buildings and facilities or have dog teams, etc., within the restricted zone.</p> <p>The access zone covers the area for the telecommunications system. The access zone is variable and depends on the location of the telecommunications system on the terrain. This part of the area must not be built on or otherwise used in violation of the provisions for the access zone. An access zone of 100 metres has been established around each of the two satellite dishes in this area.</p> <p>Clause zones have been established around the airport in the form of obstacle-free surfaces, consisting of partly a horizontal plane and a conical surface and partly of approach and departure surfaces in the extension of the runway.</p> <p>The area is located below the obstacle-free level of the airport and is covered by the horizontal surface, where buildings and other facilities may not be built above an elevation of 73.0 metres, and roads may not be constructed above an elevation of 68.0 metres.</p> |
| <b>Special provisions</b>                         | No buildings or facilities may be built in the area. However, motorised traffic is not permitted in the area, except for piste bashers, which may drive on a designated track.   |

## Annex D - UNESCO guidelines for protection and management

### **Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention** ([link](#))

Version: 31 July 2021

The document 'Operational guidelines for implementing the World Heritage Convention' (170+ pages) contains UNESCO's guidelines for how the World Heritage Convention should be implemented, including protection, monitoring, reporting, support, etc. The document is continuously updated to reflect new decisions by the World Heritage Committee.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**The UNESCO guidelines for authenticity, integrity, protection and management of World Heritage sites** are described in Articles 79-119 (version: 31 July 2021) and is inserted below:

#### **Authenticity and/or integrity**

##### Authenticity

79. Properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi) must meet the conditions of authenticity. Annex 4, which includes the Nara Document on Authenticity, provides a practical basis for examining the authenticity of such properties and is summarized below.
80. The ability to understand the value attributed to the heritage depends on the degree to which information sources about this value may be understood as credible or truthful. Knowledge and understanding of these sources of information, in relation to original and subsequent characteristics of the cultural heritage, and their meaning as accumulated over time, are the requisite bases for assessing all aspects of authenticity.
81. Judgments about value attributed to cultural heritage, as well as the credibility of related information sources, may differ from culture to culture, and even within the same culture. The respect due to all cultures requires that cultural heritage must be considered and judged primarily within the cultural contexts to which it belongs.
82. Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including:
  - form and design;
  - materials and substance;
  - use and function;
  - traditions, techniques and management systems;
  - location and setting;
  - language, and other forms of intangible heritage;
  - spirit and feeling; and
  - other internal and external factors.

83. Attributes such as spirit and feeling do not lend themselves easily to practical applications of the conditions of authenticity, but nevertheless are important indicators of character and sense of place, for example, in communities maintaining tradition and cultural continuity.
84. The use of all these sources permits elaboration of the specific artistic, historic, social, and scientific dimensions of the cultural heritage being examined. "Information sources" are defined as all physical, written, oral, and figurative sources, which make it possible to know the nature, specificities, meaning, and history of the cultural heritage.
85. When the conditions of authenticity are considered in preparing a nomination for a property, the State Party should first identify all of the applicable significant attributes of authenticity. The statement of authenticity should assess the degree to which authenticity is present in, or expressed by, each of these significant attributes.
86. In relation to authenticity, the reconstruction of archaeological remains or historic buildings or districts is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances. Reconstruction is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture.

#### Integrity

87. All properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List shall satisfy the conditions of integrity.
88. Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:
  - a) includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value;
  - b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
  - c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

This should be presented in a statement of integrity.

89. For properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi), the physical fabric of the property and/or its significant features should be in good condition, and the impact of deterioration processes controlled. A significant proportion of the elements necessary to convey the totality of the value conveyed by the property should be included. Relationships and dynamic functions present in cultural landscapes, historic towns or other living properties essential to their distinctive character should also be maintained.
90. For all properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), bio-physical processes and landform features should be relatively intact. However, it is recognized that no area is totally pristine and that all natural areas are in a dynamic state, and to some extent involve contact with people. Biological diversity and cultural diversity can be closely linked and interdependent and human activities, including those of traditional societies, local communities and indigenous peoples, often occur in natural areas. These activities may be consistent with the Outstanding Universal Value of the area where they are ecologically sustainable.
91. In addition, for properties nominated under criteria (vii) to (x), a corresponding condition of integrity has been defined for each criterion.

92. Properties proposed under criterion (vii) should be of Outstanding Universal Value and include areas that are essential for maintaining the beauty of the property. For example, a property whose scenic value depends on a waterfall, would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes adjacent catchment and downstream areas that are integrally linked to the maintenance of the aesthetic qualities of the property.
93. Properties proposed under criterion (viii) should contain all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements in their natural relationships. For example, an “ice age” area would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes the snow field, the glacier itself and samples of cutting patterns, deposition and colonization (e.g. striations, moraines, pioneer stages of plant succession, etc.); in the case of volcanoes, the magmatic series should be complete and all or most of the varieties of effusive rocks and types of eruptions be represented.
94. Properties proposed under criterion (ix) should have sufficient size and contain the necessary elements to demonstrate the key aspects of processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecosystems and the biological diversity they contain. For example, an area of tropical rain forest would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a certain amount of variation in elevation above sea level, changes in topography and soil types, patch systems and naturally regenerating patches; similarly a coral reef should include, for example, seagrass, mangrove or other adjacent ecosystems that regulate nutrient and sediment inputs into the reef.
95. Properties proposed under criterion (x) should be the most important properties for the conservation of biological diversity. Only those properties which are the most biologically diverse and/or representative are likely to meet this criterion. The properties should contain habitats for maintaining the most diverse fauna and flora characteristic of the bio-geographic province and ecosystems under consideration. For example, a tropical savannah would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a complete assemblage of co-evolved herbivores and plants; an island ecosystem should include habitats for maintaining endemic biota; a property containing wide ranging species should be large enough to include the most critical habitats essential to ensure the survival of viable populations of those species; for an area containing migratory species, seasonal breeding and nesting sites, and migratory routes, wherever they are located, should be adequately protected.

### **Protection and management**

96. Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription, are sustained or enhanced over time. A regular review of the general state of conservation of properties, and thus also their Outstanding Universal Value, shall be done within a framework of monitoring processes for World Heritage properties, as specified within the *Operational Guidelines*<sup>4</sup>.
97. All properties inscribed on the World Heritage List must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure their safeguarding. This protection should include adequately delineated boundaries. Similarly States Parties should demonstrate adequate protection at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional level for the nominated property. They should append appropriate texts to the nomination with a clear explanation of the way this protection operates to protect the property.

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<sup>4</sup> The processes of monitoring specified in the *Operational Guidelines* are Reactive Monitoring (see Subsections 169-176) and Periodic Reporting (see Subsections 199-210).

### Legislative, regulatory and contractual protection measures

98. Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the protection of the property from social, economic and other pressures or changes that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. States Parties should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.

### Boundaries for effective protection

99. The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure the integrity and/or authenticity of the property.
100. For properties nominated under criteria (i) - (vi), boundaries should be drawn to include all those areas and attributes which are a direct tangible expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as well as those areas which, in the light of future research possibilities, offer potential to contribute to and enhance such understanding.
101. For properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), boundaries should reflect the spatial requirements of habitats, species, processes or phenomena that provide the basis for their inscription on the World Heritage List. The boundaries should include sufficient areas immediately adjacent to the area of Outstanding Universal Value in order to protect the property's heritage values from direct effects of human encroachments and impacts of resource use outside of the nominated area.
102. The boundaries of the nominated property may coincide with one or more existing or proposed protected areas, such as national parks or nature reserves, biosphere reserves or protected cultural or historic districts or other areas and territories. While such established areas for protection may contain several management zones, only some of those zones may satisfy requirements for inscription.

### Buffer zones

103. Wherever necessary for the proper protection of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided.
104. For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development in order to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms. Details on the size, characteristics and authorised uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided in the nomination.
105. A clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property should also be provided.
106. Where no buffer zone is proposed, the nomination should include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required.

- 107.** Although buffer zones are not part of the nominated property, any modifications to or creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription of a property on the World Heritage List should be approved by the World Heritage Committee using the procedure for a minor boundary modification (see Subsection 164 and Annex 11). The creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription is normally considered to be a minor boundary modification<sup>5</sup>.

#### Management systems

- 108.** Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.
- 109.** The purpose of a management system is to ensure the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations.
- 110.** An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal. Impact assessments for proposed interventions are essential for all World Heritage properties.
- 111.** In recognising the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include:
- a) a thorough shared understanding of the property, its universal, national and local values and its socio-ecological context by all stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous peoples;
  - b) a respect for diversity, equity, gender equality and human rights and the use of inclusive and participatory planning and stakeholder consultation processes;
  - a) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback;
  - b) an assessment of the vulnerabilities of the property to social, economic, environmental and other pressures and changes, including disasters and climate change, as well as the monitoring of the impacts of trends and proposed interventions;
  - c) the development of mechanisms for the involvement and coordination of the various activities between different partners and stakeholders;
  - d) the allocation of necessary resources;
  - e) capacity building;
  - f) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.

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<sup>5</sup> With regards to transnational / transboundary properties, any modification will need the agreement of all States Parties concerned.

112. Effective management involves a cycle of short, medium and long-term actions to protect, conserve and present the nominated property. An integrated approach to planning and management is essential to guide the evolution of properties over time and to ensure maintenance of all aspects of their Outstanding Universal Value. This approach goes beyond the property to include any buffer zone(s), as well as the broader setting. The broader setting may relate to the property's topography, natural and built environment, and other elements such as infrastructure, land use patterns, spatial organisation, and visual relationships. It may also include related social and cultural practices, economic processes and other intangible dimensions of heritage such as perceptions and associations. Management of the broader setting is related to its role in supporting the Outstanding Universal Value. Its effective management may also contribute to sustainable development, through harnessing the reciprocal benefits for heritage and society.
113. Moreover, in the context of the implementation of the *Convention*, the World Heritage Committee has established a process of Reactive Monitoring (see Chapter IV) and a process of Periodic Reporting (see Chapter V).
114. In the case of serial properties, a management system or mechanisms for ensuring the coordinated management of the separate components are essential and should be documented in the nomination (see Subsections 137 -139).
115. [Deleted]
116. Where the intrinsic qualities of a nominated site are threatened by human action and yet meet the criteria and the conditions of authenticity or integrity set out in Subsections 78-95, an action plan outlining the corrective measures required should be submitted with the nomination file. Should the corrective measures submitted by the nominating State Party not be taken within the time proposed by the State Party, the property will be considered by the Committee for delisting in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Committee (see Chapter IV.C).
117. States Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property. States Parties should do so in close collaboration with property managers, the agency with management authority and other partners, local communities and indigenous peoples, rights-holders and stakeholders in property management, by developing, when appropriate, equitable governance arrangements, collaborative management systems and redress mechanisms.
118. The Committee recommends that States Parties include disaster, climate change and other risk preparedness as an element in their World Heritage site management plans and training strategies.
- 118bis. Notwithstanding Subsections 179 and 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, States Parties shall ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments, Heritage Impact Assessments, and/or Strategic Environmental Assessments be carried out as a prerequisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property. These assessments should serve to identify development alternatives, as well as both potential positive and negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to recommend mitigation measures against degradation or other negative impacts on the cultural or natural heritage within the property or its wider setting. This will ensure the long-term safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value, and the strengthening of heritage resilience to disasters and climate change.

## Sustainable use

- 119.** World Heritage properties may sustain biological and cultural diversity and provide ecosystem services and other benefits, which may contribute to environmental and cultural sustainability. Properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable and which may enhance the quality of life and well-being of communities concerned. The State Party and its partners must ensure their use is equitable and fully respects the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. For some properties, human use would not be appropriate. Legislation, policies and strategies affecting World Heritage properties should ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, support the wider conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and promote and encourage the effective, inclusive and equitable participation of the communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders concerned with the property as necessary conditions to its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation.

## Annex E - Municipal by-law on motorised driving in the open countryside

### **By-law on the use of motorised transport in the open countryside in the Ilulissat area of Avannaata Municipality for winter driving ([link](#))**

Pursuant to Section 6, and Section 7(1), Section 9(1) and Section 12 of the Government of Greenland's Executive Order No. 10 of 10 October 2013 on the use of motorised means of transport, the following is hereby established:

#### **Chapter 1**

##### *Applications, etc.*

**Section 1.** This by-law sets out rules for the use of motorised transport in the open countryside in the Ilulissat area of Avannaata Municipality in the form of the designation of driving corridors and driving zones.

*Subsection 2.* The Ilulissat area referred to in Subsection 1 comprises Ilulissat town and the settlements of Ilimanaq and Oqaatsut. The demarcation of open countryside in this area is shown in Annex 1.

*Subsection 3.* For the purposes of this by-law, the open countryside comprises the areas defined in the municipal plan as being outside urban and rural areas.

*Subsection 4.* Marine areas, fjords, rivers and lakes are included in the periods when they are frozen as part of the open countryside.

*Subsection 5.* This by-law does not apply to the ice cap and glaciers emanating from the ice cap.

**Section 2.** For the purposes of this by-law, motorised means of transport means any motorised belt or wheeled vehicle designed or used for travel on ice, snow, mountains and other natural landscapes, including ATVs, piste-bashers and snowmobiles.

**Section 3.** Traffic on constructed roads, squares, fields, etc., requiring the granting of a right of use in accordance with planning legislation is not covered by this by-law.

*Subsection 2.* Traffic in connection with the supervision of the environment and nature by the supervisory authority, rescue operations, police investigations, defence activities and the like are not covered by this by-law.

*Subsection 3.* In areas where motorised traffic is also regulated by other legislation, the most restrictive regulations at any time apply.

#### **Chapter 2**

##### *Use of motorised means of transport*

**Section 4.** Motorised transport in the open countryside is permitted only in the winter driving zones and winter transport corridors adopted by the municipal council, see Annexes 1-6.

*Subsection 2.* Motorised transport may only be used in the designated corridors and zones during the winter period from 1 October to 31 May.

*Subsection 3.* If a motorised vehicle breaks down on the ground, it must be removed before damage to vegetation and the ground is caused by possible oil or fuel leakage. If the vehicle is not removed after a warning from the municipal council, the municipal council may have the vehicle removed at the owner's expense and risk.

#### **Chapter 3**

##### *General provisions for traffic*

**Section 5.** Winter vehicles may be driven only when the ground is frozen, sufficiently snow-covered and has a load-bearing capacity such that no damage is caused to vegetation and the soil.

*Subsection 2.* Motorised transport shall not be permitted within water exclusion zones, except as provided for in Subsection 3.

*Subsection 3.* The Government of Greenland has granted a 5-year exemption to use motorised transport in a corridor through the water barrier zone at Ilulissat. The transport corridor is shown in Annex 2, 4-5. The exemption is valid until 01.01.2025.

*Subsection 4.* The provisions of Subsection 1 shall not apply to driving on sea ice, fjords, rivers and lakes.

**Section 6.** When driving off-road, do not make sharp turns, accelerate or brake that could damage vegetation.

*Subsection 2.* Crossing banks and slopes of lakes, larger watercourses and fjords may only be carried out in places where no damage to vegetation and the terrain occurs.

*Subsection 3.* Traffic must take into account the flora and fauna. The Executive Orders for the protection and capture of terrestrial and marine mammals in force at any given time must be complied with.

*Subsection 4.* Where possible, a minimum distance of 10 metres should be kept from dog sleds.

*Subsection 5.* The municipality shall ensure that driving corridors are marked, either on a map or, as far as possible, by physical marking.

## **Chapter 4**

### *Exemptions*

**Section 7.** In special cases, the municipal council may grant an exemption for motorised transport outside the driving corridors and zones indicated in Annexes 1 to 6.

*Subsection 2.* A reasoned application for exemption must be received by the municipal council at least 4 weeks before the planned driving and must include the area or route.

*Subsection 3.* The municipal council may impose such conditions on an exemption as it considers appropriate.

*Subsection 4.* Exemptions are sent to the Ministry for the Environment for information.

*Subsection 5.* Exemptions granted under Subsections 1 and 2 may be amended or revoked at any time by the municipal council or the Government of Greenland if the terms of the exemption are breached or if, in the opinion of the municipal council or the Government of Greenland, conditions are such that damage to nature and the environment is caused.

*Subsection 6.* Exemptions may be granted for up to 1 year at a time.

## **Chapter 5**

### *Supervision, etc.*

**Section 8.** The municipal council shall supervise compliance with the rules laid down in this by-law.

*Subsection 2.* The municipal council shall issue injunctions and prohibitions when the guidelines for driving referred to in Section 5(1) are not complied with for a period of time.

*Subsection 3.* Injunctions may include requirements to use specific routes.

*Subsection 4.* Prohibitions may include requirements to stop all traffic within certain areas and time periods.

**Section 9.** All decisions taken under this by-law may be appealed to the Environmental Protection Appeals Board in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter 14 of Parliament of Greenland Act No. 9 of 22 November 2011 on environmental protection.

## **Chapter 6**

### *Penalty provisions*

**Section 10.** Violation of Section 4, Section 5(1-2) and Section 6(1-4) may result in a fine and/or confiscation.

*Subsection 2.* Violation of the conditions laid down pursuant to Section 7(3) may result in a fine.

*Subsection 3.* Failure to comply with an order or prohibition under Section 8(2-4) may result in a fine.

*Subsection 4.* Where the by-law provides for the imposition of a fine, the fine may be imposed on a legal person in accordance with the rules of the Criminal Code of Greenland.

*Subsection 5.* Fines and confiscations imposed under Subsections 1-4 shall be for the account of the National Treasury.

## **Chapter 7**

### *Entry into force*

**Section 11.** This by-law shall enter into force on 24.02.2021.

*The municipal council of Avannaata Municipality, 19.02.2021.*

Palle Jerimiassen  
Mayor

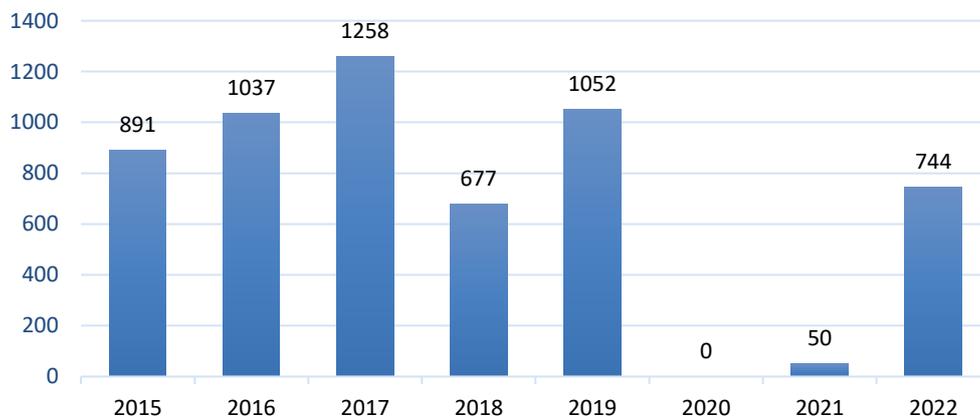
## Annex F - Monitoring data

*Data for tourism helicopter flights from 2015-2022.*

The table and graph show data on the number of flights and total number of passengers since 2015. Here it is clear that the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 had a major impact on the number of passengers

| Year | Number of helicopter flights | Number of helicopter passengers |
|------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2022 | 105                          | 744                             |
| 2021 | 9                            | 50                              |
| 2020 | 0                            | 0                               |
| 2019 | 139                          | 1052                            |
| 2018 | 99                           | 677                             |
| 2017 | 138                          | 1258                            |
| 2016 | 84                           | 1037                            |
| 2015 | 109                          | 891                             |

**Number of helicopter passengers in Ilulissat Icefjord**





**ilulissat  
kangia**

Ilulissat Isfjord  
Ilulissat Icefjord



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Ilulissat Icefjord**  
• inscribed on the World  
• Heritage List in 2004  
•



**NAALAKKERSUISUT**  
GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND



**Avannaata  
Kommunia**

