Ramsar Information Sheet

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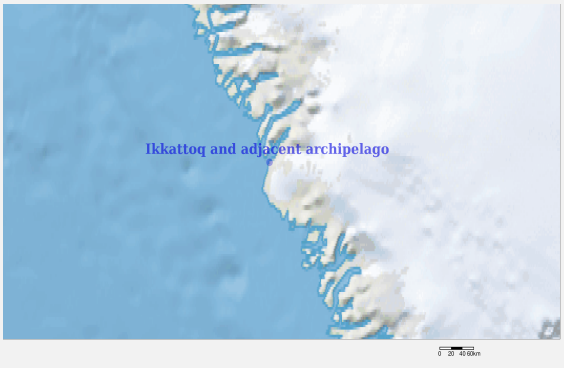
Denmark (Greenland)

Ikkattoq and adjacent archipelago



Designation date	27 January 1988
Site number	387
Coordinates	62°40'37"N 50°12'03"W
Area	44 880,00 ha

Color codes

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

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

1 - Summary

Summary

The site is a typical coastal landscape of southwest Greenland. It consists of a shallow fjord and an extensive archipelago, and there are extensive coasts with tidal mudflats. It is an important moulting area for the Greenland population of Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator).

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

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

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

From year	1985
To year	2018

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Ikkattoq and adjacent archipelago

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

(Update)	A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update)	B. Changes to Site area	No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

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

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The boundaries are hard to describe briefly. They encompass the entire fjord and the adjacent lowlands (< 500 m), including most of the lowland west of Frederikshåb Isblink south to 68° 28’ 30’’ N latitude and also all of the islands and skerries south of Ravns Storø.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Paamiut 62 km to the south, Nuuk 185 km to the north, Qeqertarsuatsiaq 47 km to the north

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes ○ No ◉
b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?	Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	44880

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 44772.16

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

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

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Low Arctic oceanic according to Bay 1997.

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

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

Other reasons: This site is representative for the southwest Greenland fjordlands and archipelagoes, where seaducks breed and moult and where the white-tailed eagle has its most dense population in Greenland.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification:
The site hold a relatively high biodiversity, due to the different habitats.
National Responsibility Species (> 20% of the global population in Greenland) and isolated (to Greenland) populations:
Mallard (endemic subspecies in Greenland)
Red-breasted Merganser (probably isolated population in Greenland)
Black Guillemot

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

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

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

Endemic plants to Greenland found in the area: Hieracium hyparcticum, Antennaria hansii and Antenarria intermedia

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas platyrhynchos conboschas*	Greenland Mallard	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	endemic subspecies	breeder
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cepphus grylle*	Black Guillemot	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	national responsibility species	breeder
CHORDATA / AVES	*Clangula hyemalis*	Oldsquaw; Long-tailed Duck	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐		breeder
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	White-tailed Eagle	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☑	VU on national red list	breeder
CHORDATA / AVES	*Histrionicus histrionicus*	Harlequin Duck	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	150	1999		LC	☐	☐		moulting males
CHORDATA / AVES	*Mergus serrator*	Red-breasted Merganser	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	474	1999	1.9	LC	☐	☐	probably isolated population	moulting W & SE Greenland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Somateria mollissima*	Common Eider West Greenland population	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐		breeder
CHORDATA / AVES	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	Arctic Skua	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeder
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna paradisaea*	Arctic Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeder
Others																		
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Phoca vitulina*	Harbor Seal	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	CR on national red list	breeding

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

In 1985 approx. 1000 moulting Red-breasted Merganser were counted from boat and in 1999, 474 moulting red-breasted mergansers were counted from aircraft (Boertmann & Mosbech 2001). According to local sources, the mergansers are still there in considerable numbers.
The critically endangered (national red list) harbour seal have been reported in recent years (A. Rosing-Asvid pers. comm.)

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

<no data available>

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The site is located within the low arctic climatic zone with sporadic permafrost. The Greenland Ice Cap almost reaches the fjord at Frederikshåb Isblink. Melt water from the ice drain for a large part into the site, and all marine waters of the area are turbid with an intense turquoise colour.

The site consists of a shallow fjord area, an extensive archipelago and a low tidal coast. The bedrock consists of gneisses and rocky coasts predominate. But there are also extensive sedimentary beaches with large mudflats exposed at low tide (tidal amplitude 3 m). Particularly off Frederikshåb Isblink there are extensive sand beaches.

The vegetation is dominated by dwarf scrub heaths and in depression marshes and ponds are found. There are a few large lakes in the area.

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

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		2		Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		3		Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		4		Rare

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		2		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		1		Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

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

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

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

The Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification System does not really apply to this site. The site is within the low Arctic climate zone.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 500

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

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Davis Strait

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral ☑
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉
- Organic ☐
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉
- No available information ☐

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

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall / snowfall	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

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

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

Rainfall includes also snow. Melt water from glaciers is a major freshwater source.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

- Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☐
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉
- Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☐
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉
- Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☐
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉
- Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☐
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉
- Sediment regime unknown ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

- Acid (pH<5.5) ☐

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

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☐

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

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☐

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

Unknown ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☐

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

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

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

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☐

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

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l) ☐

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

Unknown ☑

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☐

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

Mesotrophic ☐

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

Oligotrophic ☐

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

Dystrophic ☐

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

Unknown ☑

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

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

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

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

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Food for humans include marine mammals (seals) and seabirds. There are probably archaeological sites within this Ramsar site (cf. The National Museum of Greenland).

Within the site: 100s

Outside the site: 100s

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

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

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

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

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

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

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

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

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Public land (unspecified)	☑	☑

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

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

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

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

Postal address:

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

E-mail address: pan@nanoq.gl

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	Low impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	increase

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Shipping lanes	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The inshore sailing route goes through the western part; as a result there is a considerable traffic of small boats in summer. Hunting and fishing takes place in the fjord and in the archipelago.
There is a mineral exploration license area just outside the site, to the northeast of the fjord.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Area important to wildlife (Anon. 2000)		https://www.govmin.gl/images/Documents/Environment/rules_for_fieldwork.pdf, https://gis.au.dk/RDImportantAre as/	partly
Ramsar site	Ikkattoq	http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={15 CBC689-E3AD-470D-B32A-947A250D70 62}	whole
regulation of traffic at seabird breeding colonies		http://lovgivning.gl/lov?rid={56 675241-A0B5-4D4E-89F9-C34D784175 39}	partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	GL040 Ikkattoq	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/59	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

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

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

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

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

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

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Other:

Low level flying over the site and traffic near seabird breeding colonies is regulated.

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

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

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

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring proposed by Egevang & Boertmann 2001

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Anonymous 2000. Rules for fieldwork and reporting regarding mineral resources (excluding hydrocarbons) in Greenland. – Government of Greenland, Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum.
Bay, C. 1997. Floristic division and vegetation zonation of Greenland in relevance to a circumpolar arctic vegetation map: 27-31. In: Proceedings of the second circumpolar arctic vegetation mapping workshop, Arendal, Norway, 19.-24. May 1996. Walker, S. & A.C. Lillie, eds.). – Occasional Paper No. 52, 1997. Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado.
Boertmann, D. & Mosbech, A. 2001. Important summer concentrations of seaducks in West Greenland. An input to oil spill sensitivity mapping. – National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark, NERI Technical Report no. 345: 1-48.
Egevang, C. & Boertmann, D. 2001. The Greenland Ramsar Sites, a status report. – National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Technical Report No. 346, 96 pp.
Greenland Red List 2007. (Boertmann, D., 2008). Rødliste 2007 over planter og dyr i Grønland. ¬– Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser, Grønlands Hjemmestyre.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<1 file(s) uploaded>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

White-tailed Eagle nest overlooking the western part of the site. (*David Boertmann, 08-08-1985*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 1988-01-27