

Narsaq UNESCO proposal zone: faces and history of the Arctic agriculture in Kujataa, Southern Greenland

Additional remarks about the maps

The proposed UNESCO component boundary has been established in view of the density of remarkable sites. It is integrating both identified sites of vestiges from Norse agriculture (Landnamsgården at South of Narsaq and Narsap Ilua at North) and active farms, according to the high specificity of the sheep farming in South Greenland, which is one cause among others to the unique landscapes of Kujataa. The whole town of Narsaq has been included too, for two main reasons. First, according to its history, highly connected with the colonial past as a former trading colony of Qaqortoq: it has been a zone of exchanges and meetings since the first time of colonization in Greenland, which explains the particular town-planning. Secondly, according to its position as a center of the Arctic agriculture, from the Viking time until today. The river system has been used to set up the borders of the UNESCO area, bounding the relevant zones for the farming activity (Taseq Lake).

It has been decided to propose a large buffer zone for many reasons. First of all, because of the land uses, mobilized by the farmers and the local community as well, for grazing, hunting and fishing, and for harvesting. Kuannersuit and Qaqqarsuaq mountains have been included because of their geological wealth. Qaqqarsuaq mountain is very well known for containing the rare Tugtupit stone and Kuannersuit mountain for a high degree of geological diversity, which is of high economic interest today. Economic pressure could be a factor of damage to the unique landscape of Kujataa.

References

- CLEMMENSEN N.C., KAPEL H.C., 2008, *Opmåling af norrøne ruiner på lokaliteterne Sissarissoq og Narsap Ilua med henblik på digital formidling*, repport for Narsaq Museum, 34p.
- KAPEL H.C., 1994, *Landnamsgården i Narsaq. Plan for restaurering og pleje af ruingruppe 60V1-I-518 (Ø 17a)*, Grønlandssekretariatet, 26p.
- UNESCO, 2016, Nomination to UNESCO's World Heritage List. Kujataa – a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland, 265p.

Map bases

- Open Street Map layers (2018)
- Google Satellite layers (2018)