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Besvarelse af § 37 spørgsmål nr. 210 – vedrørende UNESCO

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Kære Bendt B. Kristiansen,

Tak for dine spørgsmål, som du har stillet i henhold til Inatsisartuts forretningsorden. Jeg vil besvare dem herunder.

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Spørgsmål 1: *Hvilke spørgsmål stillede UNESCO vedrørende Kuannersuit mineprojektet i forbindelse med optagelse af arealer i Sydgrønland på UNESCO's verdensarvsliste?*

- a. *Hvad er indholdet på spørgsmålene?*
- b. *Hvorledes svarede vort land på disse spørgsmål?*

Svar:

a. Udover ansøgningen, der blev afleveret i udgangen af januar 2016, har der efterfølgende været en kommunikation med UNESCO's faggruppe, ICOMOS. Dette endte som bekendt med, at UNESCO's Verdensarvskomiteé optog området på Verdensarvslisten den 9. juli 2017.

Spørgsmål vedrørende Kuannersuit mineprojektet har været nævnt i vedlagte kommunikation mellem styregruppen og ICOMOS (bilag 1-3).

I øvrigt kan det oplyses, at komitémødet i Kraków, Polen, blev live-streamet og kan ses på følgende link:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/41com/>

Spørgsmål 2: *Kan der opstå dårlig omtale af arealer der er optaget på Verdensarvslisten hvis minen bliver åbnet?*

Svar:

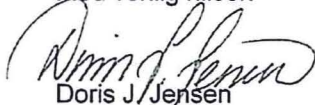
Det er ikke Naalakkersuisuts indtryk, at etablering af Kuannersuit-minen vil medføre dårlig omtale af verdensarvsområdet i Sydgrønland, såfremt de vedtagne internationale og i Grønland vedtagne regler og love følges i den forbindelse.

Det er ikke ualmindeligt, at der foregår minedrift eller andre udviklingstiltag nær verdensarvsområder forskellige steder i verden, uden at det har indflydelse på selve verdensarvsområderne. Det, der er afgørende, er, om der findes tiltag, som styrer de eventuelt negative konsekvenser af minedrift og større udviklingsarbejder, som f.eks. veje, ny industri, byggeri mv.

UNESCO's spørgsmål er i denne forbindelse netop et udtryk for, at man vil sikre sig, at man også i Grønland tager de fornødne forholdsregler i form af lovgivning og forskellige retningslinjer i forbindelse med mineudnyttelse.

Derudover er der en afrapporteringspligt, så fremtidige aktiviteter, der kan påvirke de værdier, verdensarvsområdet er søgt på, skal kommunikeres til Verdensarvskomiteén. Så der i samarbejde med UNESCO og rådgivende organer kan findes løsninger for eventuelle problematikker.

Med venlig hilsen



Doris J. Jensen

Bilag:

1. "Evaluation of the nomination of Kujataa – a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland (Denmark) for inscription on the World Heritage List", fra den 5. maj 2017, side 166, 2. kolonne, 4. afsnit til s. 167, 1. kolonne, 5. afsnit.
2. Styregruppens kommentar til evalueringsrapportens bemærkning vedr. Kuannersuit-projektet i følgebrev til faktuelle rettelser ift. ICOMOS' evalueringsrapport, dateret den 16. juni 2017.
3. Mundtlig uddybning fra styregruppen vedr. minespørgsmål, under behandlingen af ansøgningen den 9. juli 2017.

Ilangussaq 1: "Evaluation of the nomination of Kujataa – a subarctic farming landscape in Greenland (Denmark) for inscription on the World Heritage List", maji 5, 2017-imeersoq, qupperneq 166, 2. kolonne, 4. afsnit til s. 167, 1. kolonne, 5. afsnit.

While the nominated property is exempt from mining by the Government of Greenland, mining is a significant economic activity and is expected to contribute significantly to future employment. Additional information provided by the State Party explained that mining concessions now surround most of the components following the relinquishing of mining concessions that formed a necessary part of the World Heritage nomination process. These are exploration rather than exploitation licenses and no mining activity is current, with the exception of the 'TaNbREEZ project' (within 5 km of component 5) and 'Kvanefjeldet' (20 km from component 5) which are undergoing Environmental Impact Assessment. The State Party is confident that there will be no impacts on the nominated components, and the views of the Steering Group of the Kujataa World Heritage project will be sought.

The most imminent future pressure is likely to arise from the exploration of numerous areas near to the nominated components; and the possible exploitation of a rare earth and uranium mine associated with the Ilimaussaq intrusive complex, located approximately 15-20 km from the Qassiarsuk, Sissarluttoq and Qaqortukuloq components. Some stakeholders have voiced concerns about the impacts include uranium contamination of grazing areas and on the health and safety of residents and visitors. The project is subject to assessments of the impacts on health and the environment, and the economic viability of the project has not yet been demonstrated.

ICOMOS considers that Environmental Impact Assessment processes are often inadequate for assessing the impacts of proposals on the cultural values of World Heritage properties, and strongly recommends the urgent development of 'Heritage Impact Assessment' processes for these and other proposed mining and development projects.

ICOMOS also notes that such mining projects can require significant infrastructure works beyond the mining areas themselves. For this reason, the identified projects are inevitably sensitive given that they are near the nominated property, and represent potential projects of significant scale and economic value.

Infrastructure development inside and surrounding the nominated property has the potential to impact on its values. According to the additional information received from the State Party, currently planned projects include a new water supply system for Igaliku (2017); waterworks for Qassiarsuk (2017); road and bridge construction to connect Narsarsuaq with Qassiarsuk, and Igaliku with Sissarluttoq; extension of the Qorlotorsuaq hydropower plant (12 km east of the nominated area), including a dam, road access and small harbour (2017-2018); and a new airport 6 km north of Qaqortoq that will support tourism to the nominated property as well as movements within Greenland (2018-2020). A renewable energy pilot project was initiated on the northern outskirts of Igaliku in 2016, with modifications to the locations and size of wind turbines made to minimise visual impacts. Smaller projects include building modifications, and new houses, particularly at Igaliku.

The Greenland government and Kujalleq municipality have demonstrated some capacity to identify and address the impacts of infrastructure projects and take mitigating actions. A major transmission line was buried several years ago in Hvalsey to protect the visual integrity of the nominated property; and a proposed renewable energy project at Igaliku has recently been moved to a much less visible location.

ICOMOS considers that it would be desirable that the State Party consider the integration of a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system, so as to ensure that any programme or project regarding the property be assessed in relation to its impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and its supporting attributes. All major projects that could impact on the series should be communicated to the World Heritage Committee in line with paragraph 172 of *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

Ilanngusaq 2: ICOMOS-ip naliliilluni nalunaarusiaanut 16. juni 2017-imeersumut Kuannersuarni suliniummut tunngatillugu paasissutissanut naqqiissutitut Aqutsisoqatigiit oqaaseqaataat. .

Oqaatigisat akissutillu saqqummiuteqqinneri:

In p. 166, col. 2, line 57-62, it was written by ICOMOS, that *"Some stakeholders have voiced concerns about the impacts include uranium contamination..."*

The Government of Greenland fully acknowledges the concerns of stakeholders in or near the nominated property about possible future contamination from Uranium mining. The Government of Greenland wish to highlight that any development of mining in Greenland must follow established legislation set down by the Mineral Resources Act, which includes hearing processes that ensures that all involved or affected parties can voice any and all concerns. It must also be stressed that there are currently no projects in Greenland exploiting uranium. The Government of Greenland realizes that

Side 2

continued dialogue with stakeholders in the nominated property is a key part of maintaining and securing the future integrity of the Inuit farming culture in the nominated property vis-à-vis any form of industrial development.

**Ilanngussaq 3: Qinnuteqaatip 9. juli 2017
suliarineqarneranut atatillugu aatsitassarsiornissamut
apeqqutit pillugit aqutsisoqatigiit oqaasiinnarmik
itinerusumik saqqummiussa.**

Qinnuteqaatip Nunarsuarmit eriajisassaattut Komitemi Kraków, Polenimi 9 juli 2017-imi suliarineqarnerani Finlandip komitémi ilaasortaataata killeqarfigiligassanut pilersinneqarsimasunut illersuisinnaanissamut tunngasunik apeqquteqarpoq.

Tassunga kalaallit aallartitaat oqaasiinnartigut ima akissuteqarput:

“The Government of Greenland is positive towards considering the possibility of not granting new exploration licenses in the buffer zone including relinquished areas previously covered by exploration licenses. Two mineral exploration licenses within and adjacent to the buffer zone have recently been relinquished.

If the nomination gets inscribed on the World Heritage List, a steering group will be established. The Steering Group will be heard during the consultation processes about mineral activities (and other development proposals) and can thereby actively participate to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value does not get affected by these.

With regard to licenses for mineral exploration and exploitation, it is important to stress, that activities covered by licenses granted under the Mineral Resources Act must be performed in accordance with acknowledged best international practices in the area under similar conditions. Activities must be performed appropriately as well as in a sound manner as regards safety, health, the environment, resources utilization and social sustainability. Environmental protection rules under the Mineral Resources Act aim to prevent, limit and combat impacts on nature and the environment which could cause damage to natural or cultural values.

A licensee shall respect all existing rights of other parties in the area and planned activities are submitted to a process of consultation with relevant authorities and other stakeholders before the activity can commence.

The Government of Greenland has started a process concerning developing and implementing ‘Heritage Impact Assessment’ for development proposals in general in the nominated area and in the buffer zone as an addition to Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment, which are already implemented.

The Government of Greenland will take the necessary steps to ensure that any intensification of agricultural practices will be conducted in a sustainable way, providing protection of the attributes of the property.

The State Party is determined to communicate all mayor projects that could impact on the OUV of the nominated area to the World Heritage Committee and to seek solutions to any possible difficulties in close cooperation with the World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies.”