

# Climate change and tourism in Greenland – friction, opportunism and everyday concerns

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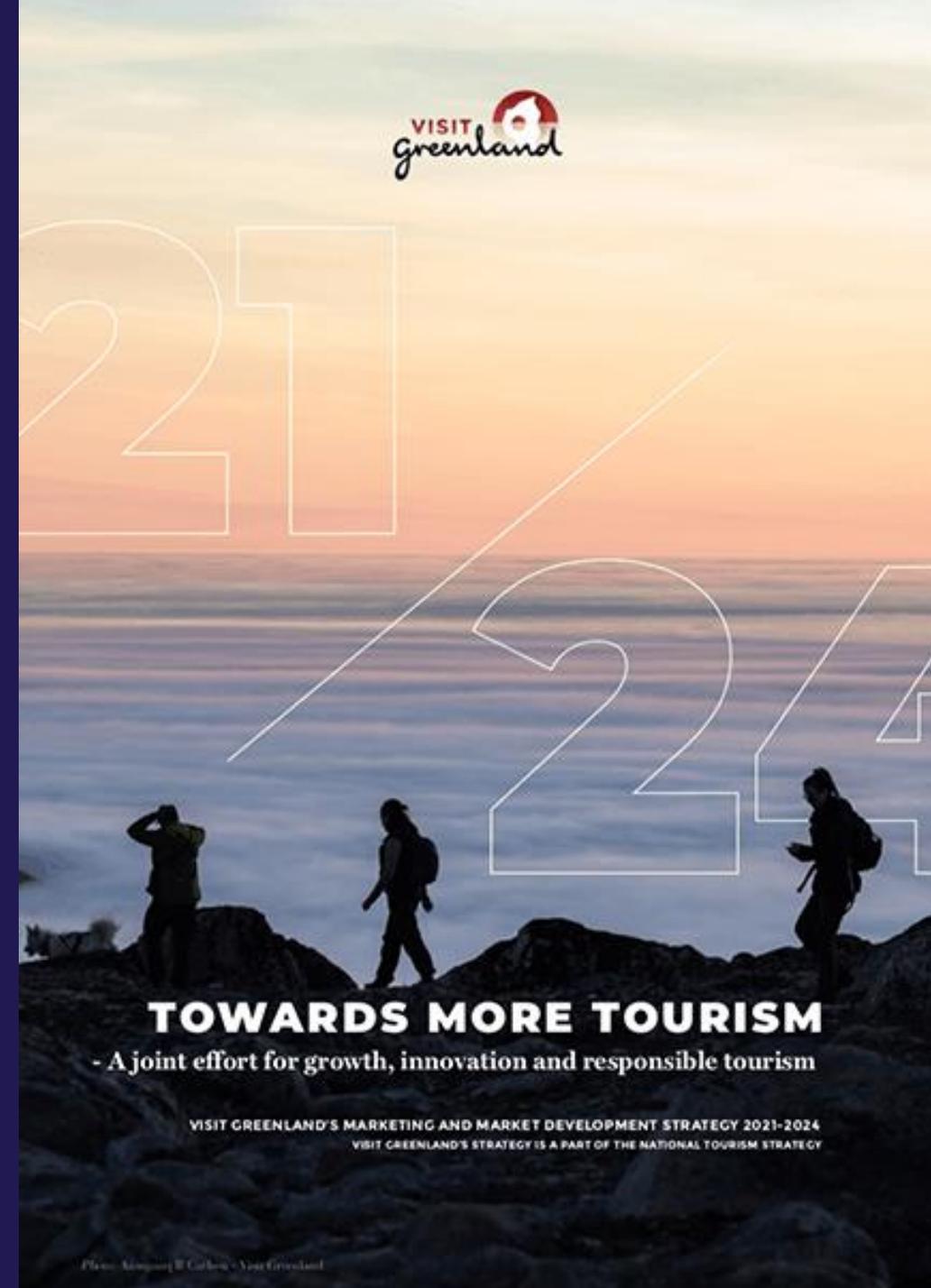


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# BUILDING AN ARCTIC (DESTI)NATION

- ▶ Increasing tourism (prognosis)
- ▶ Airports opening up
- ▶ Cruise growth and local concerns
- ▶ Tourism policy in the making



# CLIMATE ICONOCITY

*'Ilulissat Icefjord Centre offers 'front-row seat for a melting ice sheet'*

Paradoxical connections: *'Arctification'* (Rantala et al., 2019), global attention and dramatic climate changes



# POLICY CONTEXT

- ▶ Growing awareness to develop tourism sustainably – *balance* a fragile ecosystem, a need for economic diversification and the interest and well-being of locals.
- ▶ ‘*Better*’ rather than ‘*more*’ tourism: targeting adventure tourists and focusing on local purpose and value-creation.
- ▶ *Resources* lack to develop and enforce regulation, monitoring, codes of conduct and guidelines.



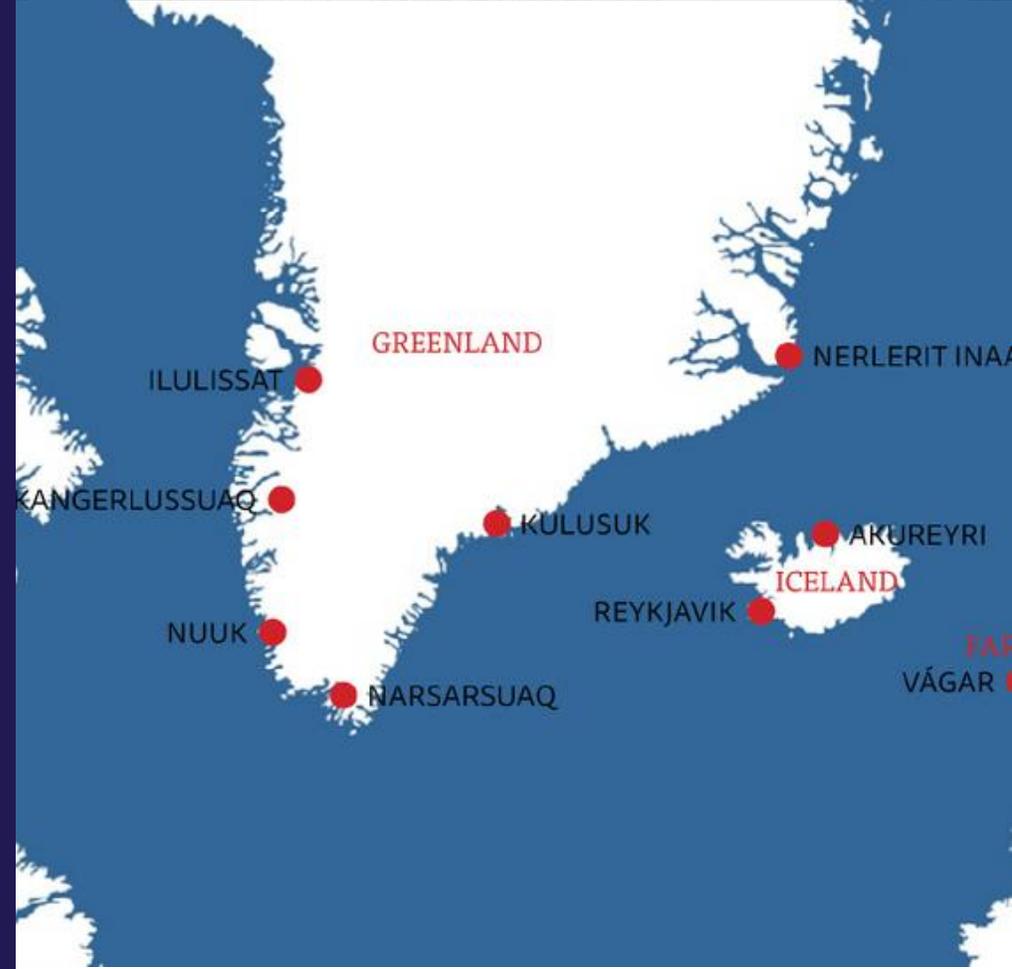
# CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY IN TOURISM

- ▶ Climate change as:
  - 'opportunity' for local and indigenous communities – less ice, longer seasons
  - 'risk' – less snow and ice (less Arctic 'recognition'), uncertainty in weather changes
- ▶ From climate victims to 'climate opportunism' (Bendixen et al. 2023) in Greenlandic tourism



# AIRPORTS

- ▶ Three new airports capable to service international flights – Nuuk (2024), Ilulissat (2026), Qaqortoq (2026)
- ▶ Airports framed as a ‘game changer’ for the industry and the national economy



# CRUISE TOURISM

- ▶ Growing friction
- ▶ Growing leakage
- ▶ Unknown environmental consequences
- ▶ Lack of regulation (going where, when?)



# EVERYDAY CONCERNS

- ▶ Future scenarios
- ▶ Concerns over resources, space and ownership - the right to remoteness
- ▶ Cultural concerns: foreign workers, exploitation "Tourism colonialism"
- ▶ Lack of knowledge on pollutants, noise...



# WHAT NOW?

- ▶ MEASURING AND MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY
- ▶ UNDERSTANDING RELATIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES
- ▶ BETTER GOVERNANCE CONNECTED TO THE CHANGES AND RELATIONSHIPS
- ▶ RESEARCH THAT CENTER ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONCERNS
- ▶ LEARNING FROM THE ARCTIC



# WHAT NOW? HOW?

- ▶ Co-production
- ▶ Interdisciplinarity
- ▶ Citizen Science (Locals, tourists, companies, guides)



# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- ▶ The costs of Arctic tourism:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=py8jyQ-Kb0A>
- ▶ (InterAct series on climate change in the Arctic)



[Carina] On that local scale, tourism is often a really good solution,

# THANK YOU!

- ▶ FACE-IT: [www.face-it-project.eu/](http://www.face-it-project.eu/)
- ▶ Centre for Innovation and Research in Culture and Living in the Arctic:  
[www.en.culture.aau.dk/research/research-groups/circla](http://www.en.culture.aau.dk/research/research-groups/circla)
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