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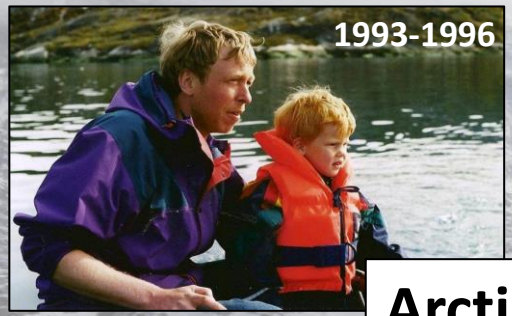
# Bridging knowledge systems

## using research stations as hubs for knowledge integration

www.eu-interact.org

**European Polar Science Week 2024**
**The Black Diamond, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6 September 2024**

# Me and Qeqertarsuaq



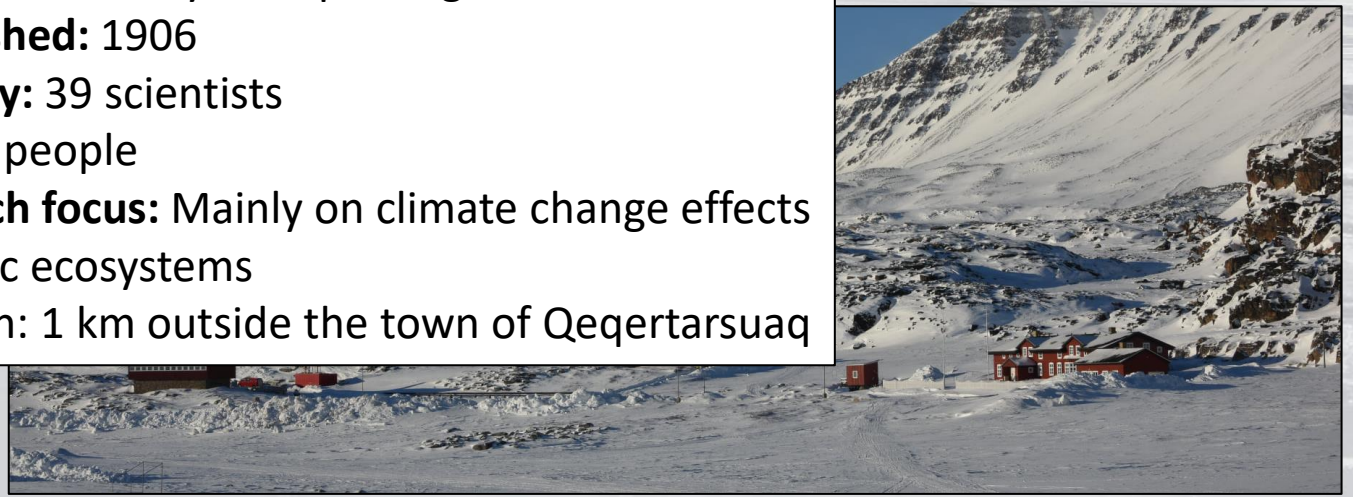


nhagen

## Arctic Station

**Owner:** University of Copenhagen
**Established:** 1906
**Capacity:** 39 scientists
**Staff:** 5 people
**Research focus:** Mainly on climate change effects on arctic ecosystems
Location: 1 km outside the town of Qeqertarsuaq

M/V Porsild, University of Cop



Arctic Station, University of Copenhagen

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# Qeqertasuaq, Greenland

Qeqertarsuaq

Qeqertarsuaq

Qeqertarsuaq

## Qeqertarsuaq

**Latitude:** 69°30’N
**Country:** Greenland
**Population:** Mainly Inuit
**Inhabitants:** c. 850
**Main occupation:** Fishing


Disko Bugt, Greenland

Arctic Station, University of Copenhagen

# Qeqertarsuaq, 1993 - 2023

## 1993

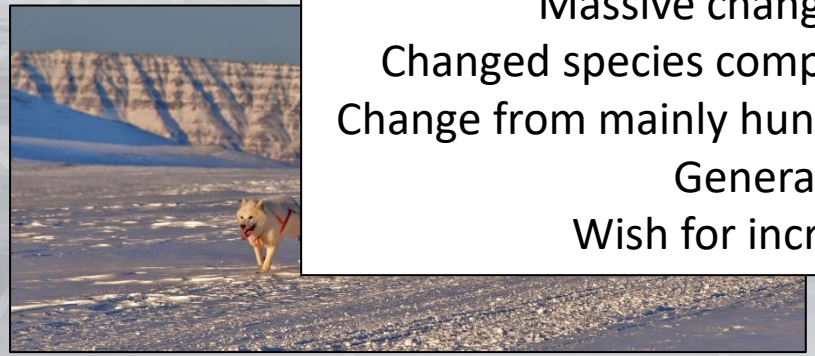
**Inhabitants:** c. 1.200
**Dogs:** > 4.000
**Foreigners (mainly Danes):** >40
**Main occupat**

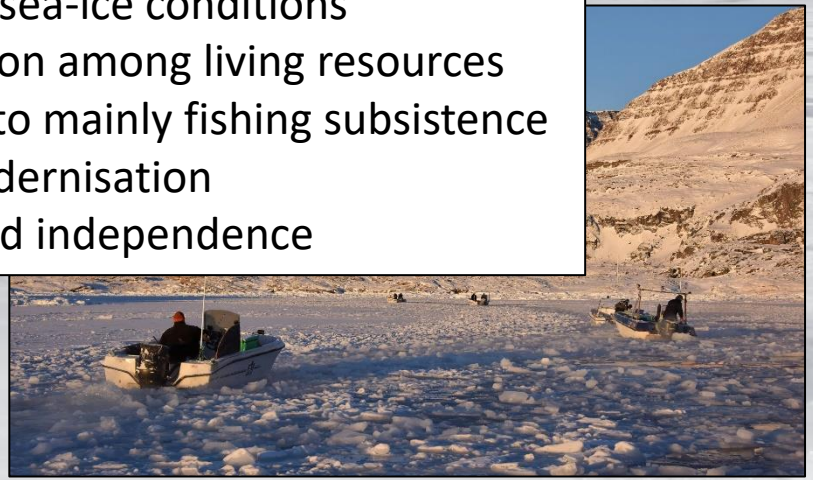
## 2023

**Inhabitants:** c. 850
**Dogs:** < 300
**Foreigners (mainly Danes):** <5

## Causes of change

Massive change of sea-ice conditions
Changed species composition among living resources
Change from mainly hunting to mainly fishing subsistence
General modernisation
Wish for increased independence





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# Joint solutions?

**VERY LIMITED**

# Joint solutions?

## INTERACT

- 74 research stations (95 before the Russian stations were excluded due to the invasion in Ukraine) in the Arctic and northern alpine and boreal region.
- Including stations in Canada, USA,

INTERACT has during its 13 years of existence tried to facilitate cooperation between scientists and local people through different courses, workshops, pilot projects etc.

- Funded by different EU-grants until the end of 2024.
- Work will continue in the non-profit organisation INPA after 2024.

# Bridging of knowledge systems

## Terms

Scientific knowledge
Local knowledge
Traditional knowledge
Indigenous knowledge

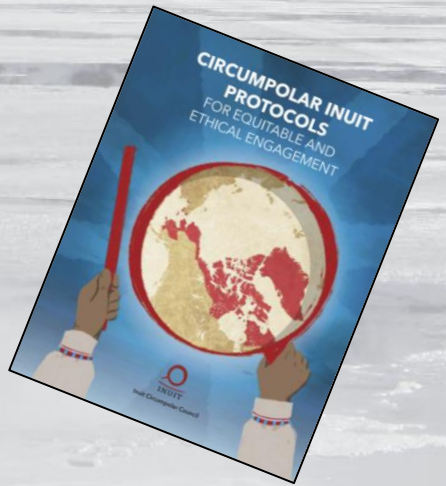
Citizen Science
Coproduction of Know
Community Based Mo

Research fatigue

**Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement**

**Protocol 1:** Nothing About Us Without Us' – Always Engage with Inuit
**Protocol 2:** Recognize Indigenous Knowledge in its Own Right
**Protocol 3:** Practice Good Governance
**Protocol 4:** Communicate with Intent
**Protocol 5:** Exercise Accountability – Building Trust
**Protocol 6:** Build Meaningful Partnerships
**Protocol 7:** Information and Data Sharing, Ownership, and Permissions
…tation and Knowledge

Currently, most cooperation between researchers and communities still has the form citizen science. The scientists develop the projects and ask locals for some kind of assistance. This kind of cooperation is conceptually not based on equity.

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# Research stations as hubs for knowledge integration

**Possible reasons for lack of cooperation**

- Traditions
- It takes time – often the limiting factor in relation to joint application preparation
- Lack of knowledge in relation to the potentials of cooperation
- Lack of knowledge in relation to establishing the necessary equity
- Lack of mutual understanding / scepticism towards each other
- Different perceptions/interests in relation to the subjects under investigation
- Giving priority to other things in life, e.g. work, family – or simply not finding research interesting
- Language barriers
- Simple shyness towards each other

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# Research stations as hubs for knowledge integration

It takes time and change of mindset to eliminate cooperation barriers

It takes time and practice to establish the right framework for cooperation

Research stations have several advantages in relation to help facilitating such cooperation.

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# Research stations as hubs for knowledge integration

**INTERACT/INPA Initiative:** Uniting multiple knowledge sources for Observing, Understanding and Responding (OUR) to environmental change in the Arctic.

- Identify, in a 'North-to-North' dialogue between people living in the Arctic and the science community working there, the most pending challenges/opportunities in relation to food security and transport safety across diverse local arctic communities.

- Establish an integrated knowledge system based on Indigenous/local knowledge, new and existing scientific field observations and long-term experimental research, remote sensing and modeling to improve our observational capacity and understanding of environmental change and how it will cause challenges and opportunities related to food security and transport safety.

- Use this extended data source, knowledge and understanding to produce synthesis assessments about food security and transport safety across the Arctic and use these assessments for sustainably responding to related challenges and opportunities, both locally and across the Arctic.

- Make data, results and recommendations available to local communities, the scientific community, educators and local/national/international decision makers.

# THANK YOU