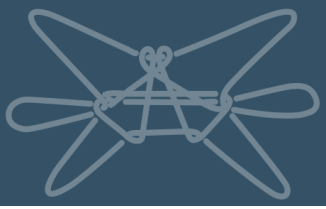
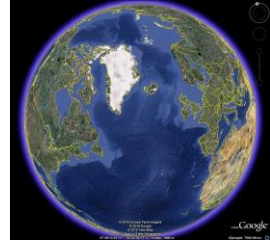


# Methodology in collecting geographical names in Greenland

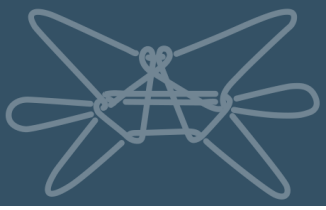




# Lisathe Møller



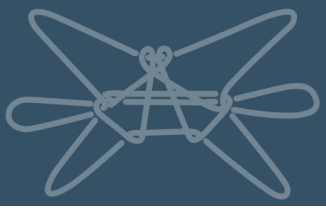
- Specialized consultant at Oqaasileriffik, the Greenland Language Secretariat.
- Secretary for the Geographical Names Authority, and Project Manager for collecting information about existing names and reporting to the Place Names Authority.



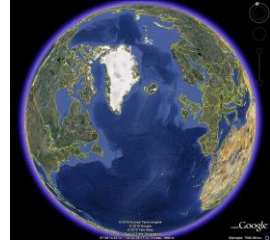
# Overview of my presentation/ Saqqummiussassama tulleriinneri



- Place Names Authority Act in Greenland
- Geographical naming methods in Greenland
- Geographical names collection in Greenland



# Law on Greenland Geographical Names Authority



- The Government set up the Greenland Geographical Names Authority in order to ensure the registration of, and authoritative advice and information on the naming of the geographical names.
- The Greenland Geographical Names Authority's objectives are:
- to collect, register and authorize geographical names in Greenland, excluding local road and places inside municipal borders.
- The Greenland Geographical Names Authority consists of 5 members, appointed by the Minister.
- The Greenland Geographical Names Authority's competence cannot be wholly or partly transferred to the other.



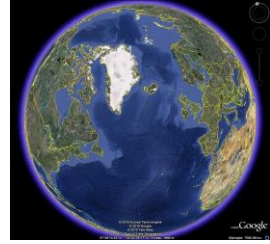
# Geographical naming methods in Greenland



- There are two main different methods of naming places in Greenland
  - Greenlanders naming of places and foreigners naming of places are different.



# Geographical naming methods in Greenland

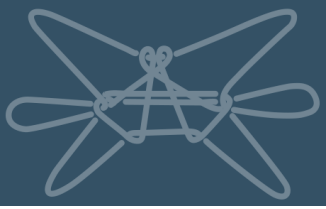


Greenlanders often named places according to their characteristics which resembles something.

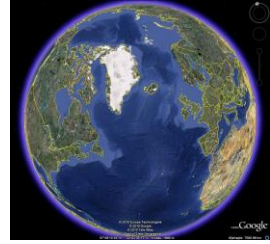
For example

The island name is Ummannaq which means resemble a heart.





# Geographical naming methods in Greenland



Greenlanders often named places according to its function

- **Nasittarfik** is called that because sealers used to use the site as a lookout place. Nasittarfik means a lookout point.
- The headland is called **Pituffik**. Because hunters used to catch a whale from a beach on site, and tethered the whale on a stone. Pituffik means a mooring place.



# Geographical naming methods in Greenland



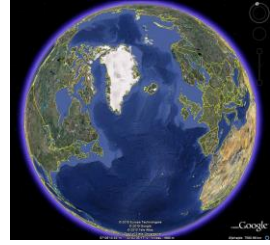
*Greenlanders named a place after what had happened*

- **Tittavik** means split place. Because someone gutted fish or other animals on that spot.
- **Apikaakasik** is a female name. This place was named after Apikaakasik, who lived in that place.

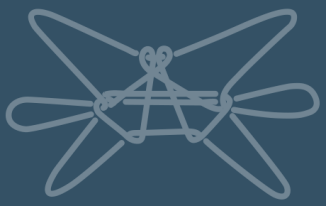




# Geographical naming methods in Greenland



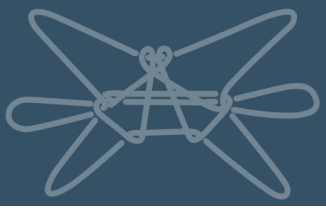
- Foreign visitors often named places after living persons
- For example
  - They often name the persons or organizations that gave financial support to the expedition to a place
  - They often name their family to a place,
  - They often name the famous people from their country or world-famous people to a place,
  - The name gives countries, cities or places from their country to a place



# How we collect geographical names

# Geographical names collection

- Since the end of 2007 I started to lead a geographical names project, that finished in 2012.
- We have collected over 7.000 non-registered geographical names in five years.

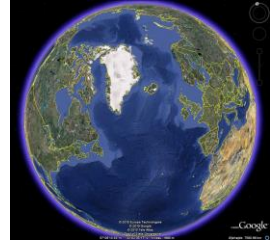
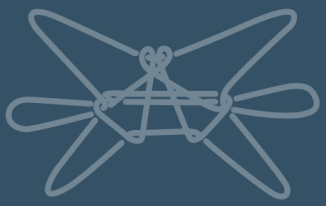


# Travelling to all towns to collect geographical names



- We travelled to all 17 towns, and 26 out of 56 settlements on the coast, especially with airplane or coast ship to the towns, with motorboat and fishing boat to the settlements.
- Once we drove a dogsled from the town of Qaanaaq to the world's northernmost settlement Siorapaluk.

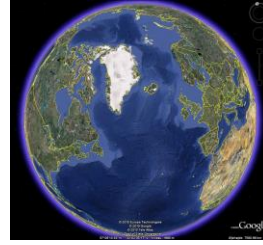




- We use portable computers in our work with collection of geographical names.
- We use a GIS (*Geographic information system*), which is called Mapinfo, when we work with geographical names.



# Working with geographical names experts



- Usually we work with the local Fishermen's and Hunters' Organisation in identifying geographical names experts.
- We are working with fishermen's and hunters, as well as older people.



# Cooperation with municipalities in settlements

- We cooperate sometimes with municipalities in a settlement, especially for finding a place where we can work and about accommodation.
- A place is called a settlement, when the population is about 30-500 people, but most settlements are under 200 inhabitants in Greenland.



# Geographical name registration using old radio broadcasts

- We have tried to register geographical names by listening to old radio broadcast about a particular place.
- So, me and one person who knows the place well was listening to the old radio broadcast, and recorded several geographical names which have not yet been registered.

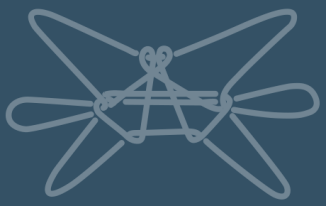




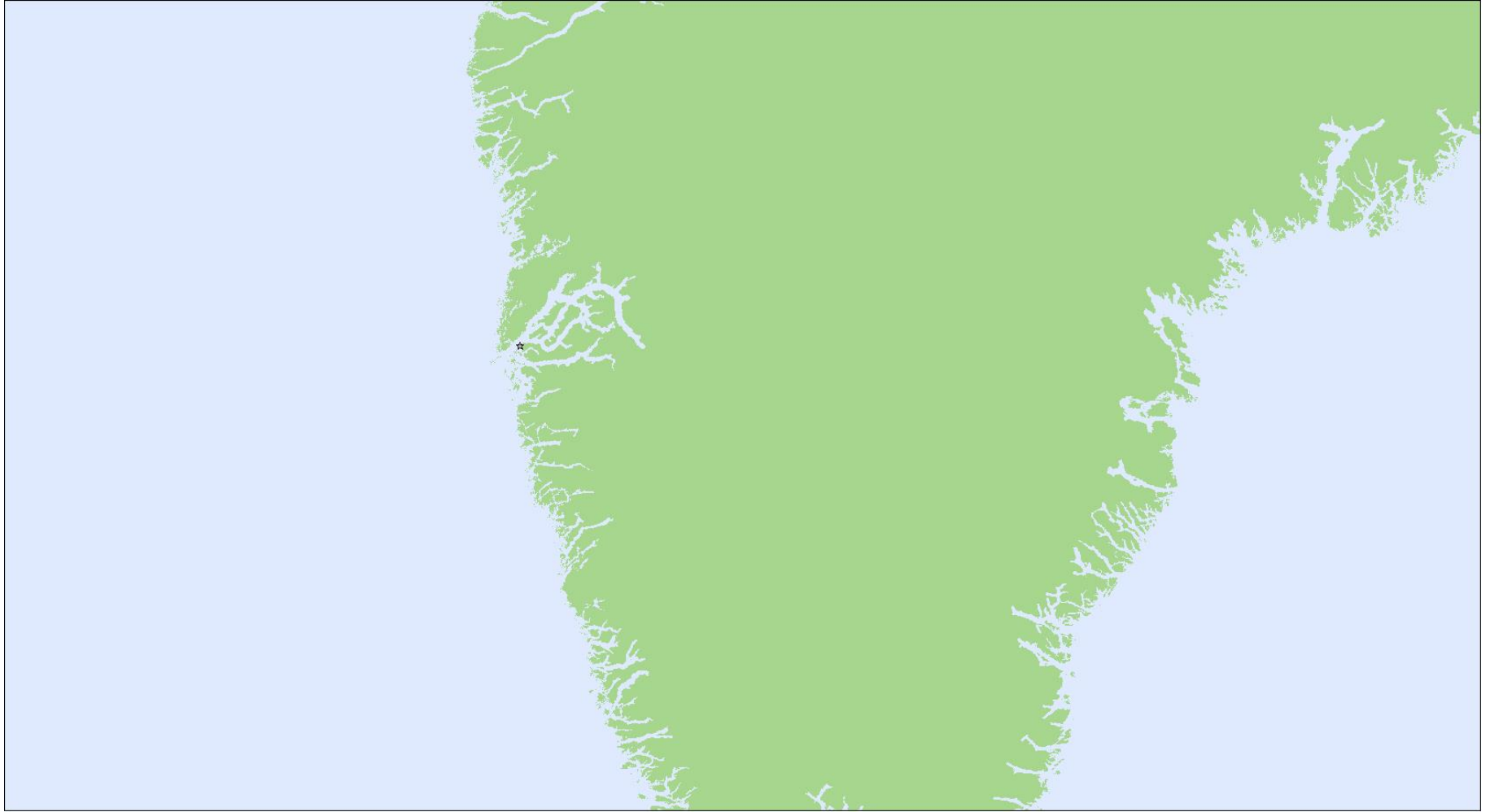
# We work with people who have contacted us about geographical names

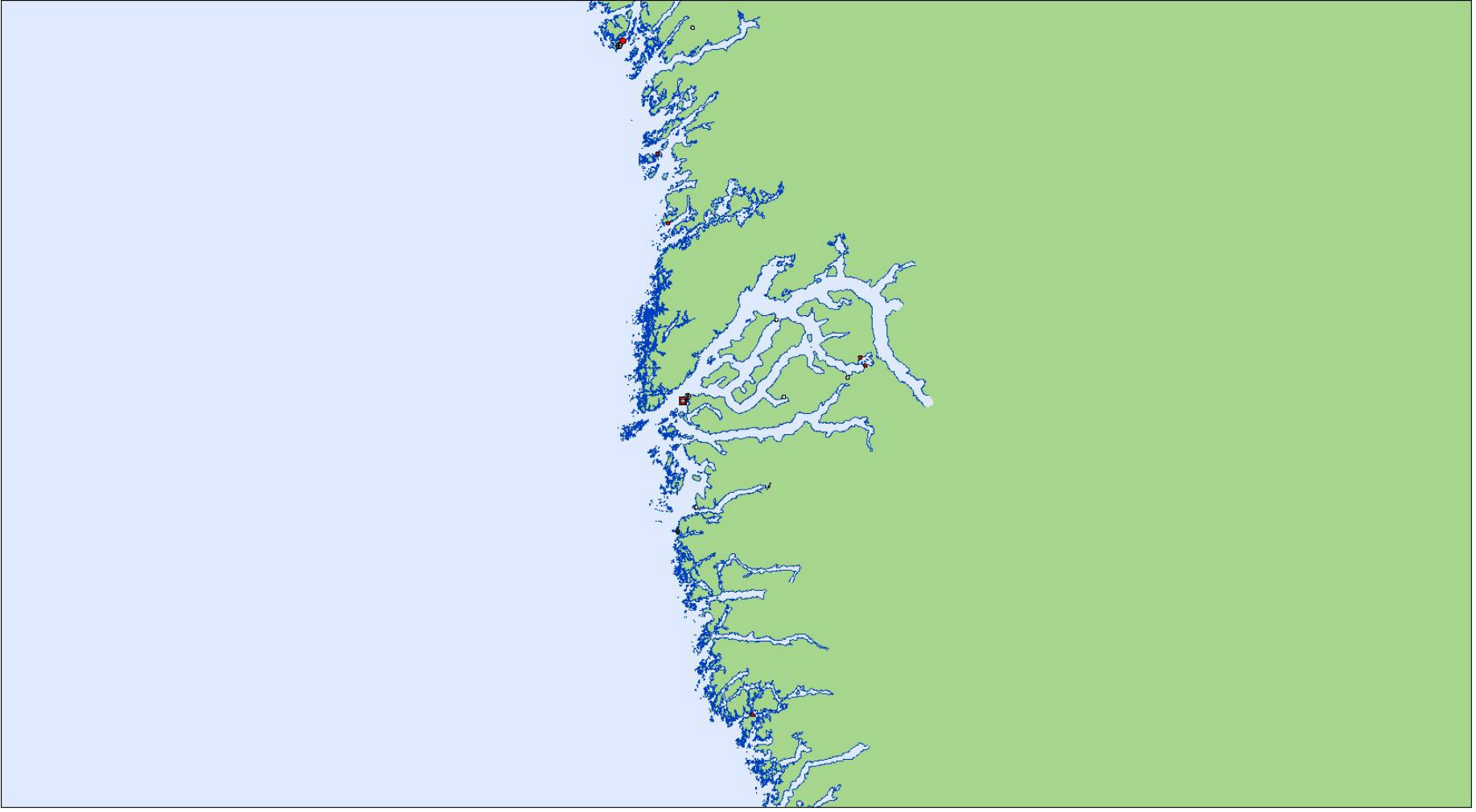
- We work with people when someone contact us to give geographical names which have not yet been registered.

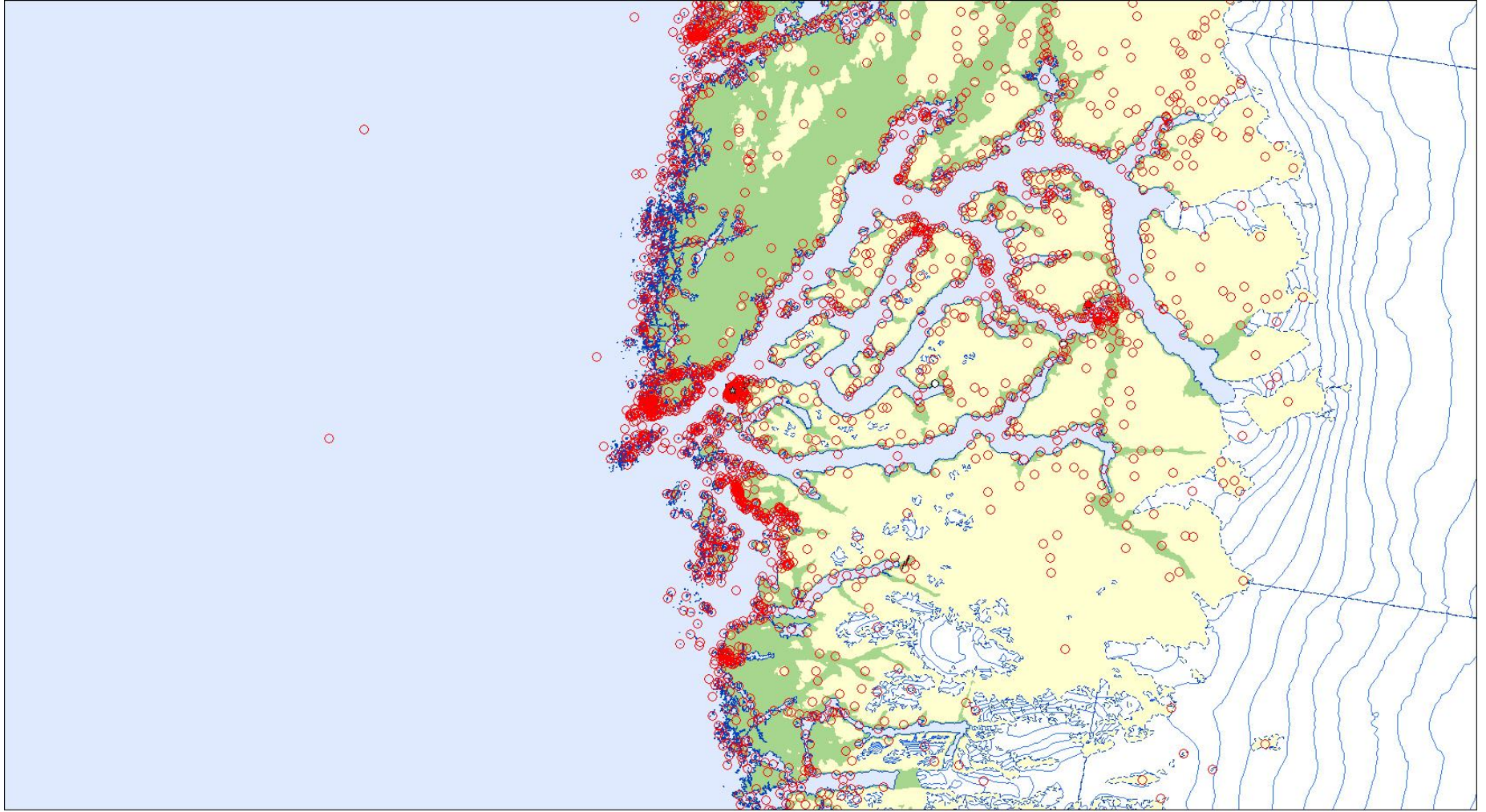


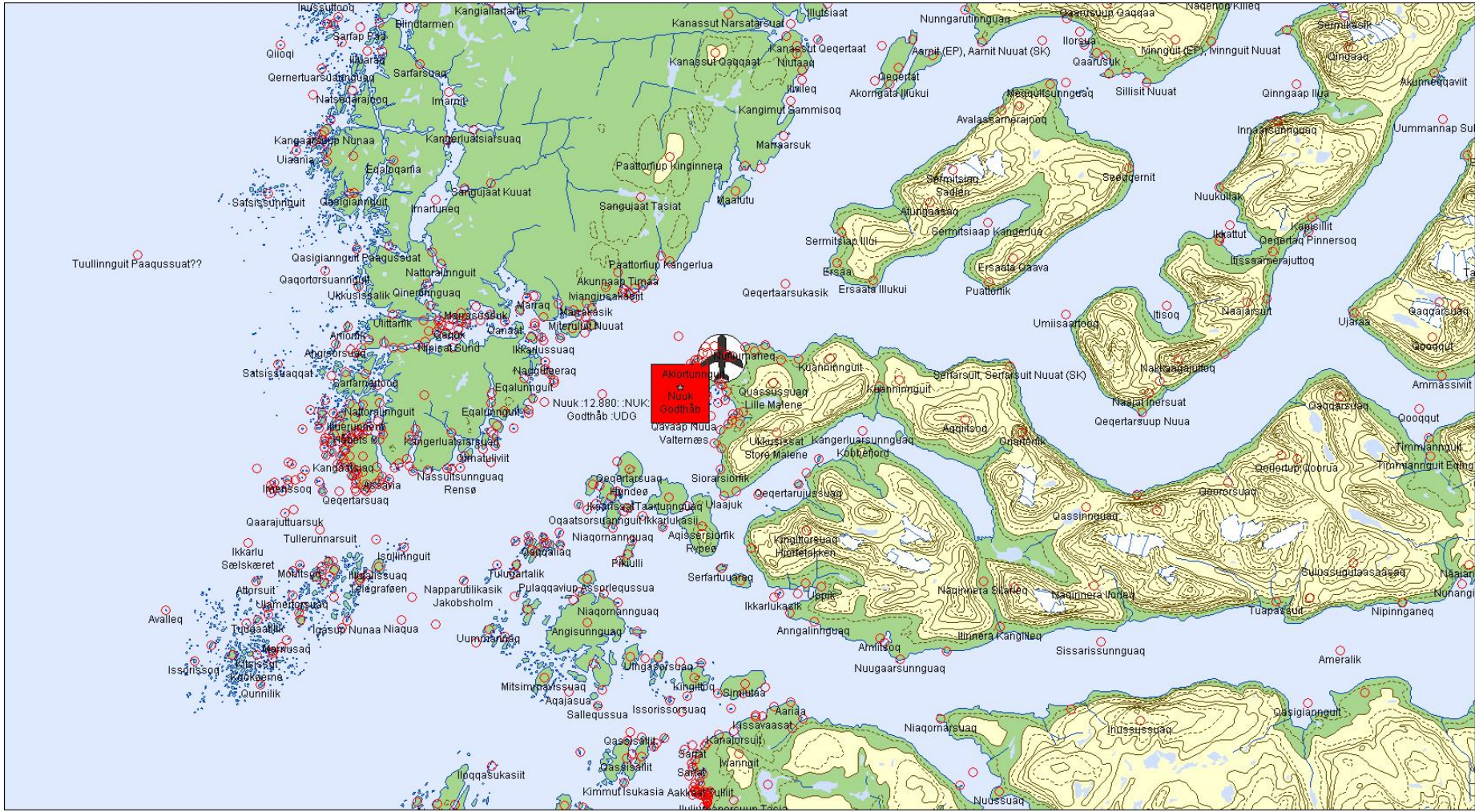


Thank you!



















PLACE NAME	FEATURE	SOURCE	MUNICIPALITY	SET UP DATE	DATE OF CORRECTION
Qasigiannnguit	ISLAND	Place name register	Nuuk	8 august 1986	2 january 2008
Qasigiannnguit Kangerluat	INLET	Kristian Heilmann	Nuuk	2 january 2008	2 january 2008
Taseraa	Sound	Kristian Heilmann	Nuuk	2 january 2008	02 january 2008

# Place names features

- glacier, depot, catching place, ice area, nunatak (*landisland which projects above the ice*), Inuit ruin and cairn.
- Another place name feature I will mention is: Mountain (fjeld), hillock (fjeldknold), ravine (kløft/qooroq), steep (brat), plain (slette), lake (sø), rock (skær), creek (vig), coast (kyst), closed settlement (lukket bygd), sheep-breeding place (fåreavlsstation), sunny side (solside/saqqaq) and many more.

# Correction

- Nuukasak → Nuukullak
- Tissarluttoq → Sissarluttoq
- Ravens Banke → Sioqqap Sioraata Ikkannera
- Nordre Kangeq → Kangeq Avannarleq
- Moberg Havn → Annapaaq

Finally I want to show that many place names were named by our forefathers according to their physical characteristics.

# Uummannaq – an island



# Innajuattoq



# Sermitsiaq – a mountain





Other specific geographical  
names