

Denmark

North-East Greenland

Declaration date: 1977

Surface area: 97,200,000 ha

Administrative division: The National Park Administration in North-East Greenland

Human activities:

There is a permanent research station (Zackenberg), with a field season from late May to early September. Long time series of background ecosystem data is being generated through a long-term monitoring programme, called Zackenberg Basic. The biosphere reserve is part of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX), which was initiated within the framework of the MAB Northern Sciences Network in 1990. It is a contributing research site to observe and measure responses of selected arctic plants to changing environmental conditions, such as temperature or duration of snow cover.

Ecological characteristics:

Situated in north-east Greenland, this biosphere reserve is the largest biosphere reserve in the world, covering 97,200,000 hectares. There is no permanent settlement in the biosphere reserve, since most of the area is inland ice and the rest is a composite fjord landscape. Many bird species are breeding in the summer within the biosphere reserve, which also includes two Ramsar sites.

Tundra and high mountain vegetation including willow (*Salix arctica*), dwarf birch (*Betula nana*), crowberry (*Empetrum* sp.) etc.; shore and marsh communities; grassland; heathland; freshwater communities.



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