

**Greenland Trees report on Greenland field activities 22 Aug - 3 Sep 2020**



*The Greenland Trees international team working near Narsarsuaq, south Greenland 22 Aug -  
3 Sep 2020*



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## About Greenland Trees

Greenland Trees is run by scientists, some of whom are already in Greenland for glaciological work. The Greenland Trees mission is:

- to maintain a service to drawdown atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into new forests;
- to partner with Greenlandic society, emphasizing youth engagement and education,
- to restore the landscape in a heavily degraded former military base and other urbanized environments;
- to increase biodiversity;
- to support forest research;
- to have a positive environmental legacy;

and to do so with full transparency, as part of the registered charitable Dasht Foundation.

## Greenland Trees 2020 achievements

This was the second Greenland Trees field campaign after the launch of the organization in January 2019, building on south Greenland experience that goes back decades earlier from people like Poul Bjerg, Søren Odum and Kenneth Høegh. The curveballs thrown by Coronavirus ultimately reduced the number of available saplings because in Iceland where the saplings came from

- In cooperation among 14 people from Greenland and internationally, Greenland Trees had a successful 21 Aug - 3 Sep 2020 field campaign in which 4000 saplings from two species (*engelmannii*<sup>1</sup> and *Populus*) were planted.
- Planting was in Narsaq (1000 trees), Qanasiassat and Narsarsuaq. In all locations, the relative mix was ~1/3 poplar, ~2/3 *engelmannii*.
- 60 self-seeded larix sibirica in Qanasiassat were transplanted from near the shoreline up into the fenced area.
- Fence repair at Qannasiassat was made around the entire 1.4 km perimeter<sup>2</sup>, taking ~5 people 2.5 days hammering in ~150 fallen or loose posts, installing ~15 new poles

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<sup>1</sup> Blagreni Rio Grande, started 02 July 2018

<sup>2</sup> 4.3 Ha area

and re-attaching barbed wire using materials from the Qannasiassat cabin and from Qingua farmer Christian Frederiksen and two of his children.

- Saplings were imported from Iceland using Eimskib/Royal Arctic Line.
- Reconnaissance of potential greenhouse locations took place. Hotel Narsaq is eager to help us achieve our goals and offered to have the greenhouse behind the hotel.
- We again found much enthusiasm among Greenlandic residents for planting trees.
- The in-kind voluntary contributions from Unu Mondo Expedition crew of six were of truly major assistance with planting, fence maintenance, filming, and the transport of people and plants between Narsaq, Qanasiassat and Narsarsuaq.
- Positions of areas were recorded using GPS with details including verbal description captured in this report and in field books.



*overview map of Qanasiassat with fenced perimeter (1.4 km), enclosing a 4.3 hectare area.*

## Greenland Trees field report 2020

- Survey of the previous year's Narsarsuaq planting activities revealed high (c. 80%) success rate. Loss of some plants on the most sandy slopes was evident as the slope movement/erosion appears to have buried some of the larix planted behind hotel Narsarsuaq.
- Babak Salek, professional video editor, joined the expedition to help produce an informative video on Greenland Trees, particularly to obtain funding for a greenhouse in Narsaq.
- Dirk van As obtained some fantastic drone footage
- Photography from Julien Fumard and videography from Thomas Bour and Lucas Boitier was also extensive from the Unu Mondo team.

### Trees planted

From Gróðrarstöðin Mörk (mork.is) and Ingemar Magnusson, we received 4000 trees in plastic trays in three open wooden crates delivered by Eimskip/RAL cargo. Including about 60 replantings, we planted 4060 trees in 2020.

species	common name	count per tray	count	total number of plants
Larix sukaczewii (sibirca) replantings	Siberian larch	1	60	60
Populus trichocarpa (Brekkan provenance)	Poplar	35	28	1000
Pinus engelmannii (prov: Blagreni Rio Grande)	Engelmann Spruce	40	75	3000
		<b>Total</b>		<b>4060</b>



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Persons involved

 Greenland Trees field report 2020 

*Persons joining the field campaign via Europe air travel*

	<b>name</b>	<b>initi als</b>	<b>nation ality</b>	<b>description</b>
1	Jason Box	JB	US	GT co-founder, assisted with tree work while already in Greenland for glaciological work
2	Dirk van As	DVA	NL	GT co-founder
3	Faezeh M. Nick	FMN	IR	GT co-founder
4	Adrien Wehrlé	AW	FR	masters student in glaciology, assisted with tree work while already in Greenland for glaciological work
5	Maurice van Tiggelen	MVT	NL	graduate student in glaciology, assisted with tree work while already in Greenland for glaciological work
6	Babak Salek	BS	IR	videographer

 **Greenland Trees field report 2020** 

*Persons involved in GT work, already in Greenland*

	<b>name</b>	<b>initials</b>	<b>nationality</b>	<b>description</b>
1	Niels Sakariassen		GL	Narsaq resident, tree enthusiast, works for Royal Greenland
2	Ingimar Magnusson	IM	IS	forester, brother of Hotel Narsaq owner Fridrik Magnusson, was not present this year but assisted from Iceland by providing 1000 poplar
3	Tobias Carter	TC	UK	Unu Mondo co-director and crew member on sailing vessel Northabout
4	Sofie Simonin	SS	FR	Unu Mondo co-director and crew member on sailing vessel Northabout
5	Thomas Bour	TB	FR	videographer and Unu Mondo crew member on sailing vessel Northabout
6	Lucas Boitier	LB	FR	videographer and Unu Mondo crew member on sailing vessel Northabout
7	Julien Fumard	JF	FR	photographer and Unu Mondo crew member on sailing vessel Northabout
8	Michiel Fonder	MF	BE	crew member on the Northabout

## 2019 Planting Status Retrospective

By the 2020 visit, it was evident that most trees we planted in August 2019 had survived. Kenneth Høegh testified before our arrival that the weather conditions had been good since "100%" of the saplings planted in the grass behind the hotel in 2019 were alive in July 2020.



*30 August: poplar tree planted one year earlier in Narsarsuaq, roughly twice the size of the original plant and with ~3 times more leaves*

## Day-by-day Log

### Saturday, August 22, 2020

Location: Qaleraliq

- climate science interview on Qaleraliq glacier with JB and MvT
- ~12h sailing with Northabout from Qaleraliq to Narsaq

Location: Narsaq

- ~5 pm arrival from Qaleraliq

Location: Narsarsuaq

- arrival of DVA, FMN, RVA, BS from Nuuk
- who took Diskoline ferry to Narsaq

- Sunny weather day

### **Sunday, August 23, 2020**

Location: Narsaq

- planting by MvT, AW, JB, DVA, FMN, RVA, NS and his son
- 1 tray poplar (35 plants) below heliport
- 2 trays poplar ,1 tray engelmannii (40 plants)
- Site: up valley toward Narsaq Brae
  - 3 tray poplar 1 tray engelmannii
- Site: end of peninsula
  - recording interview with Niels Sakkariassen
  - 8 poplar trees
- Sunny weather day

### **Monday, August 24, 2020**

Location: Narsaq

- went online at Hotel Narsaq
- shopped for food for later in expedition
- went door to door offering to plant poplar trees; we planted 1 tray of poplar (5 trees the house Nr. 481, 2 trees Nr. 164, 8 trees behind Kattie's house, 7 trees Nr. 163, 5 trees Nr. 502, 5 trees Nr. 239 and 3 trees behind Nr. 1016)

### **Tuesday, August 25, 2020**

Locations: Narsaq, Narsarsuaq, Qanasiassat

- meeting with Kattie about the possibilities of setting up a Greenhouse behind Hotel Narsaq
- sailed with Northabout from Narsaq to Narsarsuaq
- Sunny weather day, fog clearing by 11

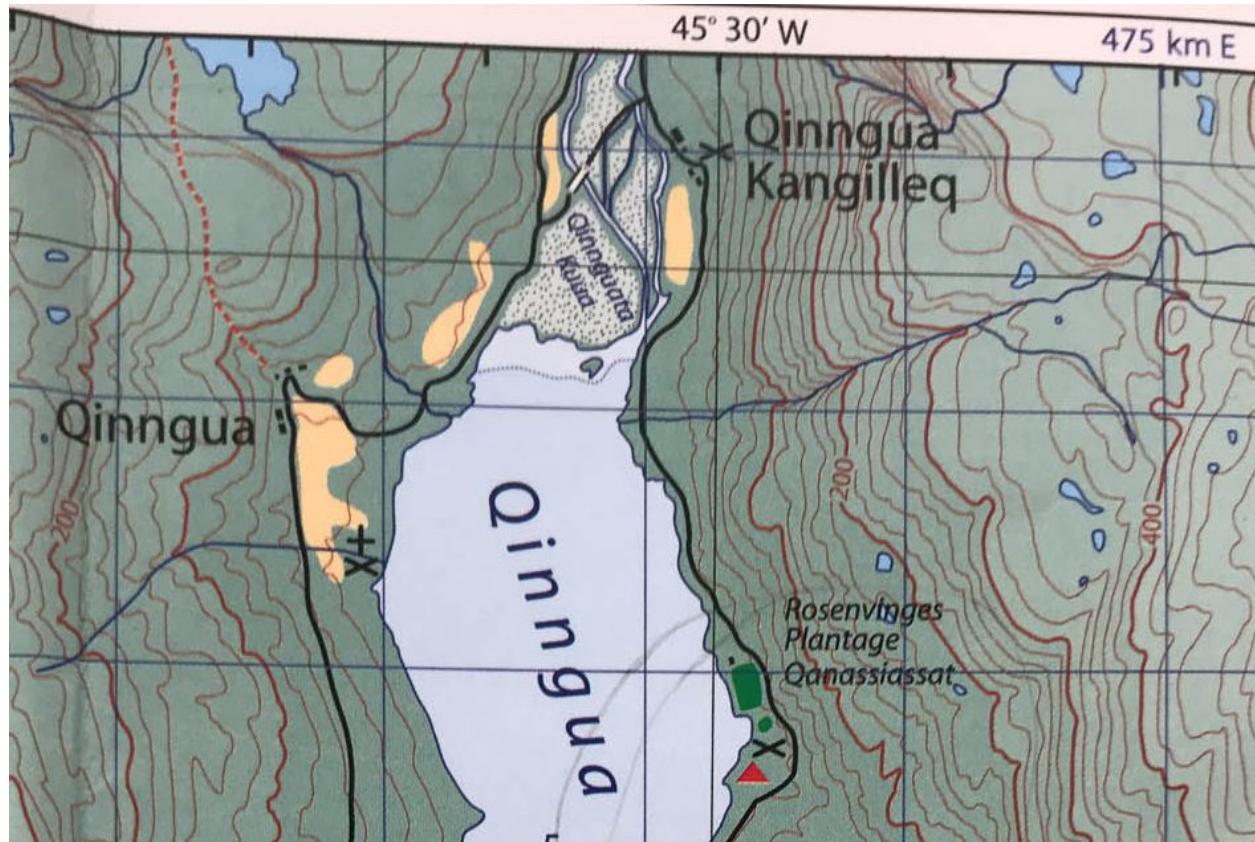
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*with two types of trees sailing from Narsaq to Narsarsuaq*

- was met by Allan Pedersen at Narsarsuaq harbour, got a ride to gather planting tools from Kenneth Høegh cabin
- gathered kit from Air GL hangar
- back to the harbour container, then to Northabout.
- sailed with Northabout from Narsarsuaq to Qanasiassat
- ferried camp gear to shore using Northabout inflatable
- Happy to find the Qanasiassat cabin in good condition, door unlocked, set to sweeping up 1000 dead flies on the floor, multiple loads of supplies came in.
- We surveyed the fence line, 5 sections of 30-50 m downed fence.



Qanassiassat in Qinngua, top of Eriksfjord. From top, the map indicates the cabin (dot), the 1953 plantation (green rectangle), the 1896 Rosenvinges plantation (green circle), a ruin (cross), and a camping site (red triangle)



*Qanasiassat cabin with the planting tools that we brought in*

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**Wednesday, August 26, 2020**

Location: Qanasiassat

- Search for fence pole hammer that was to be deposited for us to pick up was not found. But could meet Christian Frederiksen's kids and pass on the message of our need.
- Planting 1000 trees
- sunny weather day



*search for fence pole hammer with Northabout skipper Tobias Carter*



*keeping tree trays hydrated, here with spring water*



*transplantation of ~60 self-seeded larix this day and the day before*

**Thursday, August 27, 2020**

Location: Qanasiassat

- A day of fence repair. This process we were apprehensive about, despite heavy effort, quickly turned very satisfying. Fortunately, the work is straight forward and we gradually got the knack of it. Conserving our ~200 U-nails, in groups of 5 or so, we worked along the perimeter, pulling old U-nails, pounding in fallen or too loose poles, then tapping back in the barbed wire that is above a 90 cm tall wire fence lattice.
- sunny weather



*new fence posts and repaired fencing*

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- Where avalanche activity had likely wiped out the southeast corner of fencing, we retreated that corner, taking a triangle out, losing 40 m along the south fence, importing a few new poles to replace broken ones.
- We sharpened the snapped off ends of some poles to not run out of this material.
- 9.30 visit from school children from Qassiarsuk; children played in forest, climbed trees, had a lecture from Faezeh Nick translated to Greenlandic by Pia from Qassiarsuk. Kids helped us planting 3 trays of engelmannii. Each kid received a tree from GT to plant in their garden at home.



9.30 visit from school children from Qassiarsuk

- After lunch finished the counterclockwise tour of the fence and then continued, importing additional poles and some shrub shears from the cabin to erect a fallen 50 meter section along the western perimeter.
- Planting 300 trees starting at the southern limit of the area.



*the Qanasiassat plantation fence perimeter*

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**Friday, August 28, 2020**

Location: Qanasiassat

- cloudy weather, light rain, windy
- one large section along the north west corner, bordering the shore that remains in need of repair.



*children of Qingua farmer Christian Frederiksen delivering fence posts, nails and fencing roll*



*Delivering 12 m off fencing to patch the last hole in the c. 1.3 km Qanasiassat fence*

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**Saturday, August 29, 2020**

Location: Qanasiassat

- light clouds, slight rain, wind



*9.10 am pickup of Maurice and Adrien by Allan and the Air Greenland pilot Staale from the field south of the Qanasiassat plantation*



*sheep on the OUTSIDE of the fencing!*



*installation of rain gauge in clearing near northwest end of main plantation*

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*Unu Mondo Expedition leaders Sofie Simonin and Tobias Carter*

**Sunday, August 30, 2020**

Location: Narsarsuaq

- planting the remaining 400 trees north of the Narsarsuaq runway in a 13 Ha area.



*Jason Box planting in the degraded land of the former US military base*



*GPS recordings of positions of Narsarsuaq tree plantings. More locations were visited but the GPS bread-crumb tracking was not always on. Next time it will be!*

# Greenland Trees field report 2020

## **Monday, August 31, 2020**

discussion with Kattie Nielsen of Hotel Narsaq about idea of building a greenhouse behind the hotel

measurement of concrete foundation dimensions behind Hotel Narsaq

Unfortunately our meeting with the school teacher was cancelled and FMN and BS couldn't produce educational videos for school kids.

## **Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

JB, DvA and AP glaciological fieldwork on the Q-transect

FMN and BS went door to door offering to plant poplar trees on the west side of the town. 15 trees were planted around 6 different houses.

## **Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

FMN and DvA return of planting tools to Kenneth Høegh's cabin in Narsarsuaq

## **Thursday, September 3, 2020**

departure of field team from Narsarsuaq toward home

## **Friday, September 4, 2020**

FMN had a meeting with Ingimar Magnusson in Reykjavik. Unfortunately this didn't happen due to Covid-19 flight cancellation.

### Ambitions and recommendations for the 2021 activities

1. toward tree propagation in Greenland, construction of a greenhouse behind Hotel Narsaq; “To select mother trees for use in the development of shelterwoods and shelterbelts for Greenlandic farms, that is a physical collection of material from which cuttings and seed can eventually be harvested.



*red rectangle indicates foundation of greenhouse to-be behind Hotel Narsaq*



*Jason gesturing to the greenhouse location-to be*

2. contacting of Bjerg family to inform them of Qanasiassat activities August 2020 and to share footage of their land/cabin; offer repainting exterior of cabin (and other maintenance)



*need of fresh paint*

3. 1-2 day visit to Qanasiassat for fence maintenance
  - a. bring fence staples, hammers, fence post hammer loan from Christian Frederiksen +299 49 71 60
4. assistance to [Kim Godtfredsen](#) for planting 1000 trees in Kapisillit, east of Nuuk
5. planting in Kuusuaq, Tasermiut Fjord (60°16'N, 44°43'W) in the vicinity of Nanortalik.

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Kuusuaq, Tasermiut Fjord ( $60^{\circ}16'N + 44^{\circ}43'W$ , in the vicinity of Nanortalik).

6. reach out to Henrik M at <http://dendron.dk/>
7. reach out to Upernaviarsuk/the agriculture advisory service to get advice for the Greenhouse and seeds

🌲🌲 end of report 🌲🌲