

The landscapes of the future

South Greenland is the green Greenland. Unlike the rest of the country, we find tall trees, and the landscape is lush enough to sustain the farming of many thousands of sheep.

But South Greenland is also mountainous, and in many places the rocks are bare. This is due to steep rocky slopes, where plants cannot get foothold, or in the case of rocks with a content of fluoride, which is toxic for the vegetation.

In places where the geology is exposed, we find everywhere signs of the eternal process of the erosion: Rocks along the coast, which over the years has fallen down from the mountains. Huge stone slides, which cone shaped end at the foot of the mountain.

The major carriers of rocks and gravel are the water and the ice:

The rivers, which end in a waterfall over the cliff edge into the sea, erode for thousands of years themselves down, forming deep clefts.

In the winter the hard frost get the falls to stiffen in tongues of blue ice and the water that freezes in the crevices of the rock, increases the breakup of rocks over time.

The grey, dark surface of the glaciers testifies the presence of the huge amounts of rocks and gravel, which they are carrying out in the ocean.

The glaciers are forming numerous icebergs, which in the ice are carrying amounts of rocks and gravel to new places at the coast of Greenland or further out in the oceans where the rocks and gravel over millions of years will form the landscapes of the future.



Iceberg in the fiord,
north-west of Qaqortoq,
March 2016