

The pulse of the geology

The highest mountains in the central part of the Kujalleq municipality in southern Greenland form barren landscapes more than a kilometre above sea level. The landscapes consist of rocks and gravel and meltwater from the snow at the peaks of the mountains. Here, no plants grow, and animals such as hares and ptarmigan use only these places as route to new valleys further down the mountainsides.

Torrential rivers of cold meltwater run from the mountain peaks. Several places large, clean glacial lakes without any form of life are formed. Much of the year the lakes are covered by ice and snow.

The massifs are under constant erosion, and huge amounts of rocks and stones are forming cones of loess material to the bottom of the high-altitude placed landscapes.

The landscapes have looked like this for thousands of years, and human life is too short to experience how the breakdown of the mountains solid rocks creates new landscapes: Rivers are moved or fade away. Mountain lakes are filled with materials and disappear. New rivers and lakes are formed.

It all happens insensibly and almost invisible to the human eye. The pulse of geology is like thousands of years, and the life of man is too short to see change happen.



South of Narsarsuaq, South Greenland, July 2016