

Communication on Engagement Report

Transparency International Greenland



Transparency International Greenland
Imaneq 41
3900 Nuuk
GL-Greenland

Postbox 1613

Tel.: +299 548 888

info@transparency.gl
www.transparency.gl
facebook.com/transparencygreenland

FOREWORD

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Transparency International Greenland (TIG) is the Greenlandic chapter of the international anticorruption NGO, Transparency International. Established in 2011, we are working to promote transparency and fair practices in society, business and the public sector in Greenland. We have 25 corporate members and more than 50 private members, which together with a high degree of visibility on social media and local newspapers have made us one of the most visible NGOs in Greenland.

In 2013, we decided to join the UN Global Compact. This decision was based on a strong interest in supporting the ten principles for responsible business conduct, but also to stress the importance of the tenth principle, 'to fight corruption and extortion in all its forms'.

We work closely with CSR Greenland, the local UN Global Compact contact point in Greenland to help companies work with the principle on anticorruption. Our work with raising awareness, engaging companies and public sector institutions alike, provide training and insights for companies among other things are described in this report.

As this is our first report, we include elements from our start as an organization in 2011, but focus on events and activities in the reporting period July 1st 2013 – June 30th 2015.

We continue to strongly support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. If you have ideas and suggestions how we can work even more with the principles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Anita Hoffer
Chairwoman, Transparency International Greenland
info@transparency.gl



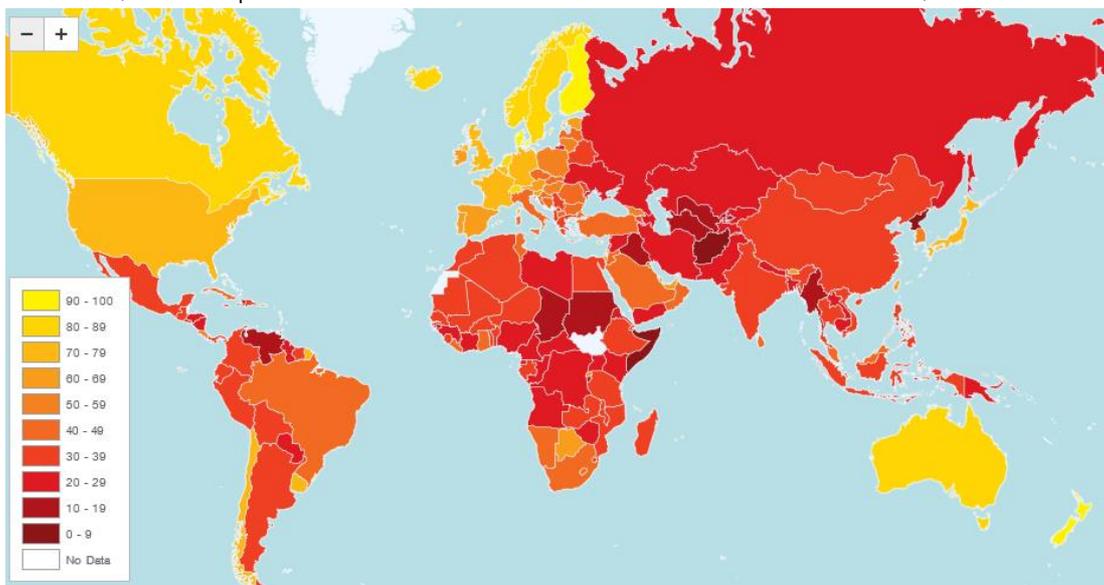
WHY WORK WITH CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND?

Corruption exists in all sectors and at all levels of society, and involves more than just bribery, fraud and embezzlement. Other kinds of abuse of power can also be corrupt, such as kickbacks, gifts, entertainment, favours for friends, favouritism and nepotism. A common denominator for these problems is provided in the broad definition of corruption used by Transparency International (TI):

Corruption is defined by Transparency International as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It harms everyone whose life, livelihood or happiness depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority.

Regardless of its form, corruption harms a society by creating unequal conditions and distrust, and by discouraging free competition. According to the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), corruption is the most significant barrier to sustainable development in a global perspective. Corruption is by its nature a sensitive issue and can therefore be difficult to identify – but its enemy is transparency. That is why TI fights corruption by promoting transparency in all sectors – and at global, national and local level.

TI regularly publishes reports on global corruption. This applies, among other things in areas such as climate change, education, private sector and the legal system. The nature and extent of corruption in Greenland has not yet been monitored by independent bodies, and has thus not been registered in TI's global index of corruption. Greenland therefore appears as a white spot on the corruption index world map (see figure below). This seems paradoxical in a time of growing geopolitical and commercial interest in the Arctic and in Greenland's natural resources, and emphasises the need to focus on this area in Greenland, too.



Source: cpi.transparency.org/cpi2012/results/

Greenland's mineral resources have a huge potential which the oil and mining industries wish to exploit. By reputation, these industries are among the most corrupt in the world.¹ This is a source of concern to Transparency International Greenland (TIG), as such corruption can prevent economic development from benefitting society as a whole, because the gains either leave the country or are unfairly distributed.

In 2012, TIG published an independent report based on TI's comparative methodology, a *National Integrity Study*.² An NIS study seeks to identify a society's robustness in resisting corruption. The study carried out was not a full NIS study, but in the first instance covered the construction, fisheries and minerals industries, on the basis of the public sector. The study found no indications of widespread corruption in the form of bribery, embezzlement or fraud, but on the other hand revealed that Greenland has only a few rather weak institutions, mechanisms and processes with which to resist corruption. This implies a high element of risk in connection with the massive investments upon which the large-scale projects in Greenland will depend.

Current status of corruption in Greenland

Overall, the NIS study points to a number of corruption risks in Greenland, but also emphasises that there is no evidence of widespread corruption at the present time. However, the report's main conclusion is that there are a number of factors which could usefully be improved to strengthen Greenland's ethical preparedness now and in the future:

- Greenland has a limited number of civil society organisations, which possess few resources and a limited capacity to understand complex material from international companies – particularly in environmental matters
- The media are assessed to have a high degree of dependence on public funding, as well as a limited capacity, which restricts their ability to act as a watchdog
- Greenland has few institutions, with limited resources, to prevent corruption. The existing institutions, such as the ombudsman, lack specified areas of responsibility at both local and national level
- The public administration is weak in resources, particularly due to its high employee turnover. Greenland currently has no whistle-blower systems to protect individuals with knowledge of corruption, which means that contacting the police is often the only option. Today, people are often turning to TIG in the absence of other options
- There is a lack of transparency in legislative processes, particularly in the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum
- As a small society, Greenland has a number of closely-related networks and family ties, which entails a risk of inappropriate personal preferential treatment

¹ For further details, see Transparency International's [Bribe Payers Index 2011](#) pp. 14-15 and [Global Corruption Report 2009](#) p. 54.

² The NIS report is available in Danish, Greenlandic and English at the TIG [website](http://www.transparency.gl) www.transparency.gl

How does it look today, how is the reality of Greenland in 2014 in relation to the obligations under the UN Convention on anti-corruption? TIG asked the question together with Greenland Business. Greenland's Human Rights Council has given support to an analysis prepared by Thomas Trier Hansen from Nordic Law Group. The GAP analysis has been published in 2015 and the results presented to the Greenlandic government.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL: A GLOBAL MOVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

TI's vision is to secure a world in which governments, politics, business life, civil society and people's daily lives are free of corruption, by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and in all sectors. The organisation consists of more than 100 chapters worldwide, plus an international secretariat in Berlin. TI documents and highlights corruption problems, and co-operates with governments, the business community and civil society to implement mechanisms that will effectively counter corruption.

The national chapters are independent organisations of civil society which are registered in their home countries and internationally associated with TI. Each chapter has its own board, membership base, strategic priorities and projects, and is responsible for providing its own funding. The TI secretariat in Berlin supports the chapters by providing knowledge and tools (such as the Corruption Perception Index, the Global Corruption Barometer, NIS methodology, etc.), but does not provide financing for such projects. The international secretariat also organises annual regional and global meetings at which the chapters can exchange experience, develop new partnerships and share the latest knowledge on research, initiatives and results achieved in TI as a whole. TIG is part of this structure and supports the TI vision. While there are already corrupt practices and a lack of transparency in Greenland that should be addressed by TIG, our primary goal is to prevent corruption gaining a foothold during the rapid development of the minerals sector.

The NIS report suggests that there is low awareness of the risk of corruption in Greenland, and that the institutions, mechanisms and processes available to counteract it are limited. Over the years, but particularly marked in 2014, TIG noted growing interest from politicians and citizens for greater openness and transparency, especially in the public administration.

Civil society organisations in the country are small and poorly funded, which leaves a void without critical agencies to monitor the situation and hold politicians and officials to account. The media also lack the resources and skills to play a watchdog role. Such a role requires knowledge and technical expertise.

The development of Transparency International

Transparency Greenland established itself as the Greenlandic point of contact for TI in 2010, with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of Greenland towards an independence unhampered by corruption and nepotism, to the common benefit of current and future generations. This requires timely action.

In general, the organisation has been welcomed by politicians, the media, civil society, the business world and the wider community – but there are also critical opponents who do not wish more attention to be paid to the issues the organisation raises. Due to the country's size and its limited human resources, TIG attempts to co-operate with other civil society organisations to ensure maximum impact on the sustainability agenda. Together, we try to address issues of transparency, the environment and human rights associated with the development of Greenland. The NGO-coalition, established in 2013, consist today of Transparency International Greenland, ICC Greenland, KNAPK, WWF and Earth Charter Greenland.

TI has an extensive admission process for new branches in the movement, which consists of four phases: 1) A broadly-based *contact group* is founded and approved as legitimate by the TI secretariat, 2) a *National Contact Point* is formed as a civil society organisation, which must demonstrate its viability by maintaining a high level of activity and good results for approximately two years, until 3) the organisation becomes a *National Chapter in Formation*, and finally, after two or three years, 4) a full *National Chapter*.

In 2013, TIG achieved the status of *National Chapter in Formation* and in 2015 TIG became a full National Chapter under Transparency International.

The organisation

The Board of TIG has five members, elected at TIG general meeting. At the end of the reporting period, the Board consisted of:

Anita Hoffer, chairwoman
Jakob Strøm, vice chairman
Tine Pars
Dora Drechsel
Ivalo Egede

The Board has assigned two expert members: Anne Mette Christiansen and Thomas Trier Hansen. Expert members have no voting rights.

The organisation employs a secretariat consisting of two part-time employees Bodil Karlshøj Poulsen and Marianne Jensen. The aim is to employ a full-time head of secretariat in 2016.

Since its foundation, TIG has been very active in its efforts to reach both the public and decision-makers with its messages and concrete solution proposals. In its first four years, TIG has provided expert advice, training and instruction, and promoted citizen involvement. The organisation has acquired new members, been visible in the media, lobbied, given hearing responses, entered into commitments with other civil society organisations and pursued a number of individual cases. TIG has since 2013 been a member of UN Global Compact and had a representative in Greenland's Council for Human Rights.

ENGAGING BUSINESS AND INTERACTING WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

In the following, we briefing account for how we have engaged with companies on Global Compact relevant themes.

Engage with global compact local networks

In Greenland, the local UN Global Compact network is working through the organization 'CSR Greenland'. CSR Greenland is also the local contact point for UN Global Compact, working to raise awareness of the principles among Greenlandic companies. From the beginning, there has been a very close collaboration between CSR Greenland and TIG.

In the reporting period, TIG has engaged with the local UNGC network through CSR Greenland in the following ways:

- Joint hosting of a high-level CEO event focusing on anticorruption in companies with participation of C-suite members from a range of Greenlandic companies
- Joint hosting of a large conference in December 2013 focusing on human rights and anticorruption, attracting international speakers and a large audience of business people, public officials and students alike
- Joint participation in two events held in Reykjavik, Iceland sharing the experiences of TIG with the emerging Icelandic TI chapter
- TIG promotes relevant workshops and anticorruption training courses through the CSR Greenland network

Engage companies in global compact related issues

Given TIGs focus on anticorruption and transparency it is within this area that we have worked to engage companies. Among our many activities it is relevant to highlight the following in the reporting period:

- In 2013, we published a Handbook in anticorruption for companies. The Handbook was accompanied by an offer for companies to get a company specific workshop as well as an offer for training. The handbook and the

accompanying slide set are freely available on TIGs website, and have been used by a number of companies. The handbook and training/ workshop focus on introducing the topic of anticorruption, present a series of dilemmas for discussions and inform about the relevant legislation in a Greenlandic context.

- TIG has offered a number of training workshops for companies to participate in. Courses have been held several times with a good reach among local companies.
- Several information meetings have been held both in Nuuk and in various cities along the Coast of Greenland, typically focusing on introducing the concept of anticorruption, inform about relevant measures to ensure transparency and introduce the organization and our work

Participate in Global Compact local or international events

Given the high cost of travelling to and from Greenland, it has not been possible to participate in as many international UNGC events as we would have liked to.

However, TIG has participated in a UNGC organized conference in Morocco in 2012 focusing on anticorruption. Other than this, the organization prioritizes participation in Transparency International events. Whenever possible, TIG has participated in the regional and global meetings of Transparency International. The purpose of participating in international events overall is for us to learn more about how other chapters work on transparency issues, gather inspiration and get new ideas. Also, we seek opportunities to raise awareness of corruption challenges in Greenland.

At a local scale, TIG has been a regular speaker and co-organizer with CSR Greenland, the local UNGC contact point as mentioned above. Greenland will host the UNGC Nordic Network meeting in April 2016 for the first time, and TIG will be participating in the planning of the meeting as well as in the actual meeting.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

Below is a selection of other activities in the reporting period. For more information and a more comprehensive overview, please see our annual reports, available at transparency.gl

Training and skills enhancement in the business community, the civil service, the media, civil society and academia

TIG has developed a course targeted at these groups that provides participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to work on anti-corruption and transparency. The course is taught by local lawyers and CSR experts. For use in the course is a handbook of anti-corruption and related slide kit prepared. The handbook should make it easier for domestic companies to navigate without corruption. The course was held in May 2014.

Public awareness and media campaigns

Facebook is utilised as a primary channel to collect, discuss and disseminate

messages to a wider range of citizens. The Facebook page is very popular and achieved in 2014 visit by more than 700 people. The organisation chairman has appeared in the Greenlandic, Danish and international media, and has thereby placed transparency on the agenda. Topics have been the politicians' conflicts of interest, misuse of state funds, large-scale mining, uranium mining and whistleblowing.

Meetings

Internal meetings: Board meetings are held 5-6 times a year and minutes from Board meetings and the General Assembly are available on the website www.transparency.gl.

External meetings: TIG has been invited to a series of meetings with Tanbrezz, Greenland Minerals and Energy (GME), Shell Greenland Director, the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen, Baffinland Iron Mines Company and researchers from different countries. In addition meetings were held with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality Sermersooq.

Conferences

In order to spread the organizations agree views TIG has participated in a series of conferences. TIG has at the following conferences/meetings had a representative as speaker or in panel:

- Conference at Ilisimatusarfik by publication of report 'For the benefit of Greenland'
- NGO coalition: Public meeting on better public participation
- The Committee for Mineral Resource: Seminar on The Oil and Mineral strategy
- Launch of a new TI contact group in Iceland
- Business Conference at the Danish parliament.

Public dialogue

TIG's Facebook Page is frequently used and has more than 800 likes. The Facebook page is used to inform about upcoming meetings and activities, press releases and comments on current affairs. Interested citizens are using the Facebook Page to get in contact with the Board.

TIG seek dialogue with the broader public as often as possible, i.e. at the Culture Night, information meetings in and outside Nuuk (Paamiut, Sisimiut and Aasiaat). In Paamiut TIG held a public meeting and in Sisimiut as well as in Aasiaat information on TIG was given during days of education.

Autumn 2014 was marked by the election to the Greenlandic Parliament and TIG wanted to focus on the risk of corruption made it a key theme in the election campaign. The organisation put up 'election posters' urging people to vote for a

candidate fighting corruption, pushed for the visibility of TI's 'Declaration against corruption' and held a meeting for voters to discuss corruption issues.

Generally speaking, the organization's activities have increased in the reporting period and a more comprehensive overview can be found at transparency.gl.

NGO coalition

At TIG, we find it important to collaborate with other local NGOs to strengthen civil society. Recommendations from the NGO Coalition, which was formed in 2013 to better citizen involvement, were handed over to the Government on March 25, 2014. A common charter, that prospectively describe the Coalition's vision, purpose and framework was signed in October 2014. The signatory organizations are Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland (ICC), Transparency international Greenland (TIG), Kalaallit Nunaani Aalisartut Piniartullu Kattuffiat (KNAPK) Earth Charter Greenland and WWF World Wildlife Foundation. In October, a workshop for organizational development and design of common concept note for the next years was held. In October, a workshop for organizational development and design of common concept note for the next years of cooperation – for more information, please see transparency.gl.

If you want to know more

You can read more about TIG on our website www.transparency.gl which provides information in English, Danish and Greenlandic. Here you can also find our annual reports accounting for our full activities each year.

If you have questions or would like to join our organization, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@transparency.gl