



## ENVIRONMENT POLICY

GBI recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, including our impact on climate change and biodiversity, and to continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods. We encourage members, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same. We fully acknowledge the undeniable human rights impacts of environmental degradation, the climate crisis and biodiversity loss and take our own responsibility seriously.

### Policy scope

This environment policy is part of GBI's overall approach to sustainability, and complements similar policy and practice documents on strategy, governance, human rights, health and safety and membership requirements.

GBI is a global, but small, organisation - currently with a permanent staff of four, four part time contractors (one day per week or less) and with no permanent offices. Regardless of its size, GBI acknowledges that its activities can have a negative impact and the following policy aims to prevent or mitigate this where possible.

This policy relates to the operational running of GBI itself as a company, not to the activities or combined impacts of its members, over which it has very limited control. GBI does, however, acknowledge its position to leverage critical relationships it holds with its members, other companies, NGOs, Civil Society, academia, governments, multilateral institutions and international organisations working in the same field, and pledges to ensure that the environment, climate change, biodiversity and their human rights impacts remain a focus for attention and action, and to host the difficult discussions needed to facilitate change.

### Policy aims

We endeavour to:

- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements and aim to go beyond minimum standards wherever practicable.
- Continually improve and monitor our environmental performance.
- Continually work to reduce environmental, climate change and biodiversity impacts.
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- Increase employee awareness and training.

### Procurement and siting of events and meetings

Due to the company's structure and operational modus, it is acknowledged that the main environmental impact of the company is during events and meetings. In this regard, GBI pledges to:

- Take into serious consideration the location chosen for citing of international meetings and the viability of remote participation to reduce impacts.
- Make the least impactful transport arrangements where viable and in compliance with our security policy for all meetings and events.
- Take into consideration public transport links and low carbon impact routes in deciding the location of meetings.
- Question event venue vendors on sustainable options including, though not be limited to, requests for reusable food and drink receptacles, natural air and light (in preference to air-conditioning and electrical lighting), minimising food wastage and questioning what happens to food and other waste products from our meetings.
- Use local printing and other facilities to avoid unnecessary carbon footprint.
- Favour and recommend hotels and restaurants close to the meeting venue or with good public



transport links to it, and whose sustainability policies are deemed aligned with our environmental requirements.

### **Home office, online and publication impacts**

#### **Paper**

We will:

- Minimise the use of paper.
- Seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products.
- Reuse and recycle all paper where possible.
- Encourage the team to use reusable alternatives to paper (e.g. 'Rocket' and other reusable books).
- Assess the viability of online or no/minimal documentation for events and meetings.

#### **Energy, water and online storage**

We will seek to:

- Reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.
- Switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use.
- Have energy and water consumption in mind in making key decisions.
- Take energy and water consumption and efficiency of new products into account when purchasing them.
- The carbon footprint of our online presence, in particular of the GBI website, will be reviewed regularly and decisions regarding image resolution and design will bear in mind the need to reduce online storage and impact.

#### **Office supplies**

We will:

- Evaluate if a need can be met in another way, or if renting, sharing or purchasing second hand is an option before purchasing equipment.
- Evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase.
- Favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible.
- Reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

#### **Transportation**

Acknowledging that our peer learning and confidentiality model restricts the amount of online work the organisation can effectively achieve, we will:

- Reduce the need to travel where possible.
- Promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing where viable for our peer learning and external engagement models.
- Make additional efforts to accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles.

### **Compliance, monitoring and improvement**

We will:

- Review this policy and any related business issues at directors' meetings, and review this policy at least once annually in consultation with the GBI team and other stakeholders where necessary.



- Aim to continually improve and monitor environmental performance and carbon footprint and overall climate change impact of the organisation.
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- Increase GBI team awareness through discussion and/or training.
- Involve GBI team in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.
- Work with suppliers, contractors and subcontractors to improve their environmental performance (e.g. using ethically sourced local labour and sustainable materials where available).

GBI's carbon footprint is already very low as a result of policies and practices already in place. Annual reviews of carbon use using company data tracked on the [UN's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator](#) will be used to set improved targets year on year, acknowledging that in some years the choice of regions to work in may impact the ability to reduce this figure.

Given the annual variations in our work, we have set a carbon reduction target over a period of three years. This target covers team members and advisors, when they are travelling on GBI business. GBI does not report or speak on behalf of our members; they do so themselves in their annual reporting. Please see our annual target disclosures for details.

### Responsibility

The GBI CEO, is responsible for ensuring that this environmental policy is implemented, however, all of the GBI Team have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of this policy are met.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Popper'.

1 January 2023

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Ron Popper, GBI CEO

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Date of signature