

The hunt for gold

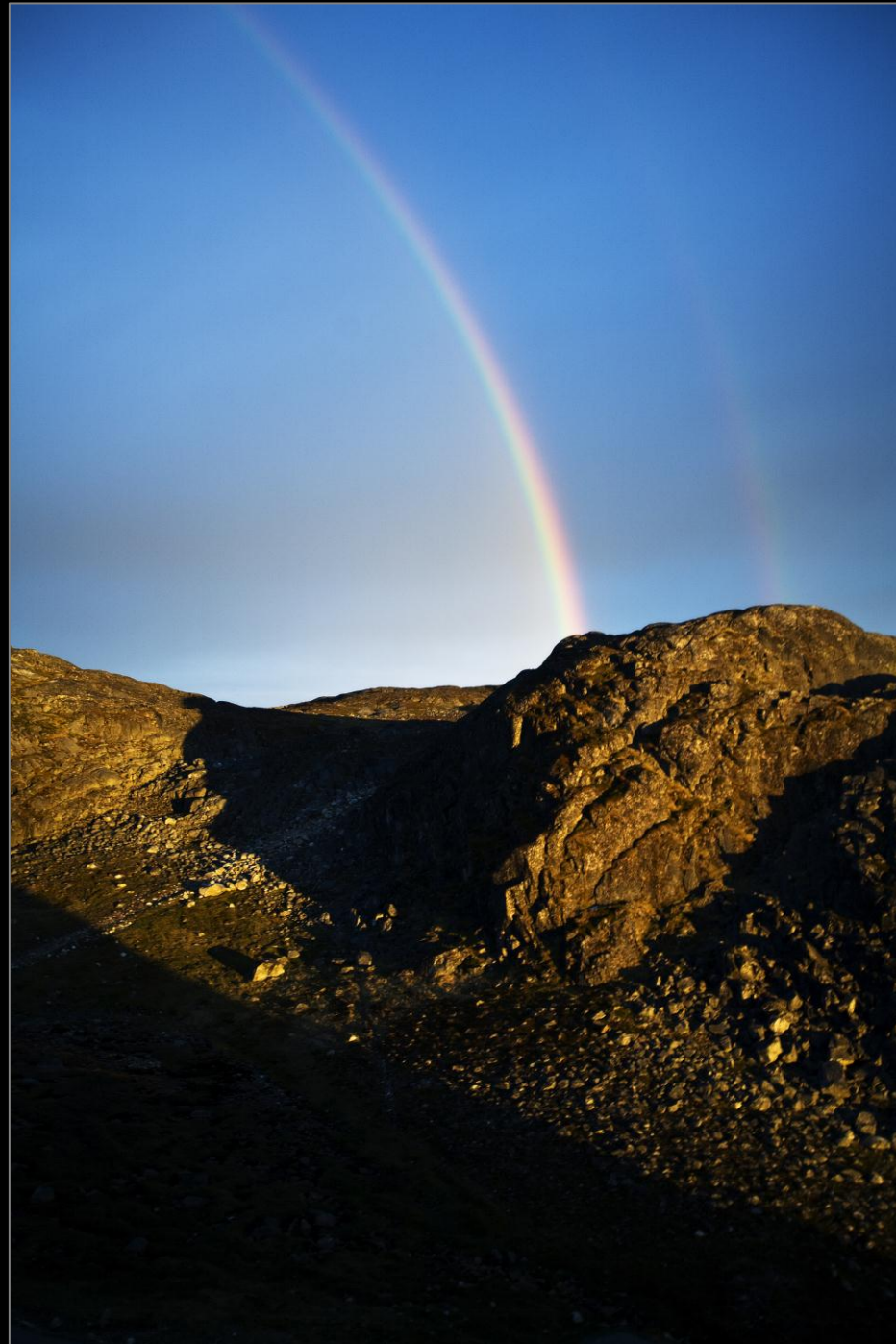
An old proverb says that a gold treasure can be found at the end of the rainbow. Well, I have never succeeded to find any gold treasure, but it seems a convincing story to explore gold at the end of the rainbow when we watch this phenomenon in the capital of Greenland.

In these years an extensive exploration for gold is going on in the mountains surrounding Nuuk. The Greenlandic mineral exploration company, Nuna Minerals, have found significant amounts of gold on the island Storøen inside the Godthaabsfiord.

During these years the Greenlandic economy increasingly is changing from having been focused on fishing to be focused on oil and minerals. It is essential for the further development of the Greenlandic welfare, that the exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals will be implemented in the coming years.

It is obvious that the exploitation of oil and minerals will have major impacts on the nature in the locations, where the exploitation takes place. It will also give impacts for the social and economic conditions for the relatively small population in Greenland. The number of migrant workers in the country will increase dramatically, and many Greenlandic families will be dispersed when a family member for extended periods have to stay in a mine camp far from home.

The culture and the identity of the Greenlandic population are at stake in these years. The Greenlandic politicians have a great responsibility on the one hand to develop the economy and simultaneously ensure that it is done in a way so current and future generations get the maximum benefit from the changes.



A rainbow above Nuuk, June 2010