



UNEP-WGEA Cooperation – A New Project Proposal

Agenda Item Overview

The document “*Auditing the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): A Primer for Auditors*” developed in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and INTOSAI WGEA was successfully finalised in November 2010. An update is given about the ideas how the document has been introduced and distributed to a wider audience. The document was co-signed by Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UNEP, and Mihkel Oviir, Auditor General of Estonia, Chair of INTOSAI WGEA. The secretariat shared the electronic version of the paper with all INTOSAI WGEA members in November 2010 and it was also introduced during the XX INCOSAI and the UNFCCC COP16. Since the document was made public, it has received several positive feedbacks from the heads of SAIs as well as auditors. In cooperation with the UNEP the Secretariat will continue promoting the publication and the relevance of the topic.

In addition, the UNEP is now proposing to continue with the cooperation between our organisations in the field of multilateral environmental agreements (MEA). The INTOSAI WGEA has been invited to be a partner in the project “*Development of a review system for the effective national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements*”.

Mr Arnold Kreilhuber from the UNEP will introduce the project proposal – the objective, expected outcome, main activities, and possible expectations to the INTOSAI WGEA.

The main activities of the project include:

- Develop a methodology for a review system for the effective implementation of MEAs at the national level. Though the focus is on MEAs the methodology will be developed within the context of the three pillars of sustainable development: environment, economy and society.
- Conduct reviews in selected pilot countries. It is envisioned that approximately five pilots will be undertaken. Efforts will be made to select pilot countries that build upon UNEP’s normative work at the global and regional levels and will address identified country needs in conjunction with UN Country Teams in the UNDAF development processes.
- Publicise and disseminate the aggregate findings of the reviews through governmental and intergovernmental channels, such as UNEP’s Governing Council.
- Design and conduct national workshops to assess the findings of the review and address the capacity gaps identified.

The steering committee members asked to share their view about the proposal and the idea. Suggestions and discussions are expected around the question how to go forward with the project and how the INTOSAI WGEA can contribute to it. The UNEP is also looking for possible partners and volunteers to take part in this project.