



## **SAI of Morocco**

### **Research project on Land use/Land management practices in environmental perspective**

#### **Project Objectives and Outcome**

1. To provide comprehensive data and information to the user of the project output regarding the land use/land management practice specifically in environment perspective;
2. To spread, into SAIs, the interest to consider the environmental dimension in the audit of the programs and the projects connected to land use and land management;
3. To provide, to SAIs, information regarding Land Use/Land Management Issue(s) that can be audited and introduce examples and case studies of best practices in this field;

#### **PROJECT SCOPE**

##### **I- Concepts and Definitions**

- a. Definitions: Land, Land Use, Land Management and Sustainable Land Management (Best Practice Definition and specific definition by country).
- b. The main manifestations of environmental degradation. The degradation of land and its resources takes several forms:
  1. Degradation of biodiversity;
  2. Desertification;
  3. Deforestation;
  4. Soil degradation;
  5. Water pollution;
  6. Air pollution;
  7. The degradation of Heritage objects;
  8. Other problems both natural and anthropogenic.
- c. Type of Land and Land Use including the ownership and the functions.
- d. Certain information regarding Land and Land Use (Statistical Data-FAO or others).
- e. Current situation and trends of land use management and challenges in regional level (Africa, Europe, Asia, America...).



- f. International Land Use Initiatives: the purpose of this section consists in collecting maximum information on international agreements relating to land use to which WGEA member countries have acceded, the difficulties encountered in their implementation and their place in the definition of general guidelines in the policies of land use in these countries.

## **II- Land use management and sustainable land use management**

### **2.1 Practices having adverse effect on sustainable land use management**

At the origin of various manifestations of land resources degradation, also policies and procedures may have negative effects on environment and sustainable development mainly because of the overexploitation of resources, uncontrolled urbanization, inappropriate farming, etc. Among these effects, we quote:

- The permanent deterioration of economic and environmental value of land;
- The increase of risks of natural disasters and climate change effects like floods, drought and desertification;
- The inefficient use of resources;
- Lack of awareness of urban environmental phenomena;
- Cumulative effects: In addition to having adverse effects on local and national levels, poor land management leading to international problems worsen as the population of the planet increases.

The purpose of this section is to identify and highlight the different policies and approach to planning and management and their possible impact on land resources in the context of each country member of the WGEA.

### **2.2 Policies, methods and other tools to preserve land resources**

Nowadays sustainable land use management represents one of the pillars of sustainable development and environmental protection.

This growing awareness has led many countries to develop and implement policies, laws or technical standards in order to reduce the negative impacts of human activity on the various components of land. It is globally about following policies:

1. Conservation policies: They aim to protect natural and built heritage resources through access limited or denied access. These policies will lead to the creation of nature reserves, conservation parks, reserved areas, etc.
2. Policies of restoration or rehabilitation: These policies aim to limit and control access to areas and resources in order to allow natural processes (ecological) to restore a balance that has been lost. These practices can also be proactive to accelerate the process of restoring the natural balance.



3. Protection policies: These policies aim to minimize the impact of development or to mitigate and reduce pollution and risks. The process of environmental impact assessment is the primary planning tool in this area.

4. Prevention policies: These policies are proactive. They aim, through direct intervention, management of resources and sensitive areas to avoid adverse cumulative effects in the short, medium and long term.

5. Mitigation policies: These policies aim at innovative and experimental, heavy interventions on the territory so as to transform the ambient environment according to concerns and priorities regarding the environment. It is case for instance, of green belts, green plans agglomeration, urban forests, equipment for pollution control, pollution dispersion.

The objective is, thus, to see, in the context of each country member of the WGEA, the importance of awareness of different actors to management methods and planning tools to preserve land resources and to what extent State policies can be a lever in this direction.

### **III- Auditing Land Use/Land Management Issue(s)**

As part of the exchange of experience in auditing and in order to help SAIs to learn from best practices enshrined in this area, this section will be reserved to the presentation of different experiences in auditing land use and land management by collecting examples and case studies from SAIs experiences.

### **Planned Methodology**

The approach to be followed to complete this research project will be based on:

- Guides and manuals published by INTOSAI;
- Performance Audits conducted by member countries of the project;
- Data collected by survey to the WGEA members;
- Resources available on the websites of specialized organizations;
- Information exchange, by e-mail, with the members of the subgroup;
- Workshops and work sessions programmed during the meetings of the WGEA;



## Timeline and Key Milestones

Stage	Action	Date
1	First draft of Project Plan	05 January 2011
2	Revised draft of the outline and Project Plan	19 January 2011
3	Final Draft of Project Plan to Estonian Secretariat	30 January 2011
4	<b>10th Steering Committee meeting, Marrakech Morocco review and approve Project Plan</b>	8-11 Mars 2011
5	Final version of the Project Plan	10 April 2011
6	First draft of table of contents and circulation to SAI subcommittee members for comments	June 2011
7	Request for submission of case studies of relevant audits or experience related to the topic	July 2011
8	Draft of the detailed table of content of the Project research	September 2011
9	<b>14th WGEA, Buenos Aires, Argentina</b> Workshop session to adopt the structure of the research project and to analyze draft-writings from members and to decide further actions	7-11 November 2011
10	Develop draft report and submit for review and comment	Janaury 2012
11	<b>11th Steering Committee meeting, review and approve the draft of the Project</b>	mid 2012
12	Incorporation of comments of subcommittee members and recirculation	March 2012- September 2012
13	Final draft of the research paper submitted to the Secretariat	October 2012
14	Final version of the Project – translation, editing, printing etc.	Apr 2013
15	<b>15th WGEA meeting in Estonia</b>	June 2013

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