

## **Fifth Survey on environmental auditing**

### **Progress to date**

#### **Activities completed and update on future work**

At the tenth WGEA meeting (WG10) in Moscow, we announced that the fifth survey would be sent in April 2006 instead of January 2006. Because of the many steps required to build the survey on the Internet, the survey was actually sent in May 2006. However, we hope that the new Internet technology that caused the slight delay will make it easier for SAIs to answer our survey, and make it easier for us to analyze the answers.

We sent the survey by e-mail and by mail. SAIs had two months to answer the survey and to return it by Internet, e-mail, or mail (diskette or paper).

The fifth survey on environmental auditing consists of two forms: the survey form and the environmental audits collection form, the latter of which cannot be completed by Internet (see attachments in the meeting material). Beginning in January 2007, each year we will ask SAIs for the list of environmental audits completed the previous year (using the collection form), which will keep information on the WGEA website more up-to-date. Currently, information on Environmental Audits Worldwide is only updated every three years, when the survey is conducted.

Sending a survey to the SAIs community in the five INTOSAI languages required a lot of work, and working closely with our Web master was essential. We first had to update our list of SAIs and the Contacts and Mandate page of our website. After the first draft of the survey was ready in English, our IT coordinator built the survey on the Internet and we tested it many times. We then sent the survey to be translated into the other four INTOSAI languages. Due to technical problems, the survey was not available in Arabic on the Internet; however, it was available in Arabic in the e-mail, diskette, and paper versions.

#### **Information requested**

See comments in the Subcommittees section.

#### **Subcommittees**

At the beginning of March 2006, we sent our subcommittee (Brazil, China, Egypt, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States) a draft questionnaire for their comments. All of our subcommittee members answered our request and sent good comments; although we could not include one SAI's comments because they were sent too late (the survey was already in Translation). Because they were involved in the first three surveys, we also consulted the SAI of the Netherlands, even though they are not members of our subcommittee, and they provided very good comments; special thanks to Sylvia van Leeuwen.

In April 2006, the SAIs of Poland, New Zealand, and Austria tested the survey on the Internet. This step was important to verify that other countries will be able to use the survey on the Internet, and it allowed us to make small adjustments.

Thank you to all SAIs who took the time to review the draft survey. Your participation was essential to the improvement of our survey and integration of some regional differences.

RWGEA co-ordinators decided not to include any specific questions or sub-questionnaires for their regions. However, we mentioned in the letter accompanying the survey that WGEA regional co-ordinators can request access to regional collective results.

### **Lessons learned**

The fifth survey is a big project that required the collaboration of many in our office. Such a project always requires more time than expected. We hope that the time we invested in the new technology will be worthwhile.

### **Future steps**

All the questionnaires were supposed to be received by the end of July 2006. In August, we sent reminders to the SAIs who have not yet responded. We will begin the analysis of our survey results in September 2006, and this fall, we will finalize the analysis and draft the survey results document. We are planning to consult our subcommittee before we include the first draft of our results in the meeting material for the sixth steering committee meeting (SC6).

The survey results will help the WGEA to draft its 2008–10 work plan and will be helpful for other WGEA projects. The information we gather on environmental audits will allow us to update the WGEA website this fall.

### **Critical issues to consider**

For SC5, we do not have critical issues to discuss. However, the input of our subcommittee and the steering committee, during the SC6 meeting, will be essential for our project.

### **Contacts**

Carolle Mathieu

[Carolle.mathieu@oag-bvg.gc.ca](mailto:Carolle.mathieu@oag-bvg.gc.ca)

Phone: 1-613-952-0213 ext. 6305