

## INTOSAI WGEA Chair's Progress Report 2012

### Background

INTOSAI WGEA work plan for 2011-2013 establishes, similarly to the previous one, a direct link to the strategic goals of INTOSAI. To complement guidelines, a new feature, research project, has been introduced to provide auditors with general background information and overview of best governance practices on emerging/complex topics. Training is one priority theme in this working period as well: work plan includes three training modules as well as a global environmental auditing training facility project.

### Membership and Functioning

INTOSAI WGEA has currently 72 member SAls, forming one of the largest interest group operating under INTOSAI. The Steering Committee is composed of 16 members<sup>1</sup>: 6 coordinators of regional environmental working groups, the Chair and all leaders of the projects in the WGEA's work plan are represented.

Good cooperation and frequent communication with regional coordinators is one of the cornerstones of the work of INTOSAI WGEA. Mutual participation at each other's meetings and continuous information sharing are essential for maximizing the effectiveness of work carried out in different regions and on the INTOSAI level generally. Encouraging regional undertakings is therefore an important goal for the Chair of the WGEA. The RWGEA coordinators are as follows: ACAG/PASAI – New Zealand; AFROSAI – Tanzania, ARABOSAI – Egypt, ASOSAI – China, EUROSAL – Norway, OLACEFS – Argentina.

### Meetings

- The 10th meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Marrakech, Morocco from 8-11 March 2011. All the plans for the projects in the new work plan were reviewed and approved;
- The 14<sup>th</sup> assembly meeting of the WGEA took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina 7-10 November 2011. Prior to the meeting, a training seminar "Environmental Auditing for Beginners" was organised. Participants attended sessions on the topics in the WGEA's work plan; keynote addresses were heard by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, INTERPOL, OECD, Transparency International, UNEP, World Bank; approximately 25 SAls introduced their audit experiences on topical issues.
- WG14 was followed by the 11<sup>th</sup> gathering of the Steering Committee who reviewed draft projects and supported the candidature of the SAI of Indonesia as the new Chair of INTOSAI WGEA (from INCOSAI 2013).

### Upcoming:

- The main goal of the 12<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting in Jaipur, India 3-6 October 2012 will be to have the outcomes of the projects in the WGEA's work plan discussed and approved by the SC members; and the new work plan for 2014-2016 drafted.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly meeting of INTOSAI WGEA will be held in Tallinn, Estonia in June 2013. The Assembly will approve all the completed projects as well as the next work plan for 2014-2016. Following the WG15, smooth transition process of handing over the chairmanship of INTOSAI WGEA from the SAI of Estonia to the next chair will begin.

<sup>1</sup> Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States



## Status of the 2011-13 Work Plan Actions

**Goal 1 – Update existing and develop new guidance materials to SAIs, conduct research studies on emerging topics in environmental auditing**

Project	Status
<p>2.1 (a) Prepare a research project on the topic of <b>land use/land management practices</b> from an environmental perspective. Project Leader: <b>Morocco</b> Subcommittee: Afghanistan, Argentina, Botswana, Cameroon, China, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Turkey, Tanzania, Vietnam</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>
<p>2.1 (b) Prepare a research project on the topic of <b>environmental data</b>. Project Leaders: <b>Canada and USA</b> Subcommittee: Botswana, Estonia, Namibia, New Zealand, Poland, Tanzania</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>
<p>2.1 (c) Prepare a research project on the topic of <b>environment and sustainability reporting</b>. Project Leader: <b>Finland</b> Subcommittee: Estonia, Mauritius, New Zealand, United Kingdom</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>
<p>2.1 (d) Prepare a research project on <b>environmental issues associated with infrastructure</b>. Project Leader: <b>United Kingdom</b> Subcommittee: Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, New Zealand, Oman, Tanzania, Turkey, Russia, USA</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>
<p>2.1 (e) Prepare a research project on the <b>impact of tourism on wildlife conservation</b>. Project Leader: <b>Lesotho</b> Subcommittee: Botswana, Chad, Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Swaziland, Tanzania</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>
<p>2.1 (f) Update the 2004 guidance material <b>Auditing Water Issues: Experiences of Supreme Audit Institutions</b>. Project Leader: <b>USA</b> Subcommittee: Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia, Slovakia</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>
<p>2.1 (g) Develop a guidance material on <b>how to integrate fraud and corruption issues into the auditing of environmental and natural resource management</b>. Project Leader: <b>Norway</b> Subcommittee: Brazil, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Namibia, Russia, Tanzania, USA</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft has been provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>



**Goal 2 - Facilitate concurrent, joint, and coordinated audits**

Actions	Status
<p>2.2 (a) Encourage regions to design and carry out a <b>regional cooperative audit</b> in each INTOSAI region. Regional coordinators and member SAs to identify and pursue topics of common interest, select the audit coordinator, and define the precise scope and form of cooperation. Lead: <b>Regional Coordinators</b></p>	<p><b>In process</b></p> <p><b>ACAG/PASAI:</b> cooperative audits on solid waste management (2010) drinking water (2011) completed, audit on managing sustainable fisheries undergoing;</p> <p><b>AFROSAI:</b> cooperative audit of Lake Victoria Basin undergoing, audit on Lake Chad planned;</p> <p><b>ASOSAI:</b> parallel audit is a preferred model of cooperation so far (e.g. Indonesia and Malaysia). SAs of China and Russia have been exploring possibilities.</p> <p><b>COMTEMA:</b> coordinated audits on climate change and Amazon Region finalized 2011, audits on water and biodiversity planned in the period 2012-2014;</p> <p><b>EUROSAI:</b> cooperative audit on protection of Black Sea against pollution completed in 2011; audits on adaption to climate change; emissions trading; and waste shipment currently in process.</p>

**Goal 3 - Enhance information dissemination, exchange and training**

Actions	Status
<p>2.3 (a) Organize <b>WG14</b> and <b>WG15</b> Lead: <b>Estonia</b></p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> WG14 - Buenos Aires November 2011; WG15 planned in June 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia</p>
<p>2.3 (b) Regional coordinators are encouraged to convene at least <b>one meeting of the regional working group</b> on environmental auditing during 2011–13 and to deliver and disseminate at least <b>one training course</b> at planned meetings Lead: <b>Regional Coordinators</b> Subcommittee: Steering Committee</p>	<p><b>In process</b></p> <p><b>ACAG/PASAI:</b> 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in April 2012, next meeting scheduled for 2014 in Canberra;</p> <p><b>AFROSAI:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in July 2012 in Cameroon;</p> <p><b>ASOSAI:</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and 4<sup>th</sup> seminar on environmental audit in September 2012 in Malaysia;</p> <p><b>COMTEMA:</b> 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Mexico City in April 2012, next scheduled for 2013;</p> <p><b>EUROSAI:</b> next annual meeting in October 2012 in Cyprus. Natural resources and ecosystems seminar in May 2012 in Oslo.</p>
<p>2.3 (c) Distribute the <b>training “module”</b> on the topic of <b>climate change</b> Lead: <b>Estonia</b> Subcommittee: Regional Coordinators, Norway, Canada and other selected SAs</p>	<p><b>Done:</b> training materials are uploaded to the WGEA’s web, sent to regional coordinators and promoted at regional meetings</p>
<p>2.3 (d) Implement a new <b>e-learning tool</b> (web-based, accessible through WGEA’s website) on the topic of <b>climate change</b> Lead: <b>Estonia</b> Subcommittee: Norway, Steering Committee</p>	<p><b>Done:</b> tool accessible through the WGEA website, regional coordinators informed</p>
<p>2.3 (e) Develop a <b>training “module”</b> on the topic of <b>forestry</b> Lead: <b>Indonesia</b> Subcommittee: Steering Committee</p>	<p><b>On schedule:</b> draft materials provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.</p>





2.3 (f) Develop a <b>training “module”</b> on the topic of <b>mining</b> Lead: <b>Tanzania</b> Subcommittee: Steering Committee	<b>On schedule:</b> draft materials provided to the SC for comments. Will be discussed at SC12 meeting in October 2012.
2.3 (g) Find a partner to provide a <b>global training facility on environmental auditing</b> Lead: <b>Estonia and India</b> Subcommittee: Finland, Norway, USA, Steering Committee	<b>On schedule:</b> outline of the 1 <sup>st</sup> international WGEA training programme prepared (planned for 2013 in Jaipur, at iCED centre of CAG India). Materials are being compiled and practicalities considered
2.3 (h) Continue publishing <b>Greenlines newsletter</b> twice a year Lead: <b>USA</b> Subcommittee: Estonia	<b>In process:</b> Volume 15 No. 1 published in June 2012
2.3 (i) Maintain and enhance the <b>WGEA website</b> according to the needs of the working group Lead: <b>Estonia</b> Subcommittee Steering Committee, Working Group	<b>In process:</b> website maintained, several functional enhancements made in July 2012
2.3 (j) Undertake the <b>seventh survey</b> on environmental auditing Lead: <b>Estonia</b> Subcommittee: Steering Committee	<b>On schedule:</b> 118 SAI responses received; first draft of the report is being finalised to be presented to the SC in October 2012
2.3 (k) Provide for the <b>annual collection of environmental audits</b> worldwide (to populate the website) Lead: <b>Estonia</b>	<b>On schedule:</b> Annual Audit Collection 2012 planned in October 2012

#### Goal 4 - Increase cooperation between the WGEA, international organizations and other INTOSAI bodies

Actions	Status
2.4 (a) Provide on-going communication and outreach with INTOSAI community as well as external organizations (e.g. introduce and distribute the INTOSAI WGEA publications developed in 2008-2010, continuous cooperation with the UNEP, UNFCCC and attend its COP meetings, and the RIO+20 Earth Summit). Lead: <b>Estonia</b> Support: Project leaders, Working Group	<b>In process:</b> cooperation maintained with UNEP, UNFCCC, World Bank, OECD etc.; WGEA participated at Rio+20 (side event) and contributed to the World Congress organised by UNEP prior to Rio+20; SAI South Africa represented WGEA at COP17, application for attending COP18 has been made; the Secretariat has also attended the meetings of INTOSAI GB, KSC, regional WGEAs
2.4 (b) Develop a compendium of SAIs country papers focusing on the topics in <b>RIO +20 agenda</b> . Country papers would summarise developments and implementation challenges within the country in the SAIs perspective. WGEA aims to share the experience with RIO+20 participants. Lead: <b>Brazil and Canada</b> Sub-committee: China, United Kingdom	<b>On schedule:</b> special WGEA report was finalised by the time of Rio+20, introduced at Rio+20 side event and the World Congress
2.4 (c) Introduce and distribute the <i>Primer for Auditors in Auditing the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i> to the INTOSAI as well as to outside community. Lead: <b>UNEP and Estonia</b> Support: Working Group	<b>In process:</b> document distributed and promoted by the Secretariat at various meetings (WG14, RWGEAs, COP)
2.4 (d) IDI-WGEA <b>transregional cooperative environmental audit capacity building programme</b> – performance audit of forestry. Lead: <b>IDI</b> Support: Estonia, Indonesia, Working Group Participating SAIs: decided by IDI	<b>On schedule:</b> project wrap-up meeting in June 2012 in Estonia. Draft audit cases and compendium are being reviewed and proof read, presented to SC in Sept 2012



## Translation of the WGEA guidance materials

The Secretariat has contacted the secretariats of INTOSAI regional working groups regarding the translation of guidance materials published in 2010 into three other INTOSAI languages – Arabic, French and Spanish. OLACEFS COMTEMA has committed to translating the guidance materials published in 2010 into Spanish. The SAIs of Argentina and Paraguay are coordinating the task. The Secretariat will further encourage also other regions to contribute, with Arabic and French translations.

## Collaboration with International Organisations

Good working relations are maintained with several international organisations such as UNEP, the World Bank, OECD, UNFCCC. WGEA cooperates also with several other entities, for example the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, INTERPOL, Transparency International who attended the WG14 meeting and will be consulted with in the process of finalising new guidance materials and research papers.

## Participation at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference and World Congress

Together with INTOSAI General Secretariat, an input was prepared and submitted to the United Nations, as a response to UN's call for INTOSAI to contribute to the Rio+20 conference. WGEA's own special Rio+20 report formed a basis for the working group's attendance at Rio+20 where INTOSAI and the messages of the audit community were represented. On 21 June 2012, WGEA organized a side event "Environmental Auditing for Better Environmental Governance"<sup>2</sup> in the official conference venue. The SAIs of Brazil, Canada and Zambia cooperated with the Secretariat of the WGEA to introduce the WGEA's Rio+20 report and the environmental audit practices of their respective offices.

<sup>2</sup><http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1000&nr=137&menu=126>

Prior to Rio+20, on 17-20 June, INTOSAI WGEA contributed also to the *World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability* organized by UNEP. Mr Terence Nombembe, the Chairman of INTOSAI Governing Board delivered a keynote address at the opening of the Congress. Together with Chief Judges, Attorneys-General, Public Prosecutors and legal practitioners, Auditors General from more than 20 SAIs and the Secretariat of the WGEA participated in discussions and compilation effort of a *Rio+20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability*<sup>3</sup> presented to the Heads of the Rio+20 conference.

## Transition of the Working Group Chairmanship

Following the discussions and consensus among the WGEA's Steering Committee members arrived at in Buenos Aires in November 2011 (SC11 meeting), the SAI of Estonia proposes to hand the chairmanship of INTOSAI WGEA over to the SAI of Indonesia during the XXI INCOSAI in 2013.

SAI of Indonesia will be involved into the process of devising the WGEA's work plan for 2014-2016 at SC12 meeting to ensure a smooth transition process. The current Chair will consider it his utmost responsibility to ensure that the successor will get well acquainted with the history of the working group, will be properly informed about the functioning and nature of the work carried out by the Secretariat under the current Chair as well as be instructed and advised about the capacity issues, networking.

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.unep.org/rio20/Portals/24180/Rio20\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Justice\\_Gov\\_n\\_Law\\_4\\_Env\\_Sustainability.pdf](http://www.unep.org/rio20/Portals/24180/Rio20_Declaration_on_Justice_Gov_n_Law_4_Env_Sustainability.pdf)

