



Day 3 Parallel sessions #2

Agenda Item Overview

On Thursday, 10 November, during the second half of the afternoon session, work is organised in the form of workshops in 4 parallel sessions, which are organised and led by the SAIs leading the WGEA projects on the topics of these sessions. The breakout rooms are equipped with facilities for PowerPoint presentation and flipcharts. The workshops are scheduled for 2 hours.

These sessions are based on the WGEA current projects for developing research papers and guidance materials:

- Environmental data
- Wildlife conservation and tourism
- Environment issues associated with infrastructure
- Rio+20

The overall aim of the workshops is mutual cooperation between the authors building up papers and guidance materials and the prospective users. The project leaders will give an update on the development of their undertaking, and every participant will have an opportunity to share one's experiences and be part of the project. The idea is to start discussion among the project team and audience. This exercise is intended to be learning and sharing experience for every party: the project leader, project sub-committee and the audience.

The expected outcome of the workshops is feedback for the project leaders about expectations towards the research paper/guideline as well as suggestions for additions.

Suggested structure of the parallel sessions

a) *Introduction*

Project leaders introduce briefly outline of their research paper or guidance material under development:

- aim of the paper;
- progress so far;
- need for additional information/cases.

b) *SAI experience*

Presentations (max 10 minutes) by SAIs.

c) *Discussion*

The aim of discussion is to obtain an overview of expectations of SAIs towards the research papers and guidance materials under development. SAI representatives are encouraged to explain key problems/issues of concern in their countries, provide information about experience of their SAI, as well as offer potential cases for project papers.

In order to reflect the outcome of the discussion, the project leaders are expected to send 1-2 paragraphs to the chair after the sessions.

Workshop on using environmental data (Canada and USA)

The existence and availability of environmental data is of crucial importance in many environmental audits. Several aspects, such as accuracy, timeliness, and coverage, influence the quality of data. Audit organizations can better plan and conduct environmental



audits if they have high quality environmental data, but in the absence of high quality data, audit organizations can still develop findings and recommendations. This research project addresses some of the options and resources available to SAIs.

On behalf of the project team, one of the project leaders, the SAI of **Canada**, will present the project developing the WGEA research paper and describe the framework and progress so far.

The SAI of **Estonia** is going to make a presentation "Monitoring data about transboundary waters".

Following the presentation the project leaders will lead a discussion to explore the experiences, views and expectations of the participants.

Workshop on auditing wildlife conservation and tourism (Tanzania and Lesotho)

The preservation of wildlife is aimed at ensuring sustainability of wildlife, attracting tourism and alleviating poverty. There are wildlife establishments in most of the countries and these have been established to conserve and ensure sustainability of wildlife, to impart knowledge to tourists about the natural behaviour of different species of wildlife and to create employment for local communities. Fees collected from tourists are used to develop and strengthen wildlife conservation establishments in different ways such as involving the communities living within the vicinity of wildlife conservation establishment and thereby alleviating poverty; creating awareness about the importance of conserving wildlife; ensuring that wildlife is reproductive and preventing the wildlife watching activities to have adverse effects on wildlife and local communities.

In the workshop the co-project leader the SAI of **Tanzania** will present the project of developing the WGEA research paper and describe the framework and progress so far.

The SAI presentations:

- **Costa Rica** - Environmental, economic and social effects of the payment for environmental services program
- **Ethiopia** - Wildlife conservation, development and tourism.

Following the presentation the project leader will lead a discussion to hear the experiences, views and expectations of the participants.

Workshop on auditing environmental issues associated with infrastructure (UK)

Demands for investment in infrastructure come from the need to replace existing infrastructure and for additional infrastructure to support new ways of working and living for an increasing population and to support economic development and a transition to a low carbon economy. These demands are leading to significant infrastructure development in both developing and developed countries, for example in the energy, transport, health, education and flood relief sectors.

The development of infrastructure involves significant investment in assets which last over a long period and often sit within wider-ranging plans for development. New infrastructure development can bring significant benefits, including the opportunity to build in such a way as to meet the challenges posed by climate change and to enhance sustainability. It can, however, also have significant costs on the environment, both in its construction and use.



Some costs can be addressed and reduced through the planning and design processes and opportunities should be sought to maximise both direct and indirect benefits.

In the workshop the project leader, the SAI of **UK**, will present the project of developing the WGEA research paper and describe the framework and progress so far.

The SAI presentations:

- **Brazil** - Work performed by TCU on the environmental aspect of infrastructure works.
- **ECA** - Is EU structural measures spending on the supply of water for domestic consumption used to the best effect?
- **Estonia** - Auditing heating infrastructure: The state's actions in ensuring the sustainability of heating supply
- **Thailand** - Bangkok Super Skywalk Projects: Preventive Environmental Audit

Additional case in the compendium:

- **Iran** - Report on Assessment of Large Environmental Audit Projects

Following the presentations the project leader will lead a discussion to hear the experiences, views and expectations of the participants.

Workshop on compendium focusing on the topics in Rio+20 agenda (Brazil and Canada)

The main objective of this project is to build awareness among the participants of the Rio+20 Conference on the important role that SAIs play in contributing to develop a more sustainable environment through auditing and reporting on our governments' performance and accountability and to enable our legislatures to hold them to account.

In the workshop the project leaders the SAI of **Brazil** and the SAI of **Canada** will present the project of developing the WGEA compendium and describe the framework and progress of the project so far.

The SAI presentations:

- **Argentina** - Auditing climate change: a system approach to evaluate Argentine government response
- **Czech republic**- Trading of surplus Assigned Amount Units and use of such funds received from the trading

The core of the workshop is the discussion of views and expectations of participants regarding presentation the role of SAIs towards sustainable development and representation at the Rio+20 conference.