

Dear participants,

We look forward to meeting you on January 23rd, 2009 for the course on biodiversity in Qatar. We have been very happy with the high registration numbers, and are pleased to announce that auditors from over 37 countries will be in attendance! Over the course of the training, you will have the opportunity to learn about how to audit biodiversity issues, and to share your experience with over 65 participants.

In order to maximize your participation, we recommend the completion of the following preparatory elements:

1. Pre-reading

The course will be mainly based on the document "*Auditing Biodiversity: Guidance for Supreme Audit Institutions*". Prior to attending the course, we strongly encourage you to review this document, giving due regard to Chapter 1 – *Background on Biodiversity* and Chapter 2 – *Choosing and Designing Audits of Biodiversity*, which will be covered in depth throughout the course. If you have time, you can also look at the biodiversity audit topics presented in Chapter 3. These audit topics will not be all examined during the 1 ½ day course, but you will have the opportunity to ask any questions about them. The Biodiversity guidance document is available through the WG12 meeting material binder under "Biodiversity Training Course" and also on the WGEA web site at the following web address: <http://www.wgea.org/Default.aspx?tabid=128>

2. Biodiversity legislation or policy in your country

The course will include a variety of exercises. In one of them, you will be asked to discuss in groups what governments do about the protection of biodiversity. In order to foster a fruitful discussion, we encourage you to seek information about the legislation, policy or program(s) the government in your country has adopted in relation to biodiversity.

3. A picture on biodiversity from your country

As part of the training course, we would like to build a photo-collage to showcase the wealth of biodiversity from our countries. Attached to this email, you will find a document where we ask you to paste a picture/image showing one characteristic aspect of biodiversity (landscapes/habitats, animals, plants) from your country. In a few words, please write what this picture represents and bring it with you to the course (please do not forget to indicate on the map where your country is). Given that we are expecting 65 participants from 37 countries, we thought that it would be a great opportunity to share with others the biodiversity from your country.

We trust that this event will be a rich experience for you, and hope that it will give you the confidence to undertake an audit on biodiversity upon your return to your country.

In the meantime, if you have any questions you can contact us by e-mails at carolle.mathieu@oag-bvg.gc.ca or elainefs@tcu.gov.br and Kairi Raudsepp at kairi.raudsepp@riigikontroll.ee for administrative matters.

See you in Doha,

Carolle and Elaine

Project leaders for the biodiversity training course
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