Training Materials: Auditing Forest

Background

Forests play very important role in the life of the people because of its functions as a source of many things related to the forest products and environment. According to the United Nations System-Wide Earth Watch, forests actively contribute to the world's environmental stability and are used as economic resources to produce subsistence and industrial forest products. In addition, they have cultural and recreational value. They perform multiple roles, such as preventing soil degradation and erosion, protecting watersheds or stabilizing mountainous areas. They limit the greenhouse effect contributing to global warming, by absorbing CO_2 (the main greenhouse gas). Inversely, forest degradation increases CO_2 emissions. According to some experts, forests serve as natural habitats to almost two thirds of all Earth's species, therefore acting as a stronghold to safeguard biodiversity. On an economic level, forests may be used as a direct source of energy or raw materials. Finally, forests play a cultural role in almost all societies, as mythical sceneries or historical backgrounds and as living habitats for about 60 million people worldwide (indigenous and non-indigenous).[1]

Further more, deforestation, forest degradation and other issues such as forest fire, loss of biodiversity, natural disasters caused by the destruction of the forest and lack of wood for wood based industry make forests becoming an important aspect to be considered. Apart from that, forests also relate to climate change. Forest is the central point of certain climate change issues such as the issue of REDD, CDM and other issues such as carbon storage and reduction. Because of all of the aspects above, the government needs to protect and manage the forest sustainably in order to maintain its function.

In this aspect, Supreme Audit Institution as an audit institution needs to contribute for the development of government forest management. It can do this by auditing not only the performance and the compliance of government activities, but also the soundness of government accountability systems and practices. Additionally, SAIs can also assist governments in strengthening their forest management internal controls, and improving their assessment and mitigation of forest-related risks.

Because of the important role of SAIs, INTOSAI WGEA has developed the INTOSAI WGEA Guidance, (The Guidance): Auditing Forests: Guidance for SAIs which can be used as guidance for auditors to audit the forest. In collaboration with the INTOSAI Development Initiatives (IDI), INTOSAI WGEA has developed a program followed by 15 SAIs from three INTOSAI WGEA regional organizations: ASOSAI, AFROSAI and CARABOSAI. The participating SAIs conducted pilot audit to implement this guidance.

The importance of the forest for human life and ecosystem and the role of SAIs as mentioned above create the need to improve the capacity of the auditor to audit the forest. Improvement of auditors'

capacity can be achieved by conducting training. Training will help the auditor understand the general aspects of the forest and the techniques to audit it.

Project Objective and Outcome:

Based on the above information (background), this training module is intended to support capacity building of the SAI's auditors in auditing the forest. It will give guidance to trainer for planning and conducting training on how to audit forest.

The output will be an integrated and comprehensive training module. It includes the following:

a.   Participant Note (theory)

The training note will give information about certain aspects related to forest mainly retrieved from the INTOSAI WGEA Guidance (The Guidance): Auditing Forests: Guidance for SAIs and other source of information (if needed). As mentioned also in the guidance, this note will describe the importance of certain technology such as GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing and other types of technology in helping the auditor audit the forest. This note will also describe the procedure and technique including the tools needed to implement the technology in the audit.

b.   Instructor Guide and Slide Presentation

The module will give handouts, detailed instruction to the instructor including the slide presentation and the exercise and the case study including the suggested solution, and other possible features.

Project Scope:

According to the Guide for Project Leaders: How to Develop INTOSAI WGEA Training Materials, the Topics and the sub Topics of the Training Material are as follows:

a.   The substance of the Training :

a)   The content of the training will follow the content of the INTOSAI WGEA Guidance (The Guidance): Auditing Forests: Guidance for SAIs with some modification.

The content : Information about the forest, Sustainable Forest Management, Several case studies related to Sustainable Forest Management and Auditing the forest (issues and Risk Based Audit Approach including the types of audits).

b)   The training material also will give information about the use of certain technology such as Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS in auditing the forest.

c) A series of Case Study and Exercise (it will start from the planning stage to the following stage).

b. The Structure of the guide is following :

a) Guiding principles for developing training course.

b) Structure of training material (training binder) :

    i. Introductory Sheet.

    A one page introductory sheet of the training binder provides opening for the course instructor: overview of the course topic and modules, general content of the sessions as well as an overall proposed timetable for carrying out the course.

    ii. Materials of the sessions :

        1. Session-at-a-glance

        Session-at-a-glance gives a short overview of the training session. Learning objective, main key teaching points, teaching methods and estimated time.

        2. Participant Notes

        Participant note provides background information on the session at hand.

        3. Instructor's Manual

        Instructor's manual consists of all the instructions and other complementary documents that support carrying out the training course including Instructors' Notes, Case Studies and Exercise, Handouts, Presentation Slides and Other Possible Features.

Outline of the Training Material:

a. Introduction

a) The role of government and SAI, how globally important forests are, good governance, and forestry audit.

b) Case Study – Exercise (A. Intro)

b. Forest

a) Definition, forest categories, types of forest, types of forest ownership, forest management, function of forest and international forest initiatives.

b) Case Study – Exercise (A. Forest)

c. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

a) What is SFM, what makes up SFM, SFM global concern, benefits of SFM, key players, unsustainable FM and evaluating risk to SFM.

b) Case Study – Exercise (A. SFM)

    d. Auditing Forest

        a) General

            1. Types of audit in general, the audit phase (general), basic understanding about audit (audit evidence, criteria, etc), audit topic, researchable question, and audit design matrix, issues and Risk Based Audit Approach.

            2. Case Study – Exercise (A.AF – Planning, Executing and Reporting)

        b) Using Technology in Auditing Forest

            1. Introduction to GIS and GPS and the Implementation of those in auditing forest.

            2. Case Study – Exercise (AF.GIS/GPS Planning, Executing and Reporting including field exercise and case study).

Planned Methodology:

The development of the Training Materials will undertake the following stages:

1. Collecting information and data for developing the INTOSAI WGEA Training Materials: Auditing Forests, including developing a series of case study and exercise, training materials for GIS and GPS and session materials. Collecting information and data for series of case study and exercise (Sustainable Forest Management and Technology (GIS and GPS etc) implementation.

2. The Project Leader will develop the drafts and send them out to the subcommittee for comments (through emails and face-to-face meetings of INTOSAI WGEA).

Proposed Timeline and Key Milestones for the Projects:

Stage	Action	Date
1	Final Draft of Project Plan to WGEA Secretariat	January 2011
2	Receive comments from Steering Committee	January-February 2011
3	**10th Steering Committee meeting in Morocco, review and approve Project Plan**	March 2011
4	Final version of the Project Plan	April 2011
5	Elaborated table of contents of the Project to the Secretariat	October 2011
6	Collecting information and data for developing the INTOSAI WGEA Training Materials: Auditing Forests, including developing a series of case study and exercise, training materials for GIS and GPS and session materials.	April-November 2011
7	First Draft of Training Materials sent for comments	November 2011
8	**14th WGEA, Buenos Aires, Argentina**	November 2011
9	Revise First Draft	November 2011-March 2012
10	Second Draft of Training Materials sent for comments	March 2012
11	Revise Second Draft	March 2012-Mid 2012
12	**11th Steering Committee meeting, approval of the Projects, discussion of the new work plan**	Mid-2012
13	Final draft of the Project to the secretariat	October 2012
14	Final version of the Project – translation, editing, printing etc.	April 2013
15	**15th WGEA meeting, Tallinn, Estonia** (Piloting the Training Materials)	June 2013

Contacts (including the subgroup):

Country : SAI INDONESIA

Names of the contact persons:

1. Edward G. H. Simanjuntak (edward.simanjuntak@bpk.go.id and ehgan@yahoo.com)

2. Juska Meidy Sjam (juska.sjam@bpk.go.id)

3. Felicia Yudhaningtyas (yudha33@yahoo.com)

Tel : +62-21-578 52 962, +62-21-578 540 98, +62-21-255 49 000 ext 1829/1205

Fax: +62-21-579 53 198