



Outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ACAG/PASAI Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing  
Held in Melbourne, Australia, May 2016  
26 May 2016  
Regional Co-ordinator, Office of the Auditor-General of New Zealand

## Communique

### Environmental auditing in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific continues to build capacity and lead to improved environmental outcomes

#### *Audience: This communique is for:*

- Auditors-General from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) and the Australasian Council of Auditors-General (ACAG);
- the PASAI governing board and 2016 congress, and other stakeholders and supporters;
- INTOSAI's Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA); and other regional working groups on environmental auditing; and
- Other interested international organisations; and regional organisations in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific, including educational institutions and Non-government organisations (noting the likely involvement of such organisations in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals).

#### *This communique is in five parts, covering:*

1. A summary of observations and recommendations from the 2016 RWGEA meeting to PASAI and ACAG members and the PASAI secretariat in the areas of:
  - a. Co-operation and knowledge sharing;
  - b. Sustainable development goals, opportunities for co-operation; and
  - c. Practical suggestions for capacity building.
2. An update on progress since the last RWGEA meeting held in Canberra in May 2014;
3. A record of main discussion points from the 2016 RWGEA meeting
4. Background information about the ACAG PASAI RWGEA and the INTOSAI WGEA.
5. The program for the 2016 meeting.

#### *Acknowledgements and thanks:*

The RWGEA co-ordinator and participants thank:

- The Victorian Auditor-General's Office for hosting the meeting;
- The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pacific Island Countries Participation Fund (PIC Fund) for financial support for the meeting;
- The INTOSAI WGEA and PASAI secretariats;
- All participants and guest speakers for their contributions.

# 1 Summary of observations and recommendations

## 1 Co-operation and knowledge sharing

1.1 The 2016 RWGEA meeting noted that:

- positive discussions on co-ordinated or co-operative audits were occurring not only at WGEA and RWGEA meetings but within ACAG and in bilateral discussions between audit offices;
- PASAI members at the meeting were keen to take part in further co-operative performance audits on environmental topics, including the environmentally focused Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.2 Possible environmental topics for future co-operation include:

- climate change, both adaptation and reducing emissions;
- water-related audits (noting that, as part of its theme based work program, the SAI of New Zealand proposes to focus on 'water' in 2017/18 and would be keen to share knowledge with other SAIs proposing work in this area);
- natural disasters – emergency preparedness and risk management and recovery – noting that the INTOSAI Development Initiative is supporting a co-operative audit in this area in the ASOSAI region;
- forestry – particularly for those SAIs that have attended the WGEA forestry training run by the SAI of Indonesia;
- the environmentally focused SDGs, for example, the marine environment/fisheries, climate change;
- renewable energy (moving from reliance on using diesel for power generation to renewable energy in the Pacific).

1.3 The RWGEA was very encouraged to note that the Cook Islands Audit Office intends to undertake a performance audit on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process given the level of tourism related development currently occurring in the Cook Islands.

1.4 The RWGEA suggests that this audit topic could be a good opportunity for knowledge sharing and possible a co-ordinated audit involving other PASAI members with EIA regimes.

## Recommendation

1.5 The RWGEA recommends that PASAI and ACAG members:

- Note the high level of interest in future co-operative audits on environmental topics and the range of possible topics, including the environmentally focused SDGs;
- Note the interest from the SAI of New Zealand in sharing knowledge with other audit offices in ACAG and PASAI that have undertaken or plan to do water-related audits;
- Encourage other ACAG and PASAI members with Environmental Impact Assessment or equivalent regimes to talk with the Cook Islands Audit Office about opportunities for knowledge sharing and undertake co-ordinated or concurrent audits in this area.

## 2 Sustainable development goals – observations and opportunities for co-operation

1.1 The 2016 RWGEA meeting noted that:

- It was too soon to propose environmental audits or co-operative audits of SDGs. First, governments and the region need to decide what the priority SDGs are, as well as policy frameworks and approaches to implementation and reporting.
- A co-operative performance audit could assess the adequacy of policy frameworks, implementation plans including ICT systems and reporting arrangements – this would provide a platform for focused performance audit work in the future.
- Once the preparatory work has been completed and priorities set, the RWGEA could assist with planning possible co-operative performance audits on the environmentally focused SDG.
- In the meantime, to ensure that the existing level of capacity within Pacific SAIs is maintained and further developed, PASAI could encourage and support individual SAIs carrying out follow up audits of the four environmental co-operative performance audit topics (solid waste, drinking water, fisheries, climate change adaptation) and support Pacific SAIs that participated in the WGEA forestry auditing program in Indonesia to carry out forestry related audits.

1.2 The RWGEA had some observations that might assist SAIs when considering auditing SDGs:

- SDGs will involve not just central government agencies but other sectors – regional and local governments, business, education institutions, and NGOs – these entities are potentially interested audiences/partners for PASAI in any future co-operative performance audits on SDGs
- SAIs should consider engaging with these other sectors when planning SDG work
- Government foreign aid programs should be aligned with helping recipients of donor funding achieve SDGs
- Users of public services need to be involved in assessing effectiveness
- It will be important to focus on policy frameworks not just data collection and reporting systems

### Recommendation

1.3 The RWGEA recommends that PASAI and ACAG members:

- Support a co-operative performance audit to assess the adequacy of policy frameworks, implementation plans and reporting arrangements for SDGs, to provide a knowledge base for SAIs and a platform for performance audit work in the future;
- Discuss and agree the timing and support arrangements for such an audit;
- Note the potential for SAIs to engage with NGOs and other sectors when considering SDGs;
- Note the RWGEA's offer to assist with scoping performance audits of environmentally focussed SDGs at its 2018 meeting;
- Note the RWGEA's encouragement for PASAI to support individual SAIs in the Pacific to undertake follow up audits of the previous CPA topics to maintain capacity before focusing on SDGs.

### 3 Practical suggestions for capacity building

- 1.4 The 2016 RWGEA meeting had a strong capacity building aspect, with contributions from all participants and with representatives acting as chairs and rapporteurs for the theme-based sessions.
- 1.5 Participants had some practical suggestions and ideas for further capacity building, including:
- The PASAI secretariat has knowledge about capability and needs of PASAI members. The secretariat could help to facilitate twinning relationships by talking with those involved when planning twinning work;
  - It could be useful for ACAG performance audit forums, such as the regular performance audit training (and possibly the heads of performance audit meetings) as well as ACAG performance audit training materials/manuals, to be available to PASAI members;
  - There would be value in ACAG and PASAI jointly establishing a mentoring program to support staff in developing offices and PASAI's young leaders program, with staff from more experienced SAs acting as mentors.

### Recommendation to the PASAI governing board

- 1.6 The RWGEA recommends that the PASAI governing board:

Consider and give its views on each of the practical suggestions for capacity building in paragraph 1.5 above, and ask the PASAI secretariat to:

- discuss these matters with ACAG (particularly the request that the performance audit training and materials be available to PASAI members and the suggestion to establish a mentoring program); and
- report back on the outcome, including how ACAG and PASAI will progress the suggested actions if supported.

Group photo, RWGEA 2016. Melbourne Cricket Ground



## 2 Update on progress since the 2014 RWGEA meeting

### The 2014 RWGEA meeting

- 2.1 The 2014 RWGEA meeting noted that environmental auditing had gained in strength in the Pacific region under PASAI's co-operative performance audit (CPA) programme, with notable gains in performance audit capacity and improved environmental outcomes. Participants were keen to see the gains from the CPA programme continue, and considered that environmental topics would remain highly relevant for the Pacific region and worthy of continued focus and attention.
- 2.2 The 2014 meeting had a strong focus on encouraging PASAI members to 'self-initiate' environmental audits. The meeting noted that not all participants in the CPA program yet had the confidence to do so, but suggested that carrying out follow-up audits in the CPA topic areas (solid waste, drinking water, sustainable fisheries, and climate change adaptation) would be a good way to start. Follow up audits would also be able to check for any improved environmental outcomes in the CPA topic areas.
- 2.3 The 2014 RWGEA meeting made recommendations in broad areas of:
- co-operation and self-initiated environmental audits
  - impact
  - capacity building

### Update on progress since 2014

- 2.4 The table below notes the main recommendations from the 2014 meeting and updates on progress noted at the 2016 meeting:

2014 RWGEA recommendation	Progress noted at 2016 meeting
<p><b>Co-operation and self-initiated environmental audits</b></p>	<p><b>Partly achieved</b></p>
<p>The 2014 RWGEA encouraged PASAI members, with the support of the PASAI secretariat, to consider carrying out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• further environmental audits and follow up audits in the CPA topic areas of solid waste, drinking water management, sustainable fisheries, and climate change adaptation;</li> <li>• a further CPA on an environmental topic in the next two to three years (possibly on climate change financing); and</li> <li>• co-ordinated audits on environmental and other topics (where one PASAI member leads an audit and shares methodology with others interested in the topic).</li> </ul>	<p>PASAI has continued with its capacity building co-operative audit program in the areas of public debt management, donor funding, and procurement, but has not yet begun a new CPA on an environmental topic.</p> <p><i>Concerning self-initiated audits, notable progress since the last meeting includes:</i></p> <p>The Cook Islands Audit Office has begun an audit on the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process in the Cook Islands given the level of tourism related development there. This will be the first performance audit for the Cook Islands outside the CPA program. This audit topic could be a good opportunity for a co-ordinated audit involving other PASAI members with EIA regimes.</p> <p>The OAG of Fiji has audited the management of waste water; management of multi-lateral environmental agreements and implementation of Fiji's forest policy statement.</p>

	<p><i>Potential progress includes:</i></p> <p>The audit offices of the Federated States of Micronesia (National) and Fiji are considering audit work in the area of forestry, having attended the WGEA forestry training by the SAI of Indonesia in 2015.</p> <p>FSM (Pohnpei State) intends to conduct a follow up audit on water quality and to determine compliance with water testing standards and regulations. The Office is also considering a future performance audit on water used for recreation, irrigation and rivers and the effects of polluting activities on water quality.</p> <p>Tonga participated in the four PASAI CPAs on environmental topics but has not finalised or tabled its reports. Tonga is now undertaking follow up work on the CPA environmental audit topic areas to update the findings.</p> <p>The Samoa Audit office is considering performance audit work in the areas of water quality, agriculture and fisheries and response to natural disasters (tsunami and cyclones)</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<p>The 2014 RWGEA encouraged PASAI members and the PASAI secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consider how to further promote findings of regional overview reports of the CPA audits to appropriate regional and global audiences, including preparing and implementing a communications plan for each regional overview report and taking opportunities to promote the reports at relevant regional and international events.</li> </ul>	<p>The PASAI communications adviser prepared a communications plan for the regional overview report for the climate change adaptation audit.</p> <p>The RWGEA co-ordinator and PASAI secretariat have taken opportunities to present the regional overview reports for the CPA audits at INTOSAI capacity building and WGEA meetings.</p> <p>The International Centre for Environmental Audit and Sustainable Development has used the regional overview reports as a resource for environmental auditing training.</p>
<b>Capacity building</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<p>The 2014 RWGEA recommended that PASAI members consider nominating staff to attend the recently established training programme on “introduction to environmental audit”, offered by the SAI of India and the WGEA at the international Centre for Environmental Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED) Jaipur, India.</p>	<p>Participants from the PASAI region attended the iCED introduction to environmental audit training course in 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>For the 2015 course, at the iCED training centre’s request, PASAI also provided trainers for the climate change component of the course (based on PASAI’s CPA in this area).</p> <p>The New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Program (Pacific Island Countries Participation Fund – PIC Fund)</p>

	<p>provided financial assistance for PASAI participants to attend the iCED training in 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>[Note - the MFAT PIC Fund is not able to provide further assistance for this training].</p>
<p>To further assist capacity building, the 2014 RWGEA encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACAG members to continue to support their Pacific colleagues through twinning arrangements, and the PASAI secretariat to work with ACAG to promote and support these arrangements;</li> <li>• PASAI members to further support developing environmental auditing capacity in their staff by participating in RWGEA meetings and other training opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>The PASAI secretariat and participants updated the 2016 RWGEA meeting on twinning arrangements in place and noted some positive developments.</p> <p>There was a good level of interest in the 2016 RWGEA meeting from PASAI members, with more expressions of interest than funding available.</p> <p>PASAI participants have attended the WGEA forestry training offered by the SAI of Indonesia and the iCED training.</p>

### **3 The 2016 RWGEA meeting**

**3.1** This part summarises the main points from the 2016 meeting in the areas:

- Common themes emerging from country/state papers, presentations and discussions
- Co-operative performance audit topics
- Practical suggestions for capacity building
- Co-operation and SDGs
- Impact
- Regulatory approaches
- Evaluation and next meeting

#### **Common themes emerging from the country/state papers, presentations and discussions:**

**3.2** Environmental auditing is well established in the Australian and New Zealand audit offices but less so in Pacific Island audit offices.

**3.3** All offices involved in environmental auditing continue to face similar issues and challenges including:

- getting to grips with complex subjects;
- understanding and obtaining relevant environmental data;
- focusing on results/outcomes rather than compliance; and
- making the best use of experts.

**3.4** These issues are more pressing in many Pacific Island offices, who also face capability and capacity issues particularly where staff involved in the PASAI CPA program have left the office. Also, performance auditing, although well established in the Northern Pacific, remains relatively new for many Southern Pacific members.

#### **Co-operative performance audit topics:**

**3.5** The meeting noted that discussions on co-ordinated or co-operative audits were occurring not only at WGEA and RWGEA meetings but within ACAG and in bilateral discussions between audit offices.

**3.6** Possible topics for future co-operation in the environmental area include:

- climate change, both adaptation and reducing emissions;
- water-related audits, e.g. security of water assets, water infrastructure leakage, management of waste water (note – the SAI of New Zealand has a theme based work program and proposes to focus on ‘water’ in 2017/18. New Zealand would be keen to share experiences with other SAIs proposing work in this area);
- natural disasters – emergency preparedness and risk management and recovery – noting that the INTOSAI Development Initiative is supporting a co-operative audit in this area in the ASOSAI region and that there are relevant ISSAIs to guide audit work;
- forestry – particularly for those SAIs that have attended the WGEA forestry training run by the SAI of Indonesia;
- topics related to the environmentally focused Sustainable Development Goals, for example, the marine environment/fisheries, climate change [the SDGs are discussed below];
- renewable energy (moving from reliance on fossil fuel (diesel) to renewable energy in the Pacific).



## Practical suggestions for capacity building

- 3.7** As for the 2014 meeting, the 2016 meeting had a strong capacity building aspect, with contributions from all participants and with representatives acting as chairs and rapporteurs for the theme-based sessions.
- 3.8** Participants had some practical suggestions and ideas for further capacity building, including:
- The PASAI secretariat has knowledge about capability and needs of PASAI members. The secretariat could help to facilitate twinning relationships by talking with those involved when planning twinning work;
  - It could be useful for ACAG performance audit forums, such as the regular performance audit training (and possibly the heads of performance audit meetings) and ACAG performance audit training materials and manuals, to be available to PASAI members;
  - There would be value in ACAG and PASAI establishing a mentoring program to support staff in developing offices and PASAI's young leaders program, with staff from more experienced SAIs acting as mentors.
- 3.9** The meeting agreed that the PASAI secretariat should pursue these matters with ACAG.

## Co-operation and SDGs

### *Sustainable development goals and opportunities for environmental audits and co-operation*

- 3.10** The RWGEA considered the United Nations SDGs and opportunities for environmental audits and co-operation. Inputs to the discussion included:
- a presentation from the SAI of Indonesia “*The role of SAIs in securing SDGs (BPK’s perspective)*”;
  - an update from the PASAI secretariat on the regional paper being prepared for the INCOSAI theme of SDGs, and on proposed work by sub-regional representatives on how Pacific countries will use their existing ICT systems to capture and report on SDGs;
  - the WGEA’s exposure draft *ISSAI - 5130 – Sustainable Development: The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions*;
  - updates on governments’ approaches to SDGs in country and state papers prepared by participants; and
  - a background paper on the SDGs prepared by the New Zealand OAG.
- 3.11** The RWGEA noted that most if not all of the SDGs will have economic, social and environmental aspects, but three of the 17 SDGs have a clear environmental focus:
- Goal 13 – climate action
  - Goal 14 – life below water
  - Goal 15 – life on land
- 3.12** Environmental considerations will be very relevant to other SDGs including:
- Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation
  - Goal 7 – affordable and clean energy
  - Goal 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure
  - Goal 11 – sustainable cities and communities
  - Goal 12 – responsible consumption and production

*Input into the PASAI region's perspective on INCOSAI preliminary theme paper on SDGs*

- 3.13** The PASAI secretariat facilitated a group discussion on the questions posed in the INCOSAI preliminary theme paper on SDGs in the areas of:
- Preparation – assessing the readiness of national systems to report on progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, and subsequently to audit their operation and the reliability of data they produce;
  - Undertaking performance audits that examine the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of key government programs that contribute to specific aspects of the SDGs;
  - Assessing and supporting the implementation of SDG 16 which relates in part to transparent, efficient, and accountable institutions;
  - Being models of transparency and accountability in their own operations, including auditing and reporting.
- 3.14** The report back session on discussion of the above questions included the following comments/suggestions:
- *Preparatory actions for governments*
    - There is a 15 year time period set for achieving SDGs, work will occur in phases, with the first being preparation.
    - Priority setting – what are the priority SDGs for each country? Not all countries will focus on all 17 SDGs. Priority SDGs for the Pacific region? PASAI role with Pacific Leaders Forum?
    - Responsible agencies – who is the lead agency for each country? Is there an implementation plan in place? What other agencies/sectors will be involved, regional, local, business, communities, NGOs?
    - Reporting requirements – note the need for good ICT systems to record SDGs data.
    - Governments might map existing activities and programs to the SDGs?
  - *Preparatory actions for INCOSAI and SAIs*
    - INCOSAI could provide guidance or a list of questions for SAIs to consider when assessing their governments preparedness and approach to SDGs.
    - SAIs could map previous audit work related to SDGs?
    - Note the need for audit capability to analyse SDG data and reporting.
    - Note the useful guidance in ISSAI - 5130 (exposure draft) *Sustainable Development: The Role of Supreme Audits Institutions*.
  - *RWGEA observations*
    - Foreign Aid programs should be aligned with helping recipients of donor funding achieve SDGs.
    - SDGs will involve not just central government agencies but other sectors – regional and local governments, business, education institutions, and NGOs – these entities are potentially interested audiences/partners for PASAI in any CPA work on SDGs – SAIs should consider engaging with these sectors when planning SDG work.
    - Users of public services need to be involved in assessing effectiveness.
    - It will be important to focus on policy frameworks not just data collection and reporting systems.
  - *Opportunities for co-operation*
    - It is too soon to propose environmental audits or co-operative audits of SDGs. First, governments and the region need to decide what the priority SDGs are, as well as policy frameworks and implementation plans.

- A first CPA in the SDG area could assess the adequacy of policy frameworks, implementation plans including ICT systems and reporting arrangements – this would provide a platform for focused performance audit work.
- Once the preparatory work has been completed and priorities set, the RWGEA could scope possible CPAs on the environmentally focused SDG.
- This could occur at the next RWGEA meeting in 2018.
- Participants could do some advance research/scoping work on SDGs before the meeting.

**3.15** The RWGEA offered to consider PASAI’s draft regional paper on INCOSAI preliminary theme paper on SDGs if that would be helpful.

**3.16** To ensure that the existing level of capacity within Pacific SAIs is maintained and further developed before auditing SDGs, the RWGEA suggested that PASAI and individual SAIs could carry out follow up audits of the four environmental CPAs and support Pacific SAIs that participated in the forestry auditing program in Indonesia to carry out forestry related audits.

### **Impact**

**3.1** The RWGEA had a panel discussion on how our audit work can achieve great impact, including topic selection/work planning, citizen engagement and different ways of reporting.

**3.2** Inputs to the discussion included:

- A 2013 paper by the Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation (CCAF) “How to increase the impact of environmental performance audits – a discussion paper.”
- INTOSAI WGEA – draft research project – “How to increase the quality and impact of environmental audits (January 2016).
- Panel discussion and presentations – ANAO, New Zealand, Samoa, Queensland and NSW.
- Guest speakers Mark Wakeham and Stan Krpan.

**3.3** Presentations from both guest speakers were relevant to how environmental audit work can have impact.

**3.4** In his presentation, “*Auditing environmental progress in a time of chaos*” Mark Wakeham (Environment Victoria) noted that global warming will have profound environmental, economic and social impacts in the decades ahead, and will exacerbate other environmental and social problems. Mr Wakeham said that audit offices need to ensure that government spending and programs deliver results, and suggested the following considerations for governments and environmental auditors to ensure better environmental and social outcomes:

- focus on measurable indicators
- link to international benchmarks (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals)
- focus on drivers of environmental sustainability (e.g. replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy)
- avoid an environmental silo – look more broadly at impact of governmental decision making and price signals
- start valuing natural capital and accounting for it
- use your powerful credible voices to highlight the need for transformation and systems thinking to protect people and places

**3.5** Stan Krpan (Sustainability Victoria) gave a case study about how an environmental audit (in 2011 by VAGO of solid waste management in Victoria) drove reform and catalysed change within Sustainability Victoria and more broadly.

- 3.6** The panel spoke about different approaches to work planning and reporting, and shared experiences of trying new ways of doing things, for example, theme based work planning, short videos about reports, and tips for writing more effective reports.

### **Regulatory approaches**

- 3.7** The 2014 RWGEA meeting had proposed regulatory approaches as a possible theme for the 2016 meeting. Speakers from the ANAO and VAGO presented on recent audit work in the regulatory area and made some observations about challenges for environmental regulation and auditors:

- 3.8** The VAGO speaker noted some consistent challenges and risks in environmental regulation in Victoria, Australia:

- Regulatory frameworks are complex and fragmented
- Failure to use risk to prioritise and plan compliance activities
- Inconsistent approach to enforcement
- Insufficient compliance monitoring/resources
- Licensing and financial assurance systems let down by poor information management and follow up practice

- 3.9** The ANAO speaker gave five insights from four recent regulatory audits:

- Fit for purpose management information systems underpin effective and efficient regulation
- Consistent regulation relies on:
  - Appropriate guidance material;
  - Sound documentation of decisions and their reason; and
  - Robust quality assurance processes
- An effective compliance intelligence capability allows regulators to respond early to emerging risks of non-compliance
- Compliance monitoring activities should address significant risks
- Measuring all facets of regulatory performance is important – must be able to determine the impact and effectiveness of the regulatory regime.

### **Evaluation and next meeting**

- 3.10** The evaluation of the meeting showed that participants endorsed the value of RWGEA meetings, for knowledge sharing and capacity building, and agreed that meeting about every two years is worthwhile and should continue.

- 3.11** It was agreed that the next RWGEA meeting could focus more on the environmental SDGs with a view to recommending and scoping co-operative performance audits, and that some preparatory research before the meeting would be useful.

- 3.12** It was also noted that the session on impact generated very good discussion, and that more time could be spent on this at the next meeting.

- 3.13** The RWGEA would invite QAO to host the next meeting.



*Excursion: Melbourne Water Werribee Treatment Plant and Ramsar Wetland*



*Group photo 2, RWGEA 2016, MCG*

## 4 Background information

### ACAG/PASAI RWGEA

- 4.1 The ACAG/PASAI RWGEA was formed in 2001 and is one of six regional working groups of the INTOSAI WGEA. New Zealand is the regional co-ordinator of the RWGEA. The RWGEA has members from the Australian National Audit Office, Australian State Audit offices, Pacific Island Audit Offices, and the Office of the Auditor-General of New Zealand.
- 4.2 In line with the aims of the WGEA, the RWGEA seeks to develop the capability of participating offices to carry out audits on environmental topics in the Pacific region. The RWGEA has also assisted with capacity building for environmental audits in Pacific Island audit offices by supporting PASAI's CPA programme.

### The INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing<sup>1</sup>

- 4.3 The WGEA aims to improve the use of audit mandates and audit tools in the fields of environmental management and protection by all audit institutions. In particular, the WGEA encourages co-operative audits of cross border environmental issues and policies and the auditing of international environmental accords. The WGEA assists audit offices to better understand specific issues involved in environmental auditing by publishing research papers and guidance on environmental topics, and facilitates the exchange of information and experience among audit offices.

### The PASAI co-operative performance audit programme

- 4.4 Since 2009, Pacific audit offices have carried out four co-operative audits on environmental topics under PASAI's CPA programme. The CPA programme began as part of the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative, and has had on-going support from the Asian Development Bank, the INTOSAI Development Initiative, the Australian and New Zealand governments, the RWGEA, and for the most recent environmental CPA the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
- 4.5 Seventy-six staff from 16 audit offices have taken part in CPAs on the topics of solid waste management, access to safe drinking water, sustainable tuna fisheries management and climate change adaptation and disaster risk recovery. Regional overview reports have been prepared on the outcomes of the four CPA topics.<sup>2</sup>
- 4.6 For further information please contact the ACAG/PASAI RWGEA co-ordinator Jonathan Keate, Office of the Auditor-General of New Zealand at [jonathan.keate@oag.govt.nz](mailto:jonathan.keate@oag.govt.nz)



<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.environmental-auditing.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Regional overview reports are available at the PASAI website [www.pasai.org](http://www.pasai.org)

## PASAI/ACAG Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing (RWGEA) Meeting

**10-12 May 2016: Melbourne, Australia**

Hosted by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)

Themes: Sustainable Development Goals & Co-operation; Impact; Regulatory approaches

Tuesday 10 May 2016		
8:45 am	Delegates arrive, registration, coffee/tea	Hosted by VAGO Engagement and Outreach team
9:00 – 9:30am	<b>Introduction</b>  <b>Welcome Address</b>	<i>Steven Vlahos</i> Assistant Auditor-General Performance Audit Victorian Auditor-General's Office
9:30 – 10:00am  Day 1 session 1	RWGEA background, purpose:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explanation of agenda + meeting objectives</li> <li>Recap – communique from last meeting- what did we hope to achieve since the last meeting?</li> </ul>	Jonathan Keate  RWGEA Secretariat  Background paper/resources:  "Communique from 8th meeting of the ACAG/PASAI RWGEA held in Canberra, Australia, May 2014"
10:00 – 10:30am  Day 1 session 2	INTOSAI WGEA update, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>update on the 2014-16 work programme</li> <li>review of four environmental ISSAIs</li> <li>proposed work program 2017-19</li> <li>Global training facility</li> <li>WGEA survey</li> <li>WGEA meetings</li> </ul>	Mrs Juska Meidy  Secretariat of INTOSAI WGEA and Head of International Relations Division, The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK)  Background papers/resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WGEA work plan 2014-16</li> <li>Four environmental ISSAIs</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45am	Official photo	VAGO photographer
10:45 – 11:15am	Morning tea	
11:15am – 12:45pm	<b>Country/state updates</b> <i>Short presentations (5-10 min) from participants on environmental issues and audit activities based on their country/state papers</i>	<i>Chair: Andrew Evans, Director, Performance Audit – Environment; Victorian Auditor-General's Office</i>  ACT; Australian National Audit Office

Tuesday 10 May 2016		
Day 1 session 3		Cook Islands; Fiji; Kosrae State FSM; New South Wales; New Zealand; Pohnpei State FSM; Queensland; Samoa; Tonga; Victoria
12:45 – 1:45pm	Lunch (at conference venue)	
1:45 – 2:30pm Day 1 session 4	<b>PASAI Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PASAI strategy and programs</li> <li>PASAI resources/manuals</li> <li>Twinning support</li> <li>CPA program</li> <li>How can the RWGEA assist PASAI?</li> </ul>	Mr Tiofilusi Tiueti, PASAI Chief Executive  Mrs Agnes Tuiai-Aruwafu, Director Technical Support, PASAI  Ms Claire Kelly, ADB co-operative performance audit adviser
2:30-3:30pm Day 1 session 5	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are they?</li> <li>PASAI regional paper for INCOSAI on SDGs</li> <li>To note: ISSAI on auditing sustainable development</li> <li>Opportunities for SAs - environmental audits of SDGs, including co-operative audits</li> </ul> <p>Background papers: <i>Brief information on SDGs</i></p> <p><i>ISSAI – 5130 – auditing sustainable development</i></p>	<p><i>Chair: Mr Tiofilusi Tiueti; Facilitators: Agnes Tuiai-Aruwafu, Claire Kelly, Pat Johnson</i></p> <p><i>Presentations by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PASAI secretariat – <i>SDGs and opportunities for PASAI (regional paper for INCOSAI)</i></li> <li>Mrs Igna Dias Augustavia, Auditor, BPK - <i>The role of SAs in securing SDGs (BPK's perspective)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Group discussion on opportunities</i></p>
3:30-4:00pm	Afternoon tea	
4:00 – 4:30pm	Report back - SGGs and potential environmental audits/co-operative audits – what topics do we wish to recommend to our AGs and PASAI congress and what timing?	<i>Facilitators: Agnes Tuiai-Aruwafu, Claire Kelly, Pat Johnson</i>
4:30 – 5:00pm	Wrap up of day's discussions	Andrew Evans  Sector Director, Environment, Performance Audit Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Evening free		



Wednesday 11 May 2016		
8:45am	Arrive, morning coffee/tea	Hosted by VAGO External Relations & Outreach team
9:00 – 9:45 Day 2 session 1	<b>Guest presentation:</b>	<i>Guest Speaker:</i> Mr Mark Wakeham, CEO Environment Victoria
9:45 – 10:00am	Morning tea	
10-11:20am Day 2 session 2	<b>SAI presentations:</b>  Experience in auditing water management programs in Australia  Environmental impact assessment (EIA) – Cook Islands	<i>Chair:</i> Giulia Vitetta  <i>Paper/s presented by:</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darren Brown, Queensland Audit Office – <i>Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments</i></li> <li>• Jonathan Brown, ACT Auditor-General's Office – <i>managing environmental recovery process of a strategic water resource</i></li> <li>• Mere Waqanicagica (<i>planned audit on EIA in Cook Islands</i>)</li> </ul>
11:30 – 12:30pm	Travel to Melbourne Water site	Hosted by Victorian Auditor-General's Office
12:30-1:00pm	Lunch onsite at Melbourne Water Werribee Treatment Plant site	
1:00-4:30pm	Melbourne Water Werribee Site – RAMSAR wetland and treatment facility	
4:30-5:30pm	Travel from Melbourne Water site to accommodation drop offs	
7:00 to around 10pm	<b>Official Dinner</b>  <i>Terra Rossa</i>  <i>87 Flinders Lane, Melbourne</i>	Hosted by Victorian Auditor-General's Office and OAG New Zealand

Thursday 12 May 2016		
8:45am	Arrive, morning coffee/tea	Hosted by VAGO External Relations & Outreach team
9:00am – 10:00am Day 3 session 1	<b>Guest Presentation:</b>	<i>Guest Speaker:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr Stan Krpan, CEO Sustainability Victoria</li></ul>
10:00 – 10:15am	Morning tea	
10:15 – 11:00 Day 3 session 2	<b>Regulatory approaches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Performance audits on environmental regulation</li></ul>	<i>Presentations:</i>  <i>Grant Caine, ANAO</i>  <i>Maree Bethel(VAGO)</i>
11:00 – 12:00pm Day 3 session 3	<b>Impact:</b>  <b>Impact – topic selection, citizen engagement, reporting for impact</b>  Background papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WGEA research paper on impact (draft)</li><li>CCAF paper on impact "Better integrating root cause analysis..."</li></ul>	<i>Chair: Bronwen Jagers</i>  <i>Presentations/panel discussion on impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pat Johnson (NZ approach to planning work)</li><li>Darren Brown (Qld)</li><li>Violet Roebeck-Fasavalu (Samoa)</li><li>Giulia Vitetta (NSW)</li><li>Andrew Evans (VAGO)</li></ul>
12:00 – 12:30pm Day 3 session 4	<b>Evaluation and next steps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Round table – feedback and evaluation (all participants)</li><li>Recommendations to PASAI congress</li><li>Co-operation - interest in taking part in future CPAs/other co-ordinated audits?</li><li>Other training needs?</li><li>Next meeting</li></ul>	RWGEA secretariat – Jonathan Keate and Pat Johnson
12:30pm – 12:45pm	<b>Closing address</b>	Andrew Evans, Director, Performance Audit - Environment  Victorian Auditor-General's Office
12:45pm	Farewell lunch (at conference venue)	
2:00pm	<b>Meeting concludes</b>  Delegates depart	

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Office</b>
Mrs Agnes Tuiai-Aruwafu	Director, Technical Support	PASAI, New Zealand
Mr Allen Parker	Director of Audit and Head of the SAI	Cook Islands Audit Office
Mrs Analin Estur	Audit Manager	Office of the Public Auditor, Pohnpei State
Ms Bronwen Jagers	Senior Director, Environment and Resources Branch, Performance Audit	Australian National Audit Office
Ms Claire Kelly	ADB Co-operative Performance Audit Adviser	PASAI Secretariat, Australia
Mr Darren Brown	Director	Queensland Audit Office
Ms Giulia Vitetta	Principal Performance Analyst	Audit Office of NSW
Mr Grant Caine	Senior Director, Performance Audit	Australian National Audit Office
Mrs Igna Dias Augustavia	Auditor	The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia
Mr Jonathan Brown	Audit Manager	ACT Auditor-General's office
Mr Jonathan Keate	Senior Solicitor/Sector Manager	Office of the Auditor-General of New Zealand
Mrs Juska Meidy E S	Secretariat of INTOSAI WGEA	The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia
Ms Mere Waqanicagica	Audit Manager	Cook Islands Audit Office
Ms Patricia Johnson	Senior Performance Auditor	Office of the Auditor-General of New Zealand
Mr Sairusi Dukuno	Director of Audit	Office of the Auditor-General of Fiji
Mr Stoney Taulung	Public Auditor	Audit Office of Kosrae
Mr Tiofilusi Tiueti	PASAI Chief Executive	PASAI, New Zealand
Ms Utuone Vena	Deputy Auditor-General – Performance Audit	Office of the Auditor-General of Tonga
Ms Violet Roebeck- Fasavalu	Assistant and Controller Auditor-General	Audit Office of Samoa

<b>VAGO attendees</b>		
Andrew Evans	Andrew Evans, Director, Performance Audit - Environment	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Catherine Sandercock	Performance Audit – Environment Portfolio	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Julie Pulis	Manager Media and Engagement	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Maree Bethel	Performance Audit – Environment Portfolio	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Dr Marco Bini	Executive Director, Governance, Legal and Strategy	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Steven Vlahos	Assistant Auditor-General, Performance Audit	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Chris Badelow	Performance Audit – Environment Portfolio	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Andy Jin	Performance Audit – Environment Portfolio	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria
Susanna Young	Senior Manager, Outreach and Engagement	Office of the Auditor-General - Victoria

