



Day 1 International funding of environmental projects

Agenda Item Overview

On Tuesday, 8 November, the second part of the morning session is dedicated to the issues related to international funding of environmental projects.

Various organisations have set up a large number of various international funds (such as Climate Fund), joint investment projects, donor cooperation etc devoted to solving our common environmental problems. Most of these “schemes” have extremely complicated governance structures and may involve several different organisations (governments, private sector corporations, development agencies, NGOs etc).

SAIs need to acknowledge that in most of instances these expenditures a) involve also “tax-payers money” and/or b) affect our own environment. Since the funding and governance schemes are complex, the accountability is often not clear as well. These peculiarities of international funding lead to a number of great risks:

- received resources are not accounted in the national budget, even though they have to be,
- investment projects are actually not as sustainable as their reports present and so on.

In this session we are analyzing together with the World Bank, UK NAO and INTOSAI WGEA what role of the SAIs in the framework of international funding could be, what are the major challenges for SAIs and how the WGEA can facilitate tackling this topic.

Dr. Stephen F. Lintner, Senior Technical Advisor, World Bank

Dr Stephen Lintner would provide background information on the wide range international environmental investments (where can auditors find information about the subject? who are major players? what are main trends?). Most important problems and risks would be described, as they are seen from the viewpoint of World Bank. What auditors should pay attention at? What needs to be audited?

Jill Goldsmith, Director, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Value for Money Studies, National Audit Office of the United Kingdom

Ms Jill Goldsmith will draw on the experience of recent work of NAO in relation with international funding. She would address the risks from an audit perspective and the part that SAIs could play in addressing those risks. In doing so she would illustrate with an explanation of the NAO's role in relation to international funding - drawing also on NAOs other work in this area, where the range of financing streams used by the UK will be explained. See also:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/aid_and_the_environment.aspx .

Presentations will be followed by plenary discussion.